



Includes reports and photos from the 2025 summer event



Podengo Friends

Magazine

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Cadela Carlota - abandoned dogs' chance

Articel by Bert-Åke & Gunela

Photos by Bert-Åke & Gunela and Cadela Carlota

As many of you probably know, we have been in Portugal for a number of months every winter for health reasons. The climate and tranquility of the small village of Praia da Luz, where we have rented an apartment, are beneficial for sore joints and health problems, as the winter in Sweden is difficult.

Already during our first winter in Portugal, we came into contact with a volunteer activity at the municipal dog shelter, Canilen, in Lagos about 7 kilometers from us. Thanks to the volunteers, the dogs at the shelter could go out for a walk, receive environmental training, socialize, etc. During our years as volunteers at Canilen, we gained some insight and the opportunity to write an article about the activities at Canilen, where most of the dogs were abandoned or had lived in tough conditions. In this issue, we would like to draw attention to another and very admirable activity, Cadela Carlota, a charity located in Lagos-Algarve, with the aim of rescuing and providing shelter for abandoned dogs and cats.

Many of you know that Podengo Friends unfortunately has to say no to "advertising" about dogs at dog shelters that need new homes. We receive a large number of requests from various people and organizations and unfortunately do not have the opportunity to check and vouch for their seriousness. In addition, Podengo Friends' primary basis needs to continue to work for, and inform about, the purebred Podengo Portugues.

However, there are other ways to support, we have together in the group for several years supported various aid organizations such as Hundstallet, Svenska Djurambulansen, Bosses hundhjälp and Black Dog Foundation, this through fundraising such as lotteries, the Podengo calendar, etc.

We hope that with this article we can convey what fantastic and important work Cadela Carlota does and how great the need for contributions is. Perhaps more people, like us privately, can consider becoming members, becoming monthly donors, becoming a sponsor for a dog, or just making a contribution to Cadela Carlota's aid organization for abandoned dogs and cats, they need it so much. Via the link below you can read more about the different options there are to support Cadela, both on your computer and mobile you can easily translate the page to Swedish. On the following pages we will tell you more about Cadela's work. <https://www.cadela-carlota.com/help/>

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The business at Cadela Carlota

We came into contact with Cadela Carlota through a dedicated volunteer, Christina Asklöf, who like us lives in Praia da Luz. We ran into each other on a walk with our dogs - Christina's little Maja and our Billy - who became fond of each other.

Gradually we started talking about dogs in Portugal and soon understood that Christina was very committed to Cadela Carlota.

Since the shelter was a bit far out in the countryside and we didn't have a car, Christina offered to drive us up there. We chose a day when Billy's "aunt Kicki" had come from Sweden to visit us, she loves dogs and has previously had one herself from Hundstallet, a dog shelter in Stockholm. Our visit to Cadela Carlota was an experience that left a mark on our hearts in several different ways.

There are about 80 dogs at the shelter, as well as 23 temporarily placed in foster homes.

You can feel it in your heart to see all the abandoned dogs running up to the fence and hoping that one of us wants them. Pleading eyes, whining, and tails wagging a little cautiously. Others are more jumping and loud, "Choose me, choose me!" We don't notice any aggression in any of them, but shyness in some who don't really trust us two-legged friends, you wonder what they might have been through.

At the same time, we are completely touched by the work of Cadela and the volunteers to give the dogs love, care, protection, and everything else under the conditions they have.

The dogs are allowed to live two or more together in the dog kennels where they have protection from both rain and sun. Most of them also have a sunbed to lie on, something that has been donated by hotels etc. In the shade under one of the sunbeds, a small puppy sleeps who lives with his mother.

The reddish-yellow sand that settles on most things can make it look dirty, but it is not, here the kennels are cleaned by those who work on site.

In one of the first boxes we meet little Tahini who has a deformed front leg. No one knows if it is congenital or if he may have been hit at some point, but it is clear that it is an old injury. Could his disability be the reason he was found abandoned?



Little Tahini who quite recently came to Cadela when we were visiting.

Tahini, who is around 9 years old, was found in February 2025 in the middle of nowhere, by volunteers from Cadela who were hiking in Monchique. He was very thin, full of fleas and a little scared. He was taken to the vet where he was given deworming medication etc. Unfortunately, there was nothing the vet could do about Tahini's deformed legs so he had to go straight to the shelter.

Despite his physical limitations, he is an active and happy dog who gets along well with other dogs, volunteers and visitors to the shelter. He likes to go for walks and is looking forward to coming to a home where people are kind to him, where he will make a great companion.

On every kennels fence there is a photo of the dog/dogs that live there, a good way to learn their names.

In addition, there is also a QR code that can be scanned with a mobile phone to access the dog's profile on Cadela's website. This means that, for example, those who want to adopt a dog can obtain information about the dogs they have just adopted, which in turn gives the volunteers at the shelter more time to take care of the dogs without being busy with a lot of questions - a really good system!

