



AZIL Dog shelter news FEBRUARY 2015

GIVE A DOG A CHANCE – FIND A FRIEND FOR LIFE

IN THIS ISSUE:

Socialising Dogs

I can't help feeling that in some ways this is the most important element that volunteers can add to the shelter, but it remains the least well developed. While we have had a few new people coming and going and helping out over the winter, there are few people going regularly to the shelter to actually work with the dogs. I think it is an essential part of helping to get a dog re-homed. The dog who doesn't run and hide when approached by new people, and who knows how to walk on a lead and



looks presentable, is definitely the dog most likely to be taken home. Please contact me if you want to visit the shelter or have any ideas about how we can encourage more people to visit regularly. The more people going in and out to help, the better for all.

Fundraising

I am pleased to say we have had a number of small donations that has enabled us to improve the shelter fencing as planned. We have also had several donations of dog food – gratefully eaten by the dogs! A special thanks to **Tierhilfe Montenegro** for a whopping 320 kg of dried food, and to **Garfield Pet Shop** in Tivat for their helpful prices.

Our priorities for this year are:

- Dog food
- Anti-flea and tick medications and collars.
- Robust dog kennels/outside shade.
- New fencing for main outdoor area
- Concrete (and workers to lay it!)

We plan to hold at least 4 fundraising events in 2015, kicked off on 24th February by a great quiz night hosted by the **ClubHouse** bar in Porto Montenegro. Many thanks to **Jane Murphy and Knightsbridge school** for helping to organize and promote the event, which raised an amazing total of **695 euros** that will go towards further shelter improvements (see page 2).

Watch out for news of the next event – a spring fun run being organised by pupils at Knightsbridge school.



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Public Relations – designing new signs, website development and support, photography, translation, community events to promote the shelter.

Fundraising – events, letter writing, approaching corporate donors, raffles, individual donors.

Fostering – volunteers urgently needed to take on short term care of small puppies so that they get the best care and improve their chances of survival.

Socialising dogs – walking, playing, washing, grooming individual dogs at the shelter

Shelter improvements – fixing fences, cleaning, planting, preparing food.

Shelter Improvements



We are doing incredibly well with the new improvements, having been able to complete all that we planned in 2014. Since the last newsletter we have completed a new fenced corridor through the middle, and a new double gate at the back entrance. We have also set up two heat lamps so that small or sick dogs can be placed under a warm cosy glow, essential in the winter. **Many thanks to Carrie for donating them, and Michael for helping to set these up**, as well as for his regular help with routine maintenance over the winter. However – there is still much to do!

Our plans for 2015 include:

- *A new fence to split the large compound into two, to allow more dogs to run outside for longer periods of time.
- *Providing more sheltered/shaded areas outside
- *Improved quarantine area

On a grander scale we are hoping to produce a concept design for a much improved facility overall, including new kennel and quarantine blocks, and to bid for funds to build this. If any architects among you would like to help, please get in touch!!

Happy Endings...and Nikki's tips.

Wee Sandy

Wee sandy was a skinny bag of bones when taken from the shelter by Nikki and Kevin. It took them a few visits to decide on a companion, but wee sandy is now settling well into her new home and adapting to new routines of regular food, grooming, walking, playing and loving as clearly shown in the picture. Is it Kevin who wore Sandy out I wonder, or vice versa??!!

Having brought home our gorgeous Sandy from the dog shelter in January 2015, I decided to do some research to ensure we gave her the best care possible, and I found some tips that I would like to share. We are currently using these methods with no adverse reactions and with the co-operation of our vet (these guys did not study all those years for nothing!). On Sandy's first visit to the vet, two days after bringing her home, the vet found that she had fleas, he also suspected worms based on her skinny frame and weight of 5.2 kilos. He administered the appropriate treatments. These ailments are very common when taking a dog from a shelter. Since then we have implemented the following tips into Sandy's daily routine:

PUMPKIN SEEDS (sjemenke bundeve). Every morning I sprinkle 1 teaspoon of ground raw pumpkin seed onto Sandy's food. Ensure you use the green, raw seeds, not the salted ones available in the supermarkets. These seeds are known to work as an effective deworming tool against many intestinal parasites. They also contain many beneficial nutrients.

