

Report Aegina 14.09. - 19.09.2025

Last year, during my vacation in Portugal, I visited an animal shelter for the first time. From then on, I felt a growing desire to invest more time in such a wonderful place.

In the spring of 2024, I first learned about the animal welfare organization when I adopted my cat. So, a few weeks before my trip, I called Manuela and asked if it would be possible to visit the animal shelter to see where my cat came from. Coincidentally, Manuela was also flying during my desired time frame, which was one of the best coincidences that could have happened.

The journey to the island was relatively long, but it was definitely worth it. I had never heard of this island before. Every morning we were at the animal shelter and in the afternoon I was shown around the island. I understand why people lose their hearts to this island. There is little tourism on the island and the animals are doing very well compared to other Greek islands. Many people there have a heart for animals. The animal shelter is located on top of a mountain with a great view of the entire island, which makes for the best walks for the dogs. At the shelter, I was able to decide for myself what I wanted to do each day. The shelter mainly houses dogs. In a few cases, however, space is also needed for cats, as the foster homes no longer have any. So I took care of the cats every morning. I cleaned the enclosures, took care of new food and water, and cuddled with the cats a lot. The people there love their work, but often don't have time for intensive cuddling sessions. So I went to many of the enclosures and tried to give the animals a little bit of attention. I often sat down with fearful animals so that they could regain some trust in humans. I also took lots of videos and pictures of the animals, which could be posted online afterwards to give a more detailed insight into them and increase their chances of being adopted. I could go to the staff at any time and offer my help or ask questions if I was unsure about certain animals. However, with each passing day, it became more difficult to leave. You quickly get to know the animals and their unique characters. This shelter is home to animals that have so much love to give, even though they have experienced so little of it themselves. That's why the work is so important. You definitely need a car on the island, but it's worth it in every case. The island has many beautiful spots to offer, so you can easily fill several days. I was welcomed with so much warmth. Rarely have I felt so much love and joy for a place, so I have decided to come back next year.

Your Lena

