



Bi-monthly Newsletter

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on 25th February the following appointments were confirmed: Karen Polansky (re-elected President), Gary King (elected Vice-President), Gill Hassaine (confirmed as Treasurer), Daniela Traverso (elected Secretary). In addition: Renée Fortuin (Holland Director); Babs Williams (UK Director); three 'Vocales' (Associates) - Anneli Lofstrom (Education), Diane Hopwood (Feral neutering campaign), Janet Franklin (UK Transport/development). Mark & Jayne Balchin were welcomed as joint volunteer Kennel Managers.

Thanks were given to retiring Board members Ric Arias and Betty Elsdale for their service as Vice-President and Secretary respectively. In her President's message, Karen thanked everyone for their hard work and loyal support, and referred to a difficult year financially which ended with a loss. A fascinating presentation was made on animal homing in Holland (see story below). Thank you to everyone who attended - particularly Members old and new. We will be holding regular events for Members in 2017 to provide the opportunity for more involvement.

Matches made in Holland

Few people would realise the dedicated time and effort that goes into homing dogs and cats in Holland. Our Dutch arm has established strong working relationships with six organisations there, which means that we can predict where the right sorts of homes would most easily be found: urban or rural. Shelters in Holland are seldom full and there is a constant demand for particular breeds of dog from Spain.

From initial photographs and outline descriptions, further details are supplied, and then begins the search to find exactly the right 'fit' of animal to homing opportunity. And we make sure that all the organisations dealt with in Holland

have the same 'no-kill' policy as has been adopted by PAWS-PATAS.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our colleagues in Holland for helping to find happy endings for so many of the animals in our care: without them, we would really struggle.

Repsol

Repsol has signed an agreement with the environmental protection branch of the Guardia Civil, Seprona, to assist in cases of abandonment or loss of domestic animals through their 3,500 service stations across Spain.



This initiative grew out of a true story of a dog abandoned at a Repsol service station. The dog was looked after by a worker at the service station, and later adopted by a family who had stopped to refuel.

The guidelines agreed between Repsol and Seprona establishes that a worker at a service station who witnesses an abandonment must gather all possible information on the incident and pass it on to the Guardia Civil.

In the latest recorded data, 137,831 animals found themselves in shelters and with animal protection associations (104,501 dogs and 33,330 cats).

Carla's Story

Amparo (who we featured in the December 2016 newsletter) was filling up her car in a service station one day when she noticed a vehicle nearby with a blown-out tyre and a dog inside. After failing to find out the whereabouts of the vehicle owner in the service station, she returned later the same day to find the vehicle still there, and the dog still inside.

The following day she went back again and still the car and the dog were there. After reporting the incident to the authorities, the car was opened and the poor dog discovered to be very thin and very pregnant. A vet took a look at her and, very shortly after, the puppies were born. Sadly, only two survived.



Since it proved impossible to return Carla to her owner, PAWS-PATAS took her on and arranged for her to be fostered with Amparo until a new home could be found for her and the puppies. Thank goodness there are still many who care, and care deeply, for our furry friends.

Fundraising

Jacqueline Welby Productions staged another Alan Bennett "Talking Heads" evening at the Bistro in Vera Playa. Kay Kay and Janet Franklin performed "Lady of Letters" and "Bed Among The Lentils", moving the audience to tears of laughter. The show and raffle raised 450 € for PAWS-PATAS.

Jacqueline plans more productions to raise much needed funds for PAWS-PATAS, including 'A Tribute to Victoria Wood' on 20 April and 'Deckchairs' on 1 June which will also be staged at the Bistro in Vera Playa. Tickets available from the venue.

And ticket sales from the Shoestring Productions' performance of 'Hotel La Resistance' at The Montmarte Restaurant in Mojacar have raised 850€ for PAWS-PATAS. The farce was set in 1944 in the foothills of the Pyrenees in France. It paid homage to the highly successful "Allo Allo" series, remembering Gordon Kaye who sadly passed away recently.