



Bons Amigos

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Vienna, December 2020

DEAR FRIENDS OF BONNS AMIGOS!

When **Joaquina** was brought to us, she was emaciated to the bone and completely devitalized. A man who saw her at the roadside took pity on her and picked her up. The shy stray was so weak that she could not even escape or defend herself. He then brought her to us, to the clinic of Bons Amigos.

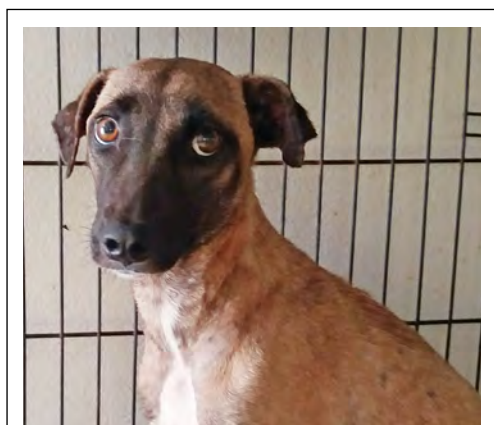
An examination quickly revealed the severeness of her condition: She was covered with ticks and suffered from mange and severe blood anemia caused by tick fever; a disease caused by blood parasites. This heavy burden combined with hunger and thirst led to extreme emaciation and dehydration of the body. There was no more time to waste!

Joaquina, as she was quickly named by our team, immediately received an infusion at our infirmary. Although she was no longer able to eat on her own, Joaquina still had the will to live and some vitality left. In addition to the necessary medication for mange and anemia, she also received life-sustaining infusions with sufficient fluid, electrolytes, and glucose for the first few days.



Joaquina on the day of her admission, looking like a picture of misery, completely devitalized, and covered with ticks.

But then, after two anxious days of not knowing if she will make it, she started to eat on her own again. The infusions could be reduced and stopped when she was back on her feet. The stronger she got, the more defensive she got. She did not want to be touched or treated and tried to snap at helping hands numerous times. It is always sad to imagine what an animal must have been through to be this afraid of humans...



For many weeks, Joaquina kept being suspicious and anxious.

Slowly we gained her trust. As soon as we were sure that she was not contagious anymore, she was allowed to get to know the other dogs staying at our clinic. She quickly became friends with Ceginha, the blind black dog, which I have already told you about a while ago. Today Joaquina is a self-confident, friendly, calm, and well-balanced dog, which you can easily take on a walk outside the clinic and to the beach without worrying that she might run away. She now knows where she is at home.

Without your help, dear friends of Bons Amigos, this little miracle would not have been possible!

Helping animals like Joaquina is one of our main tasks and I am sure you can imagine that our work got a lot harder to manage due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Converted to the population, there are twice as many COVID-19 cases on the Cape Verde Islands than in Austria and the public healthcare system is extremely strained. Also, many people have existential worries due to the economic slump.

Donations: Bons Amigos IBAN: AT02 1200 0006 4832 6700 BIC: BKAUATWW



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Nevertheless, the Cape Verdeans really care for their animals. We treat as many patients as we did before the pandemic, but understandably we get less donations. In tough times the poorest suffer the most, especially the strays because they get even less food and affection than before the pandemic. To help them is our main concern. We help them, either on an outpatient basis or with inpatient treatment.

Due to more and more COVID-19 cases, we cannot do our usual large-scale campaigns. However, we adapted our methods as follows: Several times a week the Bons Amigos drive to the poorest districts of Praia to look after the animals and to take those to the clinic who are in need of urgent care or should be castrated. We then operate and care for them at the clinic.

But as if the situation wasn't already complicated enough due to the pandemic and the ongoing travel restrictions, another disaster hit Praia on September 12: After five almost rainless years extremely heavy rain came down and the Ribeiras – the almost always dry river valleys – swelled to torrential streams, that carried away whatever was in their way. Cars and huts were washed away, roads were wrecked, and landslides occurred. Fortunately, our clinic is located on safe ground, but there was damage to the roof and water leaked into the upper floor. The clinic rooms remained undamaged and overall, the damage is manageable, but the total for all the repair work is 3600 Euros. For us, this is a lot of money, especially during this already tough times.

Dear friends of Bons Amigos, please help us with your donation so that we can continue to ensure the treatment of our protégés and take care of the necessary repair work at our clinic. Every Euro counts! For example, a treatment against parasites costs about 2 to 3 Euros, the castration of one dog costs about 50 Euros and one working hour of repair work of a skilled worker costs about 10 Euro.

Thank you very much in advance!



Due to the rain on September 12, roads and paths turned into torrential, muddy streams in no time.



The torrential rain caused damage to the roof and water penetrated the masonry of our clinic. Now we have to repair the damage and the roof quickly.

Dr. Herwig Zach,
Chairman Bons Amigos,
Chief Veterinarian



DI Liz Zimmermann,
Vice Chairwoman Bons Amigos



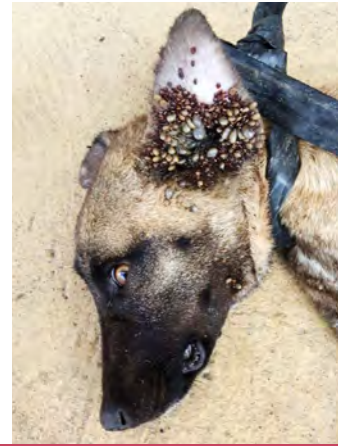


Bons Amigos helps since 20 years

Joaquina - a miracle!

This is how Joaquina came to us!

When Joaquina was brought to us, she was emaciated to the bone, her fur was shaggy, and her skin was inflamed and scabbed by the mange.



Sick and full of parasites

Joaquina's mucous membranes were as white as paper because of the life-threatening anemia. She had countless ticks all over her body, especially on her ears, which we all had to remove with great effort.



Happy End!
Joaquina today:
a healthy, well-
balanced and
joyful dog.



After 4 days she was able to leave the cage for the first time.



Things are looking up!

She had a huge appetite and wanted to eat all the time. The picture on the left was taken after one week and the picture on the right



Slowly she began to trust us.



Bons Amigos helps since 20 years

Our Patients!

BOB



Bob is a friendly, playful dog who patiently wears his collar: He had a deep wound with an open fracture below the eye. With thorough care and treatment this wound is now slowly healing.

Sally had no problem with us treating her wound, but every time we were not looking, she gnawed on her bandage until it came off. Eventually she had to wear a collar too to allow the wound to heal.



SALLY

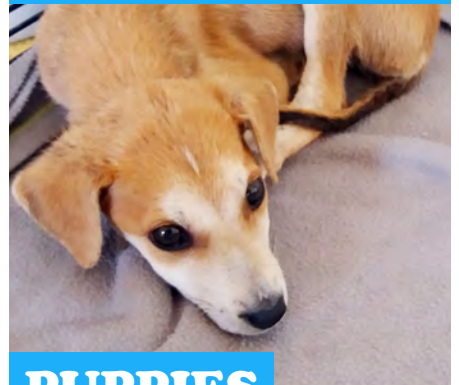
Out of gratitude for us helping her dog Snoopy, Dona Sofia Silva donated dog food and cleaning supplies. It is nice to see how much our work is appreciated!



CATS

The Bons Amigos have to perform Caesarean sections frequently. This cat and its kitten would have died during birth without the saving operation.

The Bons Amigos are the first port of call for motherless puppies found on the street. We take care of them and try to find a good home for them.



PUPPIES



SNOOPY



Edson is treating a puppy in the infirmary. Despite COVID-19 our work continues without any restrictions.