



VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

VETERINÁRIOS SEM FRONTEIRAS PORTUGAL

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOUNTS REPORT 2014 - 2016

Lisbon, March 2017

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During the years of 2014, 2015 and 2016 the Association Veterinários Sem Fronteiras – Portugal (VSF-Portugal) aimed to fulfil its planned goals, having attained both successful achievements as well as occasional underachievement.

1. MISSIONS AND PROJECTS

The developed activities are now presented in short.

1.1. EGG PRODUCTION PROJECT - ALDEIA SOS ASSOMADA, ISLAND OF SANTIAGO (CABO VERDE)

The activities for this entrepreneurial development in the area of egg production are reported in the annexes (Annexe 1).

1.2. VGTROPICS PROJECT

The VSF-Portugal attended the workshop related to the subject of Communication Systems and Syndromic Surveillance Data Collection (epidemiological database), which was held in the city of Praia, on 20-22 October 2014 (Annexe 2), with the participation of the Veterinary Medicine Professor Dr. Yolanda Vaz and the Clinical Veterinarian Dr. Manuel Malta. The same event was again held in January 2015, however for both schedule and financial reasons the VSF-Portugal was unable to attend.

1.3. MISSION IN THE ISLAND OF SANTIAGO (CABO VERDE) – Project developed in partnership and cooperation with the Association Bons Amigos

We maintained our strong collaboration with the Association Bons Amigos, in Ponta d'Água, city of Praia, Cabo Verde. In mid-2014, we were requested to participate in an intensive sterilisation campaign, in the Bairro do Palmarejo, city of Praia (Island of Santiago, Cabo Verde), which occurred in October 2014, with the participation of the following volunteer members: Márcia Viana, Rui Gaspar and Manuel Malta. The respective activities are reported in the Annexe 3. The Association Bons Amigos was responsible for the whole planning and costs involved. We also managed to promote the dissemination of a Job opening for a Veterinarian in the Association Bons Amigos through the mailing list of the Portuguese Veterinary Medical Association.

In July 2015, the VSF-Portugal executed another joint mission with the Association Bons Amigos (Annexe 4) with the support of the same team of VSF-Portugal volunteers,

already referred, due to the fact that the announcement of the event among the VSF-Portugal associates wasn't followed by their respective adherence.

1.4. MISSION IN THE ISLAND OF PRÍNCIPE (S. TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE) – EDUCA_CÃO

The main goals of the project EDUCA_CÃO are the sterilisation of domestic animals and the population control of stray animals (also by means of sterilisation and identification). This initiative was requested by the HBD-STP (an NGO operating in the island of Príncipe, S. Tomé and Príncipe) with the aim of promoting the health and demographic balance of the dog population on the island, as well as reducing its negative impact through predation on the island's wild animals (e.g. sea turtles' eggs and hatchlings). The initial evaluation has detected high incidence of dogs with dermatological diseases (scabies and ringworm). The children with closer proximity with domestic dogs also presented the same dermatological conditions (although the situation was not reflected in the official statistics of the local health care services). Therefore, we proposed a phased operating plan to deal with the identified situations: first intervention (November 2014, by Manuel Malta, VFS-PT, and Isabel Santiago, Rodes STP) – health education sessions, development of community awareness regarding the health problems of domestic animals and the unwanted consequences of inaction on the population control of stray animals. Clarifications were also provided by the veterinarian teams as well as the scheduling of future interventions.

This was followed, in January-February 2015, by a medical and surgical intervention in the several communities, with the participation of Rui Gaspar, Márcia Viana, Margarida Simões and Manuel Malta (as head of mission), which consisted in the execution of the procedures of hysterectomy, vasectomy and orchidectomy, as well as the provision of microchip identification and numbered dog collars for the dogs with recognised owners. We had the collaboration of a number of local volunteers who mediated our activities with the communities and facilitated all the necessary procedures for the registration and identification of the animals and their owners (Teresa Pires, Rita Alves, Estrela Matilde).