APPLE CIDER VINEGAR. Again, every morning I add a few drops of ACV to Sandy's drinking water. This is beneficial to her skin, coat, teeth and also helps prevent fleas (they do not like the odour or the taste). I also make up a spray bottle with one quarter ACV to three quarters water. This can be sprayed onto the dog, avoiding the face, then brushed through, this is good to improve shine on the coat and believe it or not it deodorizes the dog!



LEMON WATER. Every week I take two lemons, thinly slice then cover with boiling water. Cover and leave overnight then sieve into a spray bottle in the morning. This can be used if you suspect your dog has fleas, spray, again avoiding the face, brush through paying attention to behind the ears and any other areas that fleas like to hide. I also sprayed rugs and other soft furnishings lightly, allow to dry, then vacuum. The lemon should kill the fleas.

For further information I found the following websites to be informative: WIKIHOW; EARTHCLINIC.COM; DOGS NATURALLY by Nikki Steele

SAL IS JUST ONE OF MANY BEAUTIFUL DOGS LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME – IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WANTS A DOG PLEASE ENCOURGAE THEM TO VISIT THE SHELTER.

ALL DOGS HAVE HAD HEALTH CHECKS AND ARE VACCINATED AND STERILISED.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU CAN FOSTER A SMALL PUPPY – SHORT OR LONG TERM



PUBLIC RELATIONS



The display panel has had several outings, spending a number of weeks at the **Knightsbridge school** and then visiting the Christmas market and a Friday jazz night at the **Regent Hotel** and the **ClubHouse Bar** quiz night. It is currently heading towards the **Tivat Music School** who are keen to support Azil.

This display board will only be useful if it is taken out of the shelter office for more people to see.

If any of you work in an organization with any communal spaces (open to staff, students, members of the public for example) please think about having the panel on display for a day or 2, or a week or 2. The sign will be kept on display at Knightsbridge school in between outings, so feel free to contact them to arrange to borrow it for your own event or display area. It is a very useful way to get the word out about the shelter and basic dog care, and it is very easy to transport and to put up.

Road Sign

The road sign is approaching the end of a long and difficult birth! It is finally printed, and we are just waiting now for JKP to erect the sign for us. Keep an eye on the first right turn just after the Voli roundabout as you head towards Tivat. For those who still don't know, this is where the shelter is, and the sign should magically appear there very soon!

Website

We still have a holding page up at www.azilkotor.org but are trying to get a working version of the website up by April. If anyone

wants to be involved, we will be working over the next few months to finish the content. Let me know if you want to help at all!

QUIZ NIGHT at the ClubHouse Bar

Knightsbridge School, Porto Montenegro, and the volunteer team from the Azil dog shelter teamed up on Tuesday 24th February to organise a very successful fund raising quiz night at the **ClubHouse**. We had an experienced quizmaster calling questions in English and Montenegrin, covering themed questions about dogs as well as general knowledge, and a special round to test our knowledge of Montenegro. About 15 rowdy teams participated, and we raised a **whopping 695 euros** from team entry fees and donations to help the dogs. Special thanks to **Nora, Edward, John, Nick, Ian and Danny** for extra donations on the night, and anyone else who donated but whose name we didn't catch in the mayhem!

The funds will go towards improving the outside area for dogs, so that more dogs can run around in the fresh air more often, a project we hope to complete soon with these funds.

Donations

If any of you are wondering how to donate we are especially grateful for donations in kind. Bags of dog or puppy food, scalibor collars to prevent fleas and ticks and kennels are particularly valuable to us. You can drop donations off at the shelter at any time.



Meet the staff – Ali

Ali drives the AZIL van that some of you may have seen out and about on the streets. If you contact us with a concern about a stray dog, he can come and collect stray dogs in Kotor or Tivat areas.



FACTS ABOUT..... INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Make sure you protect your pets and keep them safe by keeping up to date with their vaccinations. If the number of pets protected by vaccines drops our animal companions could be at risk from an outbreak of infectious diseases, some of which can be transmitted to humans.

