



AISPA

The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals

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On the Side of Animals Since 1952

The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals (AISPA) is a British-based charity that raises funds worldwide to help animal welfare projects in Italy.

Our voluntary veterinary representatives in Italy work closely with these projects offering advice and support. They also liaise with local authorities and government agencies, to try and bring about lasting improvements in animal welfare..

AISPA:

- Provides financial help to animal shelters
- Funds stray sterilisation programmes
- Sponsors veterinary training
- Funds medicines and surgical equipment
- Supports education and training programmes

Our aim is to reduce stray populations and improve conditions for many domestic and wild animals. We are only able to do this because of the generous support of those who care about animals.

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For your information, our 'Privacy Notice' includes the following key points:

- Your name and address will be held for the purposes of sending you by post our Annual Appeal and Annual Report and any other relevant mailing such as one for an emergency appeal
- We do not send marketing material by email unless that is your preferred method of receipt
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The 'Privacy Notice' is on our website. If you prefer a paper copy of this, please email or phone Andy Geddes on 01273 763988.

Secretary's Report



Dear Supporters

As always, I am most grateful for your continued and loyal support over the last year. You will read in their reports, how our partners in Italy have generally moved forward in their development this past year;

This year my colleague Laura Lavorato, our Development Manager, celebrated 10 years with AISPA! I asked her to reflect on her observations and experience; I think you'll agree that she provides an interesting overview on page 3.

Whilst there are many positive stories to report from our projects, they and we never lose sight of the continuing ill treatment and cruelty to animals. This is sadly reflected, amongst others, in articles by Salviamo l'Orso (page 8) and Italian Horse Protection (page 18).

Your response to our Annual Appeal was as usual very generous and has meant that all six were fully funded. Our project partners always value us asking them to identify these additional initiatives which help them move

forward. I thank you on their behalf!

Some particular highlights of our funding enabled us to support the Marsican bear project Salviamo l'Orso who were able to install a new style of non-lethal predator deterrent, the Solar-powered FoxLights®. A FoxLight is a light-emitting device that gives the perception of human presence by light flickers once triggered by increased levels of darkness. The irregularity of the flickering light can prevent the habituation and learning behaviours in brown bears. We were able to assist the bird rescue centre, Liberi di Volare, in purchasing more surgical tools and an air purifier unit; Palermo LNDC dog shelter were able to embark on another series of upgrades/refurbishment works to further improve the facility by upgrading the electrical circuits and the floors of the infirmary room.

I would like to thank our voluntary Executive Committee members for their diligence and ongoing commitment to the Society.

Legacies are a major contribution towards our ability to support and sustain animal welfare objectives across Italy. If you have not already done so, please consider making the Society a beneficiary in your will, we would be most grateful.

Once again, thank you all for the support and encouragement that you have given AISPA during the past year. You can be assured that this is being steadily translated into genuine improvements in animal welfare conditions in Italy. The individual reports that follow, detail the progress being made by some of the many projects that the Society supports. I hope that you enjoy reading about them.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andy Geddes".

Andy Geddes
Secretary

Making a Real Difference for Animals in Italy

Laura Lavorato - AISPA Development Manager



Whilst I sit writing this, glancing at my loyal canine companion curled up on the sofa, my mind goes to all strays that cannot enjoy the same comforts, but being able to help so many of them through my work for AISPA is a big relief to me. It is a veritable privilege to know that our work has a real impact on countless animals and that what we can achieve through the support of our generous supporters makes a real difference in Italy.

Growing up in Southern Italy, within a family of animal lovers, I have always been painfully aware of the harsh reality that thousands of animals face on the streets: the skinny cats, the lonely dogs on a chain, those living a life behind the bars of a kennel without a real chance of being loved. I saw horses pull carts in the blistering heat just for tourists to enjoy a ride, the swifts nests being destroyed for being a “nuisance”, I knew of hunters and poachers and of the general lack of sensitivity towards animal welfare issues that was the norm.

My family rescued many of those animals, it was a small thing, one life saved versus the many still at risk out there. Today, I am happy that despite being many miles away, I can actively contribute, thanks to my job, to rescuing thousands each year.

Last year, as ever, my job took me to Italy to visit our project partners to check on their progress and support their future plans and objectives. Such visits are always accompanied by our amazing Veterinary Representatives, crucial contributors to our achievements. Our trips are not a fancy business, to keep the expenses to a minimum and be in a position to devote as much as we can to the rescue work, in a matter of a few days we sometimes cover 10 or more visits across the country. And yet, people like Malcolm and Maira gladly forego their (rare) free time to join me and help AISPA further its aims. This is done out of sheer love of animals, genuine passion for their veterinary profession and the generosity that leads them to give back to society.

More than anything it is incredibly rewarding to witness that a real change in animal welfare culture, which AISPA has contributed to spread for decades, is finally bearing its fruits in Italy. Every time I visit I look forward to further improvements and to meeting with the wonderful people who work tirelessly for the projects we support across the country.

Within the last few years some of our projects closed for good: not because they failed but because they succeeded. The closure of a kennel can be a milestone for anyone who works in the field, when kennels turn empty and they are not viable because too few dogs are there, there is much to celebrate: the many lives saved, returned to the love of an adoptive family and to a life of comfort and dignity. Spay and neutering, once perceived as unnecessary even by many animal lovers, is now considered an undisputed necessity by most, and despite the fact that raising awareness on such topics remains crucial for consistent and sustainable animal welfare progress, I can tell that much has changed in people's attitude towards animals, cats and dogs particularly.



Far from being an arrival, point these achievements fuel my motivation to make plans for the future: our focus remains on tackling animal welfare issues where it's needed the most, Southern Italy and many rural areas are where our support is still crucial.

For each project that closes its doors, so many more are in need of our support still. I am very proud to have added Invisibles ODV to our portfolio of supported projects. This small but highly effective team of volunteers not only operates in a region, such as Calabria, with an incredibly high number of strays, but establishes a new path for animal welfare management, aiming at rehoming dogs in municipal pounds who would have almost no chance without their involvement, rather than creating new facilities whose costs would probably be unsustainable. In a similar vein, it is an absolute priority to try and work outside of urban areas, where local authorities are virtually absent and spay and neutering is still lagging behind, forgotten realities that people like Christin from AlmaGea ODV are trying to change.

The most inspiring thing of all is that AISPA will keep putting its funds into the rescue work; in doing so it gives an opportunity to most grassroots organisations of volunteers, such as the ones above, that would otherwise be condemned by lack of visibility or donors.

An essential part of my work is to evaluate where our support is needed the most and direct our efforts towards these strategic priorities for the years ahead: Rehoming and education on spay and neutering in areas at high risk, such as the South.

Throughout the years the charity has consistently worked to enable hardworking but often “unseen” people in their daily efforts. We have been able to establish consolidated partnerships with amazing volunteers who dedicate most of their lives to the animals and I am glad to have built a wonderful rapport with each and every one of them. I had the pleasure of witnessing Mario Cipollone at Save the Bear turn the Marsican Bear conservation dream into a reality; Luana from Verano cemetery in Rome managing - with unshakeable determination - a reduction of the strays on site through her spay and neutering efforts; Silvana from Liberi di Volare in Trieste nursing her swifts back to health and returning them to the sky, Franco Lannino from EDIGA Palermo turning a neglected field into a cat oasis; Sonny at IHP grow his equine rescue centre into a news worthy reality. I couldn't possibly name them all here but - from Silvia Viviani at Torre Argentina, retiring after a lifetime of dedication to the Roman cats to Christin from AlmaGea in Sicily who is just at the beginning of her animal welfare journey- I just want to express my gratitude to these people, the real backbone of our work in Italy.

