



Mayhew International Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2 - June 2008

Inside this issue:

A Call for Vets in Animal Welfare	1
Neutering News from Moscow	1
International Veterinary Training Programme	2
Animal Welfare Training in Japan	3
Come and Meet Us!	4

A Call for Vets in Animal Welfare

Traditionally, efforts to help homeless cats and dogs have focused heavily on sheltering and adoption programmes. As international animal welfare work advances, however, it has become clear that shelter work has only a very limited impact on the global stray population, which may be as many as 1 billion unwanted cats and dogs.

In the last couple of decades, there has been a deliberate movement away from sheltering and adoption towards sterilisation and education programmes. Education programmes are aimed at changing cultural attitudes and creating a more compassionate world for the future. Sterilisation (plus vaccination) programmes can give homeless animals a better chance for healthier lives and prevent more animals from being born into suffering.

Mayhew International supports the development of education and sterilisation programmes for animal welfare, and we see a growing need for the involvement of the veterinary profession in this area. In this issue, we introduce the veterinary side of our international work.

Neutering News from Moscow

In the last issue, 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, she spent three weeks at The Mayhew Community Veterinary Clinic, learning newer and safer techniques in sterilisation surgeries and the use of gas anaesthesia from The Mayhew veterinary team. After her return to Moscow, she has been working non-stop; requests for our help just keep coming. Natasha has neutered almost 100 animals this year.



Above: Natasha performs a bitch spay operation in a pensioner's flat as a curious feline fellow-resident looks on.

International Veterinary Training Programme



Mayhew vet Mohammad works with Romana Koblovskova from The Czech Republic in November 2007

The **Mayhew International Veterinary Training Programme** was launched in 2006 with the aim to promote high-volume sterilisation techniques for animal welfare projects in developing countries and to encourage the advancement of animal welfare abroad through the involvement and support of the international veterinary community.

The Training Programme is an intensive 2-3 week course that takes place at The Mayhew Animal Home and our Community Veterinary Clinic in London. With animal welfare at its focus, the course covers the basics of veterinary care for cats and dogs, with particular focus on the special needs of animals in a shelter environment and those living on the streets. Humane handling and restraint methods, high-volume quick sterilisation techniques and the use of various anaesthetics/analgesics regimes are the essential component of the Programme. Participants also have the chance to learn about the management and structure of an urban animal shelter and The Mayhew's various community outreach and education programmes.

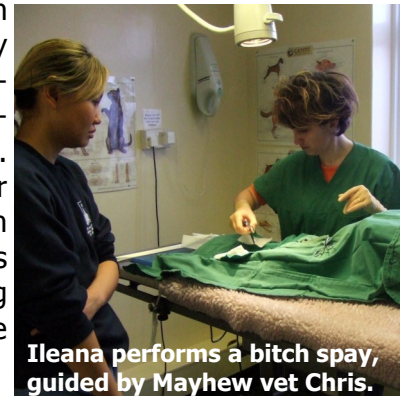
Since its launch in 2006, the International Veterinary Training Programme has enjoyed great success. We have welcomed vets from all over the world, and in most cases we hope to continue our collaboration with them to encourage the development of veterinary-led animal welfare projects worldwide.

In this issue of the Mayhew International Newsletter, we would like to introduce just a few of the participants. For more information, please visit our website at www.mayhewinternational.org.

Dr Ileana Gheorghita - Romania

Our first participant of the programme, Dr Ileana Gheorghita, has been helping the homeless animals in her hometown of Galati for many years. Dr Gheorghita spent two weeks with The Mayhew veterinary team in March 2006, honing her surgical skills, learning techniques that not only shorten the length of operations but also reduce trauma and health risks to the animals. She also became proficient in the use of gas anaesthesia, which is only recently becoming more widespread in Eastern Europe.

Since her return to Galati, Dr Gheorghita runs an intensive sterilisation programme for stray cats and dogs, averaging over 100 animals every month. She also shares her knowledge with other Romanian vets interested in joining her animal welfare endeavours.



Ileana performs a bitch spay, guided by Mayhew vet Chris.

Dr Victor Diaz - Peru

In 2006 we also welcomed Dr Victor Diaz, a young vet from the city of Piura in northern Peru who volunteers at a local animal rescue organisation, Asociación Humanitaria "San Francisco de Asis".

As Dr Diaz was a recent graduate with limited experience, training started with the basics: the concept of sterility during operation and the use of surgical instruments. We introduced him to some newer/safer surgical techniques, such as the spaying of female cats via flank incision. By the end of the course, Dr Diaz had acquired a solid foundation of

veterinary skills. He still volunteers regularly at the Asociación in his free time.

Back in Peru, Victor performs operations often in a kitchen or make-shift clinics.



