



AZIL Dog shelter news FEBRUARY 2016

GIVE A DOG A CHANCE – FIND A FRIEND FOR LIFE

IN THIS ISSUE: 2015 in review, training tips...

Socialising Dogs

We managed to find 2 new volunteers to visit the shelter and walk dogs since the last newsletter, so many thanks to Jacky and Ben for their input and enthusiasm. Even with these new additions, we are still struggling to maintain a regular presence as life and other priorities always get in the way at some point. It is always hard to find time for a regular commitment, but even if a few of us maintain a presence as and when we have time, it can only be good for the dogs.



We are now keeping a diary of all volunteer visits so that we can collect data about the numbers of dogs walked/groomed etc. on a regular basis. If anyone out there is prepared to give up some occasional time or has ideas about how we can increase the number of volunteers visiting the shelter, please contact me.

Fundraising

During the last quarter of the year our fund raising plans moved onto arts and crafts activities as per our plan to try out different fund raising methods this year. We were kindly assisted by the **Art Media Hotel in Zanjic** who allowed us to take over their outdoor terraces in September for a day long arts and crafts event, which raised over 700 euros in sales and donations. We also had a stall on 2 consecutive Sundays before Christmas at the **Regent Hotel's** Christmas Fair, which brought in a total of 350 euros in sales and donations. See page 3 for details. We also received generous donations with thanks from NT Realty and Dragan Miroslavljevic. See page 5 for a full breakdown of our fundraising in 2015.

This year's fundraising plans at a glance:

Ruke festival in Herceg Novi - February 28th
Gradske Kafane 10.00 – 13.00
Easter Pub Quiz – date and venue tbc
Summer – photography exhibition/competition;
summer raffle, fun BBQ night
Autumn/winter - Craft events, promotional calendar
Please get in touch with any other ideas!



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

In December we used the fund raised at the summer craft fair to build corrugated roof shelter all around the end of the outside run area. This will provide much needed rain shelter, and also shade in the hot summer months. Ideally we would also like to put some panels along the back fence, as this will to improve the shelter when wind is blowing, and also increase the shade available. Any contractors out there with any spare panels – please get in touch!



Since we added the various new fences to make more separate runs, it is good to see that many more dogs are now able to spend regular time out of the kennels. Priorities for next year will include improvements to the quarantine area, indoor kennelling, and concreting external floors. Ideally we would also like to create a fenced area on the grass for dog training and socialising activities, which could also be used as an area to allow potential adopters to meet dogs.



Tips on Dog Training

(adapted from www.dogtrust.org.uk factsheet)

Dogs are basically simple creatures who will respond well to anyone who gives them clear instructions, routine, regular exercise, praise, love and shelter. Training can be started at any age, the sooner the better. Older dogs are also receptive to training, although some may be less keen or less quick to learn than a younger dog. In order to be effective and to gain the best results, all training should be based around positive rewards. Positive reward training works because if you reward your dog with something he wants as soon as he does what you ask, he is far more likely to do it again. Rewards can be anything that your dog or puppy really wants and could include; food treats, a favourite toy, playing a certain game or getting a pat. If you are using food treats, you will need to reduce the size of your dog's normal meals or use his whole meal divided up into smaller portions, to prevent your dog putting on weight. Always combine the giving of a reward with verbal praise such as "Good dog".

When teaching a new command, you will need to reward your dog every time that he does what you ask correctly. Once he has the hang of the command, however, it's a good idea to change the way you reward by only giving the reward every now and then, because this will make your dog try harder for it. **Always verbally praise** your dog each time, even if he is not being rewarded with a treat.

Why punishment doesn't work

Punishment should never be used in training. If you punish your dog, it will only teach him

to be scared of you and may eventually teach him to be aggressive. He will mistrust you and your relationship may break down completely. Avoid punishment in training

(and everyday life) by trying the following – it'll be far more effective and could improve your relationship with your dog:

- Reward all wanted behaviour – so that your dog is likely to repeat it in the future.
- Ignore unwanted behaviour – so that your dog is less likely to repeat it.
- Avoid triggering the unwanted behaviour – avoidance prevents the unwanted behaviour from happening in the first place!
- Where unwanted behaviour cannot be ignored or avoided, train an alternative, acceptable behaviour for your dog to perform instead. It is much easier to train a dog to do something else that you don't mind, than to train him to completely stop something that you do not like. For example, if your dog jumps up at people, teach him a really good 'sit' command and ask for this when meeting others. If he is rewarded with treats and attention every time he sits, he'll soon automatically be doing this when he meets people, instead of jumping up!

TRY THIS AT HOME...

