

# No matter what the language...

indonesian *bantuan* • italian *aiuto* • portuguese *ajuda* • turkey *yardim etmek*  
spanish *ayuda* • swahili *msaada* • swedish *hjälp* • afrikaans *shulp* • danish *hjalpe*  
dutch *assisteren* • finnish *auttaa* • french *aide* • german *hilfe* • hungarian *bejaron*

## ...the message for the animals is the same.

Now, with the Internet and instant communication 24-hours a day, seven days a week, across all borders, time zones and languages, the Doris Day Animal League and Doris Day Animal Foundation are constantly learning about new problems, developments, solutions, and people and animals with inspirational stories.

The World Wide Web may make our planet seem smaller, but it also allows issues from spaying and neutering, to producing cosmetics and products using non-animal tests and ingredients, to become more global in reach. What we learn is fascinating.

Now, at the end of a chaotic year in the world — when the world did seem more connected and, to many people, more threatening — we wanted to share some of the global issues that did not grab the headlines or become the subjects of speeches by world leaders.

### *A Toast to the French*

In France, there is a volunteer program called “Adeo Animalis” (which translates to “so many animals” in Latin). The overall mission is to help, care for and save animals. They have three main goals – to help homeless animals, including strays and victims of accidents; provide medical assistance (including general surgery and spay/neuter services) and feed animals who are hungry.

Since the organization’s beginning a year ago, in November, 2001,

Adeo Animalis reports it has helped more than forty animals who have been sick, starving, handicapped, and/or injured find homes with families. “They are the animals no one wants,” says Ariane Aubet of Adeo



Animalis, “and we collect them and help and care for them.” When they are “cured,” she adds, the organization works to fund inoculations, ID tattoos, adoption programs, and, when possible, spaying and neutering.

Another primary focus of the organization has been to help people who can no longer care for their companion animals find an alternative to abandoning their pets. Veterinarians alert them to cats who will be without homes.

Funds, of course, are needed and appreciated. More information on how to donate and other action items will follow at the end of this story.

### *Don't Cry for Argentina*

We became familiar with “The Asociación Amigos del Centro Municipal de Sanidad Animal y Zoonosis” (A.A.C.M.S.A.Z.), which translates to Friends of the Municipal Center of Animal Health, because of the organization’s desire to be a part of Spay Day in Buenos Aires.

The organization was established

In English, we say, “help.” Around the world, there are many words: In Afrikaans: hulp; Danish: hjalpe; Dutch: assisteren; Finnish: auttaa; French: aide; German: hilfe; Hungarian: bejárón; Indonesian: bantuan; Italian: aiuto; Portuguese: ajuda; Spanish: ayuda; Swahili: msaada; Swedish: hjälp, and in Turkey: yardim etmek. No matter how you say it, animals everywhere need – and are – getting help.

in 1996, and the initial aim was to raise funds and awareness for spaying and neutering. Today, the group is responsible for spaying and neutering 55 dogs and cats every day (20 in their mobile clinic and the others in the Center). Its ambitious aim is to spay and neuter 12,000 more animals.

Adoptions have become a big part of the program, and last year, 500 dogs were adopted. That program, too, is growing.

Another program of interest — Ethic Control of the Urban Animals — is in Alte. Brown, a large county in the southern outskirts of Buenos Aires. This area has 500,000 citizens, 140,000 dogs and 40,000 cats. Most importantly, Alte. Brown is the first “no kill” district in the area. They do not kill animals to control pet overpopulation, and the A.A.C.M.S.A.Z. is involved in educational campaigns to keep this program in place. The mobile unit often visits schools and invites teachers and



**Representatives of A.A.C.M.S.A.Z. (from left): volunteer veterinarian Dra Patricia de la Vega, director of the animal shelter Laura Antoniazzi, vice president of A.A.C.M.S.A.Z. Mirian Gargano and Health Secretary Dr. Cesar Garcia.**

students to visit. Students learn the benefits of spaying and neutering, and they tell their parents; the parents make the decisions for the area, and the education translates to results.

The work has just begun. Communities around the world have asked for the information about Alte. Brown, so they can copy the model. It's only one area of a big country... but it's a start.

Marisa Antoniazzi of the A.A.C.M.S.A.Z. wrote us that, "Buenos Aires Spay Day 2002 was covered by Spanish newspapers...and in the Alte. Brown community the impact of this program was enormous."

Some of us expected similarities among programs in Europe and North and South America. But what about the Middle East?

## Talking Turkey

Turkey has been a popular tourist destination for Europeans and Americans simply because its exotic mixture of European and Middle Eastern cultures combine for both historic and visual experiences. An unpleasant experience when visiting Turkey, however, is seeing the large number of homeless and neglected stray animals, many of whom die of disease and malnutrition.

Hulya Alpgiray, founder of The Association for the Protection of Stray Animals (ASKOD) in Aliaga, Turkey, tells us that the future does look brighter, though. ASKOD was founded in 1997 to raise public awareness about stray animals in Aliaga. Local officials received numerous complaints about the high incidence of rabies and the fear of being bitten by a stray dog. Animals rummaging through garbage bins also presented a health hazard. The founding members of ASKOD noticed a general lack of concern for the welfare of these animals and a need to educate the public about the importance of spaying and neutering, as well as the need for rabies vaccinations and better health care.

Alpgiray says, "Our major goal is

to fight against the cruel mistreatment of the stray animals in our town, in particular, and throughout Turkey in general." That included providing the stray animals with humane living environments...which

meant renovating Aliaga's shelter and creating and maintaining a spay/ neuter program in the area.

The area's first no-kill animal shelter was established in 1997. The military donated a vacant building, which ASKOD

began to renovate as funds became available. It was an all volunteer effort initially; but, now, the Aliaga Municipality and the Local Governor have control of the building which houses 150 stray animals at a time. ASKOD members are still involved in providing food for the animals, as they work on other projects, as well.

"The major problem ASKOD faces with animals in Aliaga is the increasing population of stray dogs. Although there is a large number of stray cats," Alpgiray adds, "they are generally tolerated by the public; since free-living cats are seen as rodent and snake catchers."

ASKOD has initiated a spay/neuter program to decrease the number of strays. In January, 2002, they initiated the "Neuter and Let Live Campaign." Through announcements in local and national newspapers and on local radio stations, ASKOD was able to help increase spaying and neutering, as well as to develop "national and international respect and credibility." ASKOD gives a great deal of credit to the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPAN), which helped with funding, as well.

It's not easy. Between the brutal winter weather, an initial lack of awareness and current economic conditions, "Neuter and Let Live" seemed like an uphill battle. However, in the first few months, 100 animals were sterilized, which is half-way to the initial goal.



Hulya Alpgiray, founder of Turkey's ASKOD.

Another part of the goal is to provide a model for the rest of Turkey. Government officials see the benefit in light of Turkey's current economic conditions. There are less strays to face the

danger of starvation and other atrocities, and the reduced number of strays will decrease the number of complaints received by local authorities.

It's a wonderful beginning. On

June 2, Turkey's first-ever animal rights rally attracted more than 1,500 marchers. The demonstration was part of World Environment Week, which encourages people to respect and protect the environment and living beings.

From Argentina, to France, to Turkey, to your local communities, the DDAL is constantly impressed and heartened by the work we find throughout the world to help the animals.

If you are interested in helping these three organizations, the contact information is:

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