

## Christmas is coming - time for a look back at 2023



The days are getting shorter, it's raining and stormy, coats, scarves and gloves are being taken out of the wardrobe. In short, the festive season is just around the corner.

It's time to look back on the past year at Animal Protection. A lot has happened, joys and sorrows were our constant companions:

### **Milestones 2023:**

- In January 2023, Netto Marken-Discount collected bottle deposits for us.  
In February 2023, we asked you for donations for a cat enclosure to be built at the animal shelter, which has now been successfully installed and already has residents. These residents are also looking for a home.
- In February 2023, an animal rights activist drew our attention to an abandoned dog who had found a refuge in a boat in the car park in front of the old prison - Sotos. Sotos has now found a great home.  
In March 2023, the seriously ill and old tomcat Mickey, who had been bullied by other street cats, found a home in Aegina with a lovely lady after his wounds were successfully treated by our team.
- In March 2023 we found Vegas, hit by a car. His hindquarters were paralysed due to nerve crushing. We were sure he had a home, his behaviour indicated this. After a long period of rehabilitation with exercise therapy, we found a great foster home that achieved the impossible: Vegas can slowly put weight on his hind legs again successfully. There is an improvement every day.
- In March 2023, we called for a returnable bottle challenge based on the campaign in January. This idea came from a lovely adoptive family who have been collecting returnable bottles lying around everywhere ever since and donating the proceeds to Animal Protection. This has already raised an unexpected sum.
- In May 2023, we made a decision for two unfortunate street dogs who had ended up at our shelter because one of them, Edna, was affected by mammary tumours and had to undergo emergency surgery. After Edna's recovery, we gave her and her daughter Vicky their beloved freedom again in their familiar surroundings. There they are loved and cared for by the local residents.

- In May 2023, we found a dog that had supposedly been abandoned - Momo/Lucky. We had already received the first enquiries about adopting him, but then a miracle happened: the family he had been living with came looking for him at our animal shelter and found him again. It was a very happy reunion!
- In May, we found an emaciated street dog anchored to the ground with a chain on the way to the shelter. At first we thought it was an abandoned dog that once had an owner. But it was actually a street dog. After all the examinations we could do, we spayed her and returned her to the street in a quiet neighbourhood. There, she is also looked after by local residents and has already entered one or two properties she knows and lies down there to sleep.
- In May 2023, Linus - an old animal shelter resident and free-range dog - was seriously injured by epileptic seizures that occurred spontaneously. His wounds were stitched up and he made a great recovery. Thanks to Karsivan, he was fine for a long time. He then fell asleep gently in September 2023.
- In August 2023, Andy Peanut broke his front leg while playing and running around. After his recovery, he was adopted by a lovely family who had already given many dogs from our shelter a home. Today he is doing well, his leg has healed and he can romp around again, even with one of his sisters.
- In September 2023, we were able to successfully free the old lady Diva (13 years old) from her mammary tumours. This is only possible with your donations!
- In September 2023, the island of Aegina was hit by a severe storm. Many houses were flooded. The animal shelter at the top of the mountain did not suffer any damage. It was only flooded once due to the sloping position of the property.
- In September 2023, we were able to continue the work on the enclosures. Once again, the most necessary repairs were carried out, always while the money lasted. Step by step.
- Animal Protection once again had a stand at the Pistachio Festival in September 2023 to raise awareness of our important work on the island, attract residents and collect donations. Thanks to the many handicrafts that we exhibited and handed in for the benefit of the animal shelter, we were once again able to cover part of the monthly costs of the animal shelter and continue the neutering programmes for dogs and cats.
- During the year, food donations were received from the municipality of Aegina and also from Germany for the shelter dogs and street cats. This allowed us to save a little on the budget for our annual requirements.
- The saddest event so far in November 2023 - Aeneas and his senseless death - is still in all our bones. A dear, reserved street dog was killed in the most brutal way because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Rest in peace, Aeneas, in the end we could only give you a worthy place to sleep.

When we look out into the world, many terrible things come to mind: wars, weather disasters and so on. However, we found great homes for many animals in 2023. In particular, there were many families who had previously adopted animals from us. We are very proud of this. Because our good work shows that families are always happy to come back to us and adopt more dogs and cats.

We are naturally very happy about this. But we also think about how we can encourage other people who don't know us yet to give an animal from our shelter a home. This can only be done by advertising our work on all channels. Dear adoptive parents, please support us in this endeavour.

**We - the entire Animal Protection team - wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024!**

As the year draws to a close, we are looking ahead to 2024 and the activities that lie ahead. Please stay loyal to us! Thank you for everything you have done for our animals so far. Without you, none of this would be possible.

