



Here we are after 3 years of activity

Yes ... at the end of January 2018 the construction of Nerina's shelter/veterinary clinic was completed and thanks to all of you we are still here.

I'll let you in on a little secret that some of you may already know.

Initially the whole structure was destined for charity to the small association present on the island but then, due to personal problems related to the volunteers of that association (some members due to health problems, others due to work, etc.), Spartaco and I found ourselves alone. Our initial idea was to go "back and forth" from Switzerland and only provide logistical support and fundraising for those who would manage the shelter and the clinic.

It didn't work out that way, so we rolled up our sleeves to be ready to welcome anyone who needed us, from Monday to Sunday.

I remember that, while still in Ticino, a lady said to me: But aren't you afraid of being bored on an island? ... every now and then it comes to mind and I have a good laugh. If that lady were to see me today, she would understand that I am not bored at all, on the contrary, I would need 48-hour days.

A friend of mine, on the other hand, told me: ... you'll see that you'll have a lot to do and that many will want to take advantage of your care! I was a bit doubtful, also because I couldn't quantify the actual need. Yes, we certainly knew that it was necessary to neutered, but from having the shelter with 20 guests after a month of opening, I would not have expected this.

In any case, we were overwhelmed by the request for help and we are happy about it.

Before we arrived on the island, people who had an animal in difficulty didn't dare go to the local vet because they were asked, even before establishing the animal's state of health, who would pay for the service and the animals were then left to suffer their fate or death.

Clearly not all stories have a happy ending, we did not manage to save everyone but we saved MANY and this fills us with happiness. Reflecting on these 3 years, my heart tightens thinking about who we were unable to save The first was Marlon and I remember it was a tragedy, then there was Bricciola, then Chiara, Mèche, Bibi II, Jaimita, Principe, Brownie, Gilda and many others that I won't list here because the list is long but, thinking of how we managed to make them feel good during the last months or weeks, to give them back their dignity, a finally happy look ... well this is priceless !!!!



I know the dog has an iron memory and remembers those who loved them but I was amazed by their demonstration of unconditional love. We often meet some of the dogs we have looked after on the street, perhaps for a month, and I must tell you that their demonstration of gratitude is amazing.



I knew, but I didn't think so. It also happened to us back in Switzerland, where we now have several adopted dogs. Walking into the house, without saying anything and waiting for the dog to react... it's incredible and I wonder how they do it. It may be years since we last saw them, yet the animal's joy leaves us speechless and I can assure you that a tear drops.

I ADORE THEM AND HAVE SO MUCH RESPECT FOR THEM!!!

Speaking of respect ... I will now tell you Viola's story

Viola was born on 22 August 2018 . She was adopted when she was 3 months old by an Italian lady who lived on the island of Boavista. A tragic event happened in November 2019. The lady was killed by another compatriot. Our veterinarian Laura was called to recover the dog. After about a week we were called by the lady's son. He told us that he wanted the dog with him in Italy, in memory of his mother. He subsequently called us about 20 times to try to organise Viola's transfer as soon as possible. We organised a flight and a person to accompany her to Italy to see her son. Everything was ready and two days before the trip, the son told me it was no longer safe. The Wednesday trip was cancelled (Neos Boavista-Verona flight). He calls me on Thursday and tells me that he is now ready for her. I haven't heard from him since that day, and Viola has stayed with us.



I wonder if he thinks about Viola sometimes.

Time and help

Locally it is very difficult to find volunteers even at this particular time. Some of them probably don't have a job anymore and therefore would have the time to help us, even if only to walk the dogs or stroke the cats, but they probably don't have the same outlook on animals as we do.

If you know someone who is interested in coming and spending some time with us, perhaps volunteering in the mornings and beach or kiting in the afternoons, please tell them to come forward. Our four-legged friends will love it.

But we would like to thank Ricky, Giorgia, Antonella, Elena and Rosi for helping us. Those who walk the dogs when they can, those who have raised Pablo in their own home with bottles and those who have done it with 5 newborn kittens. I hope I'm not forgetting anyone, and if not, please don't hold it against me.

Freedom

Many here call it freedom, even Europeans ... nice to see the dog running around in the street, on the beach, free, it does what it wants, the dog of Boavista is used like this, you do not have to force it in the house or on the leash, or sterilize them ... the course of life is like this ...

But NO! This is straying, it is indifference and comfort of people, it is not freedom. Straying is however, in many cases, a death sentence. How many puppies have we seen die because they were not cared for, vaccinated, snatched from their mothers too early and then abandoned in the street because they had grown up.

Thanks to you and to those who support us, we can reduce this straying by continuing with sterilisations. So far we have carried out 1492 sterilizations.

Good things

In March and early April, thanks to a direct international flight from Boavista to Malpensa, we were finally able to take Camilla, Linda and Mirtilla to their new families.



Thanks to Deborah, Antoinette and Deborah for welcoming them.



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Analysis

We are continuing our study with Professor Guadalupe Miró. She has asked us for further sampling and long-term monitoring for data collection.

Visits, treatment and food

During these first 4 months, 231 visits and treatments were made. We treated/operated 34 animals. The kilos of kibble distributed free of charge to people in need amount to about 250 per month.

Cats

We are still looking for a home for Cocò and Trilly in Europe. As they are completely blind we do not trust them to be adopted locally. They are already ready to travel to Europe. Rabies, serology, microchipping

Flights and coronavirus

We are waiting for direct flights so that they can join their new families:
Happy, Kikina, Mamina, Benji, Harper,

Update on Dustin, the fighter - from 22.11.2020 with us

Do you remember Dustin? He is still with us and is definitely doing better. His front paw is almost healed and he is starting to use his back paw from time to time.

I wrote a couple of weeks ago to the DueMari/Effetto Palla Onlus Veterinary Clinic in Sardinia to ask if they could take Dustin in for treatment/operations. Unfortunately, here we are not able and do not have the necessary material to proceed with a possible surgical operation on the front leg.

They had already taken in our Luce in 2020 and subsequently found her an adoptive family. Effetto Palla Onlus is also helping us financially with the Liscera sterilisation project.



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I thought I would send you this "report" at the beginning of April but instead I didn't manage it. In the meantime, and therefore during the month of April, we also had a visit from Grisou and his mistress from Sal Island. They came to us because there are no major treatment options in Sal. Grisou's visible problem was an infected and very swollen left hind leg. Before proceeding with the operation, Laura carried out blood tests and found kidney problems and ehrlichia. An immediate operation on the leg would have been fatal for him, so the other problems were treated first.



Laura and Maria (a Spanish veterinarian visiting Boavista) performed the operation a few days ago. Grisou is now well and will be able to return to his island in a few days.



A big thank you from Boavista. We look forward to seeing you!
Nathalie and Spartaco

Next time I will tell you about Carlotta and Bobby.



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