



Cacela Dog Haven

..... every dog deserves a loving home!

Tel: 926 544 767 - Email: info@caceladoghaven.com

Website: <https://caceladoghaven.com> - Ass No: 515 905 569

ABOUT OUR HAVEN.....

How would you describe your rescue centre?.....

- We decided to call our rescue centre a Haven because that's exactly what we strive to provide for those dogs and puppies that are delivered into our care.
- Our Haven is made up of defined areas.... a garden for our dogs to play in, the area where our kennels have been built, a socialising area where volunteers can spend time socialising our residents and finally, a puppy nursery/isolation area.
- In January 2026, we have been gifted the use of additional land around the Haven that we'll use as a run for the dogs, a place where prospective adopters can spend time meeting their new family member and an area where training can be undertaken.
- We are cognisant of the fact that shelters are often faced with dogs that have just been dumped at their gates.... for this reason, we do not advertise the locality of the Haven. Details are communicated only to those who have been specifically vetted.
- Our shelter relies on the dedication of a team of volunteers who are generally all crazy about dogs.... they donate whatever time they can afford to assist with cleaning/feeding, working in our two charity shops and dog walking.
- Running our Haven is costly and whilst we manage to raise funds through the kindness of our friends and supporters, donations, income from our charity shops and social events, there is still a level of personal investment required.... this responsibility is taken on by Treve and Sharron.
- Those associated with the management of our Haven bring expertise to the facility in the form of medical care, training and of course.... mountains of love and compassion.

What is the background of the dogs you rescue?

- Some of our puppies come straight out of garbage cans - in some cases, they are only a day or two old... many almost frozen and dying.
- Puppies are dumped in cardboard boxes anywhere, even in the middle of a highway.
- Boxes of puppies found on the street.... an example.... in Monte Gordo, rescued by tourists who spent their entire day trying to find out where to take them. They were directed to our Haven because the Canil in Castro Marim was closed due to a Parvo Virus outbreak.
- At times, we are approached by Canils and asked to take puppies that are too young or too ill for them to care for. CDH has become known in the world of rescues centres as the "Puppy Gurus" Sharron and Treve have had, at one time, 27 puppies on the "bottle fed" regime.... a gruelling time.
- We are approached to rescue dogs abandoned in vacated properties and left to starve.
- It has also happened that when we've collected puppies, we've been forced to pay the owners to hand over the mother as well because cruelty and neglect has been observed.



Cacela Dog Haven

..... every dog deserves a loving home!

Page 2

What is the background of the dogs you rescue? (contd).....

- In more than a few cases, where the owner has refused to surrender the mother, we've paid for her sterilisation to avoid future unwanted litters of puppies.
- Vets contact us about dogs that have arrived at their practice to be euthanised for no reason... many of these have been abandoned, surrendered, abused, injured, neglected and starving. In these cases, the Vets take on the cost of treating wounds, vaccinating, chipping and sterilising. Then, CDH or another private shelter is approached to work their magic in terms of rehoming.

What happens at CDH before dogs are rehomed?

- Immediately, a full Veterinary check is undertaken.....
 - to establish whether the dog is micro-chipped.... if there is a chip, the Vet notifies the GNR - they will attempt to contact the owner,
 - to check for ticks, fleas, Leishmaniasis, tick-fever, heart-worm and/or other parasites of medical conditions,
 - to arrange for ongoing Veterinary care/surgery and medication where necessary and a clean bill of health before adoption.
- Rescue puppies aged around 4-6 weeks are immediately quarantined and put on a deworming programme, before having their Veterinary checks.
- Newborn puppies are fed on specialised puppy milk every two hours (24/7) for at least the first four weeks and when they're ready, they are fed designed puppy food.
- Adult dogs are provided with Seresto collars for fleas and ticks at a cost of around €600/year.
- No dog older than 18 months is rehomed until he/she has been sterilised... on our home page, we keep a running total of the sterilisations we've arranged.
- Basic training... to ensure that our dogs can be fully assessed and are emotionally ready to settle and relax in their new home, we teach them basic commands - sit, stay, come and walking calmly on the lead.
- We are fortunate to have the services of dedicated volunteers who.....
 - help at the Haven with kennel cleaning and feeding,
 - have formed an amazing dog walking group.... they take on the job of teaching basic commands and calm walking on the lead around the Haven, where we enjoy the countryside,
 - take our residents out for socialisation practice.... to meet other people and dogs at a coffee shop, or on the beach,
 - offer their time to work in our charity shops... **PAWS**
- The Haven boasts a lovely garden area where every dogs gets to spend a few hours each day, charging around and playing under the watchful eyes of our volunteers. In summer, they enjoy splashing in cool water in a paddling pool.
- Our kennels are equipped with inside-kennels for warmth and a protective and secure place to sleep and there is always fresh water, warm bedding and toys.
- A TV monitored mobile home at the Haven is reserved as a nursery/isolation unit.



Cacela Dog Haven

..... every dog deserves a loving home!

Page 3

- The Haven sources the best food available.... we pay around €700 per dog, per year for dry food and paté.
- Where a special diet is necessary..... chicken and rice..... the cost is around €200 per dog, per month.
- In the case of local adoptions, a physical home check is arranged to ensure that both the property and the family structure are suitable for their new family member. Our precious pooches are only rehomed to 5* families.
- We enlist the services/advice of trainers if necessary and before leaving for their new family, our dogs are sent for a grooming, always returning with a bow!
- Our Haven is kept clean at all times and volunteers carry small “poo bags” with them at all times.... because we are strict about the health of our dogs, CDH is kept “poo-free” and clean.

What about post-adoption follow up?.....

- Treve and Sharron are particular about maintaining contact with families who have adopted a dog from the Haven.... we regularly receive stories and photos indicating that our precious pooches are well integrated into their families... happy, healthy and above all..... loved!
- When an adopted puppy is old enough to be sterilised, the family is contacted and arrangements for sterilisation are discussed. Where there may be financial hardship, CDH will arrange for the sterilisation, either through another charity or at our own cost. The adoption process requires a commitment to sterilise the pet.

What about dogs that cannot be rehomed or where adoptions fail?.....

- When there is a physical or mental condition that renders the dog unsuitable for adoption, he/she becomes an “honoured resident” at CDH and we try to find sponsors for those long-termers.
- In keeping with shelter policies that are successful in many other countries, foster families are sought to help with temporary and/or semi-permanent care when the need arises. These foster parents help tremendously with dogs needing palliative care..... the Haven continues to pay for food and any medications and/or Veterinary care.
- It's a sad truth about the rehoming process that occasionally, adoptions do fail. In the original adoption contract, families are required to contractually agree to returning the dog to our Haven. In every instance so far, we have taken back the dog and thankfully, we've mostly been able to find another home.