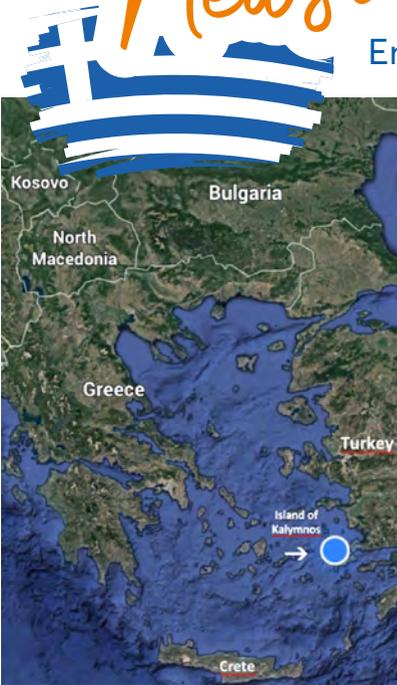


# Newsletter 2023

## End-of-Year Report



### Island of Kalymnos

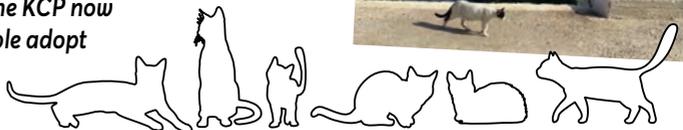


**A total of 1734 cats have been sterilised with the Kalymnos Cat Project (KCP) since its creation in 2021 and until the end of 2023. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we were able to sterilise 888 cats in 2023 at a cost of 46,040€ in veterinary care alone. To continue the project in 2024 and beyond, further donations will be needed. We need your support!**

**1734**  
sterilisations

Leslie continues to come twice a year to organise massive captures with the volunteers on the island. In addition to this, many climbers got involved capturing, transporting and keeping us informed in 2023. Thanks to them, many new colonies are now sterilised and feeding stations have been set up helping the sterilised cats get through the winter months when the restaurants are closed and the tourists are no longer there to feed them.

In addition to sterilisations, the KCP now has volunteers who help people adopt cats and take them home.



# Flaska

**102 cats neutered** (53 females, 49 males). Flaska is a densely populated area between Pothia and Chora. 102 cats have been neutered in this neighborhood and there are a couple of large, monitored colonies but many smaller, unmonitored ones.

Two tiny, sick kittens at rubbish bin, Leslie saw these on her way to the vet one day in Flaska.



The next day the kitten was in the middle of the road, Leslie brought it back to the bin, the mother was hiding behind a gate near the bin.



Leslie had a plan. She put the kittens in a cage and set up a trap to capture the mother and father cats to have them sterilised. The kittens were brought to a foster home where they were treated for parasites and cat flu. It was a miracle we found someone to take them in.



The mother of the two kittens eyeing the trap. Yummy food inside!



Mother cat in trap, father looking on.



Mother cat ready to go to the vet. Father cat captured a little while later.

# Chora

**123 cats neutered** (74 females, 49 males). Chora is the oldest, poorest and most authentic part of Kalymnos.

This village is quite large and spread out, 123 cats have been neutered throughout the town, it's very hard to control this area as there is a large human population and many rubbish bins where the cats come to eat. There are a few older Greek women who leave food at the rubbish bins and they would like to see the cats sterilised but as of yet, it's been difficult to organise.



A colony is waiting for their feeder! The cats in these photos have yet to be sterilised.



Another unneutered cat in Chora.



# Feeding stations



This feeding station is by the playground in Myrties.



Feeding station at upper Masouri road colony. When there is a newcomer, like this young tabby, he is captured and taken to the vet for sterilisation.



# Feeding stations



This feeding station was set up by one of the cat-friendly restaurants in Masouri.



This is a colony of 16 sterilised cats near Plati Gialos.



# Ag Panteleimonas (part 1)

**19 cats neutered**

5 volunteers near a rubbish bin colony in Ag Panteleimonas. All 19 cats were captured that night and sterilised the next morning.



Early the next morning, Karen and Leslie preparing the cats for the vet.

Leslie and Ariadny bring the cats to the 3 vets.



This male cat did not go into the trap in spite of us leaving them out all night with tasty ground beef for bait. Next time...

Letting the kittens and cats back out the next evening.



Automatic and manual, single and multiple cat traps are used.

Release of 19 cats captured last November at the port.



Lots of logistics involved to capture and transport so many cats.



