

A Presentation in English and Arabic on Animal Welfare in Kuwait

Presented by Jesse Ruiz and Jenan B.

Report by *Iman Martin* Posted on 7/17/2008



PAWS is a group of dedicated animal loving volunteers who move mountains to help the animals in Kuwait. In a short period of time they have established an animal shelter to take care of the stray & abandoned.

Representatives from the 'Protecting Animal Welfare Society', Kuwait, presented the AWARE duwaniya on Tuesday 11th March 2008. Several of the members attended and a power-point presentation was given to inform the audience all about the aims as well as the work they do.

Since 2004 an active group of volunteers committed to protecting animal welfare here in Kuwait have rescued and re-homed over 700* companion animals. PAWS was formed with the aim of opening Kuwait's first officially licensed shelter for injured, lost and abandoned animals.

Mission Statement – "We strive to provide assistance to homeless, neglected and abandoned animals by providing veterinary care, rescue and adoption services to domestic, wild and pet animals in Kuwait, in partnership with their rescuers."



The first phase was of course to obtain premises, this consisted of 3 rooms and opened in July '05. It soon became apparent that larger premises were needed and fortunately they've been able to move to an air-conditioned building which also has room for the dogs to exercise. The third phase is the office with four isolation rooms for newly arrived cats and dogs. Currently there is kennel space for 72 dogs and similar for cats. Due to their strict policy of not overcrowding when the shelter becomes full the local foster-carers play a crucial role. The animals upon arrival at the shelter are professionally assessed by vets. They are temperament tested, wormed, vaccinated and sprayed or neutered.

Recently the team initiated an Equine Rescue Service with two lucky animals now brought back to health and stabled in comfort for life at Failaka Heritage Stables thanks to the generosity of the Management Team, Denise and Christopher Hartley.

In February the 'Annual Shelter Open Day' was held as a way to publicize, recruit volunteers and educate the local community. Every so often they also hold a special volunteer day to clean/tidy/build. Should you be interested in volunteering you can fill in the online form at their website, details below.

Another Annual event held recently was the Dog Show in which two hundred dogs participated and six hundred people attended. A great time was had by all. To teach responsible pet care and animal respect the volunteers also hold Educational Outreach programmes in schools, colleges, social groups etc. Covering a variety of issues including, how to approach a stray dog etc.

PAWS has quite a few local Patrons: H.E. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Sabah, Prof. Meshal Al-Meshaan, Dr. Saleh Al-Hashem, Mr Hamad Al-Anjari, Mrs Sibella Laing (British Embassy), Mrs Jean LeBaron (Life Patron: US Embassy), Ms Deborah Jones, US Ambassador to Kuwait, Mrs Elsa Worbs (German Embassy), Mrs Jeannette van Honk (Embassy of Netherlands),

PAWS is affiliated to :
Kuwait Environment Protection Society,
RSPCA International
WSPA - World Society for the Protection of Animals

PAWS receives no government or private funding and therefore survive on donations. Which means of course that donations are always welcome. If you're not sure what they require, they have a wish list, no amount is too small because as little as KD1 can help provide items needed. For more information about PAWS and how you can help check out their website:
www.paws-kuwait.org email:
pawsq8@yahoo.com SMS: (965) 9440089

- As of August 2008 the PAWS team have rehomed their 1,000 rescued pet and provided veterinary care to many more animals, pet, wild and domestic.

PHOTOS: PAWS Jenan and Jesse during the presentation on Animal Welfare issues. After an introduction in Arabic and English there was a slideshow presentation on many issues covered by the team including a focus on conditions in pet shops, private zoos and markets where animals, including Cites listed endangered animals are sold. The evening ended with a lively question and answer session.



THE PAWS team thank AWARE for their hospitality and welcome at the AWARE Center.