

FOTAgraphic



Issue No: 9

www.helptheanimals-crete.com

Thanks to our Dutch Foster Parents

FOTA would like to say “Thank You” to all the foster parents in Holland who, through the Mirtos Animal Project, have volunteered to look after the dogs and puppies which we send to them on a regular basis. Their devotion and love provide a sound basis for the animals’ new lives and eventual permanent homes and we can’t thank them enough for all their efforts.

There are so many foster parents working with Mirtos Animal Project that it would be impossible to interview them all so we asked that they select and interview one foster parent who we could feature in our newsletter to represent them all and here is her story



“I am very honored that I can give an interview about my dogs and fosterdogs. I can talk for hours! They are all wonderful and sweet dogs. I want to show you on the pictures what I mean. On the first picture you see me, Grietje de Groot. On the second one Pearl, Renata, Rusty, Ringo, Sûth the beagle and the big black dog is Bonny. It is difficult to make a picture of all of them because they always walk around. I used their obsession for food and gave my boyfriend a big piece of cake and the result is this picture. They all have attention for the piece of cake! On the third picture you see the meeting committee when Makroulis arrived. Rena and Rusty are picking him up out of his cage, they are very social dogs. I have over 800 pictures of my dogs! The dogs in the basket are Rena and Rusty.” Best wishes, Grietje de Groot



Grietje has been fostering solely for the Mirtos Animal Project since October 2008 having contacted them through the internet via “Bij Baasje Gesocht” which is an advertising site. In addition to her own six dogs, she also has a male cat called Nikkie. On one occasion she went to the airport to collect two puppies which we had rescued and which had initially been fostered by our vice president, Pete and his wife, Sue.

These two puppies were a brother and sister which we named Rusty and Renata. As you can see from the photo, Grietje fell in love with them and instead of fostering them, decided to give them a new home with her.

Since October 2008, Grietje has fostered the following dogs:- Bonny, Lala (Ella), Cookie, Suth, Ginny, Pearl and Makroulis and tells us that Bonny has been adopted by her boyfriend.

Many, many thanks Grietje and to all the foster parents you represent. It’s reassuring for us to know that the dogs and puppies are in such loving hands. Please keep up the good work.

Caring for Kara



Kara is about 8 years old and terrified of men. She has obviously had a bad 7 years (We had her in our care for one year.)

She was found in a terrible condition, couldn't stand because she was tied to such a short rope and when she wanted to relieve herself, she did it all down herself! She had just given birth but there were no pups to be found. She had lost all muscle power in her back legs and was staggering all over the place. With FOTA's care, a good diet and exercise, she slowly improved.

She is now in her new foster home in Holland. When she arrived there at 4 a.m. a timid and frightened dog, her foster parent sat with her for 2 hours, then went to bed for 2 hours and woke up to a different dog! She made friends with the other 4 dogs in the house, chased the cat and jumped in the pond in the garden.

She is gradually accepting the man in the house but is still afraid and this part of her recovery will take time.

I just want a new home and someone to love me!

Izzy had been wandering around a village for some time getting thinner and thinner. Someone (usually shepherds) had brutally chopped off half her tail and cut her ears with scissors. This practice is often done with German Shepherds and there is no rhyme nor reason for it.

Izzy has Leishmania and also developed mange, her face was a bloody mess and the poor animal's skin was in a terrible mess from constantly finding somewhere to scratch it. She had to endure therapy of daily injections and weekly baths of special shampoo.

She is still waiting, after one year, to go to Holland now that she is healthy. Despite all she has endured, she is a lovely, gentle, very friendly dog.



Greetings from Barnaby

(one of the nine puppies of "Mina" rescued from Minos Beach)



"Hello everybody!

I just want to let you know that everything is okay with me. It's a little bit late I know because, in April, I celebrated my first birthday. Well let me start from the beginning.

