



# Cacela Dog Haven

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

## NEWSLETTER: 2025

**Our Cacela Dog Haven news for 2025.....** with sincere thanks for the generosity we experience from our friends, supporters and volunteers which never fails to warm our hearts and amaze us! Thank you all.....



**What did we do in 2025?** At **Cacela Dog Haven** this last year, although we've had the sad loss of some of our honoured residents and tough times trying to achieve our ultimate goal to find 5\* families for our dogs, we've also been fortunate in so many ways.

Because we rescue and try to rehome dogs that have been abandoned, lost and/or surrendered, **CDH** is acutely aware of the situation in Portugal regarding strays... currently, there are hundreds of thousands of stray dogs! These poor creatures often develop tick fever, heartworm, leishmaniasis and other health conditions and of course, they are vulnerable to injury from many sources. Hungry dogs present a danger to livestock and in aggressive packs, to people.

With the government kennels overwhelmed, the burden on private charities has become untenable for many! According to recent news, the government's focus will be on "Trap-Neuter-Return" but there's been no mention of timing or method of implementation as yet. The lack of education was also highlighted and certainly, there's little doubt that from a sterilisation point of view, some outdated and damaging attitudes persist!

We would like to spread the word about encountering a stray..... please make sure that the animal is not just a "free roamer".... misidentification results in more animals in shelters, time-consuming "sorting out" and often, more heartbreak for dogs, especially if they're not chipped. Strays can be reported to the Municipal Vet or the Animal Association (info@animal.pt).

From **CDH**'s perspective, we have seen more dogs available for rehoming post-Covid and it seems that some EU countries are experiencing "stray dog" levels they've not seen before. **CDH** has in fact rehomed 10 dogs less in 2025, than in 2024! We've also seen too many "puppies in shopping bags", dumped in garbage bins as though they were no more than garbage!

A recent article in The Portugal News warns that those feeding stray animals in public streets could be severely fined if the act is deemed to "dirty the area" or where "residents complained". Of course, this could result in even more cruelty associated with stray animals.



**In this vein, we can impart some good news for 2026!!** Firstly..... Although **CDH** has been trying to help with external sterilisations in situations where it's clear that continued litters of puppies and kittens are resulting in terrible suffering, the charity DPDSA will be providing **CDH** with funding to support our sterilisation efforts.... currently the best option available to address the suffering of animals on the eastern Algarve. Up to this point, **CDH** has sterilised around 220 dogs and cats!

**Secondly.....** The use of a 1.2 acre parcel of land adjacent to our haven has been generously donated..... plans are to create dog runs to do training and promote agility, provide an area for our dogwalking activities and accommodate the "meet and greet" process for potential adopters. It's always preferable to be able to introduce a dog to his/her new family without the distraction of the others all having something to contribute in terms of sound! Cleaning and fencing will be the next steps and the synergy around neighbours and the new land owners has been so gratifying.



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## Costs.....

We're providing a simple breakdown of the costs for 2025.



Food	26,965.00
Maintenance	17,535.00
Vet-Sterilisations	10,592.00
Vet-Rescues	10,837.00
Vet-General	21,494.00
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	€87,423.00

## Fundraising.....

In February, we joined the **Teaming Group**.... the philosophy behind this initiative is that many small donations will blossom into a large amount.... something like US\$40 million has been raised to help charities since this funding style was initiated. For just €1.00 per month you can support the haven, ensuring a reliable monthly income. Currently, we have just a few supporters and we'd appreciate it enormously if we could generate more support. There's a link on our FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/caceladoghaven>).

In June, we held a **“Summer Quiz”** a really enjoyable event, raising €1,400!!

In December, we invited **PAWS** customers to a **“Christmas Fayre”** ... we raised around €700! Sales (at great discounts) were great and our friends and volunteers provided some very yummy cakes!



## Donations.....

Through the year, we've received donations to help our efforts..... Sandra (Compass Property) donated a tumble-dryer and her lovely son Ben, donated the €325 that he requested in lieu of birthday gifts; we received around €1,000 from Rihanna who runs an exercise group and pledged some of the proceeds to **CDH**; Christine who celebrated a special birthday and donated €222 in lieu of birthday gifts; Mick and Sheila donated €210; and on behalf of the gorgeous Bruno (a **CDH** rescue) Hazel and Steve donated €140. In December, Julie McBride donated €100 - the proceeds from the cute, crocheted animals that she sells for **CDH**. We'd also like to mention the anonymous donations that arrive with best wishes for the work we do... so kind! We're so lucky to have a baker in our group.... Lisa Robinson kindly brings home-baked goods for the volunteers at **PAWS**!