Oliver's thinking about going into the trap.



One of the over 30 cats neutered at the port in Vathi.

# Vathi

**44 cats neutered (24 females, 20 males).**



This is Vathi N° 21 cat, Oliver. « Please, sir, can I have some more???»

The new feeding station is very popular!



# Therma/Gefira

**35 cats neutered** (18 females, 17 males).

This is a well-known area by the water that supports 3 neutered and monitored colonies. Unfortunately, it's also one of the places people come to abandon kittens so there are always new cats to pass through our TNR program.



Cats are very interested in the traps! 17 cats caught that day in May 2023.



This young, abandoned female was huddled up against a tree to get out of the wind.



Some of the cats were friendly enough to get a cuddle.

Lots of patience required. This cat doesn't look interested at all in the trap.



After many hours, we finally managed to capture all the cats in this small colony.



Loaded up and ready to go!



# Vothinoi

**56 cats neutered** (24 females, 32 males).

50 of these captured in 2023. Vothinoi is a residential area very spread out with many small colonies. There are a few people who feed the cats and this year we've started organising so we can be as efficient as possible.

Like so many places where cats are fed, many people abandon kittens so there are always new cats to be neutered.



These two kittens were abandoned at a feeding station in Vothinoi in May, they were neutered in September.

# Rufus

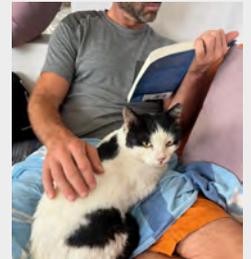
Rufus is a street cat who lives between Masouri and Myrties depending on the time of year and where he finds food. He is an exceptionally affectionate cat and is often brought to our attention because he's in bad shape. He has a horrible mouth problem that requires an injection every 2 weeks to help him with his pain. He has a sponsor to pay for his vet bills and when our



volunteers can find him he is taken to the vet for his shot. We would really like to find him a forever home so he can get the care he needs. Unfortunately, many mouth diseases in cats are contagious, so finding him a home will be difficult.

He lives on the street, sleeps curled up where he can, if you sit by him on the street, he will curl up in your lap.

We hope to find him a family so he can finish his life in a loving home.



A couple of visitors gave him a bath and took him to the vet this past fall, I'm sure he was sad to see them go.

# Coolie

If you're a regular visitor to Masouri, you'll probably recognise this nice cat, he's known by many names, he's now called Coolie and he lives in France.



Besides being well known for being such a nice cat, he also had a chronic wound on his leg that just didn't get better, in spite of him being taken to the vet many times by visitors and our volunteers.



Here he is on the boat to Kos... And at the airport in Athens.



Leslie took pity on him, and decided to bring him back to France to get adopted and to take care of his leg.



He was adopted by a friend of Leslie's and he now lives in a small village in the mountains North of Nice. His leg is still not completely healed but it's on the right track. Here he is with his new family, he's a very happy boy.



**Kamari.** An American couple staying in Kamari got these 5 young cats to the vet. The next day they caught the mother and the father and brought them in too.



**Masouri, Polish climbers** Some Polish climbers caught and brought 6 cats to the vet in Masouri.



**Arginonta.** A couple from Finland contacted us because they wanted to have the 3-4 cats they were feeding to pass through our TNR project. We lent them the traps and cages, showed them how to use them and they ended up capturing the entire colony of 18 cats!



29 cats were caught in the colony not far from the first restaurant leading to the beach. Here they are one week after their capture.

We started capturing in this area last year, we concentrated on 2 colonies and we've had neutered 51 cats, 42 of them captured in 2 days last October.

# Vlychadia

51 cats neutered (25 females, 26 males).

Vlychadia, this colony wasn't very hungry so we came back at night. Only 13 were caught so we will be coming back for the rest.

# Arginonta. Masouri. Kamari. Pirate's Bay. Elies

We recruited some climbers to help out capturing and getting the cats to the vets. Some visiting rock-climbers were very active getting the cats they were feeding to the vet for sterilisation.



**Elies.** The same Finnish couple helped capture another 9 cats in Elies. Here's one of the kittens too young but we got her and her brothers a few months later.



**Pirate's Bay.** Another American couple got the colony of 14 cats from Pirate's Bay neutered.



20 cats from Vlychadia ready to go to the vet in the morning.





On the boat going to Telendos.



Public relations on Telendos.

