

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020

Welcome to our Supporters!

The team at the Pan Animalia Foundation would like to welcome you all to our inaugural Newsletter! We wanted to take the time to introduce to you the foundation, who we are, how we started, and what plans we have upcoming for 2020.

Pan Animalia, a Latin phrase for 'all animals', was started by a close-knit team of young professionals that have actively worked all over the world, from the Galapagos to the Maldives to the African coast. The Galapagos Animal Doctors is their first joint project. The team includes:

- Ben Howitt** – a veterinarian who worked as the veterinary manager of a clinic in the Galapagos in 2019. Ben became enthused with the work, the wildlife, and the people. Once the original clinic had closed, he returned to the UK to start up this foundation in order to pursue this passion and return to the islands with a new programme
 
- Henk Labuschagne** – an experienced accountant who works within the financial sector. Originally from South Africa, Henk has been working around the UK for over 5 years
 
- Claire Petros** – a veterinarian who works with the Olive Ridley Project in the Maldives. Claire has a passion for both conservation and wildlife.
 
- Nazim Mukadam** – a veterinary clinical director with over 20 years in the veterinary industry. Nazim hopes to lend his experience to help develop the clinic and its mission.
 

Pan Animalia was an opportunity for this team to share both their passions and experiences, and actively strive towards the common goals of wildlife conservation, animal health and welfare, and social empowerment. The objectives of the foundation are to:

- Help to open up the conversation about conservation
- Empower local communities, individuals, and grass-root projects
- Promote sustainability and social education programmes
- Conserve and protect the biodiversity of local ecosystems
- Endeavour for a healthy and peaceful coexistence between communities, domesticated animals, and endangered wildlife.

An introduction to our Partner: NOVAGALAPAGOS

NovaGalapagos is a Foundation registered with the Ministry of Education in the Galapagos. They were founded in 2006 and have had an intricate involvement in the previous Veterinary Clinic on Santa Cruz Island.

The Galapagos Animal Doctors project is a joint venture between both foundations, with NovaGalapagos focusing particularly on developing the educational programme alongside the veterinary one. The educational programme that will have new objectives launched is called **PEBA** (Promover y Educar acerca del Bienestar Animal); 'to promote and educate about Animal Welfare'.



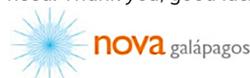
- Mayra Alvarez** – President of NovaGalapagos. Mayra was originally born in Guayaquil, Ecuador. She gained permanent residency for the Galapagos and has spent many years living on the islands. Mayra is an active member of the community and has a passion for education and social movement.
 

- Rene Heyer** – Vice-President and Founder of NovaGalapagos. Born and raised in Zurich, Switzerland, Rene studied business administration and hospitality, travelling around the world within those industries. Rene since settled in the Galapagos many years ago and speaks fluent English, German, French, and Spanish.
 

A little message from the Galapagos:

"The Galapagos Islands locked down on March 15th following the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, and we have now recorded 18 cases ourselves. There has been a tremendous communal effort to support all the people and we are managing well despite the tremendous heat that comes with this time of year. The government and organisations here have acted fast to protect the people, the animals, and the islands. We hope to have the clinic up and running as soon as possible, as there will be a lot of work for all involved once we re-open to the rest of the world.

I would like to send a personal thank you to all of you for your support in helping all of us and the animals of the Islands in need. Thank you, good luck, and stay safe!"



Rene Heyer, Vice-President of NovaGalapagos Foundation



What have we been up to?

The devastating COVID-19 pandemic has led to global uncertainty, but we would like all of our supporters to know that our plans may have been delayed, but they certainly have not stalled. The dogs and cats of the Galapagos, as well as the community, will need veterinarians now more than ever.

Here are a couple of updates of what we have been up to the last month or two, and some may be worth having a listen or a watch too!

1. The Project Proposal Booklet

We have our final Project Proposal in a Booklet format introducing our plans and structure. This is a semi-formal document and if you wish to have a read, patch an email through to ben@pananimalia.org and he can attach it on to you.



2. Public and University Talks

We have been doing a number of talks across the UK and in Universities. These talks have included Guernsey, the University of Bristol, the University of Cambridge, the University of Utrecht, and Highgate College. We did have many more across the UK, but these will undoubtedly be re-organised.

