



## THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of you, we have had both our girls operated!

Luana had a dislocated knee. The operation went well and she came back to the shelter. She still limps but it is only a question of time when she starts to fully use the leg. What is visible is that she is not in pain anymore because she walks gladly and she wags her tail.

Abby's operation was more serious as her leg and tail were amputated. But this operation also went well and Abby came back to the shelter. She is very well, full of life and she runs easily on three legs.

We would like to thank you for the generous support you have given us to have those two girls operated, without you it would not have been possible!



## WE NEED FLIGHT SPONSORS...

We're always needing volunteers to help out at the shelter. But you can also volunteer occasionally as a **flight sponsor!**

What does it mean? Well, if you go on holidays and fly to the locations where we have homes for our dogs you can take a dog with you. We take care of the organisation of everything on both ends, you simply need to transport the dog.

We are looking for flights from Lisbon to: Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Brussels, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Milan.

## ALFREDO'S HYDROTHERAPY



Alfredo is the gentlest dog you can imagine. Nice, calm, good with other dogs, affectionate with people.

He was found in January this year in a very ugly neighbourhood laying on ground with his leg broken in two places and it took many hours before anyone even paid attention to the suffering dog. When finally someone did, the owner of the shelter immediately went to get him. The fracture was quite complicated and it took long time to heal. Now

finally the leg is good but he still limps on it considerably.

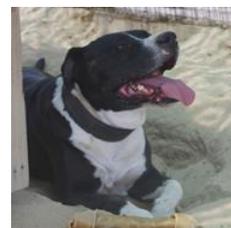
We would like to offer him a 4-week physiotherapy session in the swimming pool (known as Canine Hydrotherapy) at the nearby vet. Hydrotherapy would stimulate his muscles that were affected by the fact that the leg was in the cast for many weeks. We would be grateful for donations... That would really improve the quality of his life.



## HELLO I'M MAX! THE PITTBUL...

Max is a dog that no one wants to adopt... a stigma of being a pitbull. He has been in the shelter for 4 years now, nearly since a puppy.

When we arrived to the shelter we noticed that Max was always alone in his kennel. No one wanted to walk him because he was so strong and he was pulling so much that one person was not managing. You needed two people to walk him. So he was usually not being walked. The less he walked, the more his energy was accumulating and when he was finally out of the kennel, he was pulling immensely. So again, no one wanted to walk him. A vicious circle. Things changed from the day the DOP volunteers decided to walk him regularly. As the walks became routine, he became calmer about them. Now he walks calmly and it is easy for one person to walk him. He also surprised us by proving how intelligent, obedient and gentle he is. It is sad that maybe he will never find a home... But it is not easy being a pitbull...



## LAST MONTH ADOPTIONS

In June 2013 a total of 20 animals were adopted!

The lucky ones were: Agata, Fanny, Francesco, Gastão, Júlia, Lady, Laika, Lexus, Life (now Vida), Marco (now Duncan), Melga (now Jade), Moranguinha (now Emma), Morgana, Niko, Pantufa, Peter, Puma (now Duma), Serrinha (now Pipoca), Snow and Woody (now Fraser).

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



## DOGOTHERAPY

Besides all the advantages of living with a pet that we already know, some already focused on previous newsletters, animals have occupied a prominent place in various activities helping people with special needs. Various theories and projects demonstrate that the mere presence of an animal is a driver for the positive development of a health problem. With this in mind, there are innumerable associations and institutions (national and international) to allow the education of animals, so that they act as a facilitator / therapeutic.

Several concepts arose about this intervention, of which the most widespread are the Animal Assisted Activity (AAA) and Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT). In AAA the presence of the animal has a purpose of entertainment, through which is expected a therapeutic result (i.e., no targets are set at the onset of therapy). In turn, the definition of therapeutic targets is the starting point of TAA, since the animal is regarded as part of the treatment process. As a rule there must be a follow up with a health professional and the results are documented.

With these interventions is expected a positive evolution of patients, whether in terms of cognitive, social, emotional or physical areas. The presence of an animal is a focus of attention on specific tasks, favoring attention and memory; favors the development of affect (they do not judge); are a source of tactile stimulation and enhance the communication. The most common target groups of this type of therapy are mental (such as Down or Turner syndrome), Autism, Cerebral Palsy, or psychiatric disorders (such as schizophrenia or mood disorders).

This role, generally played by dogs, should always be a game for the animal. It is not about putting the dog in service of man, but to give him the skills to help, while playing this game (which also stimulates the dog!).

In Portugal there are several associations operating in this field, although this area is still in its first steps at the national level. For those interested, the institutions can be contacted for more information on these therapeutic interventions. This can be an hobby or even a proposal for future work!