Five basic commands that are useful for your dog to know are; sit, down, stay, come and walking nicely on the lead. Here is how you can start by training your dog to sit on command:

- 1) Have your dog standing in front of you.
- 2) Show him that you have a food treat in your hand.
- 3) Slowly move your hand and treat above and over his head towards his tail, as you give the command "sit".
- 4) His head should go up as he tries to reach the treat, and his bottom should go down into the 'sit' position. Do not push his bottom down to make him sit, as he is likely to push up against your hand as a result and this may hurt his back – just keep practicing if it takes him a while to understand.
- 5) Give him the treat and praise him.

'Important Training Tips' - doggy 'do's and 'don'ts

Do

- Practice in your home and garden first.
- Start training with your new dog or puppy as soon as possible.
- Keep sessions short (5-10 minutes max) and fun.
- Reward or treat him on a random basis, once the new command has been learnt – but still remembering to verbally praise every time.
- Try to use hand signals with your verbal commands, as some dogs may find it easier to recognise these.
- Keep commands clear and consistent.
- Take your time and be patient.
- Stick to one new command per training session at first to avoid confusing your dog.
- Consider going to a good local training class – but if your dog is anxious or fearful around other dogs, a one-to-one training session with a trainer may be better.
- Try to finish on a high note - your dog is more likely to want to train again next time! It is a good idea to give your dog an enjoyable long-lasting chewy treat to relax with at the end of a session, or he may become frustrated when the rewards/treats stop!

Don't

- Let your dog get bored - stop immediately if you see this happening.
- Tell him off if he gets it wrong.
- Shout or physically punish him - it will make him scared of you and may cause him to become aggressive.
- Train him if he is tired or hungry – it'll make him frustrated and he won't enjoy training.
- Chase him when you want him to come - he'll think it is a great game and will run away even more.
- Do your early training in an area with lots of distractions, such as other dogs, people, noises, smells.
- Expect too much too soon.
- Expect him to understand a command until you have taught him what it means



are interested in buying or commissioning any specific goods in between events, or is interested in joining in our craft events as an exhibitor or as simply a helping hand, please get in touch.

Public Relations

The display panel has been used to support our fund-raising events, but is still not using it to its full potential. Please let us know if you have any events going on where we can use our panel to raise awareness of the shelter and dog welfare in general.



CRAFT FAIRS FOR DOGS

There are a number of volunteers who helped to make the craft events a success, by making a range of fabulous home-made creations. These included stained glass and pottery, unique felted dolls, teddies and caricatures by Jan March, paintings, art photography, pure wool rugs, beaded flowers, painted glass, recycled tetrapack baskets, and jams and chutneys.



Many thanks to all the contributors and helpers : Fiona Sawney, Jan March, Jane Wilkinson and Jane Murphy, Danny Parish, Denise Boyton-Jennings, Steve Jennings, Cecile Dimitrijevic, Linda Djesevic, Eva Molinar, Carrie Mathieson, Laura Brown, Bljerina Djesevic, and Raba Djesevic.



We are all busy making things for this year's planned events, so if any readers



FAST FACTS....**177 DOGS IN THE SHELTER**

Dogs collected
from the street:
November x 19
December x 31
January x 14

Dogs re-homed
in last 3 months x
18

"FRIENDS OF DOGS"**(PRIJATELJI PASA)**

We have finally finished setting up an NGO to help progress our plans to support the dog shelter and raise awareness of dog care issues more generally. The main aims of the NGO are:

- To raise awareness of the needs of stray and homeless dogs, and general dog care to prevent dogs being abandoned
- To provide support and care for such dogs where possible
- To raise funds to improve the facilities and conditions of dogs in shelters in Montenegro

The founders of the NGO are Fiona Sawney, Carrie Mathieson, and Jane Murphy. We now have all the official registration papers, a stamp, and a bank account. If anyone wants any more information please let me know.



"BOUNTY" IS JUST ONE OF MANY BEAUTIFUL DOGS LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME – IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WANTS A DOG PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO VISIT THE SHELTER, AND TO THINK OF THE SHELTER FIRST RATHER THAN BUYING A DOG FROM A PET SHOP OR BREEDER.

ALL DOGS HAVE HAD HEALTH CHECKS AND ARE VACCINATED AND STERILISED IF THEY ARE OLD ENOUGH.

