



## DOP CLICKERS

Clicker training is a method used in dogs, as well as other animals, that combines positive reinforcement with the use of a marker. The clicker is a small mechanical device that makes a short neutral sound to mark the exact moment of the desired behaviour. Used in training, this tool allows for faster and more effective results by improving that communication with the dog, its response time and the management of the rewards.

DOP clickers are already available for purchase. If you're interested in acquiring one, please contact us!



## WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF...

- Deworming tablets
- *Actidox* and *Becozyme* for treatment of tick fever and *Conofite* and *Oridermyl* for treatment of ear infections
- Medication with *Allopurinol* as an active ingredient

We're in urgent need of Scalibor collars and Advantix spot-on so we can protect the dogs at Cantinho da Milu's shelter.



## PUPPY DAY 2.0

On June 29th, DOP organized another edition of Puppy Day in partnership with the organization "O Cantinho da Milu". There has been a serious increase in the number of puppies without families and the organization sheltered at the time 23 babies and a total of 59 puppies under one year old. To promote the juvenile's adoption and raise donations towards the costs of their vaccination we organized a day of celebration with several activities for socialization and raising awareness on animal welfare.



The event was a success with several donations raised, two adoptions made on that day and most likely some more as a result of the advertising. Once more we organized a walk with the visitors, their dogs and dozens of puppies from the shelter. We were privileged with a sunny day and mild temperatures and all dogs and humans enjoyed the opportunity to exercise and socialize.

For the first time the Canine Rehabilitation Group (GRC) held a workshop on "Introduction to Clicker Training" looking to alert adopters to the importance of training their dogs with positive reinforcement methods. Around 30 participants accompanied by their dogs and some of the puppies up for adoption were a very attentive and interactive audience and the star of the demonstration was puppy Safira, with an exemplary performance for her first obedience exercises.

Another novelty were the DOP clickers that are already available for purchase and whose sale will fund our projects! If you want to purchase one, please contact us.

## GOING ON VACATION? DON'T ABANDON YOUR PET!

Have you already planned your summer vacations? Are you already thinking about the sun, the beach, and some ice cold drinks? Have you mentally packed? What about your pet? Do you already know how his/hers vacation will be?



Today you have at your disposal several options that will make possible for you and your pet to enjoy some nice vacations.

If you choose to leave him/her at someone else's care, you have several services and options such as: putting your pet on a pet hotel; keep your pet at home and hire a pet-sitting service; or you can ask a family member, friend or neighbor to watch him/her, an option that is not only cheaper but also more personalized.

But vacations don't necessarily mean you can't take your pet with you. Although in Portugal the number of hotels that allow pets is still very low, the truth is that this number is getting higher. Nowadays, small country houses and some major hotel chains, accept animals overnight, for a small extra fee. So you can always take him/her with you! And if you're going abroad, this option is also viable. But remember: your pet must meet some medical requirements when crossing borders, so be sure to visit your veterinarian.

These vacations don't abandon your pet. He/She's a family member too!

## LAST MONTH ADOPTIONS

In June 2014 a total of 18 animals were adopted!

The lucky ones were: Bolinhas, Gaspar, Georgia, Katy (now Princess), Kyara (now Maat), Laifa (now Atenas), Mário, Marley, Marta, Mimi, Mini (now Sandy), Minnie, Pipa, Sprite, Tintin, Lisboa (now Milou), Sardinha (now Roxy) and Serrinha (now Santiago).



## 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.



## DOGS, CARS AND HEAT

One of the recurring behavior of the owners, more serious in this time of year, is to leave the animals (dogs, cats, etc.) locked inside the cars when they only take "five minutes" in coffee or shopping. This is negligence by the owners, as they undervalue and ignore the serious risks they can cause for their pets.

Despite the numerous warnings to avoid this behavior, every year dogs (and other animals) die victims of high temperatures, due to the simple fact of being left for a few minutes inside a car, even if in the shade or with the windows slightly open. The temperature inside a stationary vehicle is

always higher than the outside temperature (already high), due to a poor circulation of air inside and the easy absorption of solar energy by the external sheetmetal. With an outside temperature of about 25°C, inside a car in a few minutes it can rise up to 45°C; on warmer days (by 35°C), the value attained is simply incompatible with life.

The heat and the inability to get out of that environment (a closed car), will cause great anxiety, with increased heart rate, agitation and stress, which in turn causes an additional increase of the body temperature. As dogs can't perspire, they start panting as a way of trying to lower their body temperature, but with the car being closed this is not effective (because there is no fresh air). When it hits the definition of a heatstroke (collapse due to excessive heat), quickly the various organs begin to fail, leading to a desperate death. Leaving a dog, cat or other animal in a closed car at high temperatures is simply inhumane.

If you identify an animal inside a closed vehicle, there are several signs that point to a heatstroke:

- increased salivation;
- wet skin underneath the eyes due to weeping;
- red gums and tongue;
- shortness of breath;
- rapid heartbeat;
- vomiting;
- incoordination;
- lethargy (slow movements);
- diarrhea;
- lack of response or reaction to the call or the people around;
- loss of consciousness.

In the presence of these signs, you can follow these steps to try and resolve the situation:

- Retain information about the car (registration, make, model, color);
- Try to alert the owner to open the car;
- Alert the police (it is a form of animal cruelty);
- Stay with the car until help arrives;

More drastic measures – such as breaking the glass - must be taken individually, as legal consequences for property damage may occur (although justified).

One way to intervene immediately to tackle the signs of insulation, if you are able to remove the animal, it is to immerse or watering the dog with lots of water in order to quickly down the body temperature. However, this procedure does not avoid an assessment by a veterinarian as other interventions may be needed.

Remember that prevention is always the way to go, and there are several alternatives to take the dog, cat or other friend with us and leave him/she in a closed car at high temperatures:

- use of a drive-in (for both meals and grocery shopping);
- go with someone else who can provide companionship to the pet in an open environment, while you do your tasks;
- opt for shops or places where you can take your dog;
- eating on a terrace, where your friend can be with you;

If none of these alternatives are possible, just leave your pet at home, where he/she is comfortable and cool!

