

NEWSPAPER POST

July- Sept 2011



Editorial

Hello there sweet humans!!

Excuse.....achooo achoooo...me!!! Oh my goodness these vols!! There's pollen and plant dust and burnt twig smoke EVERYWHERE!!! And why do you think????!!!! Yes!!.... It's the vols' latest 'project'!! Another one of their famous DISTURBING expeditions to the sanctuary. Emilia was slumped under the kitchen table a few days earlier and heard them talking about how the weeds were getting too bushy, and side A and B slopes needed to be cleared and the drains needed to be cleared before the first rains. They talked about how hiring gardeners would be too expensive, how chemical deweeders could be dangerous for us, how we never get outside help, and how they needed to get together for an extra afternoon, get as many spouses and friends as they could....and get the work done!! SO.....here they are!! We were having a quiet afternoon with the biscuit and last feed vols and suddenly we see a group of 'other day' volunteers entering the gate.....those are very welcome!! Then we see spouses (John and Ray) mmmm..... maybe we



could tolerate them.....then most of these vols' dogs GRRRRR.... this is getting too crowded!! THEN.... 4 American missionaries walk in talking like they had a chewstick in their mouths.....now THIS is way too much!!! We all start barking!! The humans then start taking out their frustration on the twigs, bushes and weeds, pulling everything out, firing pollen and dust everywhere and beating at the drains... firing dust... and the females found a nastier way to fire dust....using brooms!!!! This is war!! Dogs in strategic places... mainly Rosco's, Rambo's, Tigne's and

Coopers are passing on information on what the vols were doing. So, while THEY are firing dust and now burning twigs and sending smoke, WE are firing buckets of doggy saliva at them when they pass by our pens, AND we're harming their ear drums with our barking. There!! Serves them right!! We don't want disturbances of this sort, what do we care if side A and B get flooded????!!!! So What if the jumble room gets flooded!! We KNOW they'll feed us anyway when the money runs out (or will they??)!!! Oh my dear members, I guess I AM in a bad mood today, well ...really it's only that I expect to eat liver on a Wednesday night and I've been served ham instead!! So....I guess I'll have to eat it don't I? Munch munch..... mmmm....this Parma ham isn't too bad after all!! Mmmm.... I guess I'll stop sulking and finish the plate before Kareena sneaks in. Well I guess that'll be it for now. Bye bye my dears, I'll have to go and calm my fellow residents and put a stop to this war.....love, love, love you!!

JoBeTino

Sanctuary News!



Let me first pass on our condolences and prayers to vol Lorraine who has just lost her beloved husband, Anthony. Our thoughts are with you and your family at this sad time Lorraine. We hope our friendship can give you some comfort.

More losses -of the canine kind this time – our vols consider their pets as part of the family, and are always brokenhearted when any of them die. Miriam recently lost another 1 of her rescued strays-Bibi. Yvonne finally had to part from Twister-an ex Sanctuary dog who was almost 16 years, and who had a long and happy life with the whole family. Vol Nadia has just said Goodbye to her 17-year old dog, Dennis-rescued by her children (and embraced by the whole family!) when he was just a puppy.

There's been good news too though! Vol Moira just got married to Josef—and ex vol Louise Mangion had a baby boy this month. Congratulations from all of us!

This summer we have had the usual visits from Skolasajf participants and Youth Groups, and these past weeks we also had some major events here starting with the BIG Clean Up of Sides A & B in preparation for winter on 31st August. This was followed by the Anniversary Celebration at Buskett Roadhouse, held on Sat, 3rd September. On Wed, 6th September a delegation from the Partit Laburista visited the sanctuary. The delegation, led by Mrs. M. Muscat, was made up of Dr Lydia Zerafa, The Hon Gino Cauchi MP and The Hon Tony Agius Decelis MP. Busy weeks indeed - but very rewarding for the vols here.

THE ISLAND SANCTUARY THANKS:

- ◆ Mrs.Preziosi, who faithfully provides us with our daily treats.
- ◆ Franco Farrugia –and his many friends—who clubbed together to present us with a voucher for 300 Euro to be spent on medicines.
- ◆ The staff at the Pathology Dept, Mater Dei. On the initiative of vol Justin Grima, they collected just over 188 Euro for our sanctuary.
- ◆ Isabella ,Nadia and Alfie who were involved in organizing the Anniversary Celebration.
- ◆ Adrian Friggieri of EBN, who has been our web site sponsor for many years.
- ◆ Vol Noelle Darmanin-of Exceed Malta-who is currently designing our new web site, and will be our web site sponsor.
- ◆ The vols-friends-and spouses who helped us clean up Side A and B. Once again, it was a case of 'If a job needs to be done-forget outside help-just ask our kindhearted vols! Mind you, there is still some more work to be done-but it should not take long.
- ◆ A big Thank You to Dogs Trust, who invited us to a one day Training Course that they organized in August. The vols who were able to attend found it very interesting.
- ◆ The delegation from the PL-led by Mrs.Muscat-who accepted our invitation, in spite of a very full schedule for all of them!

