



# Mayhew International Newsletter

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## Russian Delegation visits The Mayhew

In October 2008, Mayhew International welcomed a delegation from Moscow City Government including the Chairman of the Moscow Veterinarian Committee, Alexander Tunik. Sergei Kruchina, of IFAW Moscow, was also present along with Svetlana Ignatieva and Caroline Yates of Mayhew International. Discussions were held over the present state of companion animal welfare in Moscow and to demonstrate the outstanding standards of animal welfare maintained at The Mayhew Animal Home. A visit to Moscow is planned in the spring of 2009! ( see page 3 )



Above: Caroline Yates with members of Moscow City Government and IFAW Moscow

## Neutering News from Moscow

In recent issues, we introduced you to Russian vet Dr Natasha Potapochkina who has been working with Mayhew International since last December. With her assistance, we are currently running a spay & neuter programme for dogs and cats in the care of Moscow's many apartment shelters and pensioner community. In February 2008, she spent three weeks at The Mayhew Community Veterinary Clinic, learning newer and safer techniques in sterilisation surgeries and the use of gas anaesthesia. After her return to Moscow, she has been working non-stop; requests for our help just keep coming. Natasha has neutered 182 animals on behalf of Mayhew International in 2008! Your support is vital to continue this project.



Above: Natasha performs a cat spay operation in a pensioner's flat.

## International Visitors to The Mayhew



Above: Julia Demeshko

We also received a visit from Julia Demeshko from Dzivnieku Draugs, a Latvian dog shelter, during the last week of November and the first of December. Julia spent her time on our dog section finding out about how we look after the dogs under our care from admission to adoption. Julia also shadowed our Dog Adoption Officer and gained an insight into the criteria we use to re-home our dogs as well as working with volunteers.

Following on from our Animal Care Manager's visit to Japan and ARK (Animal Refuge Kensai) in March 2008, we were fortunate to receive a return visit from Mikki Fujiwara, who works at ARK, as well as students from Toyko Business School studying animal related courses. ARK, established in 1990, is an NGO private organisation with the aim of forming a network of people who love animals and relieving the suffering of them.



Above: Mikki Fujiwara

## Christmas Appeals 2008

This year we managed to raise an impressive £5118.13 including gift aid from our Christmas box appeal. Sales of Mayhew International Christmas cards and gifts came to a total of £2125.53 which is a fantastic effort! Thank you. This money will be put towards animal welfare projects abroad in 2009.

## New International Projects Officer



In January 2009 Mayhew International appointed a new International Projects Officer called Chris Sainsbury who has taken over the role since the departure of Joy Lee. Chris comes from a scientific background having studied at the University of Manchester/ Liverpool and Paris VI before completing a masters degree in Wild Animal Biology at the Royal Veterinary College. He is quickly having to get to grips with the projects and is trying to make a lasting bond with Sally the office cat who is currently ignoring him. Fortunately for him Leona, one of our beautiful dogs we want to re-home, has taken a shine to him! We wish him well!

## Russian Delegation visits The Mayhew

During the summer of 2008, Mayhew International began to become increasingly concerned by the plight of the street animals in Moscow, Russia. The sterilisation programme initiated in 2001 was not as successful as planned because the number of animals sterilised was not sufficient to counteract the reproduction rate of the overall population of stray animals. The required percentage of sterilised animals (70%) was not attained because of the lengthy detailed capture and sterilisation protocols surrounding the procedures. We wished to reiterate the value of Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) programmes and emphasised our concerns towards the idea of building mega shelters in the suburbs surrounding the city. We believed it would be very beneficial for us to illustrate to them how animal re-homing is successfully implemented and continues to work in London.

A full programme of presentations and visits were orchestrated giving the Moscow City Government delegation an insight into how the various agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, work with each other to ensure a good standard of animal welfare. In particular we showed how our successful TNR programme for feral cats in London functions and how other similar programmes for dogs have been initiated abroad in countries such as Ukraine, Italy and India where rabies, a growing concern in Moscow, is prevalent as well.

The delegation also met with Brent council, Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, RSPCA Putney Hospital and the Metropolitan Police to find out how London deals with its stray dogs.

In conclusion we repeated our desire to continue to work with the authorities to manage the problem of the over-population of dogs within Russia's capital and documented the health and welfare issues of building huge shelters. Our schemes promoting the adoption of stray animals and the provision of low cost veterinary care were emphasised as essential ways to alleviate the potential pitfalls of sheltering strays long-term in Moscow.

Mayhew International is looking to visit the shelters in the Spring if possible to see whether some reports of poor conditions and rapid disease infection are correct. We will also look to continue to offer our assistance as best we can.



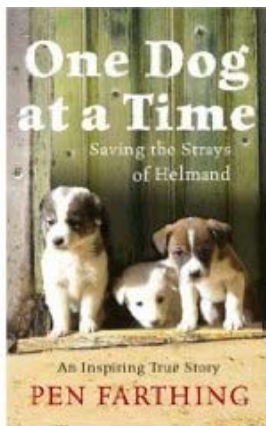
Above: Moscow City Government officials visiting Brent council, including pictured the Brent Mayor Cllr Ralph Fox



Above: Caroline Yates, James Hogan and Svetlana Ignatieva discuss the issues with the Chief of Moscow's Veterinary Committee whilst at The Mayhew

## One Dog at a Time — an update on the Nowzad Dogs

Today, Nowzad and Tali are both enjoying their new life in the UK. They were released from quarantine on 23rd December 2007 and now live with Sgt Farthing and his family. Of the famous Nowzad puppies, only one remains named Helmand. Sgt Farthing found private sponsorship to bring Helmand back to the UK and he is currently in quarantine and already



has a new home waiting for him. However, we won't be able to bring them all home. The only way we can truly help these animals is by



addressing the problem where it occurs - in Afghanistan. With your support we can train Afghan vets to care for animals, including the livestock that the local people rely on for a living. Vets can also neuter the stray dog population, and educate the locals on how to look after their animals. We also continue to support Afghan Stray Animal League and other animal welfare initiatives in the hope that one day we will see an end to the dog-fighting culture in Afghanistan. The stories of the marines and their efforts to save the stray dogs of Afghanistan is a heart-warming tale and has been compiled into a book which is now available through The Mayhew Animal Home entitled "One Dog at a Time". This inspiring tale is available for £12.99 with some revenue of the sales being donated to Mayhew International. Please order your copy from The Mayhew.

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!**

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Mayhew International is part of  
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For further information about the work of  
The Mayhew Animal Home in the UK, or to adopt an  
animal, please visit [www.mayhewanimalhome.org](http://www.mayhewanimalhome.org)  
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To try and make Mayhew International greener and save on postage costs please send through your email address to [international@mayhewanimalhome.org](mailto:international@mayhewanimalhome.org) if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically in the future