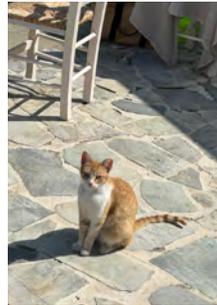
**103 cats neutered**  
(53 females, 50 males).

**This small island, a 10-minute boat ride from Masouri is a real success story. This island used to be known for their numerous sickly, skinny, hungry cats. In the fall of 2022, we started to sterilise cats on Telendos returning every few months.**

# Telendos



Here is one of the many food and water stations set up on Telendos.



We can now say that over 95% of the cats on the island are sterilised and we've set up feeding stations to help them get through the winter. Every

year new kittens are abandoned on the island and we are in contact with the families that recuperate the kittens and we make sure they are sterilised

at 4 to 6 months. We've also managed to home around a dozen kittens from Telendos, which is a real feat in itself.

## Telendos mama cat and kittens...

Wild mama cat with 3 newborn kittens in May 2023. We captured her and brought her to the vet to have her spayed, her kittens were brought with her. Even though a mother cat is spayed, she will continue to produce milk and care for her kittens.



Mama and kittens ready to go to the vet.

In October, her three kittens all survived and were old enough to be sterilised so they passed through our TNR program as well.



Here's a little boy with his sterilised cat.



More photos of healthy, neutered cats on Telendos, taken in Oct 2023.



Another healthy, neutered cat on Telendos...



Bringing back a sterilised kitten to one of the locals.



Look at all the healthy, neutered cats in Telendos, photos taken in May 2023.





All these nice cats living on the street by the bins.



This little guy had to stay on the street.



This little guy had to stay behind too.

This is Sophie, the lucky one we were able to take off the streets. She got adopted with another kitten from Vothinoi and they are now living in Germany.



We were hoping to find adopters for some of these lovely kittens, unfortunately we were only able to save one of them from life on the streets.



3 months after the capture, there is now a feeding station set up and the cats look nice and healthy.

# Ag Panteleimonas (part 2)

## Masouri upper road



Over 20 cats have been neutered at this colony and when there is a newcomer, it is captured and taken to the vet for sterilisation. This colony is well monitored and has a food and water station. All the neutered cats here are beautiful and healthy looking.



View from Kamari of Myrties upper road.

Sometimes there are cats in very bad shape, this one had a horrible cancer in her mouth, she was put out of her misery.



Our volunteer Karen preparing the cages.

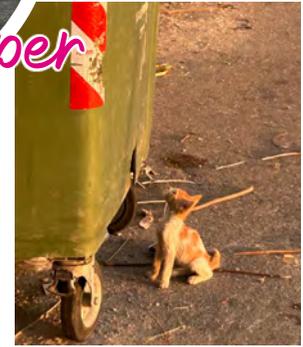


One of the neighbors who feeds the cats agreed to let us keep the cats in a spare room to keep them out of the sun while they were waking up from the anesthesia. Nice neighbor!



## Myrties upper road

A colony in bad shape around one of the rubbish bins on the upper Myrties road. We captured all 20 something in one night last October.



This little guy has a hard time getting into the bin to search for food.

He really wants the food in that trap!



Leslie and the 20 something cats from Myrties upper road.

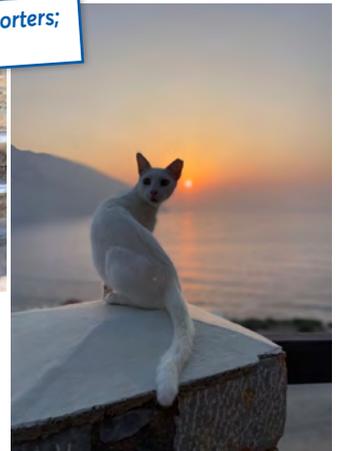
**Lots of cages - 14 traps and enough professional holding cages for 40 cats at a time, there is always a lot of work to be done cleaning the cages.**



The Kalymnos Cat Project would not be possible without the generous support of the **Brigitte Bardot Foundation** and the **Marchig Animal Welfare Trust**. We would also like to thank these organisations for their financial support: **Cold Noses Foundation, Animal Action Greece, Animal Defence Trust, Binky Foundation, Network for animals and Martine & Bertram Pohl.**



**A special thanks to our followers and individual supporters; we wouldn't be able to continue without you.**



[www.kalymnoscatterproject.com](http://www.kalymnoscatterproject.com)

  **Kalymnos Cat Project**