

Episode 43: AUB Cats

Mar7aba

Shukran carol la istidafti ma3ik bel podcast w la ihtimemik b hal mawdoo3 l byetma7war 7awl l bseyonet bel jem3a l amerkiyye b beirut

Ana isme Lynn Wahab w ana ra2eesit SETA (the animal welfare club at the American University of Beirut) ille byu3na b taree2et mu3amalit l 7aywenet, bi taree2a akhle2iyye.

La2anno l jem3a l amerkiyye b beirut min l mase7at l khadra l 2aleele b beirut w b lebnen killo, fee 3anna kteer bseyonet 3al campus, w l tlemeez w l asetze w l kel byet3ayasho ma3on 3al campus. L bseyonet bya3to AUB i7ses 3a2ili. Mitl ma ne7na min roo7 3al campus w min 7ess b 2amen, l bseyonet kamen bye3tebro l AUB beyton w ma7al 2emin la ilon. W hayda 7a22on. L AUB mish bes la l tlemeez w l asetze w l staff, bes lal bseyonet w l tuyoor w l 7asharat.

Fa la hek ne7na bedna gheir ino bes nunbusit feyon w net3ayash ma3on, ne7meyon w nta3meyon akel su77i w n2addemlon mustalzameton l tubbiye w menshen heyk, khel2et fikrit mutatawwi3een min l campus. Mish kelna tlemeez, akeed fee mutatawwi3een min kharij l jism l talibi: fee minnon assetze, fee minnon staff byesteghlo bel library aw bel labs w ghayro.

7aliyyan, 3anna ta2reeban 500 bseyne, 3aysheen b alb l AUB. Tab3an, byotla3o kherij l AUB marrat 3al Corniche, marrat 3al Bliss w bes kellon mne3teberon min l AUB cats la2anno bye3temdo 3aleyna lal akel w lal ihtimem l su77i. Hadafna njeblon akel su77i w nihtem b i7tiyejeton l tubbiyye, w la hek mna3mel fundraising ta n2ammenlon hal ihtimem w b nafs el wa2et, AUB sarlon sneen hinne kamen b 2amno jiz2 min l akel lal bseyonet w b 2amno doctor baytare bye2dar yse3id b2omoor tubiyye bassita.

La soo2 I 7azz w min wara I 2azme I iktisadiyye ille kell I Lebniyye 3aysheen feya w ille tab3an 3am t2asser 3a kell taba2at I ness, w belteli 3al I bseynt (b kel an7a2 lebnen, mish bes bel AUB), 3anna mishkle inno ma ba2 3am ne2dar n2ammen I akel I su77i I mule2im w akeed manno khayar inno njeeb akel baqaya la7me aw djej la2anno hayda manno mnee7 la tabee3it I AUB w la ta3aleem I AUB w gheir hek, ra7 ye3kos / ra7 t2asser 3a su77it I bseynt w fee i7timel inno ysabbebo amrad kteere 3al mada I b3eed.

Lezim njeeb akel mule2im la tabee3it w bee2it I AUB campus. Kirmel hek, mnet3awan ne7na w I AUB inno neshtere akel su77i (w lal asaf sar gheli halla2 bel azme) w 2assasna taree2a halla2 ekhir sene ta nta3me I bseynt w bnafs el wa2et n7afez 3a bee2it w jamel I AUB campus. Shtarakna ma3 jam3iyyet PAW (perpetual animal watch) b Lebnen yalle kamen byehtammo bel 7aywenet. W ma3on, 2derna njeeb 2anabeeb khassa bta3te I bseynt akel (hinne feeding tubes mitl dispensers ma3mooleen min PVC pipes byitla3 akel minnon w bi 2amminlon akel la middit ta2reeban 2-3 iyyem).

Fa b hal tare2ah ma mnetar t7ot akel 3al tare2 kil yom. Bus mnitar kil yawmen tlat teyem n3abeh el-feeding tube. W kamen el-tubes bi7afzo 3ala el-akel ma bi3afen b aleb el-tuba mitel ma iza 7atayne 3ala el-ared. W bikon fi source lal akel deyem lal bsaynt.