The greater love is a mother's; then comes a dog's; then a sweetheart's."
Polish Proverb

Rainbow Bridge



Chunky old **Fluke** was admitted to the sanctuary aged 12 following an arson attack on the mini sanctuary he was in when the perpetrator set the grass near the dogs' pens on fire. Luckily no dog was harmed and they found shelter with us. Fluke had been a beautiful pointer in his day, a freckled coat of milk chocolate and white, a pair of velvety long ears and a handsome droopy face. To add to his good points, he had a wonderfully docile and humble character, behaving exceptionally well when his troublesome ears so frequently needed uncomfortable medication. The only times he lost control of his manners were when his sensitive nose picked the scent of a tasty treat in a vol's hand. THAT'S when he couldn't help himself from impolitely making a speedy grab at the treat, sometimes accidentally chomping also a bit of human finger!! Sweet Fluke, being

the pointer he was, loved roaming in the grass with his pen mates, sniffing around, searching for meaty treasures. Our Fluke died of a heart attack following one such run one hot summer day. He was rushed to the vet but succumbed in the arms of his beloved vol Charmaine, who was responsible for his rescue and pre-sanctuary life.



T Rex was another of Fluke's mates with the same history. Well....one says 'mates' but not exactly because these two males did not get along that well so they had to be placed in separate pens. Well, as long as T-Rex had his treasured Pippa (a super chunky darling of a Lab), he was in seventh heaven!! T Rex was blind and Pippa unknowingly and involuntarily helped him on his way. Treatment was started and there was a time when we had hopes that T-Rex's eyesight would be restored, but the daily application of the treatment began to irritate our old boy and we had to stop when it became upsetting and impossible to perform. Our old boy was generally well behaved and loved being cuddled and given affection, he loved being pampered and handfed special meals and did surprisingly well during his exercise runs. T-Rex had a prostate problem that was eventually resolved and in his final months he had spinal problems which later rendered him immobile. When all options of treatment had been exhausted, he had to be relieved following almost total paralysis. Our 15 year old handsome white Alsatian cross is sadly missed but is now in a place where all the blind can see.



Black shiny coat, good sized stature and with quite an unpredictable character, handsome **Duke** was admitted at the sanctuary following housing problems. Duke was apprehensive and not the friendliest of dogs on admission and a few vols had a taste of his jaws (or rather HE tasted THEM!) But he soon picked his few favourite vols and softened considerably in their presence.



He loved a game of fetch with Gloria, a taste of chews and niceties from the hands of the chosen vols and heaps of cuddles from his beloved Beverly whom he adored and spent a lot of quality time with. Our majestic Duke lived up to his name in that he had a pen all for himself, his bed, toys and chews that could only be touched if he gave permission and he even chose his own vet!! He loved a ride in Beverly's car and woe to whoever approached him when his cute nose sniffed fresh air at the car window. Dear Duke started losing his appetite and weight and after a lengthy investigation, surgery confirmed the presence of deadly tumours in his spleen and bowels. Duke left this hard life in the arms of Bev and a supporting Claire. He was only a very young 8 years old.

Many had a soft spot for our cute **Vanessa**. One look at her and one would wonder whether the word 'cute' was actually appropriate. Our darling 'Van' was from day one of admission, quite old and seemingly crooked. She had a black coat with the rough texture of a bristle brush, a pair of bat like pointed ears, a tiny pointed face and a set of many-a-missing teeth. One would also have to mention that she was super-shy, would cringe like a tortoise if closely approached, and would try a snap or two if really cornered and handled. Oh! BUT she was a DARLING.....and all the vols loved her!! For behind all that lay a unique character, a life that had a particular pattern and a pair of expressive intelligent eyes that followed closely every move we made and transmitted love to those who understood her. Vanessa had a chronic heart problem that needed daily medication which had to carefully be hidden in her food because 'madam' flatly refused treatment!! No one knew how old Vanessa was, she was with us for a good and happy 4 years before she crossed over breaking our hearts and leaving a grim, blank space in pen number 40.



Pets prayer:

'Treat me kindly, my beloved friend, for no heart in the entire world is more grateful for your kindness than mine. Don't be angry with me for long, & don't lock me up as punishment. After all, you have your job, your friends & your entertainment. I only have you.'

Over the years, our sanctuary has seen volunteers from many different nationalities. Many of them come as part of their 'study experience' - or internship. A lucky few are sponsored by their school/college or other institution, but most pay their own way. Our latest volunteers have been Pia and Harriet, from Germany, who spent most of the summer helping at the sanctuary.

Our Island Sanctuary Experience

8:20 am – a honk and then loud barking. That is how our working day starts. Sylvia is picking us up to go to the Island Sanctuary. It's always an adventure getting into the car and we'll certainly never forget those drives to and from the Shelter together with 6 dogs in a Fiat Panda!

When we arrived at the Shelter on our very first day, we were quite surprised at its dimensions. We had expected it to be much smaller. Actually, we expected a lot of things to be different from what we found here.

In Germany, there are many prejudices against Mediterranean animal shelters. They are imagined to be rather small, dirty and cramped. Animals are living there under bad conditions, without much hope of a better life. They are suffering and most of the shelters are killing stations.