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

**WATCH OUT FOR TICKS!**

Tick season seems to have arrived early this year, probably due to the mild winter – my dogs are already picking them up in long grass out here in Lustica. Ticks carry the nasty diseases Ehrlichiosis and Lyme's disease among others, so prevention is key. Check your dog (and yourself) for ticks if you have been walking in grassy areas, and do some research or talk to your vet about preventative products such as Frontline that can prevent tick borne diseases.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

www.azilkotor.org

Enquiries:

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Fiona – fsawney@aol.com

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



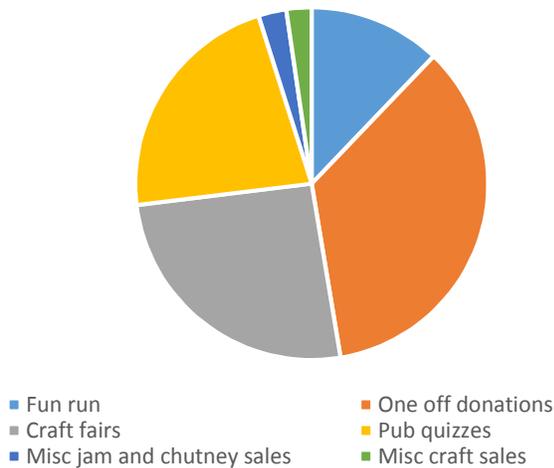
PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS NEWSLETTER TO ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN HOMING A DOG OR GETTING INVOLVED AS A VOLUNTEER

2015 - A QUICK REVIEW

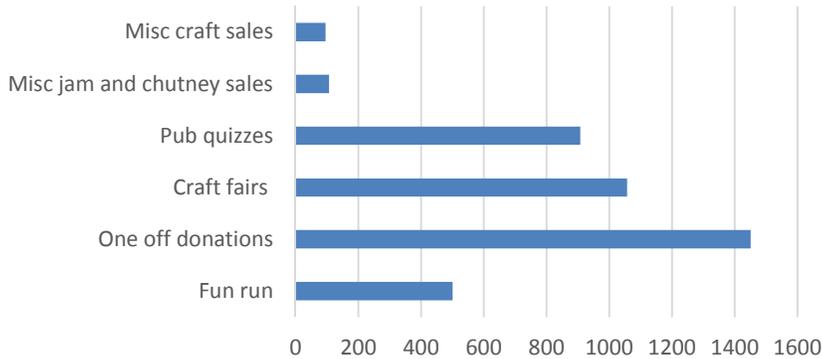
We have achieved many things this year, and continue to raise the profile of the shelter and the needs of stray dogs in many ways. However, direct work with dogs and increasing adoptions is the area in which we have made least progress, and remains priority. There are still too few dogs being adopted from the shelter. I believe that this is partly due to the cultural reluctance to take shelter or mixed breed dogs, but also we could improve our coordinated efforts in partnership with shelter staff to really "advertise" and promote dog adoption locally. We also need to try and focus more work on reducing the stray dog population and preventing the abandonment of dogs through more outreach events.

In total we raised 4114.25 euros this year, through a number of different events. A breakdown of how we raised funds is shown in the graph below. This is a brilliant achievement all round, and we have a surplus of 728.88 to carry over into this year. The funds have all been spent on shelter improvements, and dog food, and a full breakdown is available for anyone who is interested in more information. Many thanks to all who have helped during the year, and all who have donated.

% of Funds Raised by Activity/Type



AZIL Breakdown of Funds Raised 2015



What we achieved

- Road sign erected on main road
- Fun run
- Pub Quizzes x 2
- Craft fairs x 3
- Set up voluntary organisation (*NGO)
- Kept a record of volunteer visits
- Provided all new volunteers with copies of volunteers guidelines
- Installed heat lamps and encouraged their use as needed
- Erected shade in main compound
- Added several new fences to separate main outside run into smaller areas to allow more dogs out on a regular basis

Areas where we made progress but could do better!

- Volunteer to help with general maintenance
- Improved links with Tierhilfe Montenegro (German NGO)
- Provided information for people taking dogs from the shelter
- Looked at ways to improve how dogs are shown to potential adopters
- Improved media links
- Increase use of display board
- Made links with schools
- Identified corporate donors

What we didn't achieve

- Finish Website
- Raffle
- Increase the number of volunteers working with dogs on a regular basis
- Improve sleeping platforms/indoor kennelling
- Develop long term vision of bigger improvements, and draft a concept design to estimate funds needed

OUR AIMS FOR 2016

- Improve our on-line presence via face-book and website
- Undertake more outreach with our display board
- Improve links and outreach into schools
- Build on what has worked regarding fund raising events, such as quizzes and craft events, and try some new things such as a photography competition/exhibition, raffles, collection boxes and bids to corporate donors.
- Provide better information for people taking or planning to adopt dogs from the shelter
- Improve liaison with shelter vet service
- Support initiatives to improve the health of shelter dogs, such as trying to find funding for scalibor collars
- Explore ways to increase the number of dogs adopted
- Increase the number of volunteers working directly with dogs at the shelter
- Continue with shelter improvements as possible, especially quarantine area and kennelling.