



**EU DOG & CAT
ALLIANCE®**

EU Dog & Cat Alliance NEWSLETTER November '16



Welcome

Simona Lipstaite, EU Dog & Cat Alliance

A very warm welcome to the first edition of your **EU Dog & Cat Alliance newsletter**! It's been an incredible two years for the Alliance – we have grown from 14 members to 66 members and 22 countries – a remarkable achievement. Our members are diverse – some live in big cities, some in small islands, some spend their days in the office, some are based in shelters, some perform surgeries, others engage with politicians or journalists. What brings us all together, though, is our infinite passion for the welfare of the millions of dogs and cats in Europe. Whatever our profession, we have dedicated our time and energy to support our companions, to ensure their wellbeing and to work for their welfare in whichever capacity we can.

We are delighted to be able to present the first Alliance newsletter, which hopefully will make it easier for us to get to know each other, share Members' stories, participate in their experiences, if only through photos. As ever, if you would like to get involved in Alliance activities or to publish a story about your projects, get in contact – our newsletter will be published twice a year, and we are very excited to learn more about your achievements. Have a productive rest of autumn!

With best wishes, Simona



Brussels '16

News!

Brussels reception

On 27 September 2016 we hosted the second EU Dog & Cat Alliance reception in the European Parliament where we launched our campaign for an Action Plan to tackle the illegal trade in dogs and cats in the EU.

We are so grateful to all of the Alliance members who travelled a long way to join us! Thanks to you the evening was a huge success and well attended by MEPs who came to chat and have their photo taken next to our giant fake pet passport. We were honoured to have five fantastic speakers, including European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Vytenis Andriukaitis, President of the European Parliament's Animal Welfare Intergroup Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP, Martin Chudý from the Slovakian Presidency and the Alliance's Adrian Burder. Our final speaker Petras Auštrevičius MEP concluded the evening's speeches by saying, "There is a lot of talk about 'Better Europe'. 'Better Europe' will come when we have better protection for pets."

Throughout the day, Alliance members also had one-to-one meetings with their MEPs, which were an excellent opportunity to chat about the Alliance's work, particularly about our calls for an EU Action Plan on the illegal trade in companion animals. The relationships with stakeholders we built on this day will be very useful in strengthening our campaign for the Action Plan.

Lithuanian Conference

September was an incredibly busy month for the EU Dog & Cat Alliance. We also co-organised and co-sponsored the European Companion Animal Welfare and Protection Conference in Vilnius, organised by our very active Alliance member, the Lithuanian Animal Rights Protection Organization. The conference was a great success, attended by the European Commission, MEPs, government representatives and veterinary and animal welfare experts across Europe. Speakers included Charlotte Speedy from Dogs Trust, who spoke about puppy smuggling and the online sale of pets as well as Mark Beazley from Dogs Trust Ireland, who spoke about puppy farming in Ireland. Simona Lipstaite also moderated two sessions on behalf of the Alliance. Other Alliance members who attended included Blue Cross, Battersea, FAADA, Varjupaikade MTU and Dzīvnieku Draugs/SOS. We hope to have a number of similar initiatives in the future, so do get in touch with the Secretariat if you would like to chat about potential projects in your own country, and we will see how the Alliance can help!

Lithuanian Conference '16



ICAWC '16



ICAWC 2016 and First EU Dog & Cat Alliance Awards

In October over 30 Alliance members attended the eighteenth International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC), which has become the leading conference of its kind, providing a platform where hundreds of experts working in the field of dog and cat welfare can network, exchange knowledge and gain support from their international contemporaries.

ICAWC was, as ever, a huge success, but one of our highlights had to be presenting the EU Dog & Cat Alliance awards for the first time ever at our second Annual General Meeting.

