

Sardinian Cat Neutering Appeal – Newsletter No 6

A report by Animal Samaritan's Volunteer Silvana Valentino Locke

Angie and I flew to Alghero in July 2006 for 4 nights and mainly used that trip to carry out support work plus a small amount of neutering.

At one of the colonies we found that 2 of the cats, previously neutered over 2 years ago, were very poorly. One had a completely raw patch on his chest due, almost certainly, to flea allergy. It was at least 3 inches square and looked very painful. We managed to distract the other cats with food and fed a flea tablet in tuna to the cat with the allergy; Wonderful! Stage 2 was to get some Frontline on his back, which again we managed to do while he was eating. Angie visited Alghero in August as part of a cruise and made a point of seeing the cat; there was a significant improvement. When we were both in Alghero in October for a neutering week, he was better still. We treated him again and are optimistic that, with regular treatment, he will eventually heal.

The other cat was suffering bad breathing problems. We caught her and took her to the vet. She was so poorly that the vet had to keep her at the surgery (we have to provide a dog sized pen for this as the vets there have no holding facilities) and antibiotics of various kinds were administered over a period of 4 weeks. After this time she was released back to the colony and, though still not fully fit, was a lot better. We will keep an eye on her too. Her treatment, including the stay, was almost 300 euros, a lot of money but much cheaper than in the UK .

Whilst there we also had 3 grey cats neutered; a lovely grey male dumped at the port that now lives in the grounds of Silvana's villa where he, along with several other cats, is fed regularly by a local woman. The second was a sweet female grey tortie, again dumped at the port, completely terrified. She was rescued, spayed and now lives at Silvana's too. Finally we found little Ryan, a grey kitten aged about 7 weeks, at Alghero airport. He was living outside and looked very poorly. We took him to the vet who put him straight on antibiotics after which we took him home with us where he just lapped up the tlc, recovering very quickly from his 'flu symptoms. He is now living happily in a new home and has recently been neutered.

We visited Alghero again in October and our prime objective was to neuter a new colony that we had heard about. We started straight away and, during the 5 nights that we were there, managed to trap and neuter 14 females and 7 males thus preventing many kittens being born into sickness and often, cruelty at the hands of locals. We heard stories that were deeply upsetting and we are just glad to have stopped this colony from multiplying any further. Having said that, we were unable to trap one very crafty female and one male but they will be first on our agenda in February!!

While trapping and releasing these cats we actually witnessed 2 beautiful domestic cats being dumped from a car by their owners! They were 2 young, un-neutered males probably dumped because they were spraying in the home. We took them both straight to the vet and had them neutered immediately. They were both scared but friendly and are currently being cared for by a local woman named Dorothea. We are hoping she may find a home for them.

We have raised £1500 ourselves through a sponsored walk which I, Angie and Angie's daughter all undertook on 9th September. It was a lovely day and we all thoroughly enjoyed it whilst raising more much needed funds. Although a good sum of money it will only last for a very short while once we start neutering again. The ongoing medical support and feeding constantly eats into our reserves. We, therefore, need more funding to enable us to continue. If you can help at all please call on 0044(0)1959 572 319 or 0044(0)7958 273118 or, alternatively email us at valentino2@btconnect.com