Anne-Marie saw my picture on the Mirtos site and fell in love with me at first sight. When she read my name, Barnaby, she fell in love with me for the second time. Yeah, yeah, I know, you are jealous...

So..... I went on a trip to Holland and on July 18th. I met her at Schiphol, she came to pick me up, together with her mum and her aunt Annie. At first I was a little bit afraid and stayed at the back of the cage, so Anja, who picked me up at the Cargo Department of Schiphol had to step into the car to get me out. I'm hard to catch - I wanted to let them know that! Well, then I was given to my lady-boss and I kept very quiet. She put me in the grass to let me do a wee wee, but it was wet and cold so I didn't do anything. I stayed very close to her, licked her finger and then we both knew we really belonged to each other.

After that we drove home, I had a very nice bed on the backseat of the car. You could say "The prince on the pea". It was piled up so high and it was so nice and warm. I slept all the way home.

I made a whole lot of friends over here. I love to go for a walk in the woods of Mierlo, love to play with all the dogs we pass and..... I have a cat-friend, he's called Morse, so we are the two detectives in the house. We are about the same age, he came walking along just a week before I came here.

Thank you for taking such good care of me in Crete and for giving me such a great chance in life! I'm a happy guy, love you all and if you come to Holland don't forget to pay me a visit.

Groetjes en tot ziens, (my dutch language is not bad at all)"

Barnaby

Mira's Story

(an email & photos received from Holland)



Ruud and Joyce are from Venlo, in the Netherlands and adopted Mira from a foster family in Germany. They have sent us the following email. We have replied to them giving more information about Mira's rescue and her terrible condition when we found her

"We received a letter, written by you (FOTA), in which you ask us to inform you about the situation of the dog.

Well, Mira is doing fine! She turned out to be a lovely dog, who likes attention and hugs above anything! She is very quiet and friendly towards other dogs and people...especially children! Besides some small wounds on her ears, which are very difficult to heal, she is in good condition. When she arrived in Germany, half a year ago, she was really weak: the muscles in her back legs did not grow properly during her life in Greece. But because of the good care she received from her foster family, it has improved greatly. Now, she still can't run very fast, but she's able to walk for almost one hour! She is happy now, and so are we.

I added a few pictures to this email. One picture is from half a year ago, the others are pictures taken this week. You can see that her hair has grown, and she gained a few kilos!

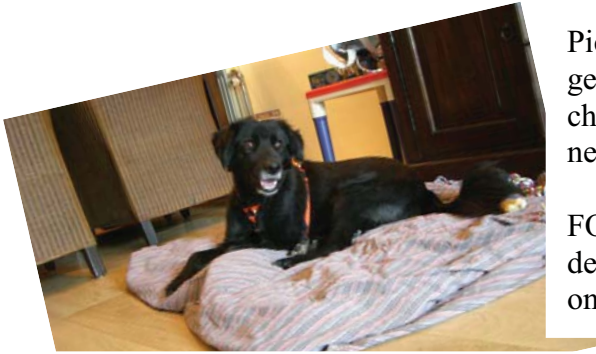
We heard that her situation in Greece has been really bad, tied to a chain. If possible, we would like to receive some more information of her history, if you have such information available, or maybe a picture of Mira in Greece.

We would like to thank you for taking care of her, and all the other dogs in Greece. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

With kind regards,"

Ruud, Joyce and Mira

From Pain to Gain for Shane



Pictured here in his new home in Holland is just the gentlest of dogs. He was fastened, with a short chain, to a barrel with no food or water by a shepherd near to the main road into Aghios Nikolaos.