**Spark Paws USA** donated \$500 worth of harnesses.... please go to their website to check out their fabulous doggy wear! <https://www.sparkpaws.com/>



A special mention must be made for a wonderful **CDH** friend, Jill Graper dos Sanjos who passed away on 17 September..... instead of flowers/wreaths, Jill requested that her family and friends send money to **CDH** instead and €670 was raised.



## Volunteers.....

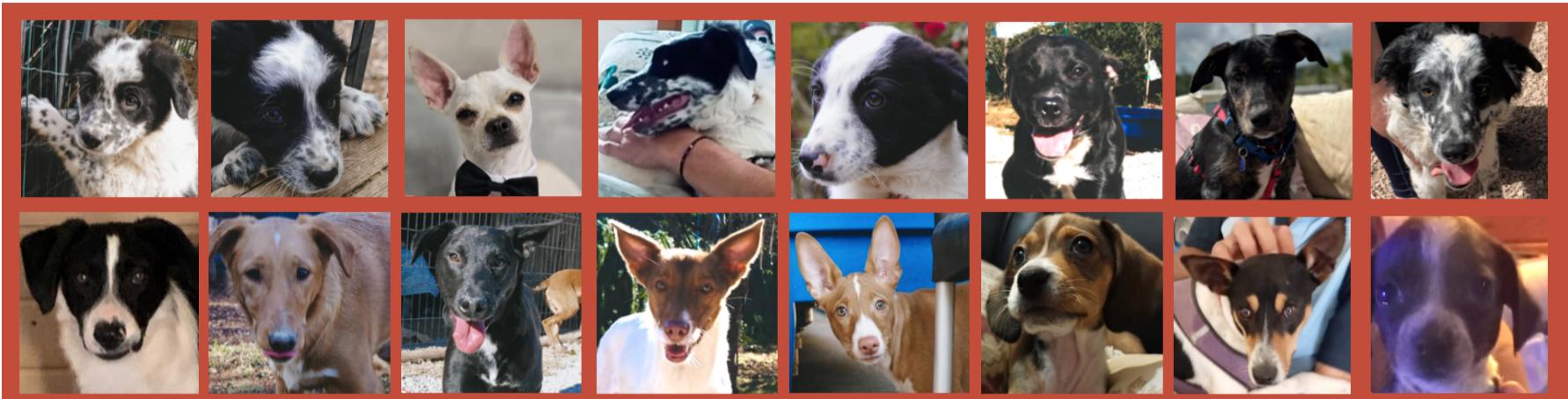
We are so fortunate to have a great team of volunteers - their activities range from walking our dogs, cleaning kennels and working shifts in **PAWS**. Without their contribution, we would not be in a position to effectively rescue animals in need! At the end of 2025, we held a Christmas Lunch for our volunteers.... it was a lovely event and an opportunity for us to express our gratitude for their hard work and support!

We do have a special appeal for 2026..... we would so appreciate some help with kennel cleaning.... if you're able, please offer a few hours a week to help us. You'll get to meet our wonderful dogs!



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## Adoptions.....

Of course, it's always an absolute joy when CDH finds a 5\* family but there's also the sadness associated with the farewell! In 2025, we rehomed 20 dogs (total to date = 320) which is pretty good, given current circumstances.

Photos here of those dogs who have gone to their golden baskets..... **Magic, Shep, Levi, Oliver, Bonny, Kiera, Ella, Bramble, Shep, Lacy, Lexy, Merry, Poppy, Daphne, Lolo, Dolly, David, Tobias, Tove and Alva.**

We'd appreciate your help here too.... please spread the word about how fabulous our pooches are! On our website, there are stories about each dog.... <https://www.caceladoghaven.com/>.



## PAWS, Cabanas.....

We undertook a revamp earlier in the year! Thanks to Manager Lisa and her team, the shop was transformed with carefully planned areas, display units and sorting stations. It's looking really great and we even had a specialised cashier doing a shift, reassuring us that things are really working well!!

**PAWS** continued to do well this last year.... donations are arriving at the shop in a steady flow and visitors to the shop have increased significantly.

Please use the volunteer recruitment form on our website if you'd like to do the odd shift in our shop..... our volunteers enjoy their shifts and networking has resulted in friendships. Take a look at the Facebook page.....<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100091687934574>

## PAWS, Cacela.....

When we made the move to Cacela, it was primarily to continue with a dedicated furniture outlet..... however, in our tiny shop, Manager Mel has weaved some creative and clever layouts of other goods.... kids' toys, crockery, books, linen, bric-a-brac, jewellery, cutlery!

Take a look at the Facebook page..... <https://www.facebook.com/groups/521775436888360>



## Cause beyond PAWS - CDH's contribution to helping those in need.....

The PAWS volunteers identified that there were many organisations desperately in need of help..... this translated into the formation of a team early in 2025 that took on the task of identifying and distributing donated goods that **PAWS** had not sold, or goods that could not be sold in our shops.

