



"The Greatness of a nation and its Moral Progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" - Ghandi



Cuddly arrival. During QH's interview, a new arrival was dropped off at the shelter. Janet Berry says this is common.

Their initial concern right after the incident was how they could continue providing shelter for the stray animals. In an instant, help started to emerge as people began turning up at their animal refuge.

"Cars were coming over the hill, guys in their suits that got up from their office, got in their cars and came. We had doctors. We had workers of the building sites, everyone was here. And a lot of people just took animals home. We had a list of all of the animals, where they went, the person they were with and the telephone number so that just in the first 24 hours we could get everybody out of the sun and in a safe place while we regrouped," said Berry.

As for the ones who weren't lucky enough to be welcomed to a new family, they were taken into The Veterinary Surgery and the Qatar Veterinary Centre.

Right now, QAWS is starting to re-establish a new home for our furry friends. "I gave my boarding facility over as a temporary shelter while we rebuild. We're still building although the dogs are in there," said Berry. "To get us through the winter, we've got this facility that we've built ourselves just so they've got a roof over their head. They're still safe, fed and watered and looked after."

As they keep pushing through, continuous support and help have started flooding into the QAWS Community.

"The community is fantastic. Everybody wants to help. We have a couple of companies that have said they will look at the financial cost of rebuilding. We've got architects that have done beautiful drawings, stunning plans. They're just about to put it into 3D graphics for us. It is a state-of-the-art shelter, it's beautiful," said Berry.

Even though things are looking up, there's one thing that's hindering them from fully realising their dream, land. QAWS only rents the piece of land that they are on currently.

"That's what's stopping us. We can't move forward now at all where it's stalemate because we've got funding and the architectural design but nowhere to put it," said Berry. "That's very frustrating. Normally, it's money. You need money and that's why you can't move forward. For us, it's land."

But nothing, not fire, money or bureaucracy will deter them, because of one thing. "You don't need any more incentive than a pair of eyes around there that's pleased to see you. I mean, they don't have anything. Everything they have, we give them. And they're totally dependent. And when you walk around there and a dog wags its tail, it knows you're going to take it for a walk, you're going to give it something to eat, you keeping it safe. That's all the incentive you need," Berry said.

For more information, visit www.qaws.org.