When to vaccinate

All dogs need **regular vaccinations from an early age.** Puppies are typically vaccinated at 8 and 10 weeks, with an initial course of two injections. Your pet should be given a booster annually after their first vaccination. Consult your vet for details. If you feed a local street dog, you should also try to get it vaccinated to prevent the spread of dangerous diseases. **If you can afford to feed or keep a dog, you can afford to vaccinate it.**

All Dogs should be routinely vaccinated against:

- *Canine parvovirus*
- *Canine distemper virus*
- *Leptospirosis*
- *Infectious canine hepatitis*
- *Rabies*

Canine parvovirus is caught by contact with faeces from infected dogs. The most common symptoms are severe vomiting and diarrhoea. Affected puppies often become dehydrated. The virus also causes the white blood cell count to drop, leaving the puppy susceptible to other infections. There is no specific treatment; however an infected dog may be put on a drip, given antibiotics, and given medication to try to prevent vomiting. Without any treatment about 80% of dogs with parvovirus will die. With treatment about 85% will survive.

Canine distemper virus is spread by all bodily secretions (e.g. saliva), usually via direct contact with an infected animal. Symptoms vary from fever and depression, to coughing, vomiting and diarrhoea, or discharge from eyes and mouth. Dogs with very severe symptoms often die. Mildly affected dogs will recover, but some will go on to have neurological problems in later life, causing muscle tics, difficulty walking, walking in circles and seizures. There is no specific treatment; however intravenous fluids can be given to prevent dehydration and medication can help to control seizures.



Leptospirosis (lepto) is a disease caused by a bacterium, usually from infected urine, or by contaminated water, so dogs are at risk if they swim or drink from stagnant water, especially in areas with high numbers of rats. The bacteria can also cause Weil's disease in humans. Symptoms include fever, lethargy, increased thirst, vomiting, bloody diarrhoea and jaundice. Treatment involves antibiotics, intravenous fluids and supportive treatment. Less severely affected dogs can recover, but can carry the bacteria for months afterwards, and their urine is an infection risk both to other animals and to humans. Leptospirosis in humans can be fatal.

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS NEWSLETTER TO ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN HOMING A DOG OR GETTING INVOLVED AS A VOLUNTEER.

Infectious canine hepatitis (ICH, also known as **canine adenovirus**) is spread by contact with the saliva, urine, faeces, blood or nasal discharge of infected dogs. The disease can cause a "kennel cough" type infection, or hepatitis (an infection of the liver). Symptoms include lethargy, coughing, fever, vomiting and diarrhoea, jaundice and abdominal pain. There is no specific treatment; however the symptoms themselves can be treated. Deaths can occur but most dogs will recover.

Rabies is a virus that affects the brain and spinal cord of all mammals and is always fatal if not treated in dogs and humans. It is a **legal requirement to vaccinate your dog against rabies.**

Rabies is usually transmitted via a bite from an infected animal, or through a scratch or a lick on an open, fresh wound. Symptoms include extreme behavioral changes such as restlessness, apprehension, or aggression, strange and unusual behaviour, foaming at the mouth, disorientation, and staggering. Friendly dogs may become irritable, while normally excitable animals may become more docile. Other classic signs of rabies include loss of appetite, weakness, seizures and sudden death. Transmission of the virus can happen before symptoms appear. There is no treatment or cure for rabies once

symptoms appear.

Since rabies presents a serious public health threat, dogs who are suspected of having the virus are most often euthanized. **If your dog has been bitten by any wild animal or another street dog, you should take it to the vet immediately.** You should also contact the police or Azil staff if the animal who bit your pet is still at large; or if any animal in your area is showing signs of rabies. **NEVER** attempt to handle or capture a wild animal if it is acting strangely. **If you think you have been bitten by a dog who could have rabies you MUST contact a doctor immediately, as it is a serious, life threatening condition.**

FAST FACTS

12

DOGS REHOMED NOVEMBER-JANUARY

126

DOGS IN THE SHELTER

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.azilkotor.org

Enquiries: Sanya - 067 635 246;
Fiona – fsawney@aol.com

If you need help with a stray dog in your neighbourhood call us on 067 311 229