There is still much work to be done particularly in Southern Italy, but rather than focussing on hardship and obstacles, our achievements remind us all how much can still be accomplished thanks to a great team and the selfless work of the Italian volunteers.





ALMAGEA ODV

Taormina

AlmaGea was founded by Luca Ventura and Christin Schwarz in 2020 and became an ODV (organizzazione di volontariato) in 2021. The project is located in Castiglione di Sicilia and is aimed at helping animals in need but at the same time an environmental conservation programme.

Cristin writes:

In the past year, we have neutered, in big part thanks to the support of AISPA, a total of 273 animals of which 206 female cats, 65 male cats and 2 female dogs.

Despite the many challenges we face we were able to make very good progress in all of our focus areas: Giardini Naxos, Taormina, Francavilla di Sicilia/Castiglione di Sicilia. The focus area in the immediate surroundings of our AlmaGea sanctuary was started in 2023 and is now well established, with four volunteers working only at this location.

We are glad to say that we were able to neuter animals across the different localities throughout the year, even though we obviously tried to work particularly harder in the winter months when cats are less likely to be pregnant.

A very positive step forward was the possibility to get another veterinarian onboard; resourcing is one of the many hurdles we are presented with, so being able to rely on another vet means that we will be able to plan and achieve more spay and neuter operations.

We are very happy we were able to neuter so

many animals with your help. In combination with other funding and private contributions, including personal contributions by some of the locals who feed the cats, we have managed to make a real difference for the cat colonies we look after.

For the year ahead we obviously plan to continue our spay and neutering work and are hoping to be able to keep at least the same pace within the same geographical areas. Our main goal for the future months is to be able to neuter both males and females in the colonies we work on. Our main priorities will be to finalise spay and neutering in colonies where the work has been started; trying to quickly spay and neuter new arrivals in our colonies, and providing emergency veterinary care within such colonies. Even though our resources are stretched we also want to begin spaying female cats in nearby colonies where our work has not yet started.

Local volunteers are continuously involved in our work and representatives from TSV Streunerhilfe Frankfurter Katz and/or Lilla katthjälpen: Sicilien will continue to come to Sicily at least once a year to help move the work forward as well.

There is always more work to do but for the time being we want spay and neutering to be the number one priority because we firmly believe that this is the first step toward having a long-term effect on cats' well-being in Sicily. For this reason we intend to continue looking for more motivated volunteers to help us with captures and for other local veterinarians to be able to increase the number of cats treated.

What we do could not be achieved without your help. Thank you for supporting our work in making a difference to the cats of Sicily!



EDIGA

Palermo



EDIGA is the only cat sanctuary in Sicily and it is situated on the outskirts of Palermo. Franco Lannino, manager of the facility, is aided by only a few volunteers in looking after over 100 cats.

Franco writes:

This past year, can be defined as a fairly quiet one. Which, for a cat shelter like ours, is the best that we can hope for!

In fact, thanks to past experiences, we have learned to manage critical issues and plan ahead to be able to respond to emergencies. Whilst it is true that problems might occur at any time, we feel we have learned to prevent and manage them much more effectively.

To begin with our spay and neuter work during the winter has increased; thanks to our widespread education campaign we have raised awareness on the crucial importance to prevent unnecessary births in the spring and as a result avoid the number of stray cats getting out of control.

And luckily, people have understood the importance of spay and neuter with a significant uptake in the number of operations.

Adoptions have also gone very well, thanks in particular to one of our new volunteers Barbara, who is involved with an animal welfare organisation in Turin, Piedmont, and through her network of contacts we have managed to re-home many cats in northern Italy. Crucially not just kittens (which are usually more likely to find adoptive homes) but also many adult and elderly cats with more complex medical needs.

As in the past years, the cat hotel donations continue to provide vital income for our strays, and we have started to offer cat sitting services to boost donations, mostly provided by myself in my limited spare time, which earned me the nickname of "Uncle Franco"! We have dedicated a Facebook page specifically to these services whose proceeds help us to move forward.

In the past year we have invested in a gift aid campaign so that our supporters' donations could make even more of a difference. This was a much needed extra income for the cattery.

Of course, we also keep going with our crowdfunding and the food collection points for our animals.

Our social media pages continue to have a good following and our cat calendar, which has reached its tenth edition, has become a cat lovers' favourite with 1,700 copies printed and all sold!

Unexpectedly, we were also part of an important regional initiative in the past year, called "Le vie dei Tesori" (the treasures' route). For eighteen years this event has been giving visibility to hidden (or less hidden) gems around Sicily; having the opportunity to be included in the list of notable destinations to visit, meant we had the chance to open the doors of our cat oasis to more than 600

visitors during five 'open days'. This has been an incredible opportunity for us, to introduce more people to the work we do.

We are proud to have admitted 134 cats to the shelter in the last year, all with a range of issues that would prevent them living in colonies, of these 124 have now found adoptive families; and 226 cats were spayed and neutered for free (including to owners on low income).

We are in the process of completely renovating the infirmary. We will refresh the interior and exterior of our 11 brick houses where our cats sleep and continue to improve the health and hygiene of the grounds and the general environment for the cats.

We do know we are going to incur higher expenditure to realise such plans, but we are incredibly happy that last year's efforts paid off and we are confident that thanks to AISPA's support, next year will be filled with more positive results to celebrate and achievements to be proud of.



SAVE THE BEAR

Pettorano sul Gizio



Salviamo l'Orso (Save the Bear-StB) is an Italian organisation leading conservation efforts to prevent the decline of the Marsican Brown Bear in the Central Apennines of Italy. Based in Abruzzo, it is managed by a dedicated team of volunteers and cooperates with local, national authorities and other international organisations in the field of ecology and nature conservation.

Serena Frau writes:

A Year of Recovery for the Protection of the Marsican Brown Bear

In 2023 we celebrated the eleventh year of activities of Salviamo l'Orso.

The past year marks a new chapter for Save the Bear, following the challenges faced in 2023 with the loss of two bears and numerous poisoning incidents.

To counter the worrying phenomenon of poisoning, which often goes unpunished, the association decided to establish its own anti-poisoning dog unit.

In June 2024, Wild, a Belgian Malinois shepherd, joined the team and is currently

undergoing a specific training programme with her handler, Julien Leboucher.

In collaboration with the Rewilding Apennines association, Save the Bear has hosted 88 volunteers from various countries across Europe and the world. The commitment of these volunteers allowed the association to install over 50 electrified fences, protecting beehives, stables, and chicken coops from bear incursions.

Fifteen events/round tables were organised to promote constructive dialogue with local communities, addressing the crucial issue of human coexistence with bears.

Additionally, bear-proof bins were placed in five municipalities in the Central Apennines, designed to make garbage inaccessible to wildlife. Five days were dedicated to pruning abandoned orchards and four days to fruit harvesting, essential activities aimed at reducing the possibility that bears would be attracted to venture into urban settlements. Last but not least we organised 13 barbed-wire collection days in remote mountain areas,



thereby contributing to improving the safety of natural habitats.