The first award, Alliance Member of the Year, is given to the member who has contributed the most to the work of the Alliance throughout the year, including attending meetings, actively providing input into Alliance material, promoting the Alliance, introducing new Alliance initiatives, highlighting Alliance work both in the EU and in their own member state, and has a monetary prize of 1,000 EUR. Alliance

Member of the Year 2016 was awarded to **Save the Dogs**, which is active in Romania and Italy and led by **Sara Turetta**.

The second award is for the Alliance Member who has displayed consistent dedicated involvement and valuable effort in supporting the work of the Alliance to the best of their abilities, and has a monetary prize of 500 EUR. The EU Dog & Cat Alliance Award of Merit

2016 was awarded to **TOZ Poland**, led by **Danuta Mikusz-Oslislo**. Both of these members are wonderful organisations, and we massively value their dedication to improving EU pet welfare over the past year. The monetary prizes must be spent on companion animal welfare initiatives, and we look forward to hearing how Save the Dogs and TOZ Poland choose to spend theirs, and to updating you on this in our next newsletter.

The countdown to next year's Awards has started, so get involved and you could be one of next year's winners!



Legislation and Campaigns



Campaign for an EU Action Plan

Many of the EU Dog & Cat Alliance Members are already working on the issue of puppy or cat smuggling in their own countries. This issue is widespread across the EU and affects the health and welfare of hundreds of thousands of young animals every year. This autumn the Alliance launched its biggest yet [campaign](#) for an Action Plan to tackle the illegal trade in dogs and cats in the EU. An Action Plan means a coordinated plan drafted by the European Commission and supported by the European Parliament and Member States. In this plan we call for more EU attention to the illegal trade in pets and organised cooperation between EU, national and local authorities (for example, the police), and also civil society and veterinarians.

We would like the illegal trade in dogs and cats in the EU to be put on the EU agenda. It would be particularly useful if Members could give as much support for this campaign as possible, including speaking not only with their MEPs, but also with national parliamentarians, governments, civil society, media and general public in order to raise as much awareness as possible and push the EU institutions to address this urgent and serious threat to animal welfare. This is the Alliance's main campaign for the coming year, and we will be sending you regular updates on how you can get involved.



EU PAAG

The Alliance is expanding its areas of work! Our Member Blue Cross has initiated a new Working Group under the Alliance – the EU Pet Advertising Advisory Group (EU PAAG). EU PAAG will bring together advertising websites and animal welfare organisations in individual countries, and will work to ensure that minimum standards are respected when selling pets online. EU PAAG will help to set up and support these groups in different countries, but they will be chaired by Alliance members, so we look forward to your engagement and enthusiasm!

The first meeting of EU PAAG was held at ICAWC on 11 October, but most of the work will be done online and by email, so do get in touch in case you missed the meeting but would still like to participate. Blue Cross has also sent a questionnaire to Members to better understand issues related to online advertising in different EU countries as part of their initial research – your input is very valuable, and many thanks to those Members who have already responded. The next EU PAAG meeting will be in March or April 2017 – watch this space for an update.

Welcome to the newest members of the EU Dog & Cat Alliance!
We look forward to working with you to build a better
Europe for companion animals.



The Helsinki Society for Animal Protection (HESY)

HESY has been active in Helsinki since 1874 and is one of the oldest animal welfare organisations in Finland. The organisation focuses on aiding homeless animals and increasing the appreciation of animals, as well as giving advice on animal protection and care. In the last 20 years HESY has found homes for tens of thousands of homeless animals.



Raystede

Raystede is celebrating its 65th Anniversary of caring for animals and its slogan 'Giving Animals a Better Life' is at the heart of all of their work. Today Raystede operates over a 43 acre site, rescuing, rehoming and providing sanctuary for more than 2000 unwanted and abandoned animals each year including birds, dogs, cats, rabbits and horses. Raystede prides itself on its education service, which provides essential information about animal welfare and wildlife to local schools and the wider public. Raystede aspires to be a 'centre of excellence' for animal welfare.