As a reader of the article, you can actually point your mobile phone camera at the QR code we have enlarged at the bottom left, and you will get a link to Tahini's profile on your display.



Cadela Carlota's dog shelter is located in a rural area, between Odiáxere and Mexilhoeira-Grande, while their cat home, with about 60 cats, is located in central Lagos.

The area has a large fenced yard where the dogs can run free and play. We notice their great joy when Christina picks up some of the dogs from their kennel and lets them into the exercise yard.

The enclosure can also be used to train the dogs, there are for example some agility obstacles and a little bit of other things, and if they get too hot there is a pool for the dogs to cool off in, or just play and splash around.



Some of the boxes



Before we take the dogs out for a walk this morning, Christina shows us around and explains how different things are organized at the shelter.

Here there is a notice board with information, a drawing of the boxes, and a schedule where everyone writes down what has been done with each dog. This way, all volunteers can see, for example, which dogs have been walked vs. which need to be taken out. Other things that are good to know are also noted here, there are letters, or signs, for different things.

BE (Beach) = The dog has been taken on a trip to the beach.

B (Brushed) = The dog has been groomed.

P (Play area) = The dog has been allowed to run in the large exercise area.

S (Socialised) = The dog needs to be socialised.

W (Walked) = The dog has been out for a walk.

En svart ● = Hunden är stark (drar).

*** = Hunden är väldigt blyg (osäker) och behöver mycket kärlek och tålamod.

Under the notice board is a large plastic box filled with small portion bags of treats that volunteers can buy to reward the dogs during walks and training.

The treats, which are actually veterinary food, are gentle on the stomach and intestines. Before these bags were available, the dogs could get all kinds of different treats, which upset their stomachs and caused diarrhea, etc.

Next to the board hangs a leash to use for walks, while the harness and collar hang on the fence by each dog's kennel. Everything seems well thought out and well organized.



Volunteers :-)

will notice that there is a black dot ● next to our longer dogs

those highlighted / with *** are our very shy dogs and need loads of love and patience

Some dogs walk better on a harness than just their collar

Harnesses are attached to the pens as this makes it easier for everyone as the harness has been matched to the dog. Once you have walked the dog please place the harness back on the fence OUT OF THE REACH OF THE DOGS

Red C - pen has been cleaned

Please indicate on the sheet either "BE", "B", "P", "S" or "W"
Beach, Brushed, Play area, Socialised or Walked

7-13 APRIL		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	Dogs Name: Berta Date of Birth: 01/01/2017							
2	Dogs Name: Brownie, Gertie, Malika Date of Birth: 01/01/2015		W	W	W			
3	Dogs Name: Lindo, Simone Date of Birth: 18/08/2019, 01/02/2010		W	W	W			
4	Dogs Name: Bo, Myra Date of Birth: 20/09/2016, 25/10/2023		W	W	W			
5	Dogs Name: Little Bull, Sandi Date of Birth: 02/09/2021, 24/03/2004		W	W	W			
6	Dogs Name: Cosmo, Frosty Date of Birth: 18/01/2024, 23/11/2020							
7	Dogs Name: Chanel, Pete Date of Birth: 25/10/2020, 01/03/2020		W	W	W			
8	Dogs Name: Nora, Nury Date of Birth: 12/05/2017, 12/05/2017							
9	Dogs Name: Mike, Olivia Date of Birth: 16/03/2018, 05/06/2017							
10	Dogs Name: Brutus Date of Birth: 01/08/2016							
11	Dogs Name: Hana, Hondo Date of Birth: 01/01/2023							
12	Dogs Name: Handy, Thunder Date of Birth: 14/02/2024, 17/01/2024							
13	Dogs Name: Jacqui, Mia, Morris Date of Birth: 01/07/2011, 01/01/2017, 01/01/2017							
14	Dogs Name: Emma, Esterica Date of Birth: 01/01/2012, 14/08/2021							

7-13 APRIL		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
14	Dogs Names: Black, Rocky Date of Birth: 05/09/2021, 05/09/2021							
15	Dogs Names: Bobi, Pita Date of Birth: 10/09/2013, 18/11/2013							
16	Dogs Names: Dina, Russell Date of Birth: 01/07/2011, 09/07/2016							
17	Dogs Names: Pagra, Manny Date of Birth: 01/11/2021, 28/04/2023							
17A	Dogs Name: Ellen Date of Birth: 16/05/2024							
17B	Dogs Name: Kiril Date of Birth: 01/11/2021							
18	Dogs Names: Muki, Faieca Date of Birth: 14/05/2021, 01/01/2020							
19	Dogs Names: Beney, Stella Date of Birth: 01/07/2009, 13/03/2018							
20	Dogs Names: Jonny, Tansy Date of Birth: 01/09/2013, 01/10/2013							
21	Dogs Names: Snoopy, Zara Date of Birth: 06/06/2012, 01/05/2017							
24	Dogs Names: Casper, Mandy, Sir Verde Date of Birth: 19/08/2021, 01/07/2018, 01/07/2015							
25	Dogs Names: Daisy, Daniel Date of Birth: 01/01/2019							
26A	Dogs Names: Chico, Maria Date of Birth: 01/01/2019, 06/03/2014							