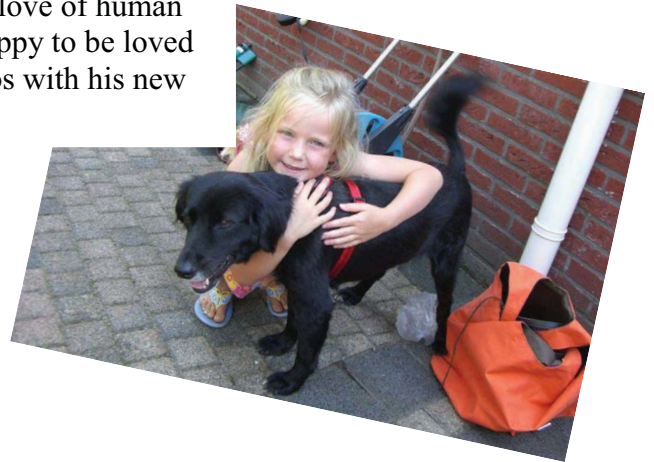
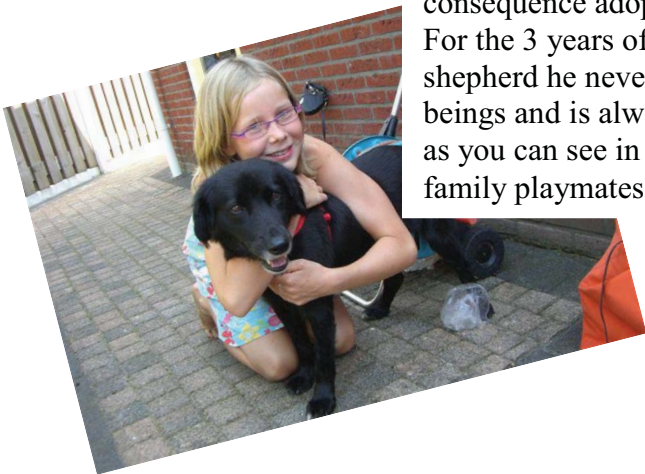
FOTA fed him for 6 months until our President, Ann, decided that something had to be done as this couldn't go on indefinitely.

So, we rescued him and had him castrated. Unfortunately, after the operation, he haemorrhaged and then had a blood clot which developed an infection. He was in considerable pain for some time but, during one month of an intensive course of antibiotics and wearing a plastic head collar, this lovely boy never stopped wagging his tail!



He eventually went to what was meant to be his new foster home in Holland but the family fell in love with him and as a consequence adopted him.

For the 3 years of unhappiness with the shepherd he never lost his love of human beings and is always so happy to be loved as you can see in the photos with his new family playmates!



Verlee – Waiting for the right person



Verlee is newly blinded; we don't know how. She was found by a Greek lady, of the same name, trembling with fear under a bush.

She is only young and may have been abandoned because she was blind but she is now slowly gaining confidence in her new foster home and waiting to be adopted.

Dog Dietary Care

Dangerous Foods for Dogs:-

Avocado – No matter how good you think avocado is, you should not give it to your dog. It contains a substance called Persin which, although harmless to humans who aren't allergic, it's highly toxic for most animals including dogs. Just a little can cause your dog to vomit and have diarrhoea.

Milk & Dairy Products – On a hot day it's tempting to share an ice cream with your dog but milk & milk-based products can give your dog diarrhoea and other digestive upsets as well as causing food allergies.

Fat Trimming & Bones – Table scraps which contain meat fat and bone are dangerous for your dog. Fat from both cooked & uncooked meat can cause Pancreatitis. It seems natural to give a dog a bone but they can choke on them and bones can also splinter causing obstruction and/or laceration of your dog's digestive system.

Raw Eggs – Can cause two problems. First, they can contain bacteria such as Salmonella & E-Coli. Second, there is an enzyme in raw eggs which interferes with the absorption of a particular B Vitamin. This can cause skin problems as well as problems with your dog's coat.

Salt – It's not a good idea to share salty foods like potato chips and pretzels with your dog. This can lead to excessive thirst and urination which can cause sodium ion poisoning. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhoea, depression, tremors, elevated body temperature, seizures and can even cause death!

