

DAPS CLOSES THE DOORS

Rhodes, 8th September 2006

Dear DAPS friends, members and sponsors,

As you know, since the 21st of July, the DAPS clinic has been closed, due to problems with the license. So far, we did not succeed in any way to get the license back, and at this point there is no reason for us to believe that we will get it soon. And in spite of all the letters and statements of support that we have received, we took the very difficult but final decision to stop our project. We would like to explain our reasons for that decision.

The most important reason is, as we said, the fact that we have no license to work as vets in Greece right now. The motivation of the authorities to deny us the license, the same license we had last year, is very complicated. And although we tried to solve the problem, we had to come to the conclusion that it is too complicated for us both.

Then there is the fact that Tanja Senders announced her withdrawal from the project, in October. This is not unexpected, she initially got into the project for a year, and she stayed for a year and a half. To replace her, we found two young Dutch veterinarians. But to introduce these young vets in the clinic and the project, the clinic needs to be open, and it is not. So we have no chance of properly training the new vets. First we would have to wait for the license, and then Tanja Mannhart would have to do everything alone; the training of the vets, the running of the clinic. And as the person that arranged all our bureaucracy is leaving DAPS as well due too limited time, it all really becomes too much.

Then there is, as always, the money. Although the clinic is closed, and we are not working on animal welfare, we still have to pay the bills of DAPS. And our financial resources are limited. That is another reason to stop now, the money the sponsors gave to us should be used for other projects, projects that are running effectively.



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And last, but not least, there is the personal motivation. We believe that we had a very successful year at DAPS, from July 2005 until July 2006, we were able to help a lot of animals. But we have spent more than half of our time fighting the bureaucracy, and fighting negative publicity about our work here in Rhodes. And that really made us think. If our hard labour is not appreciated, then we can better bring it somewhere else, it is just not worth it anymore.

We are very sorry about this ending of DAPS, about two months ago we would never have expected this. We hope you all understand that there is no other option for us right now. We thank everybody who has been supporting us the last year, and that have been lots. We hope you will go on supporting other projects that care for the strays.

Sincerely yours

Tanja Mannhart & Tanja Senders