



Newsletter end of 2025

December 2025

Dear friends and supporters,

We have reached the end of this year with hearts full of gratitude towards you, who so generously support us in a task that would be impossible without your help.

We must admit that we are truly at a loss as to what to say to you as this year draws to a close. It has been a very strange and unusual year. We have experienced many positive things, but just as many negative ones, and the latter have been very difficult.

We could start by saying that we have had many setbacks. The rain arrived suddenly in April, which was unprecedented, and continued until the beginning of December. While this was apparently very positive for the island's nature, it caused many problems for the infrastructure and revived strains of viruses that we were not familiar with.

If we want to stay within the realm of weather conditions, we are experiencing a period of extremely rough seas. Ships are stuck in ports and we are without regular logistics services from other islands, from where we obtain food and medicines for our patients. Here too, we have had some adventures that can only be described as daring. For example, the materials for the November castration campaign reached Boa Vista a week after the campaign had ended. Fortunately, we were able to anticipate and parry the blow with our own resources and carried out the campaign as if everything had gone according to plan.

On the other hand, we can be happy that we managed to achieve several of the goals we set ourselves during the year that is coming to an end.

But let's take it one step at a time.

### The rain



We would like to help those who live in a different reality understand what rain means here in Cape Verde. Even at a basic level, the buildings are not entirely prepared. All the roofs have defects due to the underestimation of possible water infiltration. Of course, it never rains here. However, since the first showers in April, we have had quite a few problems. In the shelter and clinic, water even leaked from the air conditioners and lamps. A disaster! During these months of irregular rainfall, we managed to plug all the water leaks. In the end, it's just a technical problem. But the storms we had in September knocked out the WiFi antennas, the internet, the entrance bell and the transformer for the haematology analyser. In the meantime, we have almost managed to get everything that was damaged back up and running. Almost.

But we had worse. From a medical point of view, with the rain, we had to treat many cases of parvovirus. While we were used to "normal" cases, we discovered that even adult cats and dogs can suffer from it and die. It was a disaster both in terms of the results of the treatment provided and the investment of resources for our clinic. It was hard, very hard. Just think that in Cabeça dos Tarafes, in the Satty shelter's cattery, over 40 cats died, and to this day, we still don't understand why. It was definitely a viral epidemic. But which one? Few can imagine Adrian Jaume's state of mind. His family, his cats, dying one after the other. So many tears, so much pain!

## The results

During the year, we managed to increase the number of places for dogs. With climate change literally battering us, we managed to properly cover at least half of the new central kennels and all of the short-stay kennels. This achievement allows us to live more peacefully and the animals to better cope with these strange weather events.



In June, we told you about a neutering campaign project in collaboration with Bons Amigos Austria. We made a mistake in the name: the campaign was carried out in collaboration with



Co Vets, which was formerly Bons Amigos Austria. That said, today we can boast excellent results from this planned event. In fact, in the last days of November, we managed to neuter 202 animals in an 8.5-day neutering campaign. We know that we have done even better in the past, but in this case, the numbers refer to the neutering of cats, which are notoriously more difficult to catch. What makes us most happy is that 100 of them were female cats. We can consider this result to be

excellent.

If we were to review the results of our activities this year, we would like to highlight the results achieved in the treatment of special cases, such as Rex, who was able to return home after a tibia fracture, or the treatment of osteosarcoma, first with amputation and then with chemotherapy. The latter case comes from the island of Sal, a sign that our work is increasingly recognised on the other islands of Cape Verde. We also operated on the island of Sal: on Locky, a small dog with a fracture, and Micia, a 13-year-old cat with an eye problem. We had to remove her eye following an infection that started in her teeth. All three returned happily to their island.

Among the most beautiful stories to come out of Nerina's daily work, we would also like to mention the adoptions outside the island. In 2025, 46 animals from the island of Boavista finally found a home, a family and a new lease of life.

To all the people who chose to adopt one of our furry friends, we offer our most sincere thanks: thank you for believing in them and welcoming them into your family. Our four-legged friends are special, and these numbers are not just data, but tell stories of lives saved, rebirths and a future filled with love, respect and health.

Among these adoptions, we would like to mention two that are truly special.



**Vasco**, who suffers from a neurological problem. This illness meant he lived under stressful conditions at the Nerina shelter. He needed calm and stability, and today he has been welcomed into a home in Germany. He lives in a peaceful environment and has even found new feline friends, who are not too noisy, with whom he can share his daily life.

Then there is **Peleb**, with his malformations, fragile skin that is easily injured



and a body that has endured too many difficulties. We found a family for him who chose to welcome him despite everything, seeing beyond his fragility and choosing love.

We can only repeat: **“Every animal we manage to send from Cape Verde to a safe adoption is a saved animal”**.

In addition to all this good news, there is another very important piece of news that we would like to share with you. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Sylvie Ritter-Fink, we have managed to establish the Nerina Association in Germany under the name **Pawfection Tierhilfe Nerina e.V.** It was a far from easy process, involving bureaucracy, patience and a lot of work, but thanks to the determination of Sylvie, Stefanie, Linda, Yvonne, Nicole, Gemma, Torben and Dorothea, who contributed their hearts and energy, this dream has become a reality.

The establishment of a Nerina representative office in Germany is a fundamental step for us: it will allow us to strengthen our fundraising efforts with tax exemption, to be more present and structured and, above all, to continue to help the animals of Boavista even more. Anyone who wishes to donate can currently do so by following the PayPal link: [paypal.me/tierhilfenerina](https://paypal.me/tierhilfenerina)

### **A dream for the future**

Many already know this. For a couple of years now, we have been nurturing another big dream, which we hope to turn into reality in 2026: the creation of a new cat shelter, designed to accommodate Adrian Jaume's family. As part of this project, we also envisage a space dedicated to elderly dogs, with a large exercise area for those dogs who, unfortunately, cannot be adopted due to physical problems but who still deserve peace, care and dignity. We would also like to provide a shelter for sick donkeys and an open space where they can stop to drink, eat and find shelter.

The project requires significant funding. We are gradually raising the necessary resources to make it happen. It is a dream that is slowly growing, supported by the hope and help of those who, like us, believe in a better future for the animals of Boavista.

If you would like to follow the progress of donations, support us financially and help us turn this dream into reality, you can contribute to our fundraiser on GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/296ed116f>



We would also like to thank Chris de Aboitiz, an Australian dog trainer who has decided to settle here and is helping us train our dogs. We really needed him. Here he is pictured with Rex, a mixed breed with a Belgian Shepherd accent, who gave us some socialisation problems with humans. From the picture, it looks like he has overcome them. If you don't know him, take a look

here: [https://www.instagram.com/packmatestraining?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_button\\_share\\_sheet&igsh=ZDNlZDc0MzIxNw==](https://www.instagram.com/packmatestraining?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet&igsh=ZDNlZDc0MzIxNw==)

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has participated in the work of the Association, starting with Steffi, our vet, Ignazia and Demba, not to mention Domingas. Let's not forget Alex, who took care of all social media communication and gave us a big helping hand in the clinic, and Manuela, who helps us with treatment records and many other important aspects of our work. And Daphne, who, after just a few days with us, decided to embrace our cause and move to Boa Vista.

Thank you. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has enabled us to carry out our work again this year. We can assure you that every penny spent on our cause is well spent.

**We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy holiday season. We will be spending it happily with our furry friends.**

**You can always count on our tenacity, our desire to improve and to always be on the ball. Let's move forward with enthusiasm into the new year!**

With everlasting affection and gratitude,

### **The Nerina Association team**

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