7-13 APRIL		Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
25 B	Dogs Names: Borboletta, Francisca Date of Birth: 08/10/2017, 01/05/2018							
26	Dogs Name: Lobito Date of Birth: 07/12/2019							
27	Dogs Names: Eden, Dusty Date of Birth: 16/05/2024, 01/02/2019							
28	Dogs Names: Kiri 2, Luna Date of Birth: 06/03/2017, 27/04/2020							
29	Dogs Names: Violeta, Max Date of Birth: 18/01/2023, 01/12/2015							
30	Dogs Name: Thor							
31	Dogs Names: Maria, Leo Date of Birth: 01/07/2018, 01/01/2019							
32	Dogs Names: Pivetea, Tante Date of Birth: 06/03/2020, 01/07/2018							
33	Dogs Names: Nicole, Pige Date of Birth: 20/06/2023, 01/02/2022							
34	Dogs Names: Ambo, Francisco, Freda, Pipo Date of Birth: 12/12/2024, 12/12/2024, 12/12/2024, 15/10/2024							
35	Dogs Names: Henna, Rocky Date of Birth: 01/05/2023, 01/09/2018							
36	Dogs Names: Hobby, Photo Date of Birth: 11/10/2022, 11/10/2022							
37	Dogs Names: Rainy, Schmilky Date of Birth: 01/09/2023							

Cadela Carlota's dog shelter is large, what we feel distinguishes Cadela from the municipal shelter we have been to is that here the dogs live in kennels with quite generous surfaces. The surface is natural - not stone-paved floors, and all kennels have dog houses and beds (sunbeds) to lie on. They also have a shed with a roof, or a stretched fabric roof, as protection from both sun and rain.

If we have counted correctly on the kennel drawing and the schedule, there are 42 kennels. In these there are 80 dogs that are cared for every day by dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly.

In one of the kennels we see a volunteer who just sits completely still and in a low, soft voice talks to the dog without touching it. We believe it may be a dog that has been mistreated by humans, or that has lived abandoned on the streets for many years, and therefore has no trust in us two-legged friends.

It's something we've experienced before at the municipal shelter Canilen where we volunteered. One of the dogs that came in there, Faischa, made a big impression on our hearts when she arrived there, completely terrified of people. She tried to run away, ducked as soon as a hand was raised, and curled up into a shaking little ball.

But with tireless patience from one of the shelter employees, a wonderful older man, the little female slowly became more confident with people.

We remember well how he sat in her kennel and just talked softly and put some treats on the ground.

When Faischa was ready after a while, she became a favorite for us, especially Gunela, to take out on walks.

We brought our calm, confident Billy with us, who could hopefully be a support. It was a great happiness the first time she dared to take treats from our hands, and in the next step allowed us to pet her without showing her teeth or trying to escape.

The last walk before our trip back to Sweden, she was even able to lie next to us in the grass during a short break on the way and let Gunela pet her.

September 2020, beautiful little Faischa found her "forever home" in Germany.



During the walks, Gunela took the opportunity to build trust with Faischa, who gradually became less tense and calmly took the candy from her hand.

When Cadela Calota was looking for a place to take care of homeless dogs in 2012, they were offered to rent this land for a symbolic amount.

The landowner, who liked dogs, was friends with members of the charity group. The land was also very suitable because it was large and located far from the urban area.

Cadela Carlota now owns the land, having bought it in December 2023.



In each kennels, water bowls are mounted on the fence, they are connected directly to the water pipe that fills the bowls. We pass box after box and say hello to the dogs from the outside, most of them jump with joy, thinking that we are going to take them out, instead they get a piece of candy from Christina. She tells us a little bit about each dog until we have visited all the dogs. We are still amazed that we do not see any aggression in any of the dogs, one of the newcomers is said to be a little "snappy", but when Christina enters the box, he is just a little uncertainly curious.

At Cadela Carlota there are 2 people who always staff the shelter, one on weekdays and the other on weekends. These feed and take care of the dogs. In addition to them, there are about 5 permanent volunteers who do regular tasks for the dogs and the shelter.

If you come to Cadela's Saturday walks, there may be even more, up to 10-12 volunteers helping to take the dogs out.

For those who like dogs and cats and have some free time, there are many things you can do as a volunteer at Cadela. Volunteers usually help by walking and spending time with the dogs.

At first, you will be guided by more experienced volunteers to understand how they work with the animals and which dogs and cats require different types of care or treatments. As you become more independent and get to know the animals better, you can try other tasks, such as taking dogs to the beach, or cats to the vet, for example.

There are occasional activities, such as dog walks in the city, trips to the beach or events. On these trips, the volunteers can accompany the dogs.

They can also, if they want, help keep the kennels tidy, replace old blankets and make the kennels more comfortable for the dogs. You can also become a foster home for one or more dogs that cannot live at the shelter, for example older or sick dogs, or puppies.

