



Boa Vista, August 2023

## Five years of activity and counting...

### Dear supporters of the Associação Nerina,

We write to you with profound gratitude for your continued support during these past seven months of our intense activity for the Association. You are the fuel for our activities.

Did you miss us? We sincerely apologise for the temporary absence in our information letters, due to commitments that required our special attention. However, we have now taken the time to dedicate ourselves to you, our supporters. Without you, we could not do all that we do now.

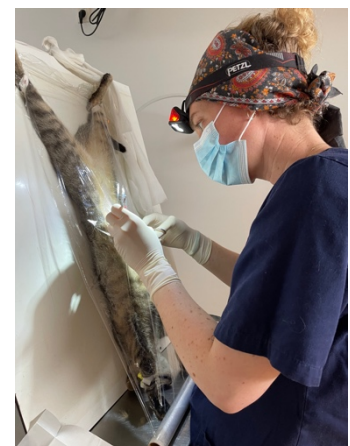
As we try to do more regularly, we want to share with you the progress and unwavering efforts our association has made over the past seven months in pursuing our goal of saving and improving the lives of dogs and cats in need in Boa Vista. It has already been five years since we have existed.

Despite the challenges we have encountered, we are happy to share with you our achievements in the area of sterilizations, which is our main activity. During these seven months, we have managed to carry out over 60 sterilisations in an irregular and out-of-campaign manner.



We also managed to successfully organise a five-day neutering campaign, thanks to the important contribution of two European veterinarians, Lara and Valentina. Adding it all up brings us to a nearing total of 2300 sterilisations since the beginning of our association's existence.

This not only helps to control the stray animal population, but also to improve the health and welfare of the animals themselves.



An achievement we can be proud of.

Among the challenges we faced, we had the resignation of our long-time vet, Laura, who left us at the end of February after 4.5 years. Despite the relatively short resignation period, we were able to continue our activities and deal with a variety of cases even without her presence. This has cost us a lot of personal energy and has left us deeply fatigued.

We are deeply concerned about the continuing practice of poisoning dogs in Boa Vista. This situation, which has been going on for a year now, pains us and fills us with anger. Despite our efforts and pressure, this continues to be a significant challenge and we are working tirelessly to find effective, legal solutions and to raise awareness in the community of the importance of respecting animals. Of all animals!

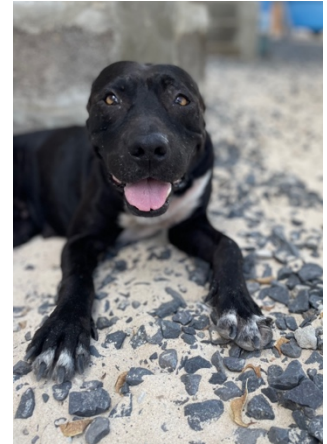
To date we estimate that between 250 and 270 dogs have been killed across the island. Dengui, Donnie, Maraca, Mamina, Vasco, Ninha, Rocky, Panda, Oscar, Bruna, Fufinha, Ciccio, Castanho, Max, Lucky, Emily, Bobby ... these are just some of the names of the dogs we knew well. A pointless atrocity!



## ASSOCIAÇÃO NERINA DE APOIO AOS ANIMAIS & ASSOCIAZIONE NERINA SVIZZERA - BOA VISTA

Pointless for several reasons: most were neutered, duly registered at the dog municipal registry, vaccinated and deparasitised. In the future, those who want a dog, and given the scarcity of puppies, will import them from the other Cape Verde islands.

As you can well understand, the situation is not likely to change for the better. On the contrary, from our point of view we only see a very serious worsening: puppies being transported without their mother at two weeks of age, or an increase in the presence of dogs considered dangerous practically all over Europe. By now we know the quality of the owners of these kinds of dogs. Soon they will be abandoned because they are sick or because they do not produce puppies. At the very moment of writing, we have two matching this description in our shelter: Tessa and Arianna, both absolutely kind and lovely, but still two abandoned pit-bull.



Who knows what will happen to these types of dogs when they are in the wild and in packs?

Moreover, the dog registry has gone from being up-to-date to a totally useless situation: unregistered deaths, new births and new arrivals. So, we went from a situation that we could call 'under control' to a rather chaotic and disorderly situation. Almost a year's work thrown away.

