



Amalthia



Dodecanese cattle project
February-March 2026



Dodecanese project - Leros



Transport from Lipsi to Leros

On February the 3rd 2026, a 4-year-old cow belonging to breeder Christos Pantelos, was transported, thanks to the SAVE sponsoring, from Lipsi to Leros. The animal with very good characteristics and pedigree of the Agathonisi breed was going to be slaughtered, due to her untamed character, not being able to be controlled during periodical changes between different pasture plots. With the motto “every single animal is very important and does not need to be slaughtered at this point”, the cow was transported to Leros, where the Karantanis breeder’s family is able to receive and keep any animal due to their extensive rangelands (pastures with open shrubs and phrygana)! They are also specialist in taming very shy or aggressive cattle while dedicating many hours per day to their well-being. The transport was successful and the journey was also short. In just one week they succeeded in calming down this transported cow, in a way that the former breeder at Lipsi never could!





Dodecanese project - Leros



Zootechnical/Environmental study

From March 21st to 26th, Giannis Kazoglou, Professor at the University of Thessaly Department of Forestry, Wood Sciences & Design), started a zootechnical-environmental study (as per agreed project with SAVE) at Leros island, together with two students, one of them coming from Leros. The plan is to perform a research that will integrate the management of, rangeland ecosystems, while supporting sustainable extensive stockbreeding, in this case autochthonous cattle of the Agathonisi type. Here in Leros, at the farm of the Karantanis family, the positive effects of extensive grazing for the conservation of biodiversity is being monitored. The plan is to visit also the other islands, where the Agathonisi breed is present, and study there the grassland and shrub pastures, where the cattle graze. At the same time, some of the animals of the Karantanis farm were measured, in view of a future complete zootechnical study much needed for this rare breed.

Heights of 3 cattle measured on March 24th, 2026, at Leros (Vasilis and Stavros Karantanis farm):

4-year-old grey-black bull: 127 cm

Red cow with ear-tag number 00025: 117 cm

White-grey young cow: 110 cm (this one is expected to grow further)

Photos were taken by Irene Stamopoulou and Yannis Kazoglou.



Dodecanese project - Leros





Dodecanese project - Leros



Zootechnical/Environmental study