Another way to help is to become a volunteer in one of the second-hand shops that Cadela has. There, they accept furniture, clothes, books and much more that is donated to them. The proceeds from the sales help with the shelter's costs.

Cadela also receives support from the charity organization Nandi, which helps animals in need in the Algarve.

The municipality also gives Cadela Carlota a monthly contribution towards veterinary costs, in exchange for Cadela taking in some of the dogs and cats that cannot be placed in the municipal shelter.

Despite the contributions Cadela receives, the costs of caring for as many dogs and cats as they do are high. In addition to food and everything else the animals need, there are also costs to run the shelter.

Therefore, all other support is both necessary and welcome, and anyone can make a donation via Paypal. There are many ways to support Cadela Carlota, even small amounts make a difference.

For those who want to support Cadela Carlota and their important work for abandoned dogs and cats, all information is available on their website and Facebook.

<https://www.cadela-carlota.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/cadelacarlota>



The volunteers at the shelter are of many different nationalities such as Belgium, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, France, the USA, South Africa, the UK and more.

We would say that such an activity unites those of us who want to help vulnerable animals, we ourselves made many new friends during the years we were volunteers at the municipal shelter in Lagos.

It is actually a bit sad that we, Bert-Åke and Gunela, now do not have the opportunity to be the same for Cadela Carlota because we will not be staying in Portugal in the same way as before, which you can read about in the article about Billy's heart examination.

For example, it would have been so nice to just sit with an insecure/scared dog in the box and try to gain its trust, a very important job that the volunteers do.



In one of the buildings on the site there is a store with promotional items, such as t-shirts, hoodies, etc., with Cadela's logo. Of course, we each buy a t-shirt to support Cadela. We have also brought garden tools, blankets, dog items, towels, bath towels, etc. that we are donating to the shelter. We can promise that some of it will go towards the operation.



Kicki and Gunela in their nice Cadela Carlota t-shirts

A walk is not always the best option, because for some of the dogs the outside world can be scary. Hardy here is an example of that, he is instead curled up in his kennel where he feels safe and can get some cuddles. Therefore, a home is being sought for Hardy where he can feel safe and secure.

When a dog comes to the shelter, Cadela makes sure it gets the veterinary care and vaccinations it needs. The dog also gets a microchip if it is missing, which is common.

Cadela has a veterinarian who comes to the shelter, but for larger matters such as sterilization, one of the staff goes with the dog to one of the local veterinary clinics.

A found dog cannot be adopted out immediately, usually the finder has searched for the owner via posts on various social media before the animal comes to Cadela.

However, there is a wait of another two weeks before the dog/cat is put up for adoption on Cadela's own website. In some cases, it can be even longer if the dog needs care or is not yet ready for adoption for some reason.

So what happens when someone discovers an abandoned dog?

It is usually advertised in local Facebook groups and in so-called "Missing/Found pets" groups. It is then described where the dog has been seen, in what condition it is - skinny, full of ticks, well-groomed, etc., and whether it was possible to approach it, etc. Sometimes someone comments that they know the dog and the owner who lets it take its daily walks.

But often it is an abandoned dog that needs to be taken care of but can be difficult to catch, it needs to be done by people who know how to go about it.

Sometimes there is a volunteer or two who can help, but usually it is someone from the management who handles it. Cadela always tries to assist with the requests they receive, even if it can be difficult with resources at times.

When someone discovers a dog running loose, it can be difficult to determine whether it is an abandoned dog or one of the many dogs that have been released by the owner to take their own round. The latter is common.

There are two opinions about it, one is that you give the dog freedom - the other is that it is irresponsible because the dog can be run over when it runs loose. Unfortunately, it happens not too rarely and it is just as sad every time.

Dogs that are released by the owner are rarely taken into care, volunteers and other involved people often see the difference between an abandoned dog and a dog with an owner. For example, an "owned" dog often has a collar on it.

On this day when we visit Cadela, a couple shows up with a very small puppy in their arms, they have found it all alone out in the field.

When we ask Ruth, president of Cadela Carlota, if she thinks someone abandoned the puppy there, she replies:

"For us, the puppies that show up alone (a common situation) are a mystery because we don't understand how puppies can get lost. We have no idea if the puppy was abandoned or simply got lost. No one ever comes forward to pick up their dog."

Abandoned puppies are an incredibly sad thing, which we will talk more about on the next page.

At the time of writing, July 2025, Cadela Carlota has already received 5 litters of newborn puppies that have been found abandoned at different times and places. You can also see on the media of other aid organizations that they are struggling with the same thing. Unfortunately, this has become more frequent.

Most often, the newborn litters of puppies are found in garbage cans, placed in bags or boxes. Someone walking by hears small noises and discovers the puppies, which sometimes have both fetal fat and remnants of the umbilical cord left. An incredibly painful and sad event for both the little ones and their mother who was taken away from her puppies so early. It really cuts to the heart.

