



Cacela Dog Haven

.... every dog deserves a loving home!

Association No/NIF: 515905569

Tel: 926 767 544

Newsletter

Monday, 20 January 2025

Dear CDH Friends, Supporters and Volunteers

Treve and Sharron would like to start the year with a bucketful of good wishes to our friends, supporters and volunteers... and their loved ones, for a prosperous and healthy 2025!

Without a doubt, 2024 was an eventful year for the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of CDH's precious dogs and puppies (... not to mention a few cats)! Those that have been abandoned, lost and/or surrendered..... sometimes pregnant, ill and/or injured!

In the face of overwhelming competition in 2024 for 5* homes, **we rehomed 32 dogs** and so far, since opening our centre, we have successfully arranged **306 adoptions**.... an achievement that every CDH associate celebrates with genuine joy!

When we rehome a long-termer, it's especially gratifying and this year, we've said farewell to a few.... Andrex, Magnum, Dina, Ladybird, Molly, Marel and Lola. We're thrilled to report that in each case, they've settled beautifully and without problems!

Another milestone that we are so proud of is our sterilisation programme. There is little doubt that neutering is the key to reducing the suffering associated with strays and abandoned/surrendered animals. To this end, we have a strict policy of sterilising our adult rescues... prior to adoption. When specific instances have arisen and to avoid the inevitable dumping of puppies and kittens, we've found it necessary to organise external sterilisations for both dogs and cats. In 2024, we **arranged for and financed, 19 sterilisations**.

In this vein, 2024 has witnessed country wide, heartbreaking challenges.... we've had an unprecedented number of puppies abandoned as though they were nothing more than garbage hard to understand but unfortunately, these stories resound throughout Portugal, with municipal and private shelters remaining overwhelmed. **In October 2024, it was estimated that there were 930'000 stray animals throughout Portugal.**

In November, CDH had 28 puppies in residence, many of whom needed bottle-feeding. It's easy to appreciate what a 2-hourly feeding schedule for so many puppies entails for Treve and Sharron, on top of managing CDH's day to day tasks.

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As many of you may be aware, we have two charity shops now... whooo hooo! **PAWS** and **PAWS....too**. Both shops have benefitted enormously this year from the many donations we've been privileged to receive.... from clothing and bric-a-brac, right through to entire households of furnishings. The kind generosity of those who donate is without bounds.



In an effort to ensure that all donations are managed with respect, when we have found ourselves with a surplus of certain clothing items, we've co-ordinated with other charities and organisations... all of them are so appreciative of the stock! **Let's foster recycling wherever we can!**

Our PAWS volunteers are absolute stars and we are so grateful for their contribution but of course, we'd always welcome more help. The schedule is flexible and our rota will suit anyone with a few hours per week to offer.... please join us; we're a funny, happy bunch!

On 15 April, we celebrated the first anniversary of PAWS.... and in July, we celebrated the opening of PAWS....too. In September, we were thrilled to announce that both shops would move forward under the single Cacela Dog Haven umbrella.

Our CDH friends and supporters continue to surprise and honour us with their kindness... donations are frequently received from private individuals and organisations - we are so grateful to you all for your generosity. One of the sweetest stories (in April), was how so many of our CDH friends donated towards a new hip for Rusty who is a CDH rescue, living in the UK. Her operation was a huge success and she's moving around, happy to be pain-free!

We have started a **Teaming Group** which has been slow to get going but we are hoping we can encourage more folk to join. Details can be found on our Facebook page, or on the website. The philosophy is that a donation of €1 is made each month by members.... naturally, the more support we realise, the more likely it is that CDH could realise a constant income stream through this initiative.

Small amounts contributed by many people = a Teaming success!

Our **Walking Group** is a marvellous team.... we are so fortunate to have the continued commitment of people who thoroughly enjoy taking our precious residents for a walk 2-3 times per week. They appear throughout the cooler months without fail, ensuring exercise and the sheer joy for our dogs, of being out and about. It's an absolute pleasure to see them returning from their walks.... happy, content and calm.... they love it!

On 20 September, we had an **Open Day** that was well attended.... although the haven is extremely busy and because we are full, there's little time to spare but this is certainly something we're planning to do more of, in 2025.

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Thanks to our fundraising team, our events have been so successful... in February we held a Valentine's Quiz, in June we had a Fashion Show where clothing items from our shop were offered for sale, in September we had another well attended Quiz... these three events raised just over €1,000 each. Finally, on 30 November, our sold-out and extremely successful Christmas Dance raised a massive €2,855!

This great team also put together a lovely 2025 Calendar.... this is the first time we've ventured into this area and of the 300 printed, there are only a few left! Our thanks of course must go to those who were kind enough to sponsor a month!

We're thrilled to advise that **CDH has been selected to benefit from an estate...** the late Ms Edna Pearson who lived in Monte Gordo... apparently with many cats! When she passed away, her trust DPDSAA (based in the UK) granted the use to CDH, of a property that's within minutes of the haven. CDH has the right to use this property for as long as it's in existence as a rescue centre. We're planning to develop the Edna Pearson Education Centre which will focus on the following....

- **Educational events for children** including a picnic and a **petting zoo**.... during these visits we'll be explaining more about the responsibilities associated with offering a dog a home, as well as the critical importance of a sterilisation programme.
- To further education for both children and adults, **CDH's partner Vets will offer talks** from time to time and answer any questions about the health and welfare of the family pet.
- **Training programmes**.... because CDH is so keen to optimise the rehoming opportunities that arise, we feel it's beneficial for all our dogs to be taught basic commands to heel, sit and stay, etc. Part of this programme will also involve socialising.
- **A free... no questions asked..... sterilisation programme.**
- The perfect venue for visitors and prospective owners to **meet CDH's dogs** and spend time getting to know the dog they'd love as their family pet.
- The perfect venue too, for our proposed **Open Days**.

CDH has always been committed to ensuring **financial transparency**, keeping our friends and supporters in the loop on how funds are disbursed. To this end, we'll have a reasonably granular and ongoing view of current costs available on our website. In fact, we can report that in 2024, the cost of running the haven came in at around €117K.

There are no words to adequately express our gratitude and appreciation for the amazing friends, supporters and volunteers we are privileged to have on our side!

With sincere thanks and kind regards,

Treve and Sharron

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