For the year ahead Save the Bear aims at installing further preventative measures to reduce human-bear conflict and promote coexistence. Preventative measures will reduce the risk of developing 'food-conditioned' bears that can cause extensive damage and are at a heightened risk of conflict with humans and traffic collisions. With funding from AISPA, we plan to oversee the installation of 10 sets of electric fences, 5 bear-resistant bins and given the death of one of the bears due to a road collision accident we also aim to install a new style of non-lethal predator deterrent, the Solar-powered FoxLights. Non-lethal conflict mitigation strategies are key to promoting human-wildlife coexistence and a wide range of technical approaches exist. This device was developed by an Australia farmer, Ian Whalan in 2008, as a way to deter predation on his livestock. A FoxLight is a light-emitting device that gives the perception of human presence by light flickers, once triggered by increased levels of darkness. Flashing lights have long been used as a visual repellent to mimic human activity, and have proven effective when used against large carnivores.

The irregularity of the flickering mimic can prevent the habituation and learning behaviours in brown bears, increasing the longevity and effectiveness of such a model. A light typically has a radius of 2km, allowing for large areas to be protected.

We will also aim at conducting surveys in communities before and after the installation of preventative measures. Where appropriate, such as with small livestock settlements, counts on livestock will be taken before, and after 6 months to measure effectiveness. We will also carry out surveys within local communities on their perception of the effectiveness. The monitoring of these preventative measures is imperative in promoting and establishing a successful model of human-bear coexistence.

With the proposed funding from AISPA, SLO can continue to promote the coexistence between people and the Marsican brown bear.

These initiatives, and many others, were made possible thanks to the passion and commitment of the volunteers and of all the supporters like you, who chose to dedicate their time and resources to the protection of the Marsican brown bear and the safeguarding of our Apennines. The road ahead is still long, but with the support of the community and the determination of all, we can continue to work towards a better future for this iconic species.



CATS ONLUS

Montecatini



CATS Onlus was legally constituted in 2011 to formalise the lifelong work of Maria Barbagli and Monica Monti for the stray cats in the Montecatini area. Trapping and sterilising strays has always been the main focus..

Carolyn Martin, one of the organisation's founders, writes:

2024 has been another year of significant stretches for CATS Onlus. Stretching of our own energy, of resources and of finances. People are feeling under pressure economically and seem to have less available physical and emotional resources for caring for animals. Some would like us simply to take the animals, others need help in caring for them and some just refuse to see the problem.

We have done less trapping this year as we, the volunteers, age, and we have more frequently provided traps and cages to people for them to be able bring in the cats themselves. This also applied to animals that were sick or injured and we were contacted for help with paying for the veterinary care.

Abandoned, sick or injured animals have been cared for by volunteers in their own homes as we do not have any suitable alternatives in our area. The majority of kittens have been adopted but older cats, sick cats and the wilder kittens often remain with the volunteers, increasing the personal load.

While this feels very heavy at times, the enthusiasm for our calendar and the appreciation from those we help, keeps us going and each year it is heartening to receive many seasonal good wishes from the owners of cats adopted over past years.

We appreciate our vets enormously for their support and how much of their

expertise and experience is poured into many of the unloved and abandoned cats that we present them with. We appreciate the volunteers who daily give their time to the colonies in their care, one of whom cares for approximately 70 cats in multiple locations while also campaigning the supermarkets for food nearing its use-by date or for promotional offers and coupons. We are grateful to our volunteers for all the work involved in creating the calendar for the third year and for taking the cats into their homes and cope with emergencies related to their care, with incompatibility with their own cats and with the load of 'just one more'. We owe a lot to Maria, our President, who responds to all the phone calls to the Association, all the requests, all the problems and all the organisation between the request for help and the veterinary clinics.

Lastly we truly want to thank AISPA, for the support we have been given by the staff and the supporters, it has saved us more than once and without which we would not have been a positive presence for the cats of our area for the last decade. We thank you all.

LIBERI DI VOLARE

Trieste



Founded and headed by Silvana Di Mauro and under the veterinary care of Dr Stefano Pesaro, Liberi di Volare is an AISPA supported bird rescue centre based in Trieste. It is the only swifts' rehabilitation centre in Italy and one of the few specialised clinics of this kind in Europe.

Silvana writes:

As usual, the year 2024 has been a very demanding and an adrenaline-filled year for our Association, from a rehabilitation and conservation point of view: 506 birds rescued, 388 birds liberated, with Swifts, Swallows and House Martins returning to nature. 24 patients remained over-winter at our centre at the end of the year, due to structural problems and damaged plumage, and are waiting for next spring.

The “eco bonus” for building renovations has continued unabated to claim victims during the nesting period, and our interventions to stop this silent massacre have been many! This scheme allows buildings to be renovated and cladding added at practically zero cost to the owner, but most builders do not respect the laws protecting bird species which often nest in old buildings. The awareness and help of

active citizens have allowed us, at times, to stop disasters and save our special biodiversity, avoiding mass nesting destruction under the roofs of houses, where entire colonies of migrant birds, including swifts, swallows and house martins, risked being wiped out, due to the renovation of roofs and facades!

On the positive side, the continuous support by the forestry police of Trieste, who have been asked several times by us to intervene with inspections at city construction sites, has helped. They enforce the law on the protection of native wildlife in the urban context, especially during nesting times, and this has made it possible to save many swifts, swallows and martins.

We try to inform key professionals of their duty to respect the law. A new letter of recommendations and precautions regarding the installation of external scaffolding on buildings with nests, for the purpose of protecting wild fauna (in this case migratory birds faithful to their nest “forever”), was sent again by the Municipality of Trieste to the professional organisations of builders and building administrators following a request by our association.



What worked best was the action carried out by volunteers of the association, going from building site to building site and seeking contact with builders, architects, apartment block administrators and administrators of condominiums. The involvement of companies and administrators has produced good results, so that at the end of the season this year, we accomplished the installation of 61 nests, of which 44 for house martins, 16 for common swifts and 1 for swallows. This is in addition to over 447 artificial nests that today are magnificent residences for our migratory birds; plus the continuous positioning in several schools of other nests for non-migratory species, for example blue tits. This local biodiversity is useful to the ecosystem, as these birds also risk being evicted from under our roofs and other nesting places, like our migrant birds. In summary, we achieved better collaboration with architects and builders, but we remain vigilant, working for a standard protocol to restore the “homes” of those who have lost them.

Installation of other artificial nests is planned to continue in the year ahead, nests will be placed in new schools and old municipal buildings about to be renovated, given that our educational programme with schools at all levels throughout the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region continues apace. About 1,000 children await us in over 14 schools, with the educational project

“Magia d’ali” (Magic wings), designated “of particular relevance” by, and supported by, the Regional Government.

In 2024 we had to reduce the number of schools we worked with because we were very busy with the preparation of the 7th International Swift Conference held in Trieste in the period 29th to 31st May 2024. This conference ([website: triesteswift.it](http://www.triesteswift.it)), was attended by over 100 people involved in swift conservation, ornithology and bird watching, from Europe, North and South America, and the Middle East. Over 40 presentations were made, ranging from reports from local associations on their efforts to conserve swifts in medieval buildings, to high tech analysis of trace element pollution in swifts, as a monitor of environmental quality. The conference was organised by the leaders and volunteers of Liberi di Volare and AISPA was warmly thanked for the continuing support of the Association.