When we ask several people who work with abandoned dogs who they think is doing something so terrible, and why, we get the answer that it is people who have not sterilized their bitches. They believe that some of them may be the shepherds who use the dogs to guard their livestock, and that they have few or no precautions regarding sterilization.

The found litters of puppies, which are left to Cadela (or other organizations), require a lot of work with feeding and other care around the clock. Here, volunteers and other helpers make an absolutely fantastic effort for the survival of the newborn puppies!



April 4, 2025:

7 puppies found in a trash can in Funchal. They are weak and need treatment for lung infection.

April 23, 2025:

And suddenly 4 more newborns appear. This litter was in a bucket next to a garbage can in the Vale da Ribeira area, Odiáxere.





April 30, 2025:

Another 9 newborn puppies are rescued from a garbage can in Lagos today.

June 18, 2025:

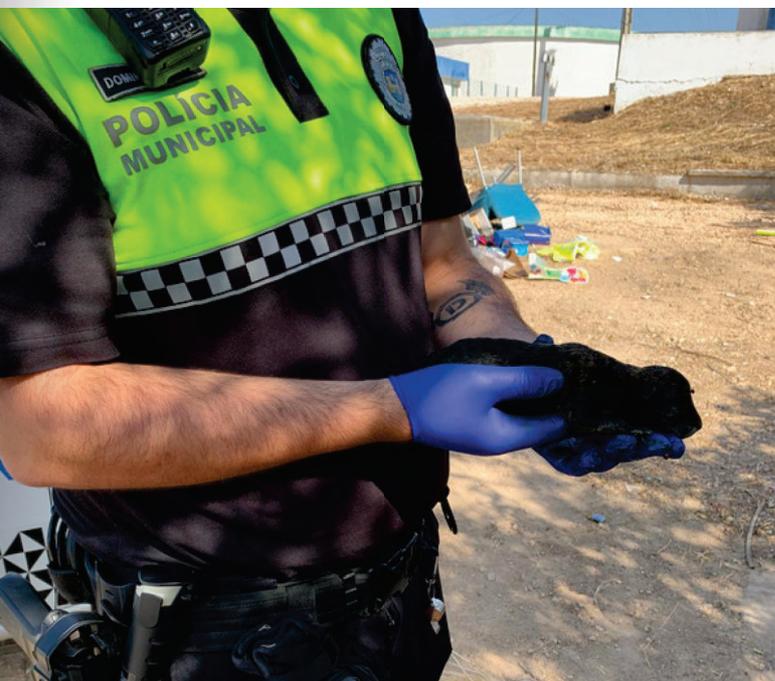
8 newborn puppies that are also found in a trash can, this time in Sargañal.



July 1, 2025:

Lagos State Police rescue abandoned puppies among construction debris, 7 newborn puppies were found at the scene.

Three of the puppies were already dead and the other four were very weak and showed signs of malnutrition. Unfortunately, all the dogs from this litter ended up not surviving. They passed away one by one because they already had problems with their internal organs, likely from being rescued too late.

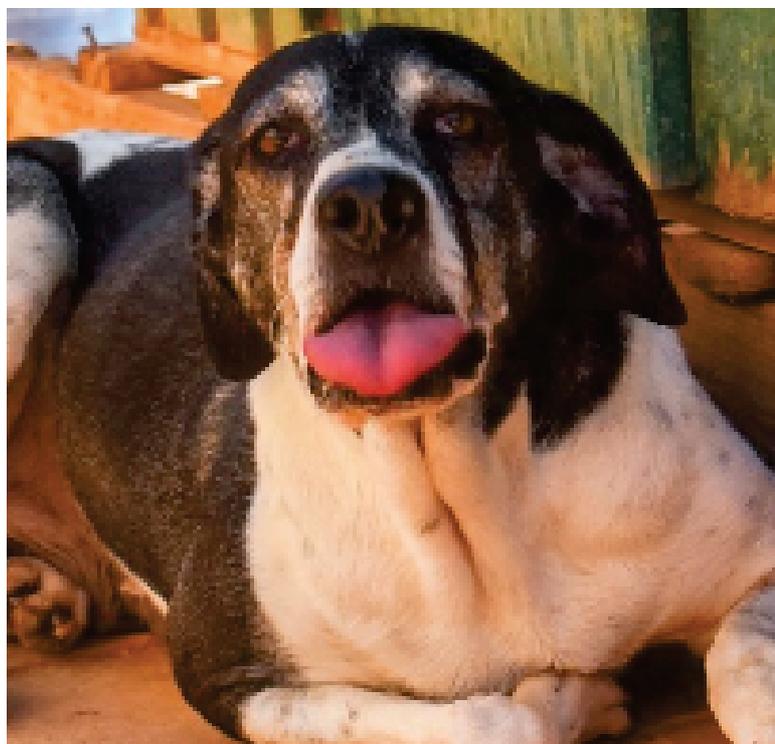


You would think that it is the wonderful puppies that you would like to take home, that is probably what happens most often when someone visits the shelter. But with us, it is the older dogs that leave the biggest mark on our hearts.

