

RENATE ATHANASSIOU



Renate Athanassiou, our beloved friend and Treasurer at Animal Protection Aegina&Agistri, died Tuesday 13/9/2016 in her house on Aegina.

Renate was a dear friend and an invaluable support to the shelter.

The last two years, having lost her best friend Vivi Iakovidou and facing increasing health problems, Renate often mentioned in her half mocking- half serious way, that *"her time had come to leave"*.

The work she did for the shelter all these years goes far beyond the Herculean task of keeping AP's finances sound and tidy. Caring for the shelter and its people as one would family, Renate contributed personally and in complete secrecy to bridging financial gaps as they occurred. The final days of her life, in acute physical pain and with impaired vision, she worked at the computer because she was anxious to deliver AP's last financial statement.

Always helping those in need, Renate would take home traumatised animals who could not survive in a shelter environment and give them the time and space they needed to heal emotionally. Her healing method was a unique blend of respect, patience and distant companionship towards these hurting creatures, which she tenderly called her *"wrecked friends"* and felt kinship with.

Renate also supported a number of people who helped animals in other parts of Greece, which we only found out when she felt the need to apologize for not being able to support AP even more...

The visible part of Renate's generosity and support is probably only the tip of the iceberg. The full body will be revealed by her absence, in negative footprint.

Renate was resilient and she was brave. She made sure things that mattered were in order before she left. A few months ago she gave away all her dogs, keeping with her only Flipper - Vivi's Flipper - who was too old to be able to adjust to a different life. She did what was best for them but there is no doubt parting with her dogs broke her heart - as parting with her breaks ours.

Irini Molfessi

President of the Board





Vivi and Renate