Our activity, not only of conservation but also of rehabilitation, continues to grow and the admissions received during the migration seasons are increasingly rapidly, making the activity of recovery and rehabilitation ever more intense! There is always an urgent need to have a greater number of volunteers whom, with passion and interest, can share our activities of managing and helping these birds during the period of hospitalisation, and

care of the same. We continue to adhere each year to the Universal Civil Service Programme, sponsored by the Ministry of Social Policies, through which young people aged 18 to 28, passionate about and fascinated by nature and the correct management of its habitats, will be able to participate in the year 2025-2026. Our project will allow them, after adequate training and preparation on our part, to have a fantastic experience and to give important assistance to our centre. Every year, hundreds of migrant birds now arrive, welcomed because they need care and rehabilitation to then return to being "Free to fly" in nature! In the year 2024, given the large amount of work, a young university collaborator has been hired by "Liberi di Volare".

During the past migratory season, one episode has remained particularly impressed in our memory, a story with a happy ending that through our monitoring and recovery activity has allowed us to tell today: the story of Bianca and Bernie, two adult common swifts, is touching. They colonised an artificial nest of two of our volunteers, Tiziana and Michele, 10 years ago, and every year, they return punctually in April to their breeding site, after having flown for about 20,000km, crossing North Africa, the Mediterranean and the Apennines, to then reach the coast of the northern Adriatic.

However, last April the weather had some bitter surprises for them, as after their arrival and that of the other colonies, cold and rainy storms hit our territory hard, with a drastic reduction in insect food resources. Many swifts found themselves in serious difficulty and our centre received a large number of patients, who arrived exhausted and debilitated due to the lack of food and especially lacking a nest for shelter, given the widespread destruction of their habitat. Bianca and Bernie's nest was easily accessible and so they were constantly monitored and protected by us in a safe place, despite the low temperatures: close to each other, they warmed up, reducing their outings



and saving energy, until the temperatures again became mild and stable. About a hundred swifts were saved in this period by our rescue efforts. Subsequently, Bianca and Bernie produced three splendid chicks, who grew up healthy and strong, and were then ringed before undertaking their first migration!



This for us was one of the successes not to be forgotten and a great reward for our work in protecting their habitats, as well as the satisfaction of seeing artificial nests we installed increasingly more colonised! We hope the same rewarding feeling will be felt from all of you, for supporting and enabling our work!

MICI FELICI

Cecina



Mici Felici has been active since 2006 in and around Cecina, in the province of Livorno. Francesca Fiori, the group lead, has worked tirelessly on both ensuring the welfare of local cat colonies and helping local stray dogs. At present they are focussed on feline welfare/rescue, actively promoting spay and neuter campaigns and rehoming of stray cats.

Francesca writes:

Mici Felici non-profit Association was founded in March 2006 in Cecina, when a group of 6 people decided to join forces to handle the fight against animal abuse and mistreatment, trying to give stray cats and dogs a better life. In less than a year the Association gathered 22 active volunteers across the territory that goes from Castiglioncello to Castagneto Carducci, in the north west of Tuscany, all involved in

supporting, caring for, feeding over 500 cats divided into colonies and all duly registered and monitored according to the law.

The volunteers are divided into different groups and operate across ten different municipalities, in collaboration with the local authorities and the state vets. We carry out extensive spay and neuter campaigns for stray cats and liaise with local enforcement each time a case of abuse or mistreatment is reported.

We try as much as we can to prevent animal exploitation and due to our efforts in partnership with the State vets we carried out over 150 spay and neuter operations and successfully managed to rescue 65 cats. These same cats were also subsequently rehomed to loving families making our work worthwhile.

Many years ago we also managed to obtain the consent to use, free of charge, a small building in the countryside that serves as a shelter for some of the cats. We are also grateful to have been provided with free storage facilities for the food which we use in great quantities across the different municipalities and most crucially we are really lucky to be able to rely on some amazing vets who treat our sick, abandoned cats.

We work relentlessly on sensitising the general public about the importance of spaying and neutering animals, both cats and dogs. Not only does this help prevent the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens but prevents the spread of many infectious diseases which can also be passed to their offspring as is the case with feline leukaemia; not to mention the risk that pregnancy poses for in terms of mammary or uterine cancers (particularly in dogs) which can be minimised by spaying. Unfortunately very often we battle against beliefs such as the one that it is preferable to allow the animals to reproduce at least once in their lifetime.

The kittens and dogs we rescue are swiftly vaccinated and treated for parasites, our cats are always tested for FIV and FELV whilst dogs are also tested for heartworm and Leishmania. Kittens and puppies are normally placed in foster care within our volunteers' homes so that they can be adequately socialised and develop in a safe and healthy environment. This provides higher chances for them to be rehomed, which is our main goal. Each of them is only rehomed after a scrupulous assessment by our team, and matched with the most suitable adopters and an environment where they will thrive.

Two years ago we managed to successfully rehome all of the dogs we looked after at the "Oasi del cane", our little dedicated kennel facility which has since closed its doors. Some



of the last adoptions were the most challenging as they concerned the dogs most difficult to rehome due to their complex behavioural or medical needs. However, all of them found a happy ending, some even being adopted by our volunteers.

We consider the closure of the kennel a painful (as we were sad to say goodbye) but great achievement for us. It was the end of an era for us. A period of over ten years, which we devoted to rescuing, looking after and rehoming so many stray and abandoned dogs in the area. But we do know that the "end" of the kennel also defines a new beginning, a new beginning for our dogs who left the kennel to find a life of comfort, love and safety with adoptive parents. And ultimately a new beginning for all of us, knowing we could make such an impact and that far fewer strays are out there today suffering neglect and hunger.

There is still a lot to be done and we are as ready as ever to put all of our energies into helping more animals. For all of it we have to thank those, like AISPA, who believed and supported our work.

ANIMAL WELFARE VERANO

Rome



Animal Welfare ODV is made up of a small group of volunteers headed by Luana Stefani. Since 2006 the team has been working on recording, caring for, and monitoring the feline population within the Verano monumental Cemetery in Rome. Luana has created a small but efficient shelter located in a remote corner of the cemetery which is home to the oldest cats in need of constant care.

Silvia, one of the AW ODV volunteers writes:

The last year has been a challenging year for all of us volunteers of the feline colony of the Monumental Cemetery of Verano, one of the oldest and largest in Rome.

We have been working every day for the colony for many years now and unfortunately we aren't getting any younger! We do not yet have a new generation of volunteers leading the way so we, older "pioneers", are almost always on the front lines, but we never lose hope and we certainly don't stop.

For us it is important not only to take care of the cats but also to educate people to respect the animals and take responsibility for their upkeep: this is why we organise events that serve in small part to raise funds for the shelter but above all are aimed at raising awareness and stimulating collaboration which is much needed. On our side we have some veteran volunteers with exceptional skills: Francesca, who has the soul of a designer, Carmen, with

her creativity, and as always Luana, who has coordinated, explained, welcomed and found solutions to all the issues we faced since the beginning. We have become such a solid team that those who know us now eagerly await our events, and it is with great satisfaction. Planning and organising, in addition to looking after the cats, is an enormous effort but we continue to do it with passion because they bring joy to all our visitors, whether adults or children, and even cats love spending time with our guests cuddling and giving them extra attention!

The recent Administrations are increasingly struggling to manage the cemetery site. Many areas are even closed to the public due to safety concerns, so among our tasks we also have to be mindful of where the cats live and moving them to safer areas if necessary. Due to that and the decrease in the number of strays thanks to our spay and neuter work, we have continued to reduce feeding stations and move some of the sick and elderly cats to the shelter.