ANIMAL EYE



Our Czech member ANIMAL EYE was founded in 2014 to defend the rights of animals through legislation change and raising awareness among the public. The organisation focuses on tackling the illegal dog trade and puppy farming in source countries, primarily through legal and Public Affairs campaigns. A few months after its founding, in June 2015, ANIMAL EYE was granted the status of an official body for placing comments in the legislative process on the protection of animals by the Ministry of Agriculture.



Nekupuj. Adoptuj!

The organisation's name means "Don't buy. Adopt!" Nekupuj. Adoptuj! runs educational campaigns in the Czech Republic for children in primary schools and the general public aiming to dispel myths about adopted animals and address the situation of abandoned dogs and cats in the country. The organisation also runs spaying and neutering campaigns.



KMDA

The Royal Society for Protection of Animals (KMDA) is our second Belgian member. The organisation focuses on the care of lost, abandoned and stray dogs and cats. It has two shelters – in Antwerp and in Kontich.



Dog Rescue Carcassonne

DRC is primarily an Anglophone fundraising organ for the SPA Carcassonne shelter. The goal of the association is to find homes for the dogs at the SPA Carcassonne, and attempt to home dogs directly whenever possible. DRC is involved in a number of fundraising activities in the local area.



Animal Welfare We Watch

Animal Welfare We Watch is our newest and 65th member! Based in Belgium the organisation works to promote better animal welfare and, in particular, to eliminate the illegal trade of puppies.

In The Spotlight!

We will feature a different Alliance member in every issue of the newsletter, giving you the chance to get to know your colleagues!



Brigita Kymantaitė,
Lithuanian Animal Rights
Protection Organization

Tell us about your organisation...

The Lithuanian Animal Rights Protection Organization (LARPO) was founded in 2012 on my initiative. The knowledge gained when I was studying law, the like-minded people I met and the lessons learned after more than eight years' experience working with Lithuanian and foreign animal welfare organisations all led me to take the initiative to establish an organisation whose activities would be essential in changing the animal protection situation in Lithuania. Thousands of animals each year suffer from human cruelty, owners' neglect, abuse and indifference to their needs. We believe that animals should be treated ethically, depending on the animal's nature, and that inappropriate and violent behaviour towards them must be regarded as seriously as any other crime. LARPO activities to a large extent are addressed to shape a higher animal protection policy, including sustainable preventative and law enforcement measures that would help not only individual animals, but would also serve as a long-term contribution to ensuring animal welfare. LARPO is run on local donations and sponsorship of some of the projects from international NGOs.

What initiatives are you working on in Lithuania at the moment?

Our activities currently cover lobbying to change Lithuania's Animal Welfare and Protection Act to introduce compulsory microchipping for rabies susceptible pets (dogs, cats and ferrets), replace the exotic pet keeping regulation from a Negative to a Positive list, to change the minimum requirements for keeping wild animals in captivity, including prohibition of using wild animals in circuses, to make (and help) local municipalities to replace their present approach to stray animals – the “collecting-sheltering/killing” service – into drawing and implementing a long-term animal welfare strategy. Also we run projects such as the microchipping project, educational project for school teachers providing teaching material about animals, helping in some individual animal cases, changing the conditions of wild animals kept in captivity, etc.

What developments would you like to see in EU legislation on pets?

Because the problems for keeping a pet already include not only issues arising within the Member State themselves, but often affects other EU members, we see the need of better regulation of pet animal movement in the EU, also breeding and trading not only within EU countries, but also from countries like Belarus etc., from where many puppies come in to be sold in Baltic countries or in transit to other countries.

Members' Stories!

Save the Dogs, Romania/Italy

Varus (top) was found severely malnourished, being dragged by a child in the street. Save the Dogs rescued Varus and cared for him for three months whilst he recovered. Once his physical condition improved, Varus was successfully rehomed.



After Sonia (bottom) suffered a food allergy her owner abandoned her at the steps of Save the Dogs' clinic in Medgidia. Thankfully, Sonia responded well to therapy and had no other health problems. Thanks to the wonderful vets at Save the Dogs, Sonia recovered quickly and three months later she was successfully rehomed.