The faecal samples brought from this mission were processed and analysed in the Veterinary Parasitology Laboratory of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (FMV-University of Lisbon, Portugal). It should be noted that the presence of Ancylostomatidae in the dogs faeces is seen as a rationale to advocate the continuation of animal deworming efforts in future actions as well as the reinforcement of the education of the local communities both in hygiene and animal care.

This intervention was made possible through the intersectoral collaboration of the human health – animal health stakeholders; therefore we highlight the active participation of the following: Dr. Ana Silva (Health Delegate of the Regional Government of the island of Príncipe), Dr. Pina Gil (State Secretary for Social Affairs, STP) and Dr. Idalécio Barreto (Director-General of Livestock, STP). We point out that the HBD endured every costs incurred by the participants of the VSF-Portugal during this mission, including travel, accommodation and meals. Please read the report in the Annexe 5 for further detail regarding these activities.

In fact, this was an integrated action, with the major goal of promoting public health through animal health, simultaneously with the sustainable maintenance of the unique ecosystem of Príncipe. This is why we are fully convinced of the need to continue this work in cooperation with the HBD-STP and the regional Health Authorities (both animal and human).

As a final remark, we emphasise the offering of promotional merchandising items, namely VSF-Portugal logo-labeled bags and hats, to every dog owner who participated in this event.

A new operation was planned for June 2015, with the aims of capturing stray dogs for respective sterilisation (hysterectomy and orchidectomy) as well as performing the distinctive identification marking of the animals submitted to intervention. However due to the reorganisation of the HBD-STP, the operating plan had to be changed. This same organisation intends to hire a resident veterinarian for a minimum period of six months in order to address the diverse local needs, and for that aim our support was again requested, and conceded, through the dissemination of the respective job vacancy. Later on we were informed that Dr. Lara Batista was selected by the HBD-STP, Príncipe Trust, to develop veterinary activities in collaboration with the local authorities.

1.5. PROMOTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

We planned our participation in the event «Dias do Desenvolvimento» (Development Days), which was promoted by the Portuguese NGDOs Platform and the Lisbon Municipality (May 2015), with a short video presentation (photomontage). Unfortunately due to unchangeable facts out of our control we weren't able to attend.

On the 20th October 2016, a small group of associate members (Professor Dr. Anabela Moreira, and the Veterinary Physicians Dr. Diana Batista and Dr. Margarida Simões) accepted the invitation to represent our Association and promote our activities on a TV

show devoted to the themes World Animal Day and Veterinary Physicians, which was broadcasted in the TV channel RTP-Africa.

Moreover, on 26-27 November 2016, we attended the Professional Meeting of the Portuguese Veterinary Medical Association, in the Lisbon Congress Center, where we presented the principles regarding the Mission, the Vision and the Goals of our Association. We were then contacted by many professionals who were interested in affiliation, and we therefore conducted unofficial registrations by taking note of the respective contact details with the intention of a future contact for a formal registration (after the acceptance of functions from the new Executive Board).

1.6. PARTICIPATION IN THE ANNUAL MEETING OF VSF INTERNATIONAL

The Directive Board of the VSF-Portugal is still maintaining correspondence with the Directive Board of the previously named VSF-Europe, which has meanwhile changed its designation to VSF-International. For this purpose, our Association has participated in the election of the new Directive Board and Statutes Review (December 18, 2014) through written voting intention.

Consecutively, and after a substantiation of our current situation regarding membership and financing, we were conceded the exemption of the VSF-International membership fees during the year of 2014.

A call for greater involvement in the events of the VSF-International lead us to the commitment of participating in the VSF-International Meeting which was held in Lyon, France, on 23-24 October 2015, since the travelling costs were partially paid by the international association. Unfortunately, and regardless of the cost sharing (200 euros), none of the VSF-Portugal Directive Board members was able to attend.

On May 26, 2016, Manuel Malta (President of the VSF-Portugal) and Margarida Simões (Accountant of the VSF-Portugal) had a Skype meeting with Margherita Gomasasca (Coordinator of the VSF-International) concerning the participation of the VSF-Portugal as affiliates in a project to be submitted to international contest (DEAR – EU). Regarding this project, we participated in the dissemination of a survey on the approach “One Health” among students of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Nursing and Farming Sciences.

