



We should like to wish everyone who supports our work – in whatever way – a very Happy New Year. We also send our heartfelt thanks for all the help we have received on behalf of abandoned or neglected animals in 2016.

There are some far-reaching changes going on in our organisation at the moment – and more are planned for 2017. We will be organising some major events that will appeal to large numbers of people and really put us on the map as a progressive organisation.

We now have a team of people in place who are looking at how best we can connect with a wider audience and give greater public awareness to our current/planned activities. We also want to attract new supporters to help us bring our exciting plans to fruition. We should love to have some more volunteers with skills and experience in the following areas:

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| 🐾 Fundraising | 🐾 Finance | 🐾 Administration |
| 🐾 Event organisation | 🐾 Planning | 🐾 IT |
| <i>Also:</i> | | |
| 🐾 DIY | 🐾 Gardening | 🐾 Driving – local & for animal transports within Europe/UK |
| <i>And:</i> | | |
| 🐾 Shop work – selling, stock, information giving | 🐾 Kennels & Cattery – helping with animals | |
| <i>And not least:</i> | | |
| 🐾 Distributing our newsletters | 🐾 Translation – English to Spanish | 🐾 Help with PR and Publicity |
| 🐾 Coming up with ideas on extending our coverage | 🐾 Promoting PAWS-PATAS in the Spanish community | 🐾 Copywriting |

So, there is something for everyone. Why not make it a New Year's resolution to get involved with a dynamic, cohesive and professional team of people working to make the lives of abandoned and neglected animals even more secure? Put your skills and talents to good use and gain from the camaraderie of working as part of a team and making new friends at the same time!

- 🐾 Email us at info@paws-patas.org or go to our website for more information.
- 🐾 Or, call into one of our shops in Mojácar, Las Buganvillas, Turre or Vera.
- 🐾 Or, get in touch with the shelter on the telephone number below.

Watch this space for more exciting developments during the course of the year.

We look forward to welcoming you as a volunteer.

The PAWS-PATAS Communications Team

The Big Christmas Raffle

After several months of collecting and collating a myriad of prizes, the draw for the Christmas raffle took place on Friday 9 December at our charity shop in Mojácar.



Bunny Willis and her team worked extremely hard selling tickets at several events, including The Oasis Fashion Show at Dolce Vita, Christmas Fairs and the recent PAWS-PATAS 'First Wednesday' event.

A big thank you to all those who purchased tickets and in particular to those who gave cash donations. And a special "thank you" to Bunny's husband, Trevor, who loaded/unloaded their car on numerous occasions.

Items included hampers, cool box, hand-crafted and semi-precious stone bracelets, clothes, bags, make-up, glasses, wine and a 100 € note (the latter donated by The Rose and Crown Pub in Mojácar).

A staggering **3,186 €** was raised – double the amount in 2015. 800€ is being put towards cattery screening (to keep out rain and strong sun). The remainder will go to our cat neutering programme.

Without the help of the public and the dedication of our volunteers, we would not be able to survive. Please continue

to support our shops with donations and purchases. The Vera shop has reduced prices dramatically: there are so many bargains to be had.

Warning!

With wet weather around there are toads about. Although not particularly harmful to humans, they are very poisonous to animals. If interfered with they exude a poison from their skin and if ingested by an animal this can cause heart failure. An infected animal needs urgent treatment by a vet within 40 minutes or death is quite probable.

Quiz Nights

Jill from the Las Buganvillas shop, has told us that the fun Quiz Nights that have been running at **Bistro** at Las

Marinas, Vera Playa, since September 2014 have raised an incredible **1,719€**. Jill acknowledged all the help received from Richard and Spencer at **Bistro**, and Chrissie at the Bugarvillas shop for organising the event and raffles. Also, quizmasters Nadine and Kelli for making the evenings such fun. And – of course – all those taking part in the quizzes for raising such a huge sum of money for our dogs and cats. Thank you all for your support.

Goodbye Jilly

We finished 2016 on a sad note at the cattery as we had to say goodbye to one of our long-term residents, Jilly, as she had kidney failure.

Jilly was abandoned outside our Mojácar shop in 2012 and, although she received a lot of kindness from the volunteers, the other cats in her colony never really accepted her.



In time, Jilly's beautiful tricolour coat began to deteriorate and she was losing a lot of weight. She was taken to the vet, everyone fearing she might have feline aids or leukaemia. Thankfully, she tested negative to both diseases and was diagnosed with a gum disease and flea bite allergy. The poor cat was not suited to a life on the street so we took her to the cattery where she recuperated well and began to settle into cattery life. We would bring in special soft food which she loved, and she grew to enjoy all the attention lavished on her.

Because her gum complaint was chronic and she needed regular monthly injections, we knew it was unlikely we would be able to find her a forever home. But that didn't matter to Jilly: we were her family and the cattery was her home.

She was loved by people and cats alike. We never knew how old Jilly was, but she was our grand old lady of the cattery and it will never be quite the same without her.

Paco

This lovely dog is 50 cm high and 9 years old. Paco is losing patience at not being adopted. He watches other dogs come and go, but nobody ever takes him home. Just look at that cute face, his lolling tongue, those sweet, intelligent eyes, and that goofy expression. What's not to love?

Paco loves playing and tennis balls are one of his top things in life. He also thinks going for walks is great and will show you all the best spots to explore. He is self-contained when he has to be, but frustrated at having to play so much by himself.



Paco really wants to be the "Numero Uno" in somebody's life and will reward that lucky person with exuberant thanks. He really would prefer to be the only animal: he isn't keen on other dogs and his idea of the perfect life is you, him and his toys. Could you be the one to give Paco a loving home?

Karel – the Caravan Volunteer

At a recent 'First Wednesday' event, hosted by Gary King, we heard from one of our 'Caravan Volunteers' (so called because they stay in static caravans on site) about his time helping out at the shelter. Karel, from Belgium, is one of a number of volunteers who come from other European countries – either because they are studying to become vets, have an interest in animal care

in one way or another or simply love spending time with animals.



Karel, who has also worked with animals in Ecuador and Bali, first started volunteering in March – mucking in (literally!) with all the kennel routines. His current involvement is with the quarantine team, which he thoroughly enjoys. Not only has he enjoyed helping out, he and his family back in Belgium have adopted a dog from us (Wookie), who replaced a much loved family pet who passed away a while ago. We are so grateful for all the enthusiasm and hard work put in by our 'Caravan Volunteers': it would be much more difficult to keep the kennels running successfully without them.

Animal sponsorship

In last month's newsletter we inadvertently said that an animal could be sponsored for 25€ or more a month. Apologies: we should have said 25 € or more a year. For that, you will receive a certificate like the one below to confirm your sponsorship with our thanks. Please visit our website for more information about sponsoring a dog or cat.

