



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

Mid-year newsletter – June 2025

Dear friends and supporters,

We have reached the halfway point of this year with hearts full of gratitude towards you, who consistently and generously support us in a task that – quite frankly – would be impossible without you.

As you know, we carry out an average of **30 sterilisations per month**, but unfortunately this is not enough. **The number of cats being born continues to exceed our capacity.** We are therefore seriously considering launching an **extraordinary sterilisation campaign**, involving specialist personnel from outside Boa Vista. In particular, we are seeking collaboration with the **Bon Amigos association in Vienna**, which already has experience in similar contexts. In addition, we will ask for local support from the rangers/dog handlers of the Turtle Foundation. We have already worked with them and know their capabilities; they are mobile and independent. The archive photo shows a cat captured in the centre of Sal Rei after weeks of attempts.



This emergency also has a direct impact on our facilities. We are at breaking point. In Sal Rei, the situation is stable with an average of 65 dogs and 20 cats. But in Cabeça dos Tarafes, the reality is very different: we are housing over 105 cats. This means that every day we have to care for, feed, treat and give dignity to more than 120 cats. This is an enormous daily commitment, also from a financial point of view. We would like to take this opportunity to thank **Jaime Adrian Caro** for his enormous and exhausting work with the cats in Cabeça. The photo (by Adrian) shows

the current situation at the cat shelter in Cabeça dos Tarafes.

There is one truth that becomes clearer as time goes by: **every animal we manage to get out of Cape Verde to a safe adoption is an animal saved.** Life here, already hard for humans, is often **unbearable for animals.** Hunger, disease, accidents, abandonment: they suffer everything in an amplified way.

To give you some examples, we would like to tell you two similar but different stories. Each of them shows, in a different way, how much a life can change when there are people who really care.

Two sisters, two worlds: Luly and Lola

Luly and Lola were **sisters found as puppies on the street**, who grew up together until they were 7-8 months old. Born in the sunny alleys of Sal Rei, they sought shelter among boats, stones and half-open doors. Both were sweet, intelligent and docile. But fate had **two different paths** in store for them, simply because of **where they were in their lives**.



Lola was adopted by a young woman. We prepared her and sent her to **Germany**, where she now lives with a special family. Not only is she loved and pampered, she has **become a therapy dog**, bringing joy and comfort to elderly people in a nursing home every week. Her sweet gaze and natural calm have become a precious medicine for many.

Luly, who stayed here, was not so lucky. Despite being taken in by a lovely family and receiving our monitoring and care, one day she did not return. She was reported to us and brought in by European passers-by. She had been poisoned in the city centre, amid indifference and resignation. It was no accident. It was human hands, as is so often the case.

Three puppies, three destinies: Laika, Nina and Soldier

Soldier, Laika and Nina were brought to us by different owners. It was January 2024... Although we knew exactly that **they were from the same litter**, the owners did not want to tell us who their mother was. The idea was to sterilise the whole family to avoid another disastrous litter. It took months to get them back into at least an acceptable condition. Soldier and Nina returned to their Cape Verdean families and we kept Laika, given her precarious condition. In the pictures you can see Soldier and Nina being returned to their owners and Laika comfortably lying on a nice sofa in Switzerland.



Mid-April, **Soldier's owner** brought him back to us, saying that he was moving to another island and couldn't take him with. The dog was in relatively good condition, but you could have seen that he was in pain. The condition of his skin was unclear. It should be added that the owner had brought him to us several times for various ear problems and to keep him free of parasites.

Nina, on the other hand, was given away... She probably no longer looked like the pit bull her first owner wanted. Here in the picture you can see the condition she was in when she was returned to us. In addition to obvious **malnutrition**, you can see **mange** and **general depression**. The two are now in our care and are doing relatively well.



These differences **are not justice. They are reality.** And they remind us every day how urgent, important and vital it is to **take action, help and support.** Because every dog or cat that is left behind is a Luly or a Nina or a Soldier waiting. Every animal that leaves is a Lola or a Laika that made it.

So, dear friends, adopting means saving poor souls in distress. Sayd from the bottom of our hearts, adopt! You won't regret it.

A deep thank you, from of our hearts.

Every pound you donate is a full bowl, a sheltered kennel, a vaccine administered, a life changed. Every adoption is a rescue that fills you with joy every day.

We work tirelessly, day after day, but we are **alone without you.** Those who are outside this circle are not here. **Only you are here.** And for this we are grateful to you, today more than ever.

With love and gratitude,

The association team.



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