Margarida Simões participated as a representative of the Directive Board of the VSF-Portugal in the Annual General Meeting of the VSF-International, which was held on 9-10 September 2016, having the flight cost been entirely supported by the VSF-International. A short talk was given to present our activities in these last years, as well as the difficulties we

have experienced during our work development. As well as the remaining affiliates, we accepted the compromise of readapting the VSF-Portugal web page logo always in association with the VSF-International logo. We were also requested to present our annual reports in a common language (e.g. English). Moreover, and subsequently to the challenge of hosting the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the VSF-International in Lisbon, we presented this challenging task to the FMV-University of Lisbon, with mediation from the Veterinary Medicine Professor Dr. Conceição Peleteiro, and the initiative was kindly accepted by the institution. Therefore the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the VSF-International is already scheduled to October 2017 (FMV-ULisboa).

1.7. PARTICIPATION IN THE ORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE PORTUGUESE NGDOS PLATFORM

The Directive Board of the VSF-Portugal participated in the Ordinary General Meetings of the Portuguese NGDOs Platform, which were respectively held in April 2014 and 2015. The Directive Board of the VSF-Portugal is planning to submit our financial statements, as well as an account of our members and activities, to the Portuguese NGDOs Platform, and request this latest for a membership fees exemption during the year of 2015.

1.8. OTHER ACTIVITIES

During the course of 2014, we kept the perspective of participating in a development project for the dairy production activity in the region of Chimoio, Gaza province, Mozambique, which had been initiated by the predecessor Directive Board of VSF-Portugal. Private stakeholders and the Mozambican proponent (University of Chimoio), together with the VSF-Portugal and the FMV-University of Lisbon (Portugal) have been drafting the project to be submitted to international financing, considering as well the opportunity of involving the local milk processing company. Several teleconference calls were held during that period. Unfortunately the financing submission process could not be concluded. Therefore the project is still qualified for further opportunities of submission and execution.

During 2016, we requested the NGDO Status (Institute Camões) once again, which was then conceded by May 2018. We also registered the Association in the platform PADOR (NGOs European registration platform).

1.9. NOTE OF CONDOLENCE

In February 2015 we shared a note of condolence among our Associates, in regret for the demise of an estimated fellow of the VSF-Portugal Directive Board, as well as a humble last token of appreciation and gratitude at the moment of obsequies. To Maria da Conceição Brito we wish to express our final acknowledgment.

In July 2016 we also lost our President-in-office and therefore we shared a note of condolence among our Associates as well as with every other people who has congregated in his homage.



2. ACCOUNTS REPORT 2014-2016

VETERINÁRIOS SEM FRONTEIRAS PORTUGAL

TABLE 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 31/03/2014-31/03/2017

REVENUE		COSTS	
	Euro		Euro
Balance Carried Forward from 2013 (31/March/2014)	1,058.59	Yearly Contribution to VSF International	465.52
Membership fees of previous years (16x25)	400.00	Mission VGTropics - costs	580.45
Membership fees 2014 (5x25)	125.00	Representation costs	29.50
Membership fees 2015 (13x25)	325.00	Platform NGDO (2012 e 2015)	650.00
Membership fees 2016 (3x25)	75.00	VSF International (2015)	350.00
Donation 1 Mission VGTropics (4.1550\$00)	580.45		
Donation Project STP- Stray Dogs	3,000.00		
Payment 10 Euro from Inês Costa?	10.00		
TOTAL	5,574.04	TOTAL	2,075.47
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 2016	3,498.57		



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TABLE 2. BUDGET 2017

REVENUE		COSTS	
	Euro		Euro
Balance Carried Forward from 2016	3,498.57	Fifth mission in the island of Maio	0
Delayed Membership fees (10x25)	250.00	Hosting of the VSF-International Assembly	100.00
Membership fees 2016 (10x25)	250.00	Yearly Contribution VSF International	350.00
Merchandising sales	0	Contribution to the Portuguese NGOs Platform 2016 & 2017	650.00
		Miscellaneous (Tax fine)	150.00
TOTAL	3,998.57	TOTAL	1,250.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 2018	2,748.57		

