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**FEASIBILITY  
STUDY**

## **The purpose of the initiative**

Cyprus, as well as being an historical island with a rich cultural history, is also a very modern, civilised country and full member of the European Union. In addition to its permanent residents, many foreign nationals live and work on the island. A large part of the country's GDP comes from tourism with arrivals from different countries all the year round, due mainly to the island's favourable sunny weather.

As with countries all around the globe, social problems that arise for various reasons and causes require solutions, especially when it comes to the health, mental balance and general well-being of its residents and the protection of its visitors. It is therefore necessary to address any problems that arise in the best possible way, in accordance with international standards and laws.

## **Problem statement**

Our team is particularly concerned about the serious issue of stray cats that are abandoned from birth and left to wonder the streets, hungry and in many cases suffering from ill health. These cats are at risk of getting run over by passing cars on a daily basis and are often tied into bags and left to suffocate from asphyxiation, leading to the pollution of the environment. These situations should not be happening in a civilized country like Cyprus.

The issue of stray cats in the city of Limassol has become particularly concerning with countless examples of caring citizens doing their best to take care of the frightened animals in their yards, offering them some love and food, at their own cost, however, realistically this can only be a temporary solution as the problem is escalating. This situation may also have an impact on the psychological well being of residents and visitors to the island in general, where seeing these poor cats everywhere can cause distress.

The main cause of the problem, which probably began with limited cases (but swelled over time), are due in large to the indifference of people in general. Cats are abandoned, they are not sterilised, the rate of birth is not controlled or checked, they are left to starve, illnesses are rife and they are generally dependant on the few people that have the sensitivity and altruism to care for them.

We are therefore looking at ways to try and solve these problems in a number of different ways. It seems that there has never been an organised effort to raise awareness of the important issues of stray cats. Their fortune, we believe, largely depends on the education of everyone in the community. Education of how the behavior of man towards animals and the understanding of how care and love for them can be mutually rewarding with multiple benefits.



## The Cat Park



## Proposed solution

Our goal is to achieve a permanent solution and not a temporary one. One that will offer housing and care for the cats on a long term basis. The premises will also act as a meeting place for like-minded people who care deeply about the project.

This proposed solution will also offer the opportunity for some people to combine business with pleasure, in the following ways:

- There are a large number of lonely people that want to like spend part of their day in company of the cats, to pet them and to channel their love, as well as to chat to other people with similar interests.
- There are others who are retired and would like to use their leisure time in building skills and be willing to contribute to the organization.
- Studies have shown that people who have psychological problems could benefit from being with animals by simply caressing them and showing them love. It is a painless and inexpensive form of therapy with possible huge benefits.

The solution proposed is original and unique in our country. It has not been done before under such specifications and guidelines and will firstly address government and public institutions before working towards private sponsor initiatives. Once this proposal is put into place, the phenomenon of stray cats will no longer be an issue, they will be sterilised, vaccinated and cared for in protected accommodation.

Of course, if the plan is implemented, it will require maintenance, facilities and skilled staff (other than volunteers) to manage the project efficiently and deliver the expected results. The purpose of our plan is to eliminate the issue of stray cats in our city and at the same time provide an example to other cities.



## The aims of the project

1. Find and lease a plot to create a park with an animal hospital (where a government vet is employed) and a friendly, spacious, natural environment with a cafeteria. There are many empty, unused areas that exist in our city and we will explore them all to find the most appropriate and legally viable available to us. For this and other issues there will be an organising committee which will have a government representative and any volunteers who can be available to help in their spare time.
2. The Animal Hospital will provide the following services:
  - Reception area
  - Managerial and administrative offices
  - Special veterinary areas
  - Separate cat's waiting area and retail space
  - Separate cat establishments designed with outdoor fitness yards with running
  - Separate food preparation rooms
  - Surgeries with separate preparation rooms
  - Separate cat restoration room
  - Separate radiology room
  - Animal quarantine room for contagious diseases
  - Workshop and staff training area
  - Parking

A group of volunteer specialists and technicians can assist in populating the space in their spare time with the necessary equipment and furniture needed. At the same time their endeavours will be an advertisement of their work and products. The decoration of the building and the natural open spaces could be assisted by local artists willing to offer their time, as well as volunteer work from horticultural centers.





## The timeline

The commencement of the project will begin once the land is allocated. Groups will then be organised according to their field of specialisation, to monitor the progress of the project without obstacles and delays. Along with the organisation of accommodation and environment space, studies will be made regarding the acquiring of consumables that will be needed for the nutrition and health of the animals. It will also be necessary to find and hire permanent staff who can monitor the implementation of project guidelines at all levels.

If properly organised and set-up, with the help of animal loving staff and volunteers, this can become a model cultural project which can be imitated in cities island-wide who face similar problems.



Washable food basin



Indoor play area



Handmade water trough



Shelters made from old tyres (strong/durable)



Solar panel lighting



Beds made from old tyres (strong/durable)

### Cat Lovers Cafe