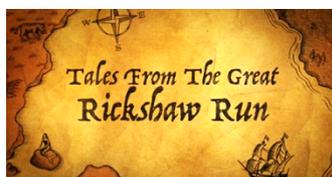


Once things are more settled, we would still be interested in giving talks to small businesses, schools, charities etc, so please get in touch if you would be interested to have one of our members come along to you!



3. Tales from the Great Rickshaw Run

Ben and his friend Will, who is also a veterinarian and spent some time volunteering with Ben in the Galapagos last year, decided to raise some



money for the development of the new clinic and project. As a result, they took part in the Rickshaw Run in January 2020, and ended up travelling 3,500km in 14 days, from the Desert city Jaisalmer in the North of India, to the coastal port of Kochi in the South.

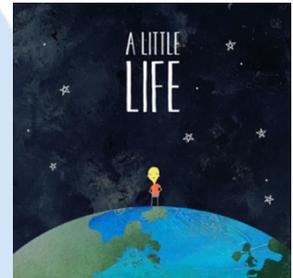
They decided to document their trip and have recently finished editing it. The adventures of this trip can be found on YouTube under the title "Tales from the Great Rickshaw Run" or at this link



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ow3c4X8V14E>). We hope it provides some entertainment and we send a huge thanks to all of those who sponsored their journey!

4. 'A Little Life' – A podcast by Aniket Rajgarhia

A new Podcast that interviews young professionals in multiple different industries to discuss their journeys. The idea is to open up about the challenges, the fears, and help inspire other young professionals wanting to make changes to their lives and careers.



In episode 1 (Part 1 and 2), Aniket talks to Ben about his journey to the Galapagos islands, why he took it on, what were the challenges, and what were the pressures he experienced. The podcast can be found here: <http://anchor.fm/aniket-rajgarhia>

This also features an open discussion, with honesty and transparency, on his experience when an outbreak of Distemper Virus ravaged the population of dogs during his time there. This is particularly topical considering the current COVID-19 viral pandemic.

5. 'My Family and the Galapagos' Series 2, Episode 4

A fantastic series that showcases the beauty of the Galapagos Islands whilst simultaneously discussing the risks to its survival.



As well as presenting the growing concerns regarding the domesticated animals' population and its impact on the endemic species, Ben and his team were briefly filmed on a sterilisation campaign on the island of Isabela. This is a great representation of what we will be doing once we return to the islands with a new veterinary clinic and team.

What is coming up?

The short-term future is currently uncertain, and our dates and timings for launching the clinic are up in the air. However, we cannot afford to completely stall our preparations, and are still going ahead step-by-step.

Volunteer Programme:

For all those hoping to volunteer in the future at the clinic, you can start registering your interest if you have not done so already!

To do so, go to www.pananimalia.org and follow the links. Once we have our volunteer programme dates organised, we will send them on to you for first pick of the dates that suit you. We do very happily encourage volunteering with partners, friends, or colleagues.

We will start by accepting Veterinarians, Veterinary Nurses/Techs, Students, and Animal Healthcare Assistants on to our programme.

Collaborative Research Opportunities:

Alongside the veterinary work, we hope to register interest from those that may be wanting to conduct research related to our field of work and whose programmes are attached to Universities or University Courses. These would be looking more specifically at the impact that domesticated animals may be having on the endemic species and biodiversity of the islands.

Fundraising Drive:

We want to thank all of you who have donated to our development so far, it has been such a tremendous support. With sources of funds for all charities becoming uncertain, we realise how much we need to continue to search for the funding and be open into looking for alternative means of doing so. Therefore, we will be starting a fundraising drive in the not-so-distant future and are wanting your ideas!

What can you do to help out?

Your support is invaluable, especially at this challenging time. There are a number of ways to get involved and keep up-to-date with our progress as we aim to get the Clinic up and running this year!

- Sign up to our newsletter! Feel free to circle this newsletter and encourage friends and family to do the same. To sign-up, head over to www.pananimalia.org and follow the link to subscribe! Alternatively, respond to the email address below stating your interest and we'll add you manually

- Follow us on our social media pages of Facebook and Instagram for more regular updates and photos
- If you are interested in helping our fundraising drive, do register your interest to the team at ben@pananimalia.org. We are looking for all forms of support including additional ideas and manpower!

Thank you all again for your ongoing support, we are excited to keep moving forward and hope you will continue to join us on our venture!

We will keep you updated on how the Galapagos is controlling the crisis, and how our team are managing as they continue to work towards the goal of the Galapagos Animal Doctors project.

With our best wishes,

The
Pan Animalia
Team