Not that the dogs don't have a good time at Cadela, because they really do, they are taken care of in an exemplary way.

But you want these dogs to have the best last years of their lives, filled with care in a warm and loving home.

And unfortunately, it is perhaps the case that it is often difficult to find new homes for older dogs as it can, for example, involve costs for veterinary visits, medications, etc. that the dog needs.



Now it's finally time to take some of the dogs out for a walk. You want to take everyone out who jumps at the gate with pleading eyes, but Christina knows from the schedule which ones need to be let out.

Christina takes Bonnie out, a 1.5 year old female who was born "on the street" where her mother lived for many years. Bonnie is a somewhat fragile, shy dog, so with a soft voice and lots of praise, Christina works to strengthen Bonnie's trust in people.

Bonnie lives in the shelter with Sigg, a nice male who we would actually guess is a podengo portugues medio.

He will be the one we take for the walk, but before we go, Sigg would like to snuggle up with a little cuddle and petting.

Cadela is surrounded by nice walking areas where you hardly meet anyone other than volunteers who are out with the dogs.

Along the walking path we notice that there are bowls and water bottles placed in the shade, a nice consideration for the dogs.



Sigg cuddles with Bert-Åke



Christina and Bert-Åke with Bonnie and Sigg



When we come back from the walk, we are met by a couple who have come to check on Cadela's dogs. They are thinking of adopting a dog and are curious about Siggie, among other things.

We don't know if this was the couple who adopted him, but we do know that Siggie left the shelter the other week to try a new home where there is already a fourlegged little friend.

Russell, who lives with Dina, is a 7-year old male who was adopted from Cadela when he was a little puppy.

Unfortunately, four years later the man in the house died and his wife had to move to another house where she could not take Russell with her.

Russell gets along well with other dogs and loves people. He longs for a family that will stay with him and give him lots of attention and love.

Now it's time for the next walk, this time with Dina and Russel.

Dina is an older female who has been at the shelter for many years. She is shy of men and gets along better with males than other females. She likes to be kissed and is well behaved on a leash.

From what we can see, many of the dogs are "secured" with double leashes, i.e. two leashes that are attached to separate points, such as a collar and a harness.

This way, the dog is still connected even if for some reason, such as fear, it manages to get out of one.

Christina and Gunela with Dina and Russel



For what reasons do the dogs usually come to Cadela? Are they abandoned? Are they rescued from a life in chains? Other?

We asked Ruth, who is the president of Cadela Carlota's non-profit association.

“ The dogs are found in a variety of situations – in garbage cans, as mentioned earlier, on the street, or they are left here by their own owners. Over the past two years, the most common have been people who have left their dogs here because their landlords do not allow pets in the house, or elderly people who give up their dogs when they can no longer take care of them.

We have several dogs that have been rescued from a life in chains, but they are only given to us if their owners either give them up or die.”

We also ask Ruth how Cadela feels about the status of dogs in Portugal.

“ In Portugal there is a bit of everything – people who treat dogs well and people who treat them badly. In our experience, abuse, neglect, abandoned dogs or dogs living on chains are more common in rural areas.

In general, animals are still undervalued in Portugal, and dogs are often seen as tools for work or to guard property. Veterinary care and sterilization are also not considered important by many. It is a matter of mentality and lack of education about animal welfare.”

We understand that the latter thing Ruth talks about often leads to the newborn litters found in the garbage cans.

We remember reading somewhere that a new law came into force in Portugal in 2016 that means that healthy homeless animals can no longer be euthanized, and that municipalities now have a greater responsibility to care for and find new homes for them. We read that Portugal has had a major problem with overpopulation of stray dogs, and that this law is a step in the right direction to solve this problem. Animal rescue organizations and animal shelters have often had difficulty dealing with the large number of homeless animals, so this law means that more resources and focus will be put into caring for these animals.

Can you who have worked with homeless dogs for a long time notice any difference since this law came into effect?

Ruth answers:

“Yes, that’s right – the no-kill law has been in place since 2016. For the law to be truly effective, it should have been accompanied by a massive sterilization campaign. Since that didn’t happen, we see more and more animals being kept in official animal shelters and charity-run rescue centers.

We support the no-kill policy, but we also support sterilization. There should have also been an educational campaign – in schools and among the public – to raise awareness about the importance of sterilization, among other things. That didn’t happen either.”

Official data shows that: “Between 2019 and 2023, there has been an increasing trend in the number of animals collected, adopted and sterilized, and a decreasing trend in the number of euthanasias (...).”

Source: Info from ICNF report for 2023:
<https://www.icnf.pt/api/file/doc/f2a97040183fa303>

Ruth continues:

“ Based on our experience in the field, the situation for animals has worsened year after year since 2020.

For the past three years, the government has provided a budget to cover the specific expenses that animal shelters have for animals.

It is a form of support, but the process of submitting the necessary information to obtain the funding is extremely bureaucratic and the amounts are insufficient.”

How does Cadela work to raise more donations that are so much needed?

