

## **Zante Strays Trustees Report For The Period Ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

### **Reference & Administration Information**

Charity Name : Zante Strays

Charity Registration Number : 1166760

Address : 32 Beatrice Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 9HB

### **Trustees**

Mrs Susan Bannister

Miss Caitlin Mellors

Ms Dimitra Kontonis

Ms Astrid Kooring

Mrs Beryl Marshall

### **Accounts Preparation**

Dales Bookkeeping, 29 Knightsdale Road, Ipswich IP1 4JQ

## **Aims & Objectives**

Our aim is to provide suitable homes for homeless dogs and cats from the island of Zante in Greece.

There are many animals which have been mis-treated or abandoned by their previous owners desperately needing care. We aim to ensure that they receive the necessary treatment by vets in Greece and then care for them before they are re-homed.

Our objective is also to reduce the number of animals that in future are affected by offering to sterilise owned dogs at a subsidised or free veterinary cost, Consequently reducing the number born.

We also aim to collect unowned (street) dogs , sterilise and have them medically treated , and then return them to the street near a feeding station.

Returning them to the street is only done when the dog is deemed unsuitable for adoption and fit enough to cope with street life.

Where a street dog is too vulnerable for release and not fit for adoption then they are kept in a foster home on the island and their situation reviewed at a later date.

We never euthanise a healthy dog.

We try ensure that all adopted dogs are of good disposition and not likely to be a danger to the adoptee or others.

If they have small quirks in the character then we make the adoptee aware if we have knowledge of this. E.g. fear of men (very common but usually quickly overcome) , dislike of cats etc.

We aim to ensure that the adoptees home is suitable and have a nationwide team of home checkers for this purpose.

We have set up a small group of experienced foster carers in the UK. Our aim is to bring older dogs over to be trained and socialised before adoption. This ensure a much better transition and a more successful outcome for the older dog .

Young dogs and puppies are usually more adaptable and are easier to home directly from Zante.

The charity has had a very successful year. More than 500 dogs have been rescued, treated, sterilised and adopted. We have also been able to rescue and re-home a small number of cats.

Zakythinthos continues to have street dogs but there appears to be a very slight decline in the number. We still find many litters of pups abandoned at the side of the road in dumpsters or left in cardboard boxes at the shelter. This is partly because of a reluctance of

the local people to sterilise their own dogs. Many of the pups abandoned are the progeny of owned dogs. Zante Strays do offer free or 50% towards the sterilisation procedure but this offer is rarely taken up.

A critical time of year is the winter. This is because the dogs and cats no longer have the support of the tourists to feed them. They then become desperate for food and begin roaming the villages killing chickens and scavenging for food. The local people then regard them as pests and although many try to feed them, all too often the animals are poisoned or shot. During the winter, we make a concerted effort to collect up any strays we consider to be at risk of such attacks or are not thriving because of injury or illness. We also have feeding stations around the island in areas we know to be inhabited by groups of unwanted dogs. The food boxes are filled regularly and the dogs checked. Where possible, subject to funds, we try to catch the dogs and sterilise them.

### The Shelter

The shelter itself has 22 pens, most of which contain approximately 5 dogs. Unfortunately, we do keep a very small number of dogs on chains because they may be anti-social with other dogs. We also have various foster homes on the island which hold between 2 and 40 dogs. As a general rule, we care for between 250 and 300 dogs at all times.

The shelter is much improved with all the pens concreted with drainage to a sewerage system. This has vastly improved the hygiene at the shelter although we still need more improvement in this area. The shelter is also now protected by a tall perimeter fence. This has greatly increased security and prevents external and unpleasant interference that has occurred on occasions. It also stops animals who have not been checked for disease from being thrown straight into pens with healthy, tested dogs by owners who no longer want them. Also, dogs thrown over in this way are at a great risk of being attacked or even killed by the pack of dogs within the shelter. The dogs are not usually aggressive but dogs unceremoniously thrown over in this way are often regarded as intruders by the pens' occupants. We have also purchased a container to enable the shelter to store feed and equipment and a small generator and power hose to enable deep cleaning of areas on a regular basis.

### Donations

We rely on receiving regular donations from friends of Zante Strays and the Giving Fund. For every dog adopted, we ask for £100 towards preparation for adoption i.e rabies injections, sterilisation and other medical checks. This is in addition to paying for transport costs.

Many of our volunteers raise funds by holding events such as dog shows and car boot sales etc. We also make appeals for particular dogs that need expensive long term veterinary treatment.