3anna kamen cat clinic b alb I AUB, ma kenit maftoo7a bes 2derna nefta7a min ta2reeban sene la2anno 2derna nle2e 7adan mkhassas b I ihtimem bel bseynt w feyo yeshteghel b hal clinic. L clinic ma3moole kermel I bseynt I mareeda I bi7eji la ihtimem zyede, masalan I bseynt I bedda twallid, w I bseynt I ma bte2dar temshe aw tesma3 fa bedda 3ilej abel ma terja3 3al campus.

W tab3an byeshruf 3ala I clinic w 3ala I 2umoor I tubiyye bel AUB doctor baytare w mnet3awan ma3o 2ad ma feena. I adawet w I mustalzamet I tubiyye kamen 3am tighla ma3 I 2azme fa hayda kamen mishkle min 3anne minno, khsoose inno fee kteer bseynt bi 7aje la 3ilej min doctor baytari w fee 3adad kteer kbeere min I bseynt I btintarak aw btenkabb 3al campus w bitseer te3temed 3aleyna la tekol w t3eesh. Ta

ni2de 3a hal mishkle, 3am n7awel nle2e byoot la hal bseyneet I manna 2adra t3eesh 3al campus (masalan I qutat I zgheere aw I bseyneet I bi 7aje la dawa mustalzimi), fa bi hala sene, 2derna nle2e byoot la 150 bseyne, halla2 3aysheen b amen b alb byoot w ma3 3ayleton I jdeede I tbaneton.

W kamen mnehtam b ossit I muy kermel ma yseer fee dehydration bi I sayf. Bhal taree2a min khaffef min I amrad I mumkin tintishir bel bseyneet wa2t el sayf.

Shaghle tenye mhemeh min 7ebb neshteghel 3aleya w nzeeda 3aleya hiyye khase I bseyneet kermel ma yiktar 3adadon 3al campus aktar min ma howwe halla2 bel tazewuj. Fa mna3mellon 3amaliyyet, w 3amaliyyet I khase bassita w 2amini jiddan. W hayda I she min mustalzamet I 7aywenet b kel duwal I 3alam, 7ifazan 3aleyon wa su77eton w kamen 7ifazan 3al bee2a la2anno ma bedna yiktaro I bseyneet la 3adad ma mne2dar nehtamm feyon w nta3meyon. W bheyde I taree2a, ma byektar I 3adad, w hek mne2dar nse3id I bseyneet I mawjoodi, la2anno akeed fee bseyneet ma3on bregheet, dood, w gheyron byil2ato virus aw byeksor 2eedo aw 2ejron, w bi koon b 7aje la 3ilej tubbi. Kamen I khase bi sehim inno nkhafeef min 3adad I kittens, aw I qutat I sghar, la2annon hinne aktar she byet3arrado la viruses aw makhatir.

Kel heyde bi khaffif min inno I bseyneet yidharo barrat I campus kermel ma yit3arrado la 7awedis siyyarat aw akel masmoom aw akel 3atee2 mumkin te2zeyon.

W hayda I she kteer mhemm w ballash hayda I programme b taree2a rasmiyye min zamen min wa2et president Waterbury bel AUB, yalli ken y2ool inno iza I bseyneet bel campus su77iton mnee7a, I bee2a w I ashkhas I 7awaleyon kamen bit koon mnee7a. Bes min sintein 2derna n2asses I SETA club w 2derna nit3awan ma3 mutatawi3een ta n7ott I feeding tubes w I water bowls w ta nballish 7amlit I adoption ta nle2e byoot la kteer min I bseyneet I ma 2adreen y3eesho 7ayeton 3al campus.

Mish I kel bi 7ebon, bes I kel byet3ayash ma3on. Mitl kel I lebniyye, hinne b 3ano kamen min kel I masa3ib I meliyye w menshen hek 3am njarreb nwassel sawtna la aktar ness mumkin yse3doona ta ndal m7afzeen 3al AUB w 3al bseyneet I feya w 3al askhas I byeshteghlo bel ihtimem w I ri3aye bel bseyneet ta njarreb 2ad ma feena nit3awan sawa kermel I bseyneet.

English part

Hello,

Thank you Carol for having me here on this podcast and for your interest in and involvement in the cat community at AUB.

