



TIME TO NEUTER !

The month of April will be sterilization month! We will have the usual project where a vet and a vet assistant will dedicate themselves to clear the backlog of non sterilized dogs in the Cantinho da Milu's shelter. Many dogs entered the shelter since the beginning of the year and we need to concentrate on having them neutered before rehoming them.

We need support to buy the necessary medication and equipment and we count on you - without your help we just cannot do it!



WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF...

- Deworming tablets
- Spot-on against fleas and ticks such as *Advantix* and *Frontline* and also *Advocate* for dogs with skin allergies
- *Scalibor* collars
- *Actidox* and *Becozyme* for treatment of tick fever and *Conofite* and *Oridermyl* for treatment of ear infections
- Medication with *Allopurinol* as an active ingredient

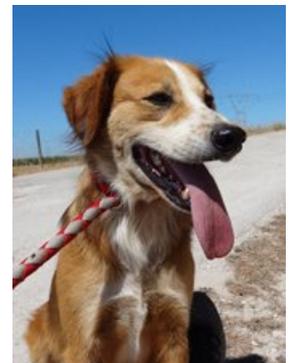
GRC – CANINE REHABILITATION GROUP FUJI, GASTÃO AND DIXIE, THREE SUCCESSFUL CASES!

The rehabilitation process of Fuji, Gastão and Dixie demanded a lot of availability and dedication from the Canine Rehabilitation Group (GRC). The difficulties in our work with them originated from the fact that we did not know anything about their past and we could not know the reasons for certain behaviour but we tried to compensate that with a lot of will to help them regain the balance needed for a possible adoption. For each one of them we opted for a different approach but we always went for the positive reinforcement, dedication and care!



The work with Fuji (he reacted badly to the presence of other males) was done outside of the shelter. We started with regular walks on the leash to gain his trust and respect. Then we gradually introduced him to different male dogs with different temperaments and we ignored unwanted behaviour from his side and rewarded the good one. After a few weeks Fuji realized the advantage of the good behaviour and today he's a social dog.

Gastão had a fearful response to the presence of people and he refused to go on the leash. In his case we chose to start gaining his trust in the place he felt most comfortable: the kennel where he lived. Several GRC members took turns to making sure that Gastão would almost always be accompanied by people and gain as much as possible from that interaction. When his trust was gained, putting the leash on and taking him for walks outside occurred naturally. Today he loves human companionship and being touched, as well as walking on the leash.



Dixie was extremely shy in the presence of people and other dogs. She hid in the corners of her kennel as soon as we got closer. By letting her decide when she wanted to get close we took the "back to the origin" approach. First a member of GRC started to make contact without crossing her boundaries. We wanted her to chose herself to bond with a human and then progress from there. When that happened, we decided to leave the door of her kennel open. This way she could opt to get out or not. At first she always stayed in the premises of her kennel but with time her curiosity and our feigned indifference gave her the courage to walk around but always close to the GRC member with whom she first bonded. She slowly started to accompany us in the various tasks of the day. And once again walks on the leash and socialization occurred naturally and today Dixie is a happy and playful dog.

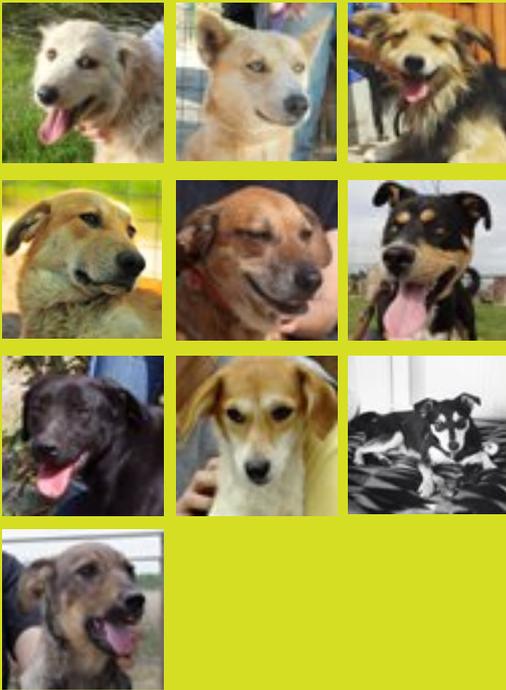
And last but not least, we cannot thank enough the adopters of Fuji and Gastão, as well as all of those who adopt DOP pets. Without you, our success wouldn't be possible!

LAST MONTH ADOPTIONS

In February 2014 a total of 10 animals were adopted!

The lucky ones were: Beethoven (now Kiko), Blue, Hans (now Tim), Leo, Luna, Oscar (now Askan), Pantera, Tânia (now Sunny), Thierry and Thor.

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



DOP VOLUNTEERS

DOP's work is all done on a volunteer basis. It's the volunteer work that enables us to do so much while keeping the costs low. So, whenever someone approaches us to volunteer at an animal shelter we're happy. Not only we'll get more work load done, the dogs will benefit from meeting new people and volunteers will eventually advertise our work among friends and family.

Last January and February we had the pleasure of hosting Maartje and Babette at Cantinho da Milu's shelter for six weeks. Coming from Holland, both chose to volunteer at DOP for their mandatory Animal Care School's internship. And they did such a good job! We're very grateful for their time and dedication.

Maartje wrote to us upon request and had the most wonderful things to say: "We didn't know what to expect but we never thought it would be so fantastic. All the work we did and all the things we learned, we did it all with pleasure and we enjoyed it so much." She also wrote that one of their favorite tasks was to "socialize the shy dogs. Just because you are training them not to be shy anymore, that people are okay and it will help to trust people again and let people fall in love with them so they will get a new lovely home where they will be loved. Also with walking dogs we helped a lot. Some dogs are so full of energy that they actually need to walk every day or dogs who had an operation on their knee and are recovering. (...) It was a lot of hard work at the shelter but we loved every moment of it." And she ends her letter saying "There is so much we've learned and we are so grateful to all the people from Dogs of Portugal for everything. We are definitely going back one day to the shelter, we already miss it!"

And we end our text by letting you know that both of them fell in love with a dog, like all of those who volunteer on a regular basis do. It was very hard and sad for Babette to say goodbye to Verinha. As for Maartje, on the 7th of March Mickey, a dog she just couldn't forget, will go to Holland to join her at home!



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.

