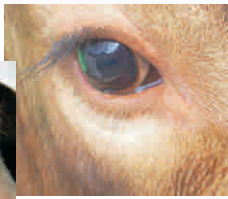




# APC NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 14 - JULY 10



ΚΟΜΜΑ ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΖΩΑ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

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### From the President

Dear Friends



This newsletter is a little delayed. As you can imagine, every day that passes is full of cases of cruelty and neglect, travel all over, phone calls, official meetings and so on.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of APC Committee members who have given their time and effort so that the Party can cover the obligations and scheduled meetings with officials of the state and other organized groups, on top of the daily work concerning allegations of abuse, animal neglect, poisoning and abandonment. APC has managed to be at almost every court hearing as well – in Limassol, Nicosia, Larnaca, Famagusta.

It is now VERY important to bear in mind that it is only 10 months before the parliamentary elections of May 2016. The Party now has to get ready. These are the first National Elections for APC and through this election we will see the voting power of animal-friendly citizens. We face a difficult road; unlike the large political parties with their mega-funding, we are unfunded. We do not have an enormous membership, as they do; we do not have any paid staff, as they do.

It is of the utmost importance that citizens who care for animals (and often sacrifice by rescuing, paying vet bills, and having too many animals to look after) now have a voice. We can show those who are well-paid and never even think of the suffering animals in all their terms of office. We can use our votes to get the animal voice into Parliament – no more knocking on its door begging and pleading and being ignored.

So time to start thinking and spreading the message to your friends. We cannot lose this election! We achieved miracles in the EU elections. WE CAN AND MUST DO IT NEXT MAY!

APC will soon. Like other Parties announce ways in which funds can be raised for the election- selling tickets, organizing events. Please get in touch if you are good at this.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter, and that it strengthens your desire to help making us a strong force for animals.

*Kyriacos*

## MAJOR EVENT AS ANIMAL SUPPORTERS HOLD PROTEST



Animal Party Cyprus jointly organized with non-governmental organizations a protest outside the Presidential Palace. Around 350 people took part.

After 28 months of governing the country, the Anastasiades government unfortunately has not kept many of the promises made to animal advocates and animal welfare organizations before the elections.



Unfortunately animal welfare issues do not appear to be of interest to the government. The protest aimed to send a strong message to the government that citizens have suffered more than enough, and to demand action.. APC delivered a memorandum

which was received by a representative of the President.

# THE SCANDAL OF IMPORTS OF LARGE EXOTICS RAGES OUT OF CONTROL



Out-of-control importation of elephants, Siberian tigers, lions and other exotic animals that have no place in Cyprus is a major concern of APC. We therefore pressed the Environment Committee Speaker to put the issue up for discussion.

On 1 July the Party attended the Parliament and our President, Kyriacos Kyriacou, outlined the unsustainable situation, pointing out that government authorities themselves have stated that they are not specialists in exotic animals – they do not have the

knowledge. In addition, the Departments of the Environment and Veterinary Services are not coordinated, allowing such scandalous imports to continue.

Zoo legislation is not applied, with the resulting chaos. After the session the Commission President urged the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture to expedite the government regulations pending, such as the Regulation of pet shops, breeders and shelters, as well as legislation to regulate the import of exotic animals to our country.

## ELEPHANTS ARRIVE IN SPITE OF PROTEST

## APC CONTINUES WITH OFFICIAL MEETINGS WITH DECISION-MAKERS AND AUTHORITIES



**Minister of Justice:** An APC delegation had a second meeting with the Minister of Justice. After the barrage of ill treatment in Larnaca (17 dogs were left to die of starvation and a hearing assistance dog was stabbed to death in front of the deaf owner), we asked for an immediate meeting with the Minister to examine the new data regarding cases involving mistreatment of animals.



The Party handed to the Minister details of cases already pending at either the courts or the police.

The Minister's subordinate will have direct contact and communication with the Party, which will inform us about the progress of these cases. We also agreed with the Minister that the Party will soon deliver a list of cases that have been tried in other countries listing penalties that have been imposed. The aim of course is none other than to consider APC's proposal to the Ministry of Justice that courts impose penalties proportionate to on crime.

A large protest was organized by APC by the Party for the outside old Larnaca airport to protest against the import of two young elephants, remembering the tragic life of Julia, incarcerated in Limassol Zoo. APC studied acceptable premises for elephant, and we are aware that structures and premises available in small businesses in Cyprus can never meet the behavioral and biological needs of large exotic animals.

**Police Directorate Paphos:** An APC delegation met with the Police Directorate Paphos. Present were the Deputy Chief Constable, the Police Director of Peyia, Police Neighbourhood Watch and others. The Party informed of them of our objectives. And made them aware of the major outbreaks of poisoning in Paphos District, especially in and around Lysos, Ahelia, Chloraka etc. The result was very positive and constructive. Our police authorities have assured us that they will crack down on the phenomenon, and that there should be a close cooperation with the Party. We informed the Police Director of the APC member who will be the liaison between the Police Directorate Paphos and the Party Monitoring Group.