Safe Foods for Dogs:-

Some Fresh Fruits – Slices of apple, orange, banana & watermelon make tasty treats for your dog. Be sure to remove any seeds first though. Seeds, stems & leaves can cause serious problems.

Some Vegetables – Carrot sticks, green beans, cucumber slices or zucchini slices are fine. Even a plain baked potato is OK. Be sure though not to let your dog eat raw potato or any potato plants in your garden.

Cooked White Rice & Pasta – Dogs love a serving of white rice or pasta after it is cooked. Plain white rice with a little boiled chicken can sometimes provide relief from gastrointestinal upset.

Lean Meats – Most dogs are fine eating cuts of lean meats that have been thoroughly cooked. Be sure to remove all visible fat, including the skin on poultry and be sure to remove all bones before giving it to your dog.

Why Some Men Have Dogs And Not Wives:

The later you are, the more excited your dogs are to see you.

Dogs don't notice if you call them by another dog's name.

Dogs like it if you leave a lot of things on the floor.

A dog's parents never visit.

Dogs agree that you have to raise your voice to get your point across.

You never have to wait for a dog; they're ready to go 24 hours a day.

Dogs find you amusing when you're drunk.

Dogs like to go hunting and fishing.

A dog will not wake you up at night to ask, "If I died, would you get another dog?"

If a dog has babies, you can put an ad in the paper and give them away.

A dog will let you put a studded collar on it without calling you a pervert.

If a dog smells another dog on you, they don't get mad. They just think it's interesting.

Dogs like to ride in the back of a pickup truck.

And last, but not least:

If a dog leaves, it won't take half of your stuff!



Fund Raising

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to carry on with our market stall during the tourist season this year. However, thanks to the efforts of our helpers, we have continued with our Bazaars but tailored them more to suit tourists. We must also thank all the staff at "Bar Bee" who have allowed us use of their facilities to run these Bazaars .

This is a valuable source of extra income for us during the current global financial crisis.



Membership information

single – 15 euro
couple – 25 euro
family – 45 euro

Your membership will be valid for one year; alternatively you can pay a donation directly into our bank account:-

Filozoikos Syllogos,
Aghios Nikolaos,
Crete

Charity Registration number: 178/1997

Bank Details

Account No: 302-296244-62
Swift Code: ETHNGRAA 302

National Bank of Greece
IBAN



GR 060110 302 00000 302 29

Registration Form -I wish to become a member of the Friends of the Animals and accept the conditions laid down by the charity's constitution.

Name

Address

.....

.....

Email.....

Signature.....

To see what a difference YOUR donation can make, visit our web site www.helptheanimals-crete.com where you can read stories and see photos of some of the animals we've helped so far.

Contacts

Emergency

Monday – Saturday
9.00am – 1.00pm only!!
693 2385327

Ann Adamakis

Friends of the Animals

Elounda Heights

Elounda 72053, Crete. Greece

Email: annadamakis@hotmail.com

CAN YOU HELP?

We are always on the lookout for volunteer foster homes where we can temporarily keep the rescued dogs and puppies. If **YOU** would like to help and feel that you can give a dog or puppy a home and the love and care it needs for a few weeks until it's ready to fly out to Holland, please contact us (see above).

OR:-

If you travel between Crete and Holland, how about volunteering to be a flight escort for one of our dogs or puppies.

We meet you at Heraklion airport and check-in the dog with you. Puppies and very small dogs usually travel with you in the cabin in a special bag which we provide. Larger dogs we take through to security whilst you take your flight in the normal way.

When you arrive at your destination, you collect the dog with your baggage, a volunteer from the Mirtos Animal Project will be waiting for you and you hand the dog over to them.

That's all there is to it!!!

ALSO:-

Stamps & Phone Cards

Don't forget that we are still collecting postage stamps and used 'phone cards in order to make money for Friends of the Animals. Please hand them to any committee member.



Written & Produced by "ΨΑΓ"