The cats in the colony are also getting on and several of our elderly friends, who spent their old age peacefully at the shelter, have sadly left us this year. It is heart-breaking to say goodbye to creatures who have been with us for so many years: a part of our heart flies away with them, but on the other hand we know that, thanks to the generosity of those who have always supported us like AISPA, we have been able

to give them a peaceful and dignified life, one they would never have had if they had been left to themselves on the streets.

Whilst it is true that for every cat that leaves us we can take in another, it is equally true that the cattery does not have unlimited capacity and that our financial resources are already stretched compared to the needs of the colony. However, when we can, we still try to help other people and organisations: private individuals who might struggle financially, cat owners like Mrs Anna, who is now eighty and has looked after cats in the most neglected suburbs of Rome for over thirty years.

The local veterinary services (ASL) know our work and mission very well, and when they ask us for help we try to do what we can because we know that catteries in Rome are few in relation to the territory. For this reason, in July we took in some cats that were rescued in terrible conditions after an inspection in a camp on the outskirts of the city. They were still very young - and for some of them we have already managed to find wonderful families - but we could not help all of them as our kitten nursery has not been in operation for three years now.

The nursery is a large room that we had equipped for the kittens, quiet and separate from the cattery - in a different building in the cemetery. There we weaned and raised hundreds of abandoned kittens until they were ready for adoption. Three years ago the ceiling collapsed and still hasn't been repaired and unfortunately we can't do anything but wait for the maintenance by the cemetery's team because we do not own the structure (we were only granted the right to use it) and we are not allowed to intervene or alter it.

While we wait for the necessary work to be done, we try to do our best with the means we have, protecting the cats in the colony and helping out whichever way we can.

There are times when we are unable to help, but whenever we can, we strive to act and find a solution. This was the case for Mad Max, a shaggy cat, skin and bones, who was incredibly distrustful and angry which we decided to welcome to the shelter. Mad Max was suspicious of everyone, because he had been trapped alone for 70 days in what had been his home. He



lived with his human, a disabled gentleman who sadly passed away. The alarm was raised by a neighbour who used to collect and deliver cat food to him; after some time without receiving word from him, she alerted the authorities. The neighbour asked them to check carefully because there must have been a cat in the house but no one really looked for Mad Max. The flat was locked and no one thought of the cat left behind anymore. But this incredible cat was more tenacious than human indifference. A month after the owner's passing, the neighbour was in the courtyard looking up towards the flat's window and wondering about the cat who seemed to have vanished. At that exact moment Mad Max made himself heard with his last energies, pushing his skeletal paw between the shutters and meowing for help. The lady quickly managed to get the gentleman's relatives to open the flat again, and then called us. We rescued Mad Max and gave him unconditional love, care, lots of good food and little by little he began to shine again and to trust humans. And at Christmas, like in the most beautiful fairy tales, he found a wonderful forever family.

Looking back at all the years spent caring for the cats of the colony and saving countless others, we realise the many goals achieved but also how much still needs to be done - both materially and in terms of raising people's awareness. It is a tough job, but we are not afraid and we will always continue to carry it forward, with much gratitude to AISPA for supporting us and these beautiful creatures to get a second chance.

ITALIAN HORSE PROTECTION (IHP)

Montaione



Founded and managed by Sonny Richichi, Italian Horse Protection (IHP) is located in the heart of the Tuscan countryside. IHP today is an established equine centre which takes care of rescues across Italy and provides full rehabilitation and care for resident horses.

Sonny writes:

Over the last year we have made important improvements to our Rescue Centre for abused horses located in Montaione, in the province of Florence: in particular, we made significant structural improvements to the paddocks and roofs and improved the availability and safety of our water supply.

In May we sadly had to say goodbye to Romina, our old lady, who passed away at the record age of 40, testimony to the longevity of horses that are often, wrongly, considered old already at 20 years old. She arrived in 2012, seized because she was abused on an educational farm, and had a second chance to live with respect and dignity at IHP.

During the year, Peppy, Evenafterall, Gandalf, Sara and Nerina were entrusted to us. Peppy is only 15 years old but he looks twice his age and is a clear example of the superficiality, incompetence and indifference that often accompany these cases of neglect and abuse: for years we followed his situation, seeing his

thinness and serious problems with his front hooves worsening, asking to no avail for the intervention of the authorities who remained inert until Peppy was about to die. Only at that point, in May, we managed to rescue him and welcome him to the Centre where he is receiving the best care. Peppy is his nickname because the name on his passport, long and complicated, betrays his probable origin from a high genealogy of horses used in racing.

In June we rescued Evenafterall, one more horse who ended up in criminal dealings connected with illegal horse racing: for years, IHP has worked on shedding light on an organised

crime system responsible for horse trade into illegal racing circuits or illegal slaughter. Evenafterall was seized in April 2023 by the Messina Police Headquarters as part of an operation against illegal horse racing. After being fostered locally, he was entrusted to IHP, which offered to take care of him. When IHP received Evenafterall's identification and health documentation, it carried out a series of investigations that was brought to the attention of the Messina Prosecutor's Office: the documents in our possession show that, before ending up in the circuit of illegal "calessini" (horse carriages) racing in Sicily, Evenafterall had raced on Italian racetracks, competing in 32 official races between 2017 and 2020. In June, IHP contributed with its testimony and expertise, to a major report by RTE (Irish television network) on the Irish and European horse racing industry.

Since the autumn, IHP has been working to find a solution to the case of Gandalf, a white horse who lived alone for 20 years in an abandoned village in the province of Siena, before being discovered – now old and sick – by a group of amateur photographers who launched an appeal on social networks that went viral.

Following the social media post the horse situation became even more precarious because many people, driven by honest



solidarity, had started bringing unsuitable food to him. IHP contacted the local authorities and took charge of the rescue, which was particularly complex: only thanks to the specific skills of the staff, in fact, was it possible to approach, halter, treat and finally transport Gandalf to the Rescue Centre, where he is receiving appropriate care and living a second, new life.

In the winter we helped Giuseppe and Bobby, a man and his pet dog who had found themselves living on the street. Giuseppe had lost his job, got sick and had therefore been evicted. No temporary housing provider was willing to take in Bobby, a beautiful 40-kilos dog, and we were not prepared to entertain the thought of separating them, with Bobby potentially ending up in a kennel, so IHP stepped up and offered them hospitality.

During the year, our “historic” battles continued: against the Palios, against blood farms, against horse-drawn carriages in Italian

cities. We documented, as every year, the deaths of abused/exploited horses and, as every year, we published the official statistics on equine slaughter. We acted as the Italian hub of the European campaigns against blood farms and the importation of horse meat from third countries.

Throughout the year we were featured in the press (national and local newspapers) countless times following our activities. There were also numerous television reports on the national TV, including the Italian state television (RAI) which has dealt with IHP on four occasions.

It was, you’ll agree, an intense and fulfilling year, and as ever our gratitude goes to AISPA and its supporters for enabling our work in rescuing and improving the living standards of horses in Italy and beyond.



TORRE ARGENTINA CAT SANCTUARY

Rome



new generation. The role of President was passed on to Monica Baraschi who was previously the Vice President and has been a volunteer since 2006. Valentina Faiella who has volunteered for more than 15 years became the Vice President, while continuing her role as Secretary of the governing board. I was also invited to become part of the governing board after volunteering at the shelter since 2011.

Together we form a team with

strong roots and years of experience working to help the cats of Rome.