- **PAWS** continues to support the Mustard Seed Charity in Lagos.... they feed and help over 300 families weekly between Lagos and Quarteira. Daniel the President, has been associated with **PAWS** for over a year.
- We have supported the Red Cross in Tavira when they first opened their store and continue to help, for specific appeals.



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- A shelter known as Homeless in Faro offers a shower once a week together with outer clothing, shoes and underwear. Laundry is obviously not something these folk can easily undertake.
- There is a great Mother and Baby charity..... we're able to offer underwear for new Mums, as well as clothes for babies and children.
- During summer, the team organised drop-offs to quite a few charities.....
  - 20-bags to the Gospel Church in Beja... they work with families in need in the Alentejo;
  - 35-bags went off to northern Greece to a women and childrens' refugee centre;
  - 38-bags at Christmas, went to a charity that supports the needy in Cape Verde and the homeless, in Olhão.

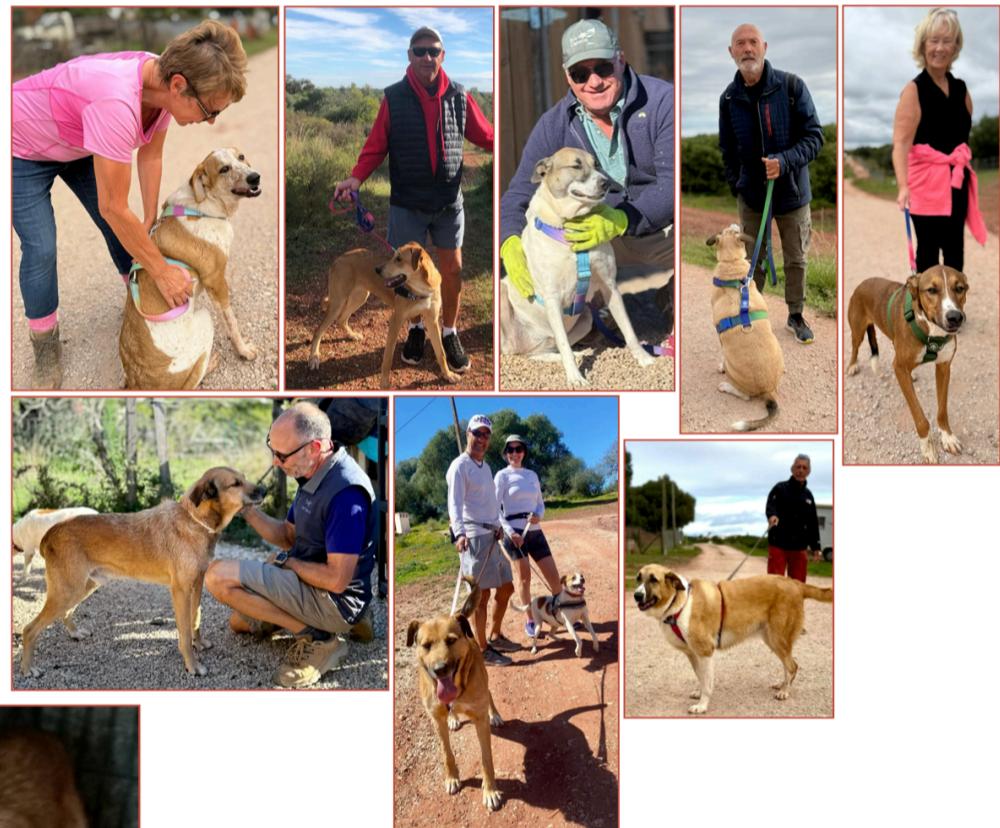
Additionally, there are individual, private causes alongside local charities in Cabanas that we continue to support as and when we have goods that they might need.

## CDH Dogwalkers.....

Our dogwalkers usually appear on Mondays and Fridays and do an amazing job of ensuring that our precious residents get the exercise, obedience training and socialisation that is so critical to their wellbeing and their rehoming options.

With the opportunity now to use the land adjacent to the haven, we're confident that our dogwalking team will continue to add value to the lives of our dogs.

Thankfully, we have quite a large team of volunteers for this activity..... it's a great way to connect with others, get some exercise and enjoy the company of the most fabulous dogs!



## CDH Christmas 2025.....

Christmas is the time when we give all our residents a very special treat..... on the 25th, our dogs and our cats enjoy a full Christmas Dinner and each resident gets a present..... we find joy in celebrating this special time with our precious pooches!

We are so grateful to **“The Pieman Algarve”** who donated €294.00 to pay for the dinner and the presents this year!

*With kind regards, sincere  
thanks and best wishes to you all  
for an amazing 2026!*

*Sharren and Treve*