

# DOP

## REHOMING PORTUGUESE DOGS

WWW.DOGSOFPORTUGAL.COM

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY "DOGS OF PORTUGAL"

It has been a year!  
It seems incredible that it has been only one year since Dogs of Portugal was born. It started as nothing more than a name on a napkin, and a group of friends that loved dogs and were wondering how to continue to help all those abandoned and mistreated animals that are found on the streets of Portugal every day, and how to do it better than the "associations" they knew. We had zero money, and no "kennel" from which to support our operations. So the odds were really not so much on our side. But Fortune favours the bold, so we took off to search for a shelter with which to collaborate, and lucky us we found "Cantinho da Milu" in Setubal near Lisbon.



And what a year it has been! To mention just a few achievements: 208 animals rehomed, a network of international partners established over Europe, dozens of dogs socialised by the DOP Canine Rehabilitation Group (GRC), Agility Track built in the shelter, a functional DOP Pharmacy created with hundreds of donated medications being classified and put to good use, the "Animal Spa" set up to care for the hygiene and well-being of the dogs.....  
Let's hope the second year is equally successful.



And the main event of August was a festival organised by the German chapter of DOP in Mainz on the 12th of August. Over 30 families came with their dogs, children and friends to mingle, play, have fun, eat and relax. A wonderful meeting! For the Portuguese volunteers from the shelter and especially Milu, the owner of Cantinho da Milu shelter, it was a real prize to see those dogs happy in their new homes.

Remember that we are always glad to get news from our adopted friends! You are welcome to send us pictures or to participate in the "Dogs of Portugal" facebook group.



### EVENTS - STERILISATION PROJECT

For autumn this year we are preparing a big sterilisation project - two generous vets will devote their skills and time and we have to provide only medications and equipment. Fortunately the installations in the shelter are equipped enough for this kind of operation but we still need to buy things like gloves, scalpels, sutures, needles, syringes, catheters, plastic collars for the dogs, bandages, compresses, etc.



We also need to buy medications: mostly anesthetics for the operation (such as *Zoletil* and *Rompun*), pain killers and antibiotics after the operation (such as *Amoxiciline*, *Synulox* and *Convenia*).



To give you an example, a bottle of *Convenia* costs 130€, a bottle of *Zoletil* 25€ (and we will need at least 10 bottles) and each plastic

collar for a dog costs 2 - 10€ depending on the size.

The plan is to sterilise between 70 and 100 dogs and cats in the shelter which will allow us to keep our commitment of giving always a neutered animal for adoption. (In comparison, dogs adopted from municipal pounds are hardly neutered even if the pounds benefit from the municipal budget.)

Neutering is also important for the balance of our shelter. Taking into consideration that the space houses over 450 dogs, it is vital that all or the highest number possible of them should be neutered.

We will also try to give our contribution to nearby cat colonies to prevent their growth.

The biggest problem in Portugal is the number of unwanted dogs and cats that are born on the streets or in house of their owners and are abandoned afterwards.

**Any donations, material or financial for this very important project ARE WELCOME AND MOST NEEDED!**

## 2013 CALENDAR - FIRST PHOTO SHOOT

August was also marked by our first photo shoot for the 2013 calendar.

This year the sun shined the whole afternoon in the shelter, making it a funny and different one for both dogs and DOP members!

Our photographers: Marina – one of DOP's founders – and Zoraima – always available for our calendar and whose work you can check at [www.zoraimadefigueiredo.com](http://www.zoraimadefigueiredo.com)– had an amazing tolerance to unstoppable dogs and unexperienced manequins and were always looking for the best shot! A big thank you to both of them!

And in November we'll be ready to sell the first calendars! So there you go: a new way of helping many of the abandoned cats and dogs DOP supports everyday – just be ready to order one!



If you want to donate, there are things we always need:

- deworming tablets
- spot-on against fleas and ticks such as *Advantix* and *Frontline* and also *Advocate* for dogs with skin allergies
- collars and leashes
- dog food
- *Actidox* and *Becozyme* for treatment of tick fever and *Conofite* and *Oridermyl* for treatment of ear infections (all can be bought at the pharmacy)

## GET TO KNOW...

**Velhinho** is an old poodle, over 12 years old. He was found on the street a few years ago. He is gentle with people, very calm, good with other dogs. He does not seem to have any health problems, apart from a slight heart murmur but it is normal for an old dog.... It is difficult to find



homes for old dogs.... We are doubtful if we will find a home for him... But to improve life conditions of dogs in the shelter Cantinho da Milu who have entered into senior or geriatric phase of their lives is one of the objectives of the DOP project called "Pandora's Box".