My name is Lynn Wahab and I am the president of SETA (Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) - the animal welfare club at the AUB, which aims to work towards the ethical treatment of and respect towards all animals.

Because AUB campus is one of the very few green spaces in Beirut and in Lebanon in general, it is home to many cats. The students, teachers, and staff all tolerate and live in harmony with the campus cats. These cats give the AUB campus a sense of community and home. Just as we (as students) go to campus and consider AUB our home and our safe space, they do as well. The campus is an open green space and does not belong exclusively to us, but also to the cats, the birds, and even the insects that call this campus home.

Because of this, we do not want to only tolerate and enjoy the presence of the cats, but we also want to work towards protecting them by feeding them and providing them with their medical needs. This is where the volunteers come in. Not all volunteers are students, but some are outside of the student body: students, staff from the library and the labs, and others.

Currently, AUB houses over 500 cats. Of course, they leave the boundaries of AUB campus and sometimes roam the Corniche, Bliss street, and others, but they all are considered AUB cats because they rely on us to provide them with food and medical care. Our goal is to provide them with healthy and appropriate food and care for them, which is why we began fundraising efforts, and AUB also provides a portion of the food needs and provides a vet who supplies basic medical needs.

Unfortunately, because of the current economic collapse that all Lebanese people are currently living through and that is affecting all classes of people, and concurrently, the cats, we are not able to provide the cats with good quality or quantity food. Of course, we can not rely on leftover meats and chicken not only because this is not good for the AUB environment, but also because this will hurt the cats health and can cause problems in the long term.

We need to get appropriate food for the AUB environment and the cats, and so, we work with AUB to buy healthy food (which unfortunately is more expensive now) and we installed innovative feeding systems this past year to do just that. We collaborated with the PAW (Perpetual Animal Watch) NGO to install feeding tubes made from recycled PVC pipes around campus. These feeding tubes provide a consistent, clean, and healthy source of food for the cats and the tubes need to be refilled only every 2-3 days, as opposed to feeding from plates or on the ground (where food rots within hours).

We also have the AUB cat clinic, which was opened just this last year when we found a volunteer who can administer medicine and provide the appropriate care. The purpose of the clinic is to house pregnant cats (as it is not safe to give birth in the cold or in unhygienic conditions), cats who have broken limbs, or cats who have eye and ear infections and need medicine before they can be released back on campus.

Of course, all of this is overseen by a vet who we work with at AUB. Unfortunately, medical supplies are also becoming more expensive with the economic collapse and the inflation, and so we are struggling to provide the necessary care. This is especially important now because many cats are abandoned on campus and rely on us for food and medical care. To combat this problem, we are trying to rehome many of the cats that are struggling to survive alone on campus (vulnerable cats such as kittens or cats which chronic health problems). This year alone, we were able to rehome over 500 cats, who now live in safe homes with their adoptive families.

We also work to provide water via water bowls around campus, especially during summer heat waves. This way, we reduce the spread of illnesses and disease that happens especially when cats are dehydrated in the summer.

Another important point that we work towards and want to increase is spaying and neutering cats to control the population increase. The operation is quick and safe and it is widely accepted all across the world as an important way to protect their health and the environment. If the population increases more than it already is, we will not be able to provide the same care. By spaying and neutering, we control the population, and that way we can better help the cats that already need care, because we have many cats with fleas, parasites, worms, broken limbs, viruses, or others that need medical care. Spaying and neutering also reduces the

number of kittens on campus, and this is important because kittens are of the most vulnerable to viruses and dangers. This also reduces roaming of cats outside of campus, and so it reduces risks of getting run over by cars, eating poisoned food or otherwise dangerous food.

The feeding and spaying and neutering programs were put in place long ago, by President Waterbury at AUB. But, SETA club was founded only two years ago, and only a year ago were we able to work with the AUB volunteers and administration to install feeding tubes, water bowls, and the adoption campaign to find homes for vulnerable cats.

While not all the AUB community loves cats, they all tolerate and respect them. Just like all Lebanese people, the cats are also suffering from the economic crisis and that is why we hope to spread the word to those who may be able to support and help them (whether by adopting, donating, or otherwise supporting the work being done) to protect AUB and its cats.

Thank you

©Copyright of NasmaOfNY