

TWINKLE TRUST ANIMAL AID®

Established in 1995

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SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2015

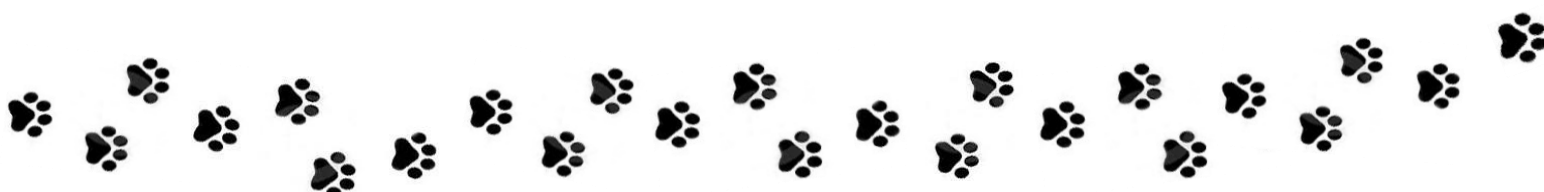


Since our last newsletter, we have carried out three large stray cat neutering campaigns, plus we are neutering and providing rescue and emergency care to cats and kittens 365 days of the year. We could not do what we do without the donations from our kind and caring supporters and the public. Our thanks to the Alice Noakes Memorial Fund for a much needed grant of £500 in 2014.

MARCH 2015 we carried out our latest neutering campaign. In five days we admitted 173 cats and kittens for neutering and veterinary treatment. Preparation for the campaign takes a week of cleaning and setting up and this March local volunteers Joy and Judy rolled up their sleeves and helped out and thanks to some unexpected help from Elizabeth Whiter of the Animal Healing Organisation and two of her wonderful team members, we managed to get organised and ready just in time for the arrival of the volunteer vet team from Vets Now. Aoife O'Sullivan, Donna Marie Johnson and Kathryn Welsh. Together with Javier Gonzales from Bichos Vets the team worked hard neutering and treating all the cats brought in.



UPDATE ON BISCUIT Biscuit was abandoned at one of our cat cafés, he was very sick and showed all the signs of cat flu. We soon discovered he was put at our café because his owners didn't want a sick cat! After months of vet visits and tests our vet gave us the bad news that Biscuit had a type of cancer, called Lymphoma. This little lad is such a character and loves nothing more than to play and skid across the floor chasing toys, then curl up for a siesta. We took the plunge and advice from the vet and over the course of several months Biscuit had chemotherapy treatment. It was pretty rough going, the treatment made him feel very unwell and nauseas, plus he wouldn't eat. After his final treatment and four weeks of us having to syringe feed him 4-5 times a day, he has bounced back and is back to his old self, enjoying his food again and living life to the full. We're keeping our fingers crossed that the cancer has gone for good.



MISHA came to us after she had been burnt. She needed many vet visits and weeks of treatment.

After Misha had made a full recovery, Judy and Jenny took her back home where her feeders were more than happy to have her back.



WE RESCUED FOUR NEW-BORN KITTENS dumped in a crate at the bins. This happens far too often. I've lost count how many we've had to rescue from bins, bags and boxes. Thanks to the help of Fuerte Felinos and friends who helped with bottle feeding, all the kittens thrived and now have loving homes.

NEW CAT CAFÉ AT THE HARBOUR OF CALETA DE FUSTE Last year Barcelo Hotels undertook the renovation of the harbour, which was the location of one of our cat cafés. Because of the large machinery and danger from the building work, we had to remove our cat café. Work is now complete and the harbour and renovation to some of the apartments at the Barcelo looks wonderful. Thanks to everyone that helped keep these frightened cats fed and watered at various other locations while this work was being carried out. All the cats stayed and now have a new style cat café installed, thanks to the handy work of Dominic and Muriel.