A big challenge that we have confronted for many years is people passing on the street feeding the cats. There are numerous signs posted in the area of our shelter and the entrance to the archaeological site, but people just ignore the signs and often rip them down. We don't want people feeding the cats since ours have a diet with good quality cat food, which is fundamental to their health. Pizza, chicken bones and milk are not considered a healthy option for a cat! Offering food also draws the cats up to street level, which is very dangerous near the cars and street traffic.

Whenever we find food left on the stairs or tossed into the ruins, we remove and clean what we can immediately but unfortunately, we are not there 24 hours a day to monitor this.

Sometimes, problems arise through behaviours that may be born out of good intentions and in good faith but sadly end up causing damage. This is the case regarding the terrible habit of tourists and locals trying to attract the cats' attention, particularly the cats who live in the area around our garden, through vocalisations, screams, whistles and meow imitations. The Sanctuary is located below street level but cannot be enclosed as it's an archaeological site. Sometimes the calls are to get a photo or to get the cats to go up the stairs or on the pavement to stroke or attempt to pick them up. This exposes them to serious dangers in the form of a road accident or mysterious disappearances. In March, our dear Pantaleone who was always on the stairs, enticed by people and sitting on laps, was taken. Our hearts are broken as to what his fate was. Our

AISPA has been a leading supporter of this unique sanctuary since 1994. Torre Argentina continues to assist approximately 45 colonies around Rome with sterilisations and food. The sanctuary, which was co-founded by Silvia Viviani, is situated in the historic centre of the city.

Christine, one of TA's volunteers, writes:

The association has helped sterilize over 87,000 cats in the 31 years of its existence. Today we face modern challenges of fighting rising costs, keeping things fresh on social media, and having volunteers willing to keep it all running, just to name a few. We feel very fortunate that most of our volunteers have been with us for many years, showing a deep love for the cats and a devotion to the association's main objective to sterilise and help stray cats.

The last year was a very sad time as we lost some of our beloved cats and sadly we had to say goodbye to fifteen of them throughout the year. Whenever one of our cats dies, we always feel as if a piece of ourselves goes with them. However, it also reinforces our determination to help more and appreciate the life we were able to give them, no matter how long or brief it may be. The comfort that we can get is that they were not alone on the streets, and they knew love and compassion.

Our co-founder Silvia Viviani has now retired as President of the Association. Her dedication over the years, together with co-founder Lia Dequel who passed away in 2013, has helped countless cats and has given us a strong foundation to continue what we are doing well into the future. Silvia remains an active volunteer, sharing years of wisdom with a

location has many positive aspects, offering a wonderful home to many cats and attracting visitors who are generous and enable us to reach record highs in sterilising strays, but the negative side is that they are only safe if they remain within the area of the ruins. Afterall, a passer-by is just thinking about petting a cat or getting a photo, not that it may go missing or get hit by a car because of their actions.

Unfortunately, it's not intuitively obvious and as experience has shown us, street signs do not always work but we will continue to kindly talk to the visitors and patiently explain how to help us ensure the safety of the cats.

During the hot summer months, our energy was poured into giving the shelter a refresh. The volunteers did a major cleaning and reorganising of the furniture and allocation of spaces, while also addressing some areas that were prone to leaks when it rains. The nursery where the new arrivals and sick cats live got new cat trees, beds and litterboxes. We were then able to create a second nursery from what used to be an office many years ago and then a storage room.

Our existing space is now more efficiently organised, which helps us better help the cats. Having two separate areas means no overcrowding and having the capacity to keep apart cats that don't get along. Since its inception at the end of 2024, it has been a great success and has reduced the stress level of our more fragile cats. Some fresh paint and new signage completed the project.

Once again in July and August we had to co-exist with invasive hornets that seem to now inhabit the city. They can be dangerous if they sting, so we do our best to tread lightly when they are around and reduce the number of feeding stations where they are attracted to the cats' food. Fortunately, the cats ignore them. They accept and take so much in their stride.

Another experiment in co-habitation was the one with gull chicks. What better place in a busy city, than a tranquil oasis below street level? We wondered if the baby seagulls started to believe they were cats. They enjoyed our cats' food and didn't show any signs of wanting to leave for quite some time. Our cats observed them with curiosity, and everyone was able to co-exist without

any incident. To the volunteers' dismay, a gull chick does not have the same capacity as a cat in learning how to use a litterbox, so we had a big job of keeping the outdoor areas clean during their time as our guests in the garden areas.

It happens occasionally that a cat requires more attention, round the clock care or a longer healing time than is feasible to have in a shelter without 24/7 coverage. When this happens, it's necessary for a volunteer to offer temporary foster care while the cat recovers. One of our cats required chemotherapy after having a tumour removed. The vet recommended that he go through this treatment in a home rather than the shelter since chemotherapy impacts the immune system and could put the cat at risk. Monica volunteered and hosted Jefferson for almost 2 months in her home. Our Valentina had various cats throughout the year. First, Minareto who is a long-haired cat with terrible knots and needed to be shaved. It wasn't possible for him to be in the shelter during the cold months, so he stayed with her while his fur grew back. When he returned, he had a cute wool sweater that she had knitted just for him. She is still hosting two others, Trudeau and Mozart, who require a lot of commitment and constant cleaning.

We were very proud of our spay and neuter campaign which benefitted thousands of cats across the city. We are so happy to have helped so many cats. It is the pinnacle of success in the history of the shelter that we proudly share with our friends at AISPA. Together, we now look forward to continuing our work in the future.



The British Branch of Lega Italiana per la Protezione degli Uccelli



David Lingard heads the UK branch of LIPU-Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli. They are the Italian equivalent of our RSPB and are the leading nature conservation organisation in Italy.

David kindly forwarded this article by Vincenzo Alfano, Mattia Brambilla and Marco Gustin:

THE LAST STRONGHOLD OF THE ORTOLAN BUNTING

A species in very serious decline throughout the whole country with one exception - the Marche.

What has happened to the Ortolan Bunting? Its short repeated metallic call was easily recognised when as youngsters we roamed the countryside which was still cultivated extensively, with many fields interspersed with varied crops. The song certainly indicated the presence of the species, a passeriform from the Bunting family with bright brownish orange colouring of yellow and grey-green. Unfortunately if we were to go over the same routes along the peninsula today, we would no longer hear the song of the Ortolan. But there is one exception: the species still lives on in the Marche.

What it is, where it lives

The Ortolan Bunting is a migratory bird which overwinters mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. The species usually favours open areas with grass, trees and bushes, cultivated in traditional ways. In the decade from 1970 to 1980 the breeding populations in Europe registered a decline, followed more clearly and dramatically in the following three decades, when the fall reached 84 per cent. It is a migratory species which regularly breeds in Italy, its population estimated at the end of the period 2000-2014 to be 1,500-3,000 pairs, whilst in the last decade the result has been between 500-1,500 pairs, a decline of two-thirds less in very little time. On the international level the species is protected by being included in the Schedule I of the Bird Directive and considered to be Spec 2, that is a species in an unfavourable state of conservation and concentrated in Europe

The causes of the decline

Changes in agricultural techniques have affected the Ortolan: agriculture has become more intensified and traditional pastoral methods of agriculture in marginal hill and mountain land are being abandoned over the long term. The causes of the generalised decline of breeding populations in Italy and in Europe are multiple and in part only hypothetical. Loss of habitat is certainly one of the main causes of Ortolans leaving flat areas and foothills of mountains, where the use of chemical products in agriculture is very heavy

and widespread. In Italy the only area where the trend is in the opposite direction, as stated above, is breeding areas in the Marche, where it is only a local phenomenon. The reason for this extreme “resistance” of the populations in the Marche, even in the last few years, has not been successfully investigated. The reasons have been at least partly clarified by LIPU.