We must add that because of the poisonings, we no longer allow local adoptions in our shelter. Experience has taught us, with much regret, that local dog owners are unable to protect their four-legged friends even on private land. So, there is a stop until the situation changes.

This obviously has an impact on the dog occupancy of our shelter: we cannot get below 56 dogs and often with dogs in care and convalescence, we exceed 60 dogs.

In addition, the economic difficulties generated by the international context between Russia and Ukraine have not spared this fantastic island, causing an increase in costs for water, electricity, food for the animals (+8 Euro per bag) and consumables such as trivial cleaning products. Therefore, each day of accounting operation of the shelter costs 20 to 30 Euros more. All this is putting a strain on our resources.

However, there is also positive news to share. We are happy to announce that during these months we have registered more than thirty adoptions of dogs and cats in Europe, proving that our efforts are paying off and giving many animals the opportunity of a better life.



In particular, we would like to tell you about Nina, a dog abandoned by her owner, who, after experiencing the death by poisoning of her faithful companion Dengui, was happily adopted in Germany. We picked her up from the streets as quickly as possible, vaccinated her and prepared her for Sarah and Tilo.



Truly a dog full of love. One can hardly describe our happiness for this success amidst all the hardships. Here in the two pictures, we see her being prepared by us and in Germany with her new friend.



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Also, as part of the good things that have happened to us in recent months, on 18 April we received a donation of dog and cat food and treats from our favourite donors. We will not describe the entire donation, but simply say that in bags of dog food alone, they managed to secure a month's livelihood. While with the treats, the dogs and cats are still licking their chops. Thank you, Ladies, you are so cool.

Another major donation came from Germany, and more precisely from WDT in Hanover. A modern ultrasound machine, with batteries and everything you need. Thank you, Dr Nonnewitz, you are irreplaceable.



We are also thrilled to welcome to our team the new veterinarian, Stefi, who joined us in May. Her contribution is outstanding: Stefi is proactive, tidy, full of initiative, open to new professional experiences and brings with her valuable (for us) materials and medicines from Europe. Her experience and expertise have refreshed our approach and enabled us to continue to provide the best possible level of care. A warm Welcome, Stefi!

Although we had already performed operations on cats, we can celebrate the first complex orthopaedic operation on a dog, both in our clinic and in Cape Verde. Four hours of work for three people. We discovered how difficult and hard the work of the orthopaedic surgeon is. In the meantime, we are proud and our Strong, that's the name of this thirty-kilo doggy, is recovering very well. We are constantly keeping our fingers crossed that everything goes well. Go Strong!



Perhaps we are repeating ourselves, but we would like to thank from the bottom of our hearts all our staff indiscriminately: Ignazia for all the effort she puts in. Demba for his perseverance, love and resistance to fatigue. Adrian Jaume for the strength he can find to look after our cats. Dominguas for the truly meticulous cleaning of the clinic and quarantine, and finally Gabriel, our dog walker. Sponsored by the two German Ladies who have been following and supporting us since we started. Without him, they would all be without education. You are all Associação Nerina de apoio aos animais. Without you, we would be truly and literally in deep shit.

In the coming months, we will have more news in the area of personnel. In fact, we are expecting someone who will give us a big hand in the care and convalescence of the animals. But we don't want to anticipate more. Stay tuned.

In closing, we would like to be honest about the challenges we are facing. Tiredness and frustration are natural feelings given the complex problems we face every day. It is essential to find ways to take care of our emotional and mental well-being as we continue to pursue our mission. The loss of innocent lives and helplessness in the face of devastating events push us to work even harder to improve the situation. In conclusion, these 7 months have been full of successes, sorrows and challenges.



**ASSOCIAÇÃO NERINA DE APOIO AOS ANIMAIS &  
ASSOCIAZIONE NERINA SVIZZERA - BOA VISTA**

We want to thank you for your continued trust and support in the Nerina Association. We will continue to fight passionately for the welfare of the animals here in Boa Vista and work tirelessly to create a better future for them.

With gratitude and determination

Nathalie Weiner Zeli

**President Associazione Nerina Svizzera - Boa Vista  
and Associação Nerina de apoio aos animais**

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