



Animal Shelter Bonaire Newsletter



Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of the Animal Shelter Bonaire Newsletter. This newsletter is for everyone who is involved with the animal shelter. We thank you for everything you do. Every quarter we will update you on new developments regarding the Animal Shelter, the Pakus di Pruga, the Cruise Market and more. Enjoy the read!

First adoption of 2024

When Lori and her husband went to the Animal Shelter to look at adopting another dog after just losing their senior dog, they asked to meet “the dogs most in need.” They were introduced to several dogs. While Lexi wasn’t the oldest dog in the shelter (she’s only 7), she had been there for 4 years and was so timid, shy and scared that she wasn’t showing herself well to prospective adopters. They felt like Lexi was the highest need, so they brought her home to meet the other pets. According to the Animal Shelter manager, Lexi had been an outdoor-only dog with very little affection and attention shown to her until her owner surrendered her to the shelter 4 years ago. Now, Lexi is primarily an indoor dog, where she lives with two other dogs and a cat. It took her about a day to relax enough to enjoy AC, a comfortable bed/couch, tasty food/treats, and she now readily allows (and sometimes asks for) head pats/cheek scratches. She has a long way to go before she is fully settled/comfortable and has been trained to sit/return when called, but she has come a long way this week. Just like so many dogs and cats at the Animal Shelter, Lexi just needed someone to give her a chance to show off her love and sweet nature.





Pakus di Pruga

The construction of Animal Shelter Bonaire's Pakus di Pruga is underway and making progress! A simple and practical design using shipping containers with a covered area between them will result in a customer friendly place with lots of space. There is still much to do and volunteer help and monetary donations would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to volunteer to help please contact paulenamina@gmail.com. You can make donations to our local MCB account, Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire, Account #10237800; to our NL account Rabobank (Dongen Netherlands) Account number: NL40RABO0137748744; or via PayPal on our webpage, just click on the yellow "Donate" button. We are hoping to be open soon. Stay tuned to the Shelter's Facebook page and the Bonaire Reporter for details.



Cruise Market

The cruise market has been known on our island for many years and for all those years the Animal Shelter has been represented on this market. Our volunteers sell products such as beautifully printed t-shirts, handmade crocheted products like key rings, dogs, cats and even mice. In addition, bottle holders, magnets, cards, wooden signs with sayings and many beautiful paintings of dogs and cats. Most products have been made and donated by different people. It is nice to see the many animal lovers passing by on the cruise market days. Lots of cruise boat tourists indicate that they already miss their dog or cat and they show pictures of their pets on their phones. They often ask how the animals are doing on Bonaire. We tell them that the animal population on our island is still a problem despite the free sterilization program. The money from donations at the market go to the sterilization program. The Animal Shelter can be partly funded from the sale of products. The tourists' stories are often emotional. Sometimes it is a personal story and sometimes a general story in which people indicate how the animals are doing in the country where they come from. The locals are not often seen on cruise market days. A trial will soon be started (in February) with a Friday market (a Friday when there are no cruise boats). There will be an update about this trial in the next newsletter. We hope to see you at the market on Wilhelminaplein!





Happy Hour

On Sunday, the 28th of January there was a happy hour for all volunteers and staff at Sorobon Beach Resort. The manager of the Animal Shelter, Sanne, arranged this to thank all the volunteers and staff for all their hard work! She wanted all the hard workers to know that they are all appreciated and that we could not be doing what we are doing without them! It was a great moment for the volunteers to get to know each other, to get out of the usual work clothes and relax at the beach with toes in the sand. Thank you to our manager and Sorobon Beach Resort for this wonderful event.



Interview with Dennis Quesquen

Hi Dennis, tell us a little bit about yourself.

I'm Dennis Joel Huaranga Quesquen, born in Peru in 2003. I'm 20 years old and my hobbies are playing guitar/piano and spend time with animals.

What made you want to work for the Animal Shelter in your Gap-Year?

I wanted to work during the vacation, I didn't really start with the idea of working at the Animal Shelter. I just wanted something to do during my vacation time. I found different choices and had chosen two, one of them was the Animal Shelter. During my vacation I had 2 jobs but at the end I decided to stay at the Animal Shelter since I enjoyed working there more. The reasons why I chose it is because I like animals and the idea of working with dogs sounded like fun. I never dared to go there before and do volunteer work, what I mostly did was stay at home with my instruments and just study, I was really an introvert and I went to the Animal Shelter only once before to adopt my dog years ago so I didn't have any idea of how things worked there and how it looked at that moment. I started after I was done with my HAVO studies and since I liked it a lot I stayed working the weekends while I did VWO 5 and VWO 6 and worked extra when I could, like on Christmas vacation or any other vacation period. When I was done with VWO 6 I still would stay 1 year on Bonaire so I decided to work more often at the Animal Shelter since now I had the time and possibilities.

What has your experience been so far? What did you like the most and what did you like the least?

I liked a lot of things, I liked the fact I was in a place where I could learn a lot about dogs/cats (mostly dogs) about diseases and treatments for example. There was a lot to learn and I also liked the fact that I could discover different type of dogs, not talking about breeds but about their own character, each one of them has their own character and their own special things and with time you discover these and learn how to go along with them. Some of them are more stubborn than others or will demand something from you first before going in their kennel for example, it can be a treat, some attention, a walk or to play with them first for example.



... I liked to see and contribute with the recovery of different dogs, dogs that came full of ticks, scared, really thin and in general in bad shape and even though sometimes you can't help all of them, to try to help them is worth it. One of the most challenging things was to deal with different people and their mentality, a difference in mentality will immediately provoke discussions, stress and tension. While working at the Animal Shelter I discovered how some animals get abused and the deplorable conditions some of them live in or get brought in. During the time I have worked there I have seen dogs get brought or dumped very often, a lot of them in very bad conditions and the aggressive way some of them get treated is just sad and it was sad to discover how often this would happen.

You're leaving in March 2024, tell us what are you going to do and what advice you can give other people or students that are looking to volunteer or work for the Animal Shelter?

I will stop working because I will leave the island to keep going with my studies, I will miss working with animals but I can always do volunteer work when I'm back for vacation. After working at the Animal Shelter I will leave knowing I learned a lot, aside from things related to the dogs I have learned about customer service and to work with different type of people what can be challenging the moment there are different opinions. I got the chance to develop myself and grow, learned to deal with difficult people and got the chance to get different responsibilities and take care of them and had the freedom to solve the problems the best way I could. For the students that are doubting whether to work/volunteer at the Animal Shelter or not I would tell them to give it a try and it might surprise you. Working at the Animal Shelter was a very interesting experience and I'm very thankful with the manager for the opportunity to work there and the trust she has put on me the time I have been working there.

Thank you so much Dennis for everything you have done for the Animal Shelter. WE ARE GOING TO MISS YOU!