The current Municipal Authority on the island has also donated concrete for the shelter and made a donation by paying directly for some of the veterinary bills. This is a huge step forward and we are very grateful for this support. The trustees consider that the charity is

now taken seriously and is of benefit to the island by ridding the streets of unwanted sick animals in a humane way.

### Volunteers

We always need volunteers in Zakythos and the UK.

- In Zakythos

We have regular volunteers who run the shelter. This is time consuming, exhausting, relentless and often harrowing. The good news is that more and more tourists have been offering to give up part of their holiday to assist at the shelter which is proving to be a great help and a morale booster for the regulars.

- UK Volunteers

The UK volunteers home check the adopters, organise the transports and arrange for collection. They also deal with after-care, failed adoptions and health and behavioural issues. We are seriously stretched and require more foster homes in the UK to deal with such issues. We also have a few foster homes with volunteers who will take on dogs that for no particular reason have been in the shelter too long. Once transported and adapted to life in a home environment the dogs are usually quickly adopted.

### Future Plans

We intend to continue improving the shelter by :-

- a) Building single occupancy pens for unsociable dogs
- b) Building a unit for small and vulnerable pups
- c) Building a recuperation unit for post operative care
- d) Increasing advertising in Zakythos and the UK for more regular volunteers and foster carers
- e) Acquiring a bigger and better generator for better lighting
- f) Becoming more involved in cat rescue and sterilisation

The trustees overall view is that we have successfully placed many dogs in loving and protective homes. We intend to go forward with the same enthusiasm and commitment to animals who deserve respect and a good quality of life.

## **Financial Review**

For the 12 month period ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the charity suffered a deficit of £1,667. The income was made up purely from regular and one-off donations of £52,963, £95,170 from adoption and transport fees and £4,074 from other fundraising activities. The charity still receives no income from Gift Aid but this is a future possibility.

The most significant costs were for vets fees of £55,729 and transport costs of £73,540. Admin expenses comprised of accountancy, insurance and bank charges.

The transport costs have reduced in relation to adoptions due to volunteers bringing some dogs over from Greece themselves instead of paying couriers.

The vets' fees have risen dramatically due to some previous work from vets in Greece being billed late and previously having difficulty obtaining an outstanding balance figure.

In real terms, the charity has had a more successful year than last year with significant funds being spent on equipment and improving the premises as mentioned in the trustees' summary.

**Zante Strays Statement Of Financial Activities For The Period 1st May 2018 To 30th April 2019**

<b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>Total Funds</b>
General Donations	52963		
Adoption & Transport Fees		95170	
Fundraising Income	4074		
<b>Total Income</b>	57037	95170	152207
<b><u>Resources Expended</u></b>			
<b>Charitable Activities</b>	65225	73540	138765
<b>Governance Costs</b>	15109		15109
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<u>80334</u>	<u>73540</u>	<u>153874</u>
<b><u>Net Income</u></b>	-23297	21630	-1667

**Zante Strays Balance Sheet April 2019**

	£	£
<b><u>Fixed Assets</u></b>		
Property	10,395	
Equipment	6,205	16,600
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		
Cash At Bank And In Hand	17,502	
Creditors : Amounts Due Within 1 Year	21,939	21,939
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>-4,437</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b><u>12,163</u></b>
<b><u>Unrestricted Funds</u></b>		
General Funds	12,163	12,163
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b><u>12,163</u></b>

The charity is regarded as a small entity due to the income not exceeding £250,000 per annum and is therefore exempt from audit

## **Zante Strays Financial Review For The Period Ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

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### **Notes Forming Part Of The Financial Statements For The Period Ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

#### **1. Accounting Policies**

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year.

##### **a) Basis Of Accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Depreciation Of fixed assets is calculated on reducing balance at 15%.

##### **b) Fund Accounting**

- Unrestricted Funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in order to meet the objectives of the charity.
- Designated Funds are unrestricted funds which are earmarked for particular purposes.
- Restricted Funds have restrictions placed on their expenditure by the donor.

##### **c) Incoming Resources**

All income is included in the financial statements. There are a number of regular and irregular donors donating general funds to assist with the costs of running the charity. For individuals wishing to adopt dogs, a fee is charged to cover the costs of transport, food, vets



fees & kennels etc. The charity still wishes to register for Gift Aid but are still investigating appropriate systems for capturing the required information.

d) **Resources Expended**

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as costs are incurred. The majority of the vets fees are for a vet in Greece and the costs of transporting dogs from Greece are also quite significant.

**2. Trustee Remuneration**

No trustees received any remuneration during the financial period ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**3. Accounts Preparation And Independent Examination**

The accounts have been independently prepared by Roy Clements FICB PM.Dip of Dales Bookkeeping.