However, when we started to work here, it turned out that none of this was true. Quite the contrary: As the shelter is very spacious, the dogs living here get their fair share of outdoor exercise. They are treated friendly and with care and get enough food – and sometimes even a little bit more- and medical treatment, if needed - surprisingly enough, seeing as all of this is kept up with donations only. Nonetheless, it wouldn't work out, if it weren't for all the committed volunteers who spend their free time working here.

For six weeks, we were sharing this experience, feeding, cleaning, doing the dishes and gardening and of course spending time petting the dogs and helping as much as we were able to. Although the heat always wore us out rather quickly, it was an interesting experience, which we wouldn't want to do without. That is why we would like to come back for some volunteer work again someday. In the meantime, we'll try to spread as much information about the Shelter as we can, so that hopefully many more people will want to give their support.

So, even if the bruises – presents from over affectionate dogs – will fade, the memory of our time on Malta 2011 will always stay with us.

Pia and Harriet

Dog Profile - Kareema

Dear members,

I'm Kareema-a normal common kacca dog. I am about 6 years old. At the moment I am living at the Island Sanct.....and happy!!!!

I was born on the streets, and never had an owner. I survived through very difficult times....I was just a puppy, and I had to look for my own food, water and shelter. It's not easy.... not to mention how scared I was. Cars driving by, people throwing stones at me and shooing me away when I went near their doorsteps, and so on!!!! No, I can surely say, being a stray is never easy!!!!

As time went by, I learnt all the tricks how to survive....and also I'd like to say, that I was 'lucky'. I knew from where to get food everyday; there was a place where people left food for us strays, and I found a safe place to sleep, away from the cold winters. And like that I didn't have to travel much. I kept to the same area.



Kareema when she was first admitted to the sanctuary.

A few months ago, I started developing a huge lump under one of my breasts, and it was becoming very uncomfortable. I couldn't walk properly, it got bigger and bigger, and also I was feeling a bit of pain. People looked at me with that ugly look on their face, they were afraid that I was going to give them some kind of disease....in fact somebody even threw stones at me, and one of them hit me in my eye...I am now blind in my left eye due to this!!!! I felt so much pain....how could people be so cruel!!!! I decided that I had to leave this place and go in search of somewhere else.

So, I started walking –on and on. I picked food as I walked and slept during the day and walked again at night time. It is safer to travel during the night...to avoid people. By this time, I was very tired, and hungry as it was very difficult to find enough food. I had lost a lot of weight!!!!

It was on a very rainy and cold night, when I saw the lights of a car coming close to me....I thought I was going to be run over ,but, instead, this car pulled slowly to the side of where I was, and a man stepped out. I crawled back and tried to hide...but there was nowhere I could hide!!!!!! I got very scared.....this man opened the back of his car and started throwing some food on the ground.....and he was talking gently to me.

This got me a bit confused, I had never had anybody talking to me in that way, so I decided I would go just a little bit nearer!!!! As soon as I got near the food, the man grabbed me and put me in the car. I was terrified....I didn't know what was going to happen to me!!!!

Anyway...the next morning I was taken to the sanctuary...the vols there took me in when they saw the state I was in!!!! I was like a walking skelton with a huge lump!!!!

A vet saw me and said I should be operated on as soon as I was up to it, which would take a few days!!!! I didn't like this idea, so the next time the vols let me out for my run, I found my way out and escaped!!! Poor vols spent the whole day looking for me. I ran and hid among some trees, and the vols were calling me and looking for me all the time

This went on for 3 weeks. I hid during the day and went in search of food during the night, so the vols couldn't see me!!!!But...food was very hard to find, and after 3 weeks I came out of my hiding place, and the vols caught me!!!!They were so pleased to see me and to see that I was safe. I had grown thinner and I could hardly walk by then.

After about a month at the sanctuary, I was fit enough to have the operation the vet had mentioned. It was not as painful as I thought...and everything went well. The vols really love me and I am sorry that I had run away and worried them so much. Now I have had the lump removed and have been spayed so I won't have any puppies. I am very happy at the sanctuary ,and I share a pen with another dog. And guess what????? I have been hearing some talk that one of the vols is thinking of adopting me!!!!!! Yippee!!!!!! Life couldn't be better.....



Kareema now

Kareema

Don't forget to keep
Sunday
9th October free!

Come and join us -
and bring your pets
with you,
especially if they
were adopted from
The Island Sanctuary.

Our new calendar will be
on sale on that day.
See you there!

Thank GOD for His Creation Open Day at Island Sanctuary

Sunday 9th October from 9:30am

Activity ends with Mass at 16.30pm
celebrated by Fr. Gwakkin Mercieca O.F.M. Cap.

All those attending Mass are
invited to bring their pets along.
Pets will be blessed and a
small token will be given to
each pet.

Activities:

Book Sale
Bazaar
Face Painting
Balloonist
Food and Drinks

Dedicated to STAR and other
silent victims of Animal Cruelty

SMS Donations

50617368 €2.33

50618082 €4.66

50618935 €6.99

GO, Ping and Vodafone
subscribers

For further info visit our website www.islandsanctuary.com.mt

