

Friends of GAWT News Update

October 2007



Update on Shelter

The last time we sent out an Update in April, we were in quite a crisis. The proposed purchase of our new Shelter had suddenly fallen through and the last day of the lease on our present premises was looming dangerously close.

First of all, we want to thank all of you who responded with donations and kind words of support. We really appreciated your concerns.

After many false starts and disappointments we are now up and running in not one but two sites. In September we opened the GAWT Animal Care Centre and Boarding Kennels in Curchorem (tel. (+91) 832-2653677), 17 kilometres south of Margoa. In addition to our normal work of collecting and sterilizing strays, we are providing services to privately owned pets, including sterilization, anti-rabies vaccinations, an outpatient veterinary clinic, pet supplies and facilitating adoptions of puppies and adult dogs to good homes. Home services such as vaccinations, dog bathing, nail trimming, etc. can now be arranged locally through this Shelter.

Another new feature is that we have opened a 'Home and Away' boarding kennels for short and long-term stays for family pets. This is running successfully as word of mouth recommendations bring us more bookings.

Meantime, we were given a lifeline at our Shelter in Sonsoddo, and although the space has been reduced, we are also continuing our work from there of picking up and sterilising strays, weekly puppy adoption camps, and renewing anti-rabies injections, with lots of TLC for the sick ones.

So what all this means is that the pressure is off us for a couple of years, and it gives us time to find our own premises and land.

Events 2007/2008

The first fundraising event of the season is on 5th November, and this year we are having a party and fireworks at Checkers in Varca, at Orlim Bridge. If you are in Goa at that time and want more information or tickets, then please call Colin B on (+91) 9822 176972, Colin C on (+91) 9326 101085 or Charmian on (+91) 9822 123288.

Due to the very enthusiastic feedback we had last year we are again organising a series of all-day boat trips up the river beginning 18th November. This is a day of blissful relaxation and great food, cooked on the boat.

Details of these and further events will be displayed in our Charity Shop in Colva.

Fundraising

Pauline Morgan, who had a very successful fundraising day at her College in Cupar last year, visited Goa in February last to work at the Shelter. She had boundless energy and we loved having her with us. On her return she again organised an event at her college Open Day. Shortly afterwards we received a very welcome donation of £1,203.57. Our thanks go to Pauline and all her colleagues who worked hard to make this event so successful.

In July, Penny Stevens and partner Kevin Kibble cooked a Dogs' Dinner of many curries and salads at their London home. Their small back patio was crammed with their friends and neighbours. The food was delicious, the weather was good, and at the end of a warm, liquid afternoon they had raised £605 for us. Kevin's bosses, Cathy and Ken Bauso, of Fundraising Initiatives Ltd, generously doubled this amount, and a further £10 was sent to the kitty by an absent friend, to bring us a total of £1,219.

Thank you too to Luigi and Michela owners of the excellent Il Bacio Restaurant in Stoke Newington, for their generous post-party donation of £100 - we missed you at the party.

Obituary

Many people coming to Colva in Goa will have at least stopped to pass the time of day with Brownie, who sat outside and inside Goodman's Restaurant for almost 12 years. He was characterised by a very gentle nature and he had seemingly a smile always on his face. (His two bottom incisors grew up just outside his upper mouth, giving him the appearance of gently grinning whenever he looked at you).

Charles and Turid, his owners, found him in the Margao fruit and fish market being abused by the locals, and brought him back to Goodman's. Charles reckons he was just a few months old at that time.

He loved walking on the beach and I spent many a pleasant hour being stalked by him as I walked to Benaulim and back in the early morning.

Last year Brownie was immortalised in a painting by John Mountford, a frequent visitor to Goodman's from Wales. This was then signed by Brownie's many admirers and auctioned at one of our events, raising just under Rs/-5,000 for GAWT. The picture now hangs in a prominent position in Goodman's.

Brownie was killed (instantly) by a motorbike just outside the restaurant on 21st June last. He will be a much-missed landmark. Charles and Turid are waiting to adopt another dog from the Shelter.



Brownie 1995 to 2007

www.gawt.org

Linda and Graeme Cree, now living in Portugal, spent many months of each year in Goa, contributing their skills and time to our events and marketing. They are again sponsoring the GAWT domain name, fees and website hosting for the next twelve months. Graeme was also responsible for designing and launching the website. We are always looking for photos of animals taken in Goa to use on our diaries, calendars etc. and if you have any could you please send them to him at info@gawt.org or to me at friendsofgawt@gawt.org. One of the big pluses is that since we made it possible to donate through PayPal, via the website, this has worked very well for us.

A Little Taste of India

Last year we published *A Little Taste of India*, which is targeted at everyone who is looking for simply delicious meals, easy to put together, with all ingredients, herbs and spices readily available in your local supermarket. All recipes are light on the chilli, but awash with wonderful flavours to make your mouth water. If you are in Goa it is available in the Charity Shop in Colva. They are now available in the UK at a price of £5 + £1.50p+p for a single copy or £2 p+p for two copies. Please contact me if you would like to buy one.

Dog Heroes

Do you have a real-life rescue story about your pets? If so please tell us about it and we will print the best of them in the next Update. Email to friendsofgawt@gawt.org.

In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him.

Derek Bruce

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