Veterinary Training Programme— continued

Our support of the Asociación Humanitaria "San Francisco de Asis" is on-going. In June 2008, the Animal Care Manager from The Mayhew Animal Home, Gillian Scott VN, will be visiting Piura as part of a two-week mass sterilisation project. In addition, at the time this newsletter goes to press, we are hosting another vet from Piura, Peru — Dr Jerson Mendoza. Dr Mendoza is a full-time professor on the Veterinary Science Faculty of the National University of Piura; he also volunteers at the Asociación Humanitaria. This is an exciting opportunity for Mayhew International as Dr Mendoza specialises in small animal surgery and his experience at The Mayhew will have the potential to influence both the veterinary skills and the concept of animal welfare in the next generation of vets in Peru.

Tatiana Kryakhova - Russia

Tatiana Kryakhova is a veterinary student currently working as an assistant at the IFAW Moscow Mobile Clinic project, TESS. In April this year, she attended our Training Programme at the request of IFAW to gain more practical experience in spaying/neutering cats and dogs and to receive training in the use of gas anaesthesia, as TESS has a functioning gas anaesthesia machine that was donated by The Mayhew to their project in 2001. Tatiana is sched-



Mayhew vet Radek guides Tatiana through her first cat spay operation via flank incision.

uled to receive her diploma this summer, after which she will serve as the chief veterinary surgeon for TESS sterilisation programme.

We are currently processing applications for the second half of 2008, which includes vets from Egypt and Malaysia.

The Mayhew International Veterinary Training Programme is made possible by a grant from The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation. Thank you!

Animal Welfare Training in Japan

In March this year, The Mayhew Animal Home's Animal Care Manager Gillian Scott VN was invited to Kansai, Japan, to provide some shelter training at Animal Refuge Kansai (ARK) and conduct a few seminars on animal welfare and vet nursing for the local veterinary community. Here is her report:

ARK is a shelter located in Kansai, on the main island of Japan. Elizabeth Oliver, a British ex-pat living in Japan, set up ARK in 1990 in response to the overwhelming need for something constructive to be done in light of Japan's poor welfare standards and attitudes towards animals in the country.

The animals at ARK are well cared for (with plenty of affection, exercise and mental stimulation) by the Ark staff; unfortunately some of them have little chance of finding a home due to health or behavioural issues. In stark contrast, I was horrified by what I saw in pet shops and the hokenshos, local municipality pounds. The animals in pet shops had no food, water, bedding or toys. The dogs at the



Above: Gillian demonstrates handling & restraint techniques.

Animal Welfare Training in Japan - continued

hokensho did not even react to the presence of people; they just lay listlessly on the cold concrete floor at the back of their cells, waiting to die. Japan has the same statutory 7-days holding period for stray dogs as we do in the UK.

On a more positive note, I gave four lectures to a varied audience during my time there. My talks covered the following topics:

- Humane euthanasia – Unfortunately, in Japan, many vets will not carry out euthanasia. Stray animals are killed with carbon monoxide gas.
- Neutering – Vets in Japan will rarely neuter, although neutering has been proven to be the only humane method of controlling animal populations. I also discussed early neutering and its benefits.
- Responsible pet ownership – This included allowing off lead exercise and the freedom for all animals to enjoy a stimulating, natural life.
- Vets and Nurses in the UK – I discussed the high standard of training the vets and nurses undergo in the UK, in particular, the mandatory hours of practical experience before earning their qualification. Many Japanese vets leave vet school without having ever handled an animal.

- The work of The Mayhew Animal Home and Mayhew International, in particular, the International Veterinary Training Programme.

At the end of each session, I demonstrated how to correctly handle animals for examination. One of the “explanations” given by vets for their not humanely euthanizing with intravenous barbiturates was that dogs are “different” in Japan and cannot be handled. This is obviously inaccurate and some handling training was invaluable.

I had some positive feedback from my lectures and I hope that my talks demonstrated how animal welfare in Japan can be improved. ARK is doing a fantastic job and rehoming animals very successfully. Visit their website for more details: www.arkbark.net.

Come and Meet Us!

The Mayhew Animal Home is holding its annual **Open Day** on **13th July** from 12-4pm! International Projects Officer Joy Lee will be on hand to answer your questions. **Sergeant Penny Farthing** will also be making an appearance with Tali, one of the **Nowzad dogs** rescued from Afghanistan. Hope to see you there!

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

Joy Lee - International Projects Officer
The Mayhew Animal Home
Trenmar Gardens, London, NW10 6BJ
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0)20 8968 2440

Fax: +44 (0)20 8964 3221

Email: international@mayhewanimalhome.org

Website: www.mayhewinternational.org

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

