

## Our New Mobile Clinic

"This is the first Mobile Clinic in Goa, and all associated with it are rightly proud of their achievement." Charmian Byrne, Trustee and Treasurer



"The Bus"

It was one of the first aspirations of those who originally founded Goa Animal Welfare Trust, that they should be able to bring the 'animal doctor' to the people in the outlying areas so that they too could have access to good healthcare for their pets.



Some of the GAWT staff who will be working in the mobile clinic

Now, after many years of setbacks, we have finally raised the money for our new Mobile Veterinary Clinic. Inaugurated on 10<sup>th</sup> October, it is based at Cuchorem, and will be going out to Canacona Shelter weekly to continue our Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes in the Palolem and Canacona area. Different villages will be visited on a rota basis and we will also be carrying out minor operations and treatments for the pets of the local people.

Whilst the clinic is out on the road, all the usual work at our Curchorem Centre's Out-Patients Department, as well as looking after the dogs there, will be led by our second Veterinary Doctor, Dr. Natasha Courtinho, who joined us in September. She is also present at our Anti-Rabies Camps on Sundays and is a welcome addition to our "family".

## New GAWT Charity Shop Opens

Our new shop in Colva is next to **Tate Sports bar**, on the road opposite Goodmans restaurant. It is bigger and in a much more visible place than the previous one. Our range of goods for sale has extended, but we still need your unwanted items such as clothes, towels, and especially your unwanted books, fiction and non-fiction. Our lending library brings us a significant income, but it very much depends on your donations to keep it fresh. We will greatly appreciate your donations to the shop, which will be staffed as before by Felsy. If you want to contact us about a sick dog, please ask her for relevant phone numbers. In an emergency, please call Charmian on (+91) 98221 23288, or the Cuchorem Centre on (+91) 0832 22653677.

## Websites Worth Visiting

Joe Inglis, resident vet on BBC's *The One Show* is running a couple of health-related animal sites. [www.petsgetslim.co.uk](http://www.petsgetslim.co.uk) gives good advice on keeping your pet's weight under control. Joe says "The majority of pets that I see are overweight". Why? "Because we give in to them - they turn their big eyes on us and we give them more food."

Meanwhile, [www.crp.org.uk](http://www.crp.org.uk) is Joe's campaign to make owners aware of what is in their pet's food. Sometimes charcoal or "animal derivatives" or, horror of horrors, "mechanically recovered products" (i.e. swept up off the floor) are added to the pot). Both these sites offer a wealth of good advice and information, and some interesting spin-offs.