



Mayhew International Newsletter

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Georgian Delegation visits The Mayhew

In May 2009, Mayhew International welcomed a delegation from Tbilisi City Assembly Stray Animal Control Team including the representative of ARC Georgia, the leading NGO from the city. During a three day visit, discussions were held over the present state of companion animal welfare in Tbilisi and to demonstrate the high standards of animal welfare maintained at The Mayhew Animal Home. Whilst they were here they also had the opportunity to meet the Ambassador to the United Kingdom and meet other animal organisations based in London (see page 3)



Above: Georgian Ambassador to the United Kingdom meeting with Tbilisi Stray Animal Control Team

Mayhew International Visit to Moscow March 2009

In recent issues, we have mentioned our work with Moscow City Government and our wish to improve the animal welfare situation in the city. Following the visit of the Moscow City Government delegation to The Mayhew Animal Home in October 2008, a reciprocal visit was arranged to witness progress made on the construction of the municipal shelters for stray dogs and cats of Moscow. Although many of these are now constructed, we had received reports that the welfare conditions were poor, volunteer access was limited or non-existent, veterinary facilities and personnel minimal and animal care staff very inexperienced (continued on page 2).



Above: One of the dogs we witnessed in a canine hoarding case

Mayhew International Visit to Moscow March 2009

Although some 'mega-shelters' have been built to house between 1000—3000 dogs each, further work is required to improve the basic welfare conditions for the animals there. There seemed to be little attention towards hygiene in the kennels; some dogs were without water, others simply had food thrown onto the kennel floor.

The noise was tremendous and many of the dogs were showing signs of severe stress.

Indeed, in their present state, these shelters are mere holding centres, with the future of the dogs very much uncertain. There was no evidence of pro-active adoption programmes being instigated.



Above: Caroline Yates (CEO) with the ladies of *Sobabikoshki* in one of their makeshift shelters in Moscow. Their dogs are all neutered and vaccinated.

We also had an opportunity to catch up with Dr. Natasha Potapochkina and see her in action neutering homeless cats under our sterilisation programme. Via Natasha, we gained access to a couple of 'apartment' shelters, where well-meaning animal lovers were overwhelmed by the number of animals in their care, which sadly was putting not only their health but the health and welfare of the animals at risk too.

Obviously, there is still much work to do in Moscow and we will continue giving assistance to local activists at street level and working to convince local and national government that they have a duty of care to deal with their stray animal population in a humane and progressive way.



Above: Dogs being held in one of Moscow's megashelters

International Veterinary Training Programme Update



Above: The Mayhew Veterinary Team with Dr. Chkhikvishvili

During a three week period in April 2009 we welcomed Dr. Mariam Chkhikvishvili from Tbilisi, Georgia who volunteers her services at ARC Georgia. On our veterinary training programme, she specialised in learning about modern, efficient sterilisation techniques, gas anaesthesia and analgesia. Mariam has greatly benefited from her time spent at The Mayhew. Mariam commented: "Mayhew International has allowed me to do this programme and I will be forever grateful since it has allowed me to learn so many new things in the veterinary field. You have the greatest staff in the world and I would be delighted if I am ever able to come back in the future. Thank you so much for this fabulous opportunity"

Georgia Delegation visits Mayhew International

During a three day visit to London, Mayhew International organised a programme to give the Tbilisi City Council representatives an overview on how the UK handles the over-population of companion animals, the cooperation between government and non-government bodies and more specifically how London deals with stray and abandoned dogs and other welfare issues.

The delegation consisted of the Stray Animal Control Team from Tbilisi City Assembly along with Animal Rights Committee (ARC) Georgia. The group saw first hand the daily operations of The Mayhew Animal Home and also visited Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. Thanks to The Mayhew's close collaboration with Brent Council Animal Welfare Services, the Georgian representatives met with the Mayor of Brent and their animal welfare services team to find out more on local authority initiatives.

We were also welcomed back to the Georgian Embassy to meet with the Ambassador, who wished to meet with the group to share his opinions. The Ambassador continues to offer his assistance to the proposals.

Finally, at WSPA we attended a seminar on stray animal control, which offered a brainstorming session on the causes of street animal population in Tbilisi and potential solutions to the issue. With the information the visitors accumulated in London they will be better able to assess the problem in Tbilisi and look at ways to tackle it. Mayhew International will continue to work with them to improve the animal welfare situation in Georgia.

Slumdogs Seek Sterilisation Support!

Thank you to everyone who has supported our appeal.

To date we have managed to raise £7643.44 in support of our sterilisation projects in India and Nepal during 2009.

So far we have managed to assist Hope and Animal Trust in India to appoint their new veterinary surgeon who we are sponsoring. His full-time commitment to the project will prove vital to allowing them to sterilise as many animals as possible in the region. Since his appointment at the beginning of May, he has neutered 78 animals!

Let's hope we can reach our target of £10,000 for these projects so we can perform this fantastic work. If you wish to donate please visit our website www.mayhewinternational.org/donate or alternatively call 020 8968 2440.

Thank you.



Above: Moscow City Government officials visiting Brent council, including pictured the Brent Mayor Cllr Ralph Fox



Above: Hope and Animal Trust Veterinary Surgeon

An Evening with Mayhew International

Date: Tuesday, 16th June 2009

Venue: Burgh House, Hampstead, London NW3

Time: 7 pm – 9.30 pm

Tickets: £10 including refreshments and one years membership of Friends of Mayhew International

We are delighted to invite you to An Evening with Mayhew International comprising a presentation by Penny Farthing, ex Royal Marines and founder of the charity Nowzad Dogs, who, with our assistance, rescued abandoned dogs from Afghanistan and a presentation highlighting Mayhew International's other work in Afghanistan as well as our animal welfare projects in other countries, including Russia, Romania, India, Peru, and Georgia.

The evening will include a buffet of finger food with an international flavour, wine and non-alcoholic cold drinks, a fundraising raffle and live Russian musical entertainment. Penny Farthing will also be signing his book about the Nowzad Dogs "One Day at a Time".

This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about how Mayhew International works to promote companion animal welfare and the humane management of homeless cats and dogs abroad through its network of community animal care initiatives. Our work with local vets interested in this area of animal welfare has a special significance for international development, benefiting communities in developing countries, many of whom rely on their animals for support.

If you would like to support the vital work of Mayhew International and come along to this special evening, please either call 020 8968 2343 or send an e-mail to chris@mayhewanimalhome.org to find out more or to reserve your place.

Donations to Mayhew International are held as restricted funds for our work abroad.
We would greatly appreciate any donations for us to be clearly marked as such.
Standing order forms for Mayhew International are also available upon request.
Thank you for your support!

Mayhew International

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Mayhew International is part of
The Mayhew Animal Home,
registered charity number 1077588

For further information about the work of
The Mayhew Animal Home in the UK, or to adopt an
animal, please visit www.mayhewanimalhome.org
or contact us at:
020 8969 0178, info@mayhewanimalhome.org

To try and make Mayhew International greener and save on postage costs please send through your email address to international@mayhewanimalhome.org if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically in the future