The Marche, last refuge

If the Marche region is recognised as the last refuge of the species, what better motive to study the ecological reasons for it being the only region in Italy with a population of Ortolans bucking the trend? The LIPU study was carried out in the province of Pesaro-Urbino, in 20 research areas from the hills closest to the Adriatic coast and in the Apennines, all characterised by predominantly hilly territory with a mosaic of landscapes and slightly sloping areas and within areas considered in large measure to be suitable for the species. Each area studied was examined once or twice and the research on the area was conducted from 1st May to the 15 July. The research included the same number of control sites not far from the sections that were being studied. In each site with birds in and in each control site some variables were collected in order to analyse in detail the characteristics of the soil cover present or absent for the species, for example the presence of fields cultivated with cereals, sunflowers, herbs, hedges, vineyards and solitary trees. On the whole 104 territories were identified as occupied by singing males, spread over the 20 study areas. The most important aspect was the deeper understanding of the variables in the habitat, which had a bearing

on the territories occupied as opposed to the control areas which were not inhabited. This contributed to understanding of the models about the presence of the species, proving the importance of heterogeneity in the agricultural landscape.

Sustainable agriculture

There is a strong bond between the presence of the species and some elements of the landscape which are common to systems of low intensity agriculture, like the rows of tamarisk trees (pure or mixed with other species), dead trees, reed beds and broom. These can benefit the Ortolan in many ways, providing perches for singing on the higher branches or microhabitats adapted for nest building close to the ground. The tamarisks are repeatedly pruned at the base for the first years of growth, which gives rise to a dense lower layer which could offer the best cover for species like the Ortolan which nest close to the base of hedges and trees. The widespread presence of tamarisks, a species which has become naturalised, and which is particularly common in the Marche, is the reason for the Ortolan's better state of health than the other areas of Italy. But it is not the only one: the presence of other crops such as cereals, sunflowers and other produce such as pulses and mixed forage, benefit the species. To sum up, the preservation of single rows of tamarisks, whether on their own or mixed with other species, and the conservation of marginal habitats like patches of reeds and broom are essential measures to enable the Ortolan to survive in its last Italian stronghold. At least in that region we can still delight in its song and its valuable presence.





LITTLE FRIENDS

Caprese Michelangelo

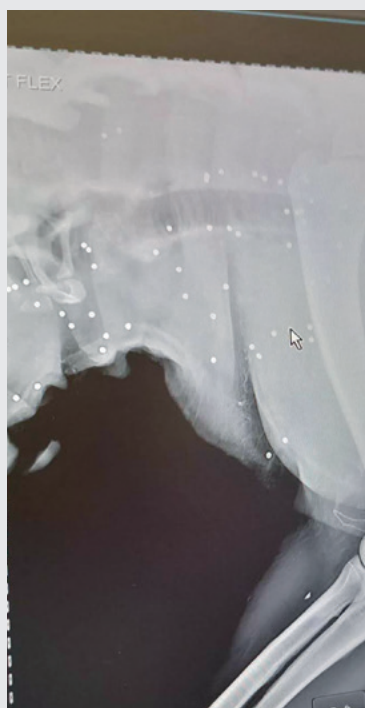
Set in the Tuscan countryside, a few miles from Michelangelo's birthplace, Little friends is run by Freyja Kristensen and a team of dedicated volunteers. AISPA has been supporting this little animal rescue oasis since 2017.

Freyja writes:

In the past year one of our most touching rescues was that of Baldyr.

This poor dog was shot by a hunter and he was obviously in a lot of pain and needed special care. Unfortunately as soon as we rescued him and took him to the vets to run medical checks and scans we realised that he was still full of shotgun pellets but we had to take the decision, under the expert advice from our vets, that the best course of action was to leave some of the pellets as removal would be far more dangerous and put his life at risk.

Despite his ordeal Baldyr is now making a good recovery and has a real chance here at our little sanctuary. Even though he went through potentially fatal injuries, he is a very sweet and loving boy. So much so that I have named him Baldyr after the Nordic God of peace and forgiveness; it seemed appropriate given the fact that he bears no malice whatsoever towards humans despite the bad things that have been done to him.



He's a very kind and gentle dog in spite of his size. It is difficult to rehome such a big dog as he's 45kg so we believe he will remain here unless someone special comes along who can truly commit to him.

He had been living on the streets living off scraps from bins so we found it incredible how quickly he could be house trained and how sociable and loving he is.

The other new notable residents are two little kittens who were abandoned as soon as they were born.

The little white Siamese kitten was entrusted to me by a lady who was handed him in the street by a stranger who swiftly ran off after the deed. Given he was so young I had to bottle feed him every few hours night and day.

The little tabby kitten that is now being raised with him was with a friend of mine who looks after kittens for a local rescue centre so we put the two kittens together as the Siamese kitten had nobody to be with. It was love at first sight between the two of them, they are inseparable now and I've created a warm and inviting kitten nursery for them, filled it with toys, where they are thriving. It goes without saying these are just two, actually three stories that came to mind upon writing this article. There are countless times during the year that I find myself helping animals in need, animals without hope but with plenty to give, and each time my gratitude goes to our supporters, for helping us in giving them a chance at a new life, safe, happy and loved.



LEGACIES

AISPA IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE IN ITALY

Legacies make a major contribution towards AISPA's ability to support animal welfare projects across Italy. If you would consider making AISPA a beneficiary in your will, we would be most grateful.

The following supporters kindly remembered us in their Will:

Margaret Kathleen Jones

Sheila Grant

Josephine Thompson

Patricia Elizabeth Herman

June D Connolly

LEGACIES ARE IMPORTANT TO US THANK YOU



YOU can help us to help **THEM** by:

1. **Filling out the pull-out form in the centre of this brochure.**

A **standing order** enables us to plan more easily for the future.

Please download the form from our website under 'News & Resources' or request a copy from the Secretary.

2. Making an **online donation** through our website **www.aispa.org.uk**

3. **Calling us on +44 (0)1273 763988** so we can take your donation over the phone.

4. **Transferring your donation electronically to our bank** (UK only):

Account No. 02105010, Sort Code 15-99-00.

Please remember to put your name in the Reference Box.

(For international bank transfers see below).

5. Sending your **cheque or postal order** to the address below making it payable to AISPA.

And should you have any used stamps please send them to us periodically.

AISPA, 6th Floor, 2 London Wall Place, London EC2Y 5AU

Information for Supporters residing outside the UK

Should you wish to make a contribution, you can ask your Bank to transfer your donation directly into our account. This is the information your Bank will require:

Account: The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals

Bank: C. Hoare & Co; 37 Fleet Street, London, EC4P 4DQ

SWIFT/BIC: HOABGB2L

For Euros - IBAN: GB51HOAB15990002105280

For UK sterling, dollars and other currencies

IBAN: GB66HOAB15990002105010

**Alternatively, you can donate online by visiting our website
www.aispa.org.uk**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday, 13th November, at The Royal Over-Seas League, London SW1. Crispin Salimbeni took the Chair.

Apologies for absence were received from Mary Hamilton, Lynn Wills, Barbara Gardner

Robert Badcock, Mrs C A Webb, Sharon Bierer, Wendy Savage, Isabel Fuchs, John Letchford, Sally Mitchell, Susan Leverentz, Julia Mercatali, Sarah Best, Susanne Hoffman, Robin Tinsley, Ann Minto, Mary Burgerhout, A J Mildoon, Angela Humphery, May Morris, Judith Thursby, Edith Roulston, Julie Irving, Kathryn Boyes, Jocelyn Rix, Alison Richards, William Richards and Susan Tenison-Collins.