ANNEXES

ANNEXE I

EGG PRODUCTION PROJECT - ALDEIA SOS ASSOMADA, ISLAND OF SANTIAGO (CABO VERDE)

In April 2014, on the occasion of a travel to Cabo Verde, island of Santiago, the interaction between the Directive Board of Aldeia SOS, in the city of Assomada, and the VSF-Portugal member Maria da Conceição Peleteiro – who visited the association Aldeia with Mr. Carlos Semedo (Secretary of Administration) – was initiated. During that visit she was shown a small poultry farming house which was disabled and practically in ruins. She then proposed the elaboration of a reactivation project aimed for egg production, to the Directive Board of Aldeia SOS, having two aspects in consideration. On the one hand, the interest of the managers of Aldeia in disposing of a production system which could be left under the care of the older youth, thus contributing to their respective training by the attribution of responsibilities regarding the success of the small-scale operation; on the other hand, the association Aldeia could save some money in the future by using the eggs to provide the households and selling the remainder.

In December 2014, MCP personally delivered a project to the Directive Board of Aldeia SOS, which is authored by herself and Rute Noiva – Master in Veterinary Medicine, who was finishing her PhD studies under the subject of chick embryonic development. The project for the reactivation of the poultry farming house, entitled “EGG PRODUCTION PROJECT - ALDEIA SOS ASSOMADA, CABO VERDE” was discussed with the Directive Board of Aldeia SOS, in order to be adjusted to the identified needs, during a decisive meeting which was held on the occasion of the second visit of MCP to the Aldeia. By that time, the poultry farming house was already under restoration, and the construction works were in advanced stage of completion.

The project presented was elaborated in detailed manner, including advice on good husbandry practice. A short calculation sheet with the anticipated costs and revenues was also appended.

According to recent news (March 23) the construction works are near completion, and the first batch of chicks is on the verge of occupying the new premises.

The association Aldeia SOS is an international organisation, therefore the practical titles are being kept in English language.



Egg production project — Aldeia SOS Assomada, island of Santiago (Cabo Verde). General outlook of the small poultry farming house already in the phase of restoration works for the purpose of reactivation.

ANNEXE II

VGTropics SAT1 Workshop Report CV

From 21 to 23 October 2014 the VGTropics SAT1 Workshop was held at the DGADR (General Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development), Achada de S. Filipe, city of Praia, Island of Santiago, Cabo Verde (CV).

It was decided by the DSP (Livestock Services of Cabo Verde) that both administrators and users would participate in the three days of the event.

On the first day of the workshop, after the participant's presentation, the VGTropics project and its different components were presented in detail since there were participants that didn't attend the user needs/requirements workshop that was held in July 2013. Subsequently, the registration on the system and current data collection practices were discussed, with emphasis on the livestock survey, distribution and analysis.

Reporting requirements were also addressed and performance indicators were discussed.

The administrative participants agreed that it would be possible to assess the performance of the VGTropics information system using the key performance indicators, and suggestions to adapt these indicators to VGTropics use in CV were presented (Annex I).

The second day was dedicated to the practical use of the administration web app, data collection through the web app and mobile app. The systems were presented to the participants thereupon each of them could test the VGTropics features described in ANNEX II (System Validation).

To test the data collection the DSP member received three smartphone devices (Huawei Y300) from Avia-GIS. The Director of DSP, Eng. João Fonseca, the coordinator of Veterinary Service, Dr. Afonso Semedo, and the focal point for animal diseases surveillance and notification, Dr. José Luis de Barros (all VGTropics administrators in CV), anticipated a significant decrease in time required to compile the monthly reports. Currently it takes a lot of time and in many cases the information doesn't arrive in time to the Central Services. The implementation of FAO data collection system was started but not completed due to lack of hardware and the need of connection to a central system.