Chats du Quercy - France, Mokka and Adoption Centre Expansion

Lynn and Ron Stone with Mokka, a diabetic cat who found a home with a local nurse, an ideal match!

At the moment Chats du Quercy is working to add a dedicated 10 cat pen to their current Adoption Centre facilities, with the addition of:

- Individual and secure outdoor access to especially help those cats that are with them for longer periods.
- larger enclosures with better facilities.
- an infirmary for cats that are sick and need specialist care.
- a recuperation area for those recently operated on.
- better facilities for educational visits.

The project will have an immensely positive impact on the welfare of the cats in Chats du Quercy's care and will also create employment in a rural environment with high unemployment rates.

GSPCA, Guernsey, Dog and Cat First Aid Courses

Due to popular demand, GSPCA are holding additional dog and cat first aid courses, where the public can learn about what to do if you were faced with an emergency situation with your dog or cat. All participants receive handouts, a few goodies and a certificate. GSPCA have now trained over 200 students in first aid and animal care.



Shakti from Mačja Hiša is FIV positive and was adopted by loving new owners after spending some time in the "sponsor a cat" programme.

Mačja Hiša, Slovenia, Increase in adoptions of FeLV and FIV positive cats

Our member Mačja Hiša is a non-profit organisation working in Slovenia to improve the welfare of wild and abandoned cats.

Like many shelters, one of the challenges Mačja Hiša face is rehoming FIV and FeLV positive cats. These cats are particularly difficult to rehome as they must be kept indoors and they cannot live with other cats unless those cats are also positive for these diseases.

Thankfully, Mačja Hiša have found that people are becoming more willing to take on this challenge and learn how to care for these cats.

Mačja Hiša has had a very successful year for rehoming these cats. So far in 2016 they have rehomed five FeLV positive cats, six FIV positive cats and one FIV and FeLV positive cat.

Each time a FIV or FeLV cat is rehomed it is a triumph for the hard-working carers at Mačja Hiša which they feel brings meaning to their work.



Varjupaikade MTU, Estonia, *Black Catober*

For the third year running Varjupaikade MTU launched their Black Catober campaign to prove that black cats, which are often still associated with witchcraft, can make wonderful family pets. Thanks to the campaign, which helps raise awareness of every cat at the shelter in need of a forever home as well as just black cats, this October they have rehomed around 200 cats.

German Shepherd Rescue Elite

German Shepherd Rescue Elite rescued Poppy from a backstreet breeder when she was heavily pregnant. Poppy gave birth to her six beautiful puppies in the safe care of GSRE. The rescue fully vaccinated, microchipped and wormed each of the pups which soon all found loving new homes.

Six beautiful new-borns



Successful rehoming of illegally imported puppy

ISPCA

Edward was one of twenty puppies seized from the boot of a car in Cairnryan ferry port in Scotland recently and returned to Ireland.

The puppies were all too young to travel, were not accompanied by pet passports and although microchipped were not registered on an approved database. The puppies were seized by the Scottish SPCA as part of Operation Delphin which is targeting the illegal trade in puppies from Ireland to the UK and were returned to Ireland where they originated from.

Edward, one of the rescued puppies definitely landed on his paws, rehomed by the ISPCA to a family in Malahide, Co. Dublin. This is what they had to say: "My children had been asking for a family dog for some time and my wife and I came around to the idea after setting down some ground rules on taking care of the new pet. My preference was for a rescue dog/puppy but rescue dogs don't tend to be puppies. I saw a post on twitter about the puppies found in a car boot in Scotland. I called the ISPCA immediately and after meeting their criteria for adoption, we met Edward. He has been a gift to our house. He welcomes each and every one of us on return to the house with more enthusiasm than you can imagine. And I'm looking forward to adopting a companion rescue puppy to keep each other company and further enrich our lives."