Ruth says they try to be as active as possible on social media, keep all the information up-to-date on their website, and have volunteers write articles for local publications.

They also organize or participate in events such as markets and fairs to sell goods, crafts, and other products.

Cadela also has partnerships with local businesses, especially cafes, where they can display information about Cadela and display collection cans.



A few days before our return to Sweden, an event is being held at one of the restaurants, Habana Bar & Cafe, on the beachwalk in Luz. Here, the volunteers talk about Cadela's work and visitors can meet some of the dogs that are available for adoption.

At a table, there are many nice things to buy to support Cadela, and you can also donate things that Cadela can then sell to raise money for the work.

On this occasion, the restaurant has a special menu for diners and all profits from the day are then donated to Cadela Carlota.

The event is well attended and it is noticeable that many people want to get involved for the abandoned dogs.

PAWS FOR A CAUSE



APRIL 27 • 3PM – 5PM
CADELA CARLOTA DOG SHELTER

LIVE MUSIC
BY
HIGH LINES
MUSIC

SPECIAL MENU
(ALL PROFITS TO
THE SHELTER)

BRING DONATIONS
FOR OUR FURRY FRIENDS:
FOOD, TOYS, BLANKETS,
ANYTHING YOU CAN



LET'S MAKE TAILS WAG
AND HEARTS MELT

We had seen the event advertised in the local Facebook groups and on Cadela's pages so we told several friends who live in Luz.

Some of them, our close friends Tom and Janine, then came up with the brilliant idea of inviting us to their house for a gaming night where we would all put some money into the pot that would then be donated to Cadela.

Besides the fact that we all had a very nice evening, it felt nice to be able to donate some money to Cadela at the event at Haban Bar & Cafe.

We had also put together a bag of dog items that we handed over on site, while we also bought several nice things, such as postcards and dog treats, to support Cadela Carlota.



Billy gets help from dad to donate some money and dog things for the dogs at Cadela.

Cadela Carlota tries in various ways to find good homes for the dogs that come to the shelter. They talk about the dogs on Facebook, Instagram and their website - they organize events and they take the dogs to the beach and other places where people can see them.

Despite all the work they do, about 42 percent of the dogs are never adopted. We ask Ruth what she thinks is the reason for this.

“ We have many dogs that are considered “unadoptable” – older dogs, shy dogs that do not tolerate human contact, or dogs with illnesses or physical problems. The size of the dog also matters – most of our dogs are medium or large, but most people want to adopt small dogs.”



Last but not least, we ask how you can support Cadela Carlota even if you don't live in Portugal and Ruth tells us that there are a variety of different ways.

“People living outside of Portugal can help by sharing our posts and spreading the word. They can also sponsor a dog or make donations via bank transfer or PayPal. More information can be found on our website.”

Said and done. We, Bert-Åke and Gunela, went to the website and read about all the possibilities to support Cadela even if you don't live in Portugal.

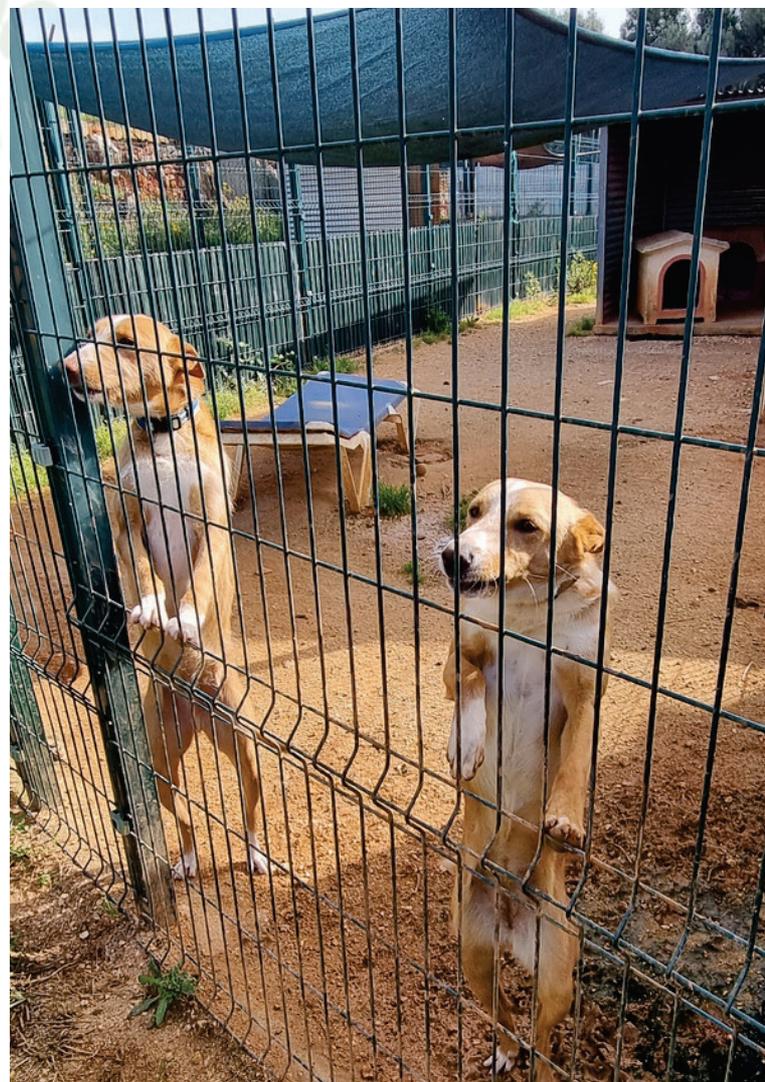
For some it may seem a bit tricky to make a foreign payment but it was quite easy.

