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## Christmas Letter 2022

Dear APASA members and friends,

The year 2022 is drawing to a close and once again the time has come for our Christmas letter. Once again this year we have had to cancel our traditional San Antonio feast at the shelter due to the rising covid numbers. It is and remains an emotional tradition for APASA and the visitors, as well as guests without dogs, that Pastor Klaus Eicher always enjoys holding at the shelter.

Nevertheless, some of our four-legged friends were adopted during this time as well. Quietly and humbly, the days passed in February. The risk of infection was simply too great. Working alone in the second hand shop, week after week, combined a great risk with a strange feeling of fear and courage to generate money for the dogs that are desperately needed. We were lucky, no one got infected with Covid during this time.

It is always a hard challenge to get enough volunteers to work in the shop all year round, without a break, whether it is winter in the cold with no heating, or summer in the murderous heat. Each and every one of these ladies is no doubt willing to help 6 days a week, from January to December, to earn money by donating clothes and goods for our dogs. A big thank you to everyone who works in our shop. Sadly, our staff member Dagmar Löw passed away from cancer.



It was a rainy day in February late in the evening. We got a call that a little Yorkshire dog was out on her own and needed to be caught. The dog was taken to our police kennel. This little dog was worse than a beast. For more than 20 minutes in the morning, the staff tried to get her out of the kennel. According to information about this dog, it turned out that she always spent time on the owner's arm and was not used to a leash. Unfortunately, the owner was found dead in the mountains and thus this creature's nightmare was sealed. Wild and blind in one eye, we named her Perla. Weeks passed until she finally found a little trust and could be taken to the vet. This little personality on four paws slowly but surely developed into a great bitch. She also did not turn down an appointment at the hairdresser. The APASA staff took good care of her. After a short stay in our puppy kennel, she was well on her way to re-socialisation with other dogs. One day she caught the attention of a great family with a small family dog and was adopted. Proudly on a

leash and upright, she went to her new home with a garden and for her, a little paradise. Thanks to these beautiful, successful but also emotional events, the staff of APASA draw new strength and hope that it is always worth helping. This story is meant to tell our members a little bit about our work and what happens in the shelter and everyone is allowed to participate while reading it.

Sometimes the world just stands still. A dog named Robin also had to experience a sad fate. His owner was in a foster home for another 6 months and the poor guy was left all alone in her home. Only the most necessary food, a short trip out of the house to do the toilet was his life until we were called to pick him up. He wouldn't let us touch him and bit the leg of our staff member. It was a hard fight.

The vet had to be called in to sedate the poor guy. His last months consisted of fear, sadness and panic. It was a great challenge and horror for the staff. A solution had to be found. By super professional people (Liz Valencia) Robin was accustomed to the leash in the foster home and found trust again. Today he is happy because he was adopted. A beautiful house with a garden and Robin racing across the couch, overjoyed, a new family who found and adopted him.

Month after month passed and we finally dared to organise our festival at the shelter (open day) in May. A great success, enthusiastic visitors and a great musician (Charly) who accompanied us on a voluntary basis with his friend Pit. Finally, a bit of normality was back. Two days after this event, the Golf Club Ifach organised the annual golf tournament for the benefit of APASA. We would like to thank Robin and Elke Woods, the organisers, all the helpers, restaurants who donated vouchers and of course the absolutely strong musical OK band.



In June, the ISVH (Bomberos) from Balcon al Mar started a joint summer party with APASA. It was very hot, all the volunteers were hard at work, but the success of the proceeds made it all worthwhile. Thank you so much for letting us be part of it.

July was very hot, dogs were captured, surrendered and in the process we once again experienced a tragedy. A small dog, (we named her Nelly) was dumped with a huge tumour in the police kennel with us. Our vet Sandra Nave diagnosed anaemia, heart problems, shadows on the liver and this large tumour that could not be missed. The female's health was stabilised at APASA until the upcoming tumour surgery. Unfortunately, this tumour was highly aggressive, so she died during the operation.

And once again it must be emphasised that the human being who could do such a thing to this poor animal is the worst beast.

Many thanks to our vets Sandra Nave and her colleague Rosa Seresola who regularly take care of our dogs twice a week, abandoned cats that are dumped at the gate and all other wild animals that need help.

Also the animal charity RAMA is always a great help for us when they take care of our puppies or kittens in their foster home until they are adopted.

The summer months passed without events. The staff have been busy giving the kennels a new coat of paint. The renovation or painting was necessary. A big praise and many thanks.

Autumn approached and we planned our October beer festival. A large number of visitors who enjoyed our specialities and the huge cake counter were very enthusiastic. This shows us once again that we are on the right track and the success proved us right. Thank you to all animal lovers who have faithfully supported APASA in 2022 with money, food or donations in goods.



Our Christmas market on 18 November was not exactly a dream weather, a bit dull and drizzly was this day. We welcomed the Mayor José Chulvi with two councillors Kika Mata and Doris Courcelles. It is always good to get a personal impression of our shelter, our work and the dogs.

Two days later, we celebrated Christmas with the Bomberos of ISVH who donated their proceeds to APASA and Caritas. With a lot of effort and work the president Erich Brenner with his wife Rita, the many volunteers and the firefighters organised this beautiful party. We thank them very much for this and appreciate their helpfulness very much.

Our bus trip to Murcia to IKEA and the Nueva Contomina shopping centre finally took place again after 2 years. People were just happy and satisfied to finally go on the trip again after Covid. The bus was fully booked in only a short time. The atmosphere was very fun and the trip was very successful for APASA. On this occasion I would like to say a big thank you to Mandy, Sue and Arlene who showed their full commitment in fundraising. Simply super, thank you very much.

Christmas is coming closer and closer and the annual Christmas market took place in November in the restaurant Chalet Suizo Javea. APASA was allowed to participate with 2 sales stalls. We owe the work of the stalls to the volunteers Renate Michel, Marianne Förster, Theresa Döhring, Uta Ball and myself.

We would like to thank the Grossenbacher family (Chalet Suizo) on behalf of APASA.

This was followed on 04.12.22 by the adoption party at the Trust Resorts in Ondara. 20 different animal welfare organisations were present. Some of them travelled over 800 km to Ondara. Galgo Pur was the organiser. These many animal rights activists also show pure strength in the fight against the new animal protection law. Unfortunately, hunters and farmers who breed are excluded from this law and it does not come into force for this group. The legislator has yet to find a regulation. In this case, the normal madness of animal cruelty still applies to Podencos and Galgos.

APASA occasionally receives calls for help from Claire from Catland and Feral Cats for injured, seriously ill stray cats living in colonies in Javea, who are neutered, fed and cared for. They also have to be euthanised from time to time.



These and many other concerns are discussed every 4 weeks by our board and solutions or compromises are sought. These people also make sure that the association functions. Thanks for this to all board members.

Finally, I would like to mention that we have rescued or taken in 295 dogs so far in the current year 2022. 232 were returned to their owners thanks to microchipping and with the help of the staff. We had 45 adoptions in Spain, 15 in Germany, 2 in Holland and 1 in France.

We rescued 3 seagulls, 1 fox, 1 pigeon, 1 hedgehog and 1 snake.

Now we, the APASA board, the entire staff, our members, all the volunteers, the walkers, Kevin, Leslie, Iris, as well as Sonja de Vriendt, who did a lot for the dogs on the internet with stories and videos for our charges, wish you a Merry Blessed Christmas, good health and a Happy New Year 2023.



Monika Straetz-Schreier

Monika Straetz-Schweid

(President)