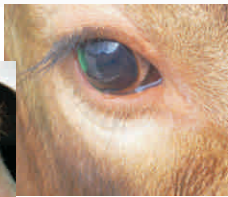




# APC NEWSLETTER

## MAY 16-23



ΚΟΜΜΑ ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΖΩΑ ΚΥΠΡΟΥ

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## From the President



Dear Animal Party Cyprus members

Another very busy week has passed for APC - many phone calls, either from the public or the

media as well as from various authorities. Citizens are now trusting us and requesting information - how to properly report a cruelty case or general information.

APC continues to explain how to use the system, the legislation, Competent Authorities and the police.

Unfortunately, abuses and cruelty continue to flourish. Our work is difficult, but we are making strides. We assert the obvious, that all creatures deserve respect and protection. The wellbeing of humans, animals and the environment are the core of our lives. We share a planet and must respect each other with a view to harmonious coexistence.

Within this concept the NGO **True Nature Connection** last Sunday (24/5/15) organised a cheerful, happy event at Profiti Elias, Larnaca. All citizens were invited (animal lovers or not) to spend a Sunday with their four-legged ones. APC was present and supported this beautiful initiative, because it gives the right to our pets to socialise and be free in a natural environment. All varieties of happy tails enjoyed the day.

Finally I would like to mention that just last week the Central Committee in charge of Beaches demarcated a dog beach near Limassol, at Monagroulli.

When everything is ready citizens will be able to visit the beach together with their four-legged friends.

*Kyriacos*

## HUNTING OF SONGBIRDS

### Anastasiades government and its new tricks



Animal Party Cyprus is strongly opposed to any form of bird slaughter; limesticks, mistnets, shooting, mimic machines. Millions of birds of all kinds and species die in agony in order to serve those illegal poachers' thirst for money. After all those years and the endless battle against this practice, suddenly the government (Ministry of Interior) has come up with an absurd and shocking new proposal. To allow selective trapping of song birds.

According to BirdLife Cyprus, 'This is a disaster. In a stroke government took us fifteen years back - we will fight the government proposal tooth and nail'.

APC agrees, and that's why in order to fight the government and in order to try to have Cyprus taken out of this shameful birdkilling list, APC and BirdLife Cyprus will be meeting on June 8th in Nicosia. The purpose is to discuss in depth the new government tricks and ways to move a step forward by engaging all stakeholders in this issue such NGOs, Brussels and the only two Animal Party MEPs, from our sister parties in Germany and the Netherlands.

## SHOOT THEMSELVES IN THE FOOD



Maltese bird hunters once again refused to abandon their Spring shooting. However, a protected kestrel they shot fell dead in a school playground full of children. Following

publicity, the migratory bird hunt had to stop immediately. The shooter was arraigned in handcuffs, sentenced to one year in jail and fined €5,000. The court wondered why he and other shooters

were firing guns near a school. APC welcomes the sight of justice being done on behalf of animals (and children).



## Progress in Scotland?

A big cat circus show due to be staged in Aberdeenshire on 4th May was forced to cancel plans, as the Council refused to grant the act an entertainment licence.

Thomas Chipperfield moved to Scotland at the end of last year with his five big cats; three tigers and two lions that have been photographed showing distress, pacing backwards and forwards in tiny cages. Many animal welfare groups have called for action to be taken to remove the cats from such conditions. The show purported to be raising money for a children's charity, but Cash for Kids knew nothing about it and demanded their name be removed.

Last year, the Scottish Government carried out a public consultation into the use of wild animals in circuses, but results have not yet been made public. APC welcomes such signs of progress, while circus abuse is still trying to survive.

## ANIMAL WELFARE = HUMAN WELFARE



Animal Parties were created so that non-human animals could be included in the political system and thus gain the right to be free from abuse and torture. However, the ONE WELFARE concept is now becoming mainstream. Bad animal welfare is bad for humans too. Just one example. We are all aware of the horrific conditions in which chickens are reared to be eaten. Filth, full of antibiotics in order to survive short lives in the filth.

In the UK over 80% of poultry at ASDA supermarkets were found to be contaminated

with the potentially lethal food-poisoning bug *campylobacter*, according to the Food Standards Agency, with 30% heavily contaminated, while 12% of packaging tested positive for *campylobacter*, meaning that it could easily cross-contaminate other fresh food in shoppers' baskets. Annually, in the UK 280,000 people are made sick by it, with many thousands being admitted to hospital as a result and around 100 people a year dying.

Aldi and Lidl had similar results, as did most supermarkets. Poor hygiene at slaughterhouses includes birds that had been dropped on the floor being recycled into the food chain, and breakdowns in machinery leading to pileups of guts and high-risk material.

No such studies have been carried out in Cyprus, but caring and responsible parents are excluding such toxic 'food' from their homes and teaching their children why Micnuggets and the like are toxic junk. Animal Welfare and Human Welfare are one.