The practical exercises on data entry were well performed by the participants and concerns about the possibility of error corrections were raised. In this regard it was announced that the administrators are enabled to correct faulty entries.

On the third day of the workshop a revision of data entry was carried out through the development of a specific case study. The remaining VGTropics SAT1 features, given in ANNEX II, were covered (Animal Health Information Database, Information analysis and Livestock Distribution Survey) through the presentation of main features; however the analysis module could not be tested by the participants with practical examples.

Participants were also shown how to use the distance-learning platform and the user credentials necessary to login into Moodle were given to each of the users. GIS Desktop Application was also demonstrated.

During the workshop several suggestions to improve VGTropics were made, in order to increase its user-friendliness, usefulness and management capacity:

- Deactivation Option for farms that no longer have animals or are no longer registered as active;
- **From the suspicion form** instead of linking to the herd form it has to link to the census form;
- Under the sampling form, the fields 'laboratory', 'date' and 'type of sample' could be in the upper level instead of individual entering per sample, since these values refer to all samples; Identification of sample could be replicated when "add" sign was activated because usually sample ID is the same, varying in the ordinal number of the sample;
- Make the laboratory form accessible only for laboratory personal to avoid cross entries;
- The type of test used to diagnose the disease is not included in the Laboratory test form, and it should be included;
- Instead of having individual entries for laboratory results of each sample, a list of samples taken in a given day/farm could be presented with the possibility to tick appropriate result (positive, negative, doubtful, not valid). It could be an option for bulk action, as in the case of large surveys without individual identification of animals, to have a summary for registering the size of the sample taken (instead of sample by sample), and results could be registered by the laboratory as the number of positives, negatives, doubtful or not valid.

Praia, 23.10.2014

Afonso Semedo

Coordinator of the Veterinary Service, Cabo Verde

Manuel Malta

President of VSF-Portugal

Yolanda Vaz

VSF-Portugal

ANNEXE III



**MISSION OF THE VETERINÁRIOS SEM FRONTEIRAS PORTUGAL IN COOPERATION
WITH THE ASSOCIATION BONOS AMIGOS, IN THE ISLAND OF SANTIAGO, CITY OF
PRAIA, REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE,
CARRIED OUT BETWEEN OCTOBER 23 AND NOVEMBER 7, 2014**



1. Introduction

In the aftermath of the cooperation initiated a few years ago with the Association Bons Amigos, a team of the VSF-Portugal travelled to the island of Santiago, city of Praia, Republic of Cabo Verde, with the aim to collaborate in the initiative for sterilisation and deworming of dogs and cats, which was carried out in the Bairro do Palmarejo, between October 23 and November 7, 2014, as well as to participate in the conference “Animais e o seu convívio com os seres humanos” (“Animals in coexistence with people”), which was held in the University of Cabo Verde, on the 5th November.

2. Goals

- Castration/ sterilisation of around 600 animals (dogs and cats), both stray and non-stray individuals, particularly in the Bairro do Palmarejo;
- Increase the number of dewormed animals (both internally and externally);
- Contribute to broaden the civil population awareness, regarding the significant importance of sterilisation and its effects on the efficient population control of stray dogs, thus avoiding the indiscriminate culling of animals.

3. Workgroup

- From Portugal: Manuel Malta (President of the VSF- Portugal), Márcia Viana and Rui Gaspar (veterinarians and volunteers of the VSF-Portugal);
- From Cabo Verde: Erwig (President of the Association Bons Amigos-Sueden), Madueno and remaining team of staff members and volunteers of the Association Bons Amigos.



Team members of VSF-Portugal. From left to right: Manuel Malta, Márcia Viana and Rui Gaspar.

4. Results

Regarding the first goal of this mission, 330 castrations/ sterilisations were accomplished, therefore a much smaller total than the initially estimated figure (600 castrations/ sterilisations). This deviation was justified by the significant number of internal medicine queries and emergency procedures which had to be carried out by the surgical team, thus occupying a large section of their workday schedule and reducing their availability for a larger number of