



2014 DOP CALENDAR

Our 2014 calendar is almost ready!

It will be a thoughtful Christmas gift for an animal lover friend or a great way to keep track of all the important dates for 2014. And the best of it? Well, by buying it you'll be helping DOP to continue working with hundreds of cats and dogs in Portugal improving their quality of life in the Portuguese shelters and preparing them for a good and responsible adoption!

Reserve yours now!



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.



PUTTING 2013 INTO PERSPECTIVE...

Time to sum-up the 2013 as it is coming to the end... In 2013 we have rehomed 182 animals and by the end of December we might reach 200, which is a nice round number. Moreover, at the time of writing we are at 484 adoptions since DOP was founded. We are hoping to reach 500!

This could not be achieved without devoted volunteers in Portugal and our always reliable partners in Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Italy and UK. Note that two events were organized in summer for the adopted dogs, one in Germany and one in Denmark – they were source of joy and happiness for us!

This year has been busy not only in the area of rehoming! DOP organized, co-organized and participated in many events. Members of DOP participated in the International Companion Animal Welfare Conference in Spain and in the Dog Trust International Training Programme in the UK. In Portugal they participated in Dia Verde/Green Day in Portugal, as well as local seminars on Geriatric Dogs and Dog First Aid. DOP also held a stand at the International Algarve Fair.

DOP vaccination project 2013 allowed us to vaccinate all dogs in the middle area of the Cantinho da Milu's shelter, which houses around 120 dogs. A second part of the project has been started already whose objective is to vaccinate all dogs in the kennels parallel to the highway - another 150 dogs.

DOP sterilization project 2013 in spring allowed us to sterilize 44 animals in one week. We are preparing the next edition of the project for next spring.

DOP project against Leishmaniasis concentrated on obtaining sponsors for Scalibor collars that protect the dogs against the infectious sand fly as well as obtaining medications and financial donations for the dogs that are already positive to Leishmaniasis.

DOP senior dog project concentrated on increasing the quality of life of the senior dogs by ensuring their vaccinations, in particular the kennel cough vaccination, Scalibor collars, ear cleaning and fur brushing as well as promoting adoptions so they could spend their last years in homes.

Two DOP sections were very active this year. The **DOP Canine Rehabilitation Group** took into evaluating every dog that goes to a new home providing the new owners with the "evaluation form" which we hope contains useful information. The length of work period with the dog depends on its needs – some are very shy and need long socialisation work while some others simply need the basics of obedience and exercise to keep their mental balance.

DOP Hygiene and Esthetics team has been doing wonders preparing dogs for the new life. Every dog is getting a bath or shave and ear cleaning before leaving the shelter. Moreover, a number of dogs with skin problems are given therapeutical bathes once or twice a week and the results are amazing.

Finally, this year we managed to help a few very special cases and that was all due to the help, support and donations of many of you. Many dogs have been helped – either operated when needed or their life quality was improved by physiotherapy and hydrotherapy. Those were usually cases that everyone gave up on – too complicated or too expensive to do anything. With your help we manage the impossible!

Please continue supporting us in 2014.

LAST MONTH ADOPTIONS

In November 2013 a total of 18 animals were adopted!

The lucky ones were: Banze, Bella (now Frida), Benny, Bosco, Brisa (now Mila), Cassie, Gastão (now Cherry), Kandy, Kwanza (now Balu), Lena (now Luna), Liliana (now Lily), Luna, Mel, Nicky, Stella, Sweetie (now Bennie), Toby and Tuga.

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



A DOG'S VALUE IN PORTUGUESE SOCIETY

The owners of Sun and Nube left the country. They left their two dogs and one cat in the house. Without food and without running water. One of the neighbours alerted the municipality and measures were taken to rescue the animals. Right in time, because they were already dehydrated, skeletal and on the verge of dying.

You must be asking yourself what kind of people their owners were. Not only they left their animals behind but they actually left them in a closed space, without food knowing that they would not be coming back – so that the animals would die a painful death. What kind of monsters were they? To take an animal to the vet to have it euthanised is one thing, but to leave it to die in agony and suffering is completely different.

The most scary thing is that it is not an isolated case. We get many cases like this: people who leave their animals behind condemning them to death. We had a Belgian shepherd female left closed in a garage, we had two dogs left in a closed house: one was on the chain and died as the chain prevented him from looking for food and water while his companion survived on mice... This is the proof of the problem of the Portuguese society: in the eyes of many people the dogs and cats are objects, guards, toys, but not members of the family and not living beings able to feel and suffer. This is why no second thought is given to their survival when the owners change their lives. This is why the idea of their possible painful death is met with simple indifference.



THANK YOU!

This month you have helped us a lot. Without your help we would have to close our eyes on cases like this, the expenditure for the surgeries is something the shelter cannot afford. But with your help, we can make a difference!



Yuki - he had a dislocated knee which made walking difficult. After a short walk he was getting tired and was in pain. He was operated and the surgery was successful. He will always limp a bit as he has had his deficiency for a long time and some effects are not reversible but he can walk, run, jump and he does not get tired after a walk. We would like to thank everyone who helped us finance his operation! That was a considerable expense, this is

why we are very grateful for every, even the smallest donation.

Shiva - one day she started to put her paw up and jump on 3 legs. The X-ray discovered that she had two metal pins in her leg that were used to fix a bone fracture, something from her past that we did not know about. One fixture got loose and was hurting. It had to be removed. Shiva is like new now and she uses her leg completely. We would like to thank everyone who helped us finance her operation!



Flocky - due to malnourishment when he was a puppy (he was found in bad state on the street) and tick fever that he caught at the early stage of his life, he developed arthrosis in his front legs. Such a young dog but already arthritic... Walking was a pain. He has been doing hydrotherapy and is now on his third week. The difference is really noticeable! He runs, he plays and the limp is not too visible anymore. We had a very generous reply from you

regarding the contributions to his hydrotherapy, we are very grateful.

Panda - this is another puppy doing hydrotherapy. She was found with deformed leg - probably an accident in which it was broken and it grew badly. As a consequence she limps. We are hoping hydrotherapy will help her. She is now on her third week and although the results are not as visible as in case of Flocky, she also seems more comfortable. We also had generous donations that helped us finance her therapy, thank you!



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
- *Scalibar* collars
- *Actidox* and *Becozyme* for treatment of tick fever and *Conofite* and *Oridermyl* for treatment of ear infections