And we are hoping that someone would offer to sponsor his heart medication: he takes one pill of Fortekor 5mg twice a day, one pill of Vetmedin 1,25mg twice a day and one pill of Lasix once a day. The cost of the heart medication is quite a heavy financial burden on the shelter.



**Simbalão** lived on a chain, since a puppy. His owner had him so he would bark. When it was sunny he did not have any shade, he got food and water when the owner remembered. One day he moved away and he left the dog in the shelter. And Simbalão's life changed for the better: he has a

big corral, he is not on the chain, he has food and water, he is vaccinated and if he ever needs, he will get veterinary attention. People enter his corral and pet him and he loves it.

But.... it resulted that he has a heart problem due to heart worm. His heart is so "wasted" that the treatment of heart worm would simply kill him. He needs to take medication for the heart and like this that will probably prolong his life. Maybe in the future a heart worm treatment can be considered but we are not there yet, now his heart is so weak that it needs to be fortified by a whole battery of heart medication. He needs to take Vetmedin 5mg, Fortekor 20mg, Aldactone, Lasix, Lepticortinolo 20mg and Baytril. A sponsoring of this dog would be a life saver for the shelter, you can imagine how much this all costs....

## DOP ADVISES - CHILDREN AND DOGS

The advantages of having a loyal companion of four paws are endless and fortunately many of us recognize it. However, sometimes there are doubts about the benefits (or fears) of having dogs in families with children. DOP gives some good reasons to have or adopt a dog if there are children around!



**Reinforcement of immunity** - A recent study indicates a boost of immunity in children up to 12 months of age who have contact with dogs early in life (in relation to children who do not have this contact), with fewer respiratory infections.

**Taking responsibility** - The adoption of a dog, a cat or another animal is an opportunity to instill in children a sense of responsibility that this decision will bring: it's not a mere

"acquisition", but a commitment to provide all the care the animal needs.

**Psychological development** - Some studies indicate that this contact makes them more confident and sociable individuals. Children perceive them as friends and since there is no verbal communication, they learn to read body language, applying this knowledge later in relationships with people.

**Therapeutic support** - The close relationship established enables this animal to be a comfort and a company in disease, reducing the intensity of the complaints and improving the recovery. They are also used in children with learning difficulties or psychological problems, as they improve the ability to concentrate and the communication, never judging what children do.

Many other benefits of this relationship children - animals may be mentioned, but they would not fit in this space. DOP reminds however that for this relationship to work, it is necessary that the family can integrate the different

elements, providing the education required to dogs (behavior with other people, with children, with the integration of a new element in the family) and progressively teaching children to relate with the dog (avoiding pulling ears or tail, grabbing the dog, screaming, etc). It is a hard work for everyone, but in the end pays off!

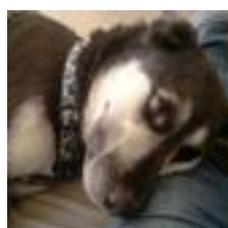
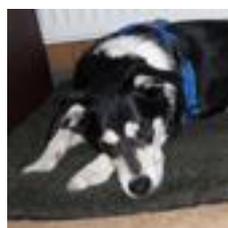
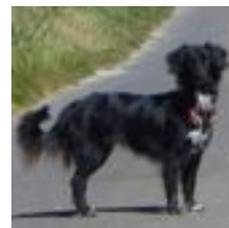
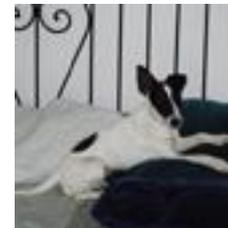


## ADOPTIONS THIS MONTH

In August 2012 a total of 14 animals were adopted!

The lucky ones were: Connie, Fofinho (now Boncuk), Lapsang (now Finchen), Lupito, Maria (now Maggie), Nina, Pandora, Perola Prada, Rita, Shiva (now Smilla), Tanja, Tita (now Linda) and Veloso.

If you have adopted a dog or a cat from us, give us news!



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