



An animal in need

How you can help now

Dear animal lovers and holidaymakers,

Every summer we receive numerous inquiries from people who encounter a helpless or stray animal on Crete. Thank you for your compassion and attentiveness! But what should you do in such situations?

Basic principle: Animal welfare only works together!

Every case is different – but one thing always remains the same:

Animal welfare is teamwork!

Our organization is passionately committed to helping animals in need – voluntarily and mostly from Germany. On Crete, there are only a few dedicated helpers, who may not always be available.

Our volunteers primarily operate in the regions around Heraklion and Gouves – therefore, we can only provide direct assistance in these areas. If you are in another location and notice an emergency, please contact the local shelters or organizations responsible in that area.

That's why we kindly ask for your support: *Only together can we make a real difference!*

Important to know: Animal keeping in Greece is often quite different from what we know from other countries.

Please understand that the conditions for animals in Greece are often very different from those from other countries. Keeping animals on chains or in outdoor kennels is unfortunately still common practice – even if this is difficult to comprehend from a other perspective.

But not every free-roaming or seemingly "poor" animal automatically needs to be rescued or removed from its environment.

Our goal is not to place as many animals as possible in shelters – that is neither feasible nor always best for the animal.

Instead, we focus on sustainable help on site:

- **Improving conditions for animals in private ownership** – through education, legal complaints when necessary, and support with neutering and medical care
- **Neutering projects for strays**, especially cats, that can then return to their familiar environment
- **Emergency care and shelter for true emergencies** – such as injured or seriously ill animals, or young puppies that wouldn't survive without help

What is an emergency?

True emergencies include:	Not emergencies include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Puppies wandering alone – e.g. near roads or in trash containers● Nursing dogs with puppies and no visible owner● Sick, injured, or severely weakened dogs and cats● Chained dogs without access to water, shelter, or with very short chains – e.g. in ruins or olive groves● Strays in very poor health condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cats living in restaurants or hotels and being regularly fed● Dogs kept on a chain or in a kennel but provided with food, water, and shelter● Stray dogs with collars that appear healthy and friendly

What helps – and what unfortunately doesn't

✗ Not helpful:

- Contacting us only once you are leaving or already back in Germany
- Sending only photos without location or details
- Reporting an animal without further action – this shifts responsibility
- Leaving or tying animals in front of our shelter
- Taking in animals temporarily and returning them upon departure

✓ What really helps:

- Donations for neutering projects – the most effective way to reduce suffering long-term
- Talk to your hotel – express that sustainable animal welfare matters to you
- Provide water, especially during the hot summer months – a small gesture with a big impact

Step-by-step: What you can do

1. Spotted a dog in poor conditions?

(e.g., chained, no water, no shelter)

- Take photos/videos
- Record the exact location (GPS or map snapshot)
- Contact the local police and insist on filing a report
- Additionally inform our team if possible

2. Animal needs medical help (no known owner)?

- Carefully secure it (e.g., transport in a box)
- Bring it to the nearest vet – many offer discounted rates for strays
- If possible: microchip and neuter
- Release cats back to the same location after recovery

3. Sick/injured animal with known owner?

- Approach calmly and respectfully
- Offer support, e.g., help with vet costs
- Vet visits in Greece are usually much cheaper than in Germany
- Many people love their pets but lack financial means

4. Found puppies?

- Provide fresh water, but don't touch immediately
- Observe if the mother returns regularly
- Take photos and document the location
- Contact us – we'll try to help, but space is very limited in shelters

Important note!

According to Greek animal welfare law (§9 Law 4039/2012), it is prohibited to keep dogs permanently chained or to deny them access to water, food, or shelter.

Unfortunately, this law is not always followed – but it is valid and enforceable.


What does this mean for you?

If you see a dog in obviously poor conditions (e.g., chained long-term without water or shelter), you can report it to the local police.

The police are obliged to record your complaint and may impose fines or take action. What's important:

- Photo or video evidence
- Precise location (address, GPS, or nearby landmarks)
- A clear description of the situation

You can also **leave a note** to raise awareness. Often, owners are unaware that something is wrong – a simple message can make a big difference.

 We've prepared a sample note for this purpose that you can print and leave at the site (e.g. from your hotel).

Use the following QR code or link to access the document:

Link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CHfSoRsilORoPcLXHY3MwAmiayuFJ2AL/view?usp=drive_link

QR - Code:



Thank you for standing up for animals in need – with heart, compassion, and responsibility. Only together can we prevent suffering in the long term.