Members were also invited to vote (by post) on the relevant matters on the agenda. Ballot papers were subsequently received from twenty-three members and their votes were submitted by the Secretary during the course of the meeting.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, already circulated in the Annual Report, were approved by the members and signed by the Chairman.

Alison Richards and Malcolm Holliday who retired by rotation were re-elected to the Executive Committee.

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2023 were adopted.

MHA MacIntyre Hudson were appointed as Auditors and approval was given for their remuneration to be fixed by the Executive Committee.

Our guest speaker, David Lingard from LIPU, was unable to attend due to illness. Laura Lavorato, AISPA's Development Manager, gave an audio-visual presentation about our work in Italy.



Legal and Administrative Information

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

Charity Name: The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals
Charity Reg. No.: 208530
Company Number: 00335703

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The following served on the Executive Committee during 2024:

Crispin Salimbeni MA (Chairman & Treasurer)	Susan Dale
William Richards MA	Dr John Knight BVetMed MRCVS
Catherine Pugsley BA	Alison Richards
Dr Malcolm Holliday DVM MRCVS	

PRINCIPAL OFFICE:

6th Floor, 2 London Wall Place
London
EC2Y 5AU

AUDITORS:

MHA MacIntyre Hudson LLP
6th Floor, 2 London Wall Place
London EC2Y 5AU

BANKERS:

C. Hoare & Co.
37 Fleet Street
London
EC4P 4DQ

INVESTMENT MANAGERS:

J.M. Finn & Co.
60 Abbeygate Street
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 1LB

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

SOLICITORS:

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Springfield
Rookery Hill
Ashted KT21 1HY

Scottish Widows
67 Morrison Street
Edinburgh EH3 8YJ

Legal and Administrative Information

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS
SUMMARISED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees Statement

The Summarised Financial Statements contain information extracted from both the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet of the unaudited Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, which were approved by the Trustee Board on 24th September 2025.

The summarised financial statements are not the statutory accounts, but a summary of information extracted from the full annual financial statements.

The summarised financial statements are not the statutory accounts, but a summary of information extracted from the full annual financial statements.

The full annual financial statements, which have been subject to an independent examination, were approved by Rajeev Shaunak FCA on 26 August 2025.

The Independent Examiners Report on the full financial statements contained no matters of concern.

The summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Charity. For further information, the annual financial statements and the Annual Report should be consulted. Copies may be obtained from the charity at Charity Commission, PO Box 211, Bootle, L20 7YX.

The statutory accounts will be submitted to the Charity Commission and the Registrar of Companies.

Risk has been considered with regard to the Charity Commission's guidelines set out in their publication CC26.

Approved by the Trustees on 24th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by Crispin Salimbeni.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE ANGLO-ITALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

I have examined the summarised financial statements of The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are non-statutory accounts.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the annual accounts in accordance with applicable law and the recommendations of the charity SORP. My responsibility is to report to you my opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and report of the trustees.

Basis of opinion

I have carried out the procedures I consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and Trustees' Report from which they have been prepared.

Opinion

In my opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements and the Trustees' Report of The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Rajeev Shaunak FCA

MHA

Chartered Accountants

2 London Wall Place

London EC2Y 5AU

Date: 25h September 2025

MHA is the trading name of MH Advisory Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales (Registered number 16233746).

Legal and Administrative Information

THE ANGLO-ITALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Income	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Voluntary Income:</i>		
Donations, subscriptions and gift aid income	74,812	50,598
Legacies	185,384	21,620
<i>Investment Income:</i>		
Income resources from listed investments	51,343	55,279
Bank deposit interest	1386	10
Total Income for the Year	312,925	127,507
Expenditure	£	£
<i>Costs of Generating Funds</i>	103,163	98,328
<i>Charitable Activities:</i>		
Charitable activities	115,927	118,817
Support costs	69,806	70,536
Total Resources Expended	288,896	287,681
Net Outgoing Resources	24,029	(160,174)
Gain / (Loss) on investment assets	84,920	133,875
Net Movements in Funds	108,949	(26,299)

Note to Financial Statements

Note 1

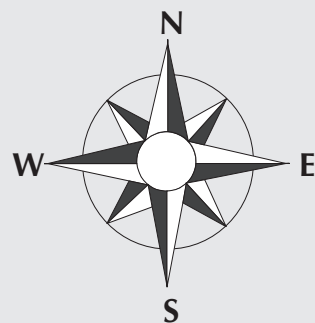
The summary financial statements have been extracted from the un audited financial statements of The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals for the year ended 31 December 2024, which have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Legal and Administrative Information

Statement of Net Assets	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Fixed Assets:</i>		
Tangible assets	204	307
Investments at market value	1,824,477	1,838,969
	<u>1,824,681</u>	<u>1,839,276</u>
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Other debtors	5,880	5,930
Cash at bank and in hand	199,910	75,570
	<u>205,790</u>	<u>81,500</u>
<i>Creditors - Due within one year</i>	(11,180)	(10,434)
Net Current Assets	<u>194,610</u>	<u>71,066</u>
Net Assets as at 31 December 2023	2,019,291	1,910,342
Represented By:	£	£
Accumulated Funds	2,019,291	1,910,342
Total	2,019,291	1,910,342

ANIMAL WELFARE SANCTUARIES AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY AISPA

1. **BRANCALEONE** - Blue Conservancy
2. **CAPRESE MICHELANGELO** - Little Friends
3. **CASTEL VOLTURNO** - Dr. Dorothea Friz
Lega pro Animale & Fondazione Mondo Animale Onlus
4. **CASTIGLIONE DEL LAGO** - Dr Maira Sgueglia
5. **COSENZA** - Gli Invisibili dei Canili Rifugio
6. **CREMONA** - GATTILE APAC Associazione Protezione Animali
7. **FAENZA** - ENPA - Ente Nazionale Protezione Animali
8. **FANO** - Il Graffio
9. **FOLLONICA** - Associazione Gli aMici di Mariella
10. **MONTAIONE** - IHP, Italian Horse Protection Association
11. **MONTECATINI TERME** - Cats Onlus
12. **OLBIA** - LIDA - Lega Italiana per la Difesa degli Animali
13. **PALERMO** - LNDC, Lega Nazionale per la Difesa del Cane
14. **PALERMO** - EDIGA, Ente per la difesa dei gatti
15. **PARMA** - LIPU - Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli
16. **PETTORANO SUL GIZIO** - Salviamo l'Orso
17. **PISA** - Gatti Mammoni
18. **ROME** - The Torre Argentina Sanctuary
19. **ROME** - Verano Cemetery Cats - Association Animal Welfare
20. **SASSARI** - LIDA - Lega Italiana dei Diritti dell'Animale
21. **TRIESTE** - Associazione Il Gattile
22. **TRIESTE** - Liberi di Volare
23. **VENICE** - The Anglo-Venetian Group for the Protection of Stray Animals (DINGO)
24. **VENICE** - Breda Sterle: Spay and neuter outreach work
25. **TAORMINA** - Almagea



AISPA-The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals

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*“Because animals
have no nationality”*

Leonard Hawksley, Founder



(formerly known as Twitter)

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Registered Charity No. 208530