RESCUE OF OVER 60 CATS We are a volunteer neutering charity - not a sanctuary. All our funding comes from our members and public donations. Every penny is used on vet bills for



Rotten abscess from fighting

neutering and emergency treatments, plus cat food and other medical supplies. We already have more cats than we can find homes for. In January we had a call about 60 un-neutered, starving cats in a cramped flat. With the owners not having money for cat food, cat litter or even basic medical supplies, the situation sounded dire. This was confirmed as soon as we went to investigate. Many of the cats had injuries, some very severe. It took several visits to rescue all the cats, some even needing trapping because they were not used to being handled and were flying off the walls. We started by removing the most sick and emaciated cats. Thanks to the help of local vet Bichos, every cat received the medical attention it needed. Some of the cats we blood tested because of the awful condition they were in, but all were negative, which just proved the only thing these poor cats were lacking was fresh air, nutrition and a clean environment. There was not a single cat litter box in the flat. These cats will need time to regain strength and adapt to new environments.



Emaciated, covered in faeces and sick

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Sally, one of the cats we removed from the flat. Now she needs a good home.



NEW FOSTER PENS NEEDED With very few animal charities on Fuerteventura and everyone on the island telling us they are suffering from El Crisis (the economic crisis), funding support is low here. Except for a few kind supporters and friends we get very little hands on or financial help. We do all we can to help the homeless cats and kittens, but we can only do so much. In the last month we have helped 44 cats and kittens.



We need better foster pens if we are to care for sick and injured cats. It's now mid-May and the temperature is 32 degrees and for the last three days we've had no sign of the wind, which is what the island is known for. We have a nice large pen, that we call The Lodge. The Lodge was built a few years ago and it's great. It has a roof to help protect the cats from the weather, it's wire fenced to let the air through and tiled on the floor for easy cleaning and big enough for the lucky ones in The Lodge to exercise, play and take shade from the sun. Then we have a small area for six

foster pens for cats that we need to have in our care while they are recovering from injury or ill health which can take anything from 1 -16 weeks. At the moment the heat in these pens is stifling! We need to rebuild and develop the foster pens to keep the cats comfortable and in the most hygienic conditions possible. We've had estimates and plans have been drawn up for new foster pens. We need to raise £10,800 to carry out this plan. We intend to call the new foster pens 'Susan's Retreat' in honour of our dear friend Susan Davis.



SUSAN DAVIS On January 31st 2015, our "lovely Susan" passed away from a very sudden illness. Susan was a big part of Twinkle.

She was always at her happiest when she was cuddling or caring for someone or something. Over the years, Sue and her husband Paul have fostered many cats and kittens for us, a few they kept as family additions and many more that Sue nurtured and got well, before helping them move onto new and better lives. During our neutering campaigns Sue not only helped us look after the cats and kittens with her gentle cuddles and kind words, she would also become 'house mummy', and make sure that the rest of us always had a hot meal and a cuddle when needed.



Susan knew how much we needed new foster pens but always our funds must go on the day to day medical and cat expenses. At the request of Susan's husband Paul and daughters Taidi and Gemini, we have set up a new donate page on our web site with the hope that friends of Susan and supporters of our charity will make a contribution towards the new foster pens that we want to build.

Susan's family have already generously donated €5000, in her name.



EVENTS

On Saturday 4th July we will have a fund-raising table at the Reigate Community Festival in Surrey. For more information check out the link to their website:
www.reigatecommunityfestival.co.uk

THANK YOU

This year Twinkle is celebrating its 20th Anniversary of helping the stray cats of Fuerteventura. Since our humble beginnings in 1995 we have neutered over **15,000** cats and helped many more, some by rehoming them, others by treating their illnesses or injuries - all of them by neutering them, which is the most important part of our work.



We have provided and installed 18 of our Cat Cafés in the grounds of many hotels to provide fresh drinking water and dry food to the homeless cats. We use 280 kilos of dry food just on these Cat Cafés every month. None of this would have been possible without your help and support.

Please help us to continue helping the homeless cats of Fuerteventura. You can make a donation to the address above or via our website or via our Twinkle Trust Animal Aid Facebook page. You can also print a standing order mandate from our web site/donate page and please don't forget our special appeal for Susan's Retreat new foster pens.

With your help we can help even more cats.

Thank you.

Jenny Billimore