In addition, you can get help from your bank, regardless of whether you want to make a one-time donation or become a monthly donor.

On the next page, we have listed the options available if you want to help the abandoned dogs or cats. And if you happen to live on the Algarve coast, or are just traveling there, we really recommend a visit to the shelter where you can help with walks and other chores, for example. It does your heart good!

Thank you so much to Christina for letting us spend this day with you and the dogs at the shelter! And to chairman Ruth, who helped us with answer all the questions in the interview.

We leave Cadela Carlota with a heart full of love for all the dogs who long for a family of their own.



Some of the heroes at Cadela Carlota



Ruth - chairman



**Anja och Charmine
- working with adoptions**



**Glenna, Emma och Kyle
- responsible for the cat shelter**



Clara
- secretary/administrator



Yolanda - treasurer



Christina - volunteer

To support Cadela Carlota - but don't live in Portugal

Financial donations:

Financial contributions allow them to better plan monthly expenses such as medication, vaccinations and feed, and negotiate better prices with suppliers. One-time donations help them pay for more specific expenses, such as surgeries or unexpected expenses. You can choose between regular or one-time donations and the payment options below:

Bank transfer:

IBAN: PT50 0036 0179 9910 0053 24002 BIC: MPIOPTPL (Montepio Geral)

PayPal: paypal.me/cadelacarlota

- MB WAY: +351 917448583

Become a member of the association:

Much of Cadela's work depends on the support they receive through membership fees.

The membership fee per year is 30 euros (i.e. only 2.5 euros per month). Paid once a year.

If you want to support Cadela by becoming a member, just go to their website and fill out the application there. Shortly afterwards you will receive an email with confirmation and can pay the membership fee via one of the payment options higher up on this page.

Become a sponsor and sponsor "your" dog/cat:

For some of the dogs, the shelter will be their permanent home as they are not considered adoptable due to various conditions such as age, chronic health problems, or are unable to handle human contact (the latter may be due to being very poorly treated or living wild for many years).

By sponsoring, you help a specific dog with its care and well-being. You will receive a sponsorship certificate and if you travel to Portugal, you are very welcome to visit the shelter and the dog you are sponsoring, spend time with it or take it for a walk if possible.

Sponsorship is a monthly payment and comes in three different levels:

GOLD for 20 euros per month

SILVER for 10 euros per month

BRONZE for 5 € per month

To support Cadela when live/stay in the Algarve

Donations:

Donations of dog/cat food, blankets, beds, garbage bags, cleaning products, towels, etc. are important to keep costs down. So if you are in Portugal, this is gratefully received by Cadela, contact them in advance via email to agree on the best way to pick up or receive your donation: info@cadela-carlota.com

Become a foster home:

Not all rescued animals are ready for immediate adoption. Some need a temporary home to recover from illness or surgery, others need to gain confidence and learn to socialize. There are also those who simply need a safe place to rest and start over.

Being a foster family means offering these animals the opportunity to heal, adapt and ultimately find the perfect home. It is about giving them love, security and a temporary sanctuary while they wait for their permanent adoption. It means taking care of, feeding and helping the animal adjust to a new routine. Some may need medication or veterinary care, but the most important thing is to give them affection and stability!

The dog stays with you for as long as necessary for socialization, recovery or even adoption, depending on the circumstances. Cadela provides everything it needs: food, bed, toys, accessories and, if necessary, medication.

Last but not least - Adoption:

Adoption is an important step in the life of a family and an animal. By adopting, you save a life and have a faithful companion for the rest of your days.

Before adopting, you need to think about a few things. For example; can you give your pet the time, companionship, training, attention and affection it needs? Are you prepared to deal with any mishaps at home (especially if you are adopting a very young animal)?

Can you provide your pet with regular veterinary care (vaccinations, deworming for indoor and outdoor animals, etc.)? What do you do with the dog when you want to go on vacation? Etc.

Cadela Carlota follows a specific adoption protocol to ensure that the animal – dog or cat – finds the right family and home. All animals – dogs or cats – adopted from Cadela have up-to-date vaccinations, including rabies vaccination (in the case of dogs), a microchip registered in the name of the association and sterilization completed.

More about the requirements for adopting a dog can be found on Cadela's website: www.cadela-carlota.com/help/adoption.php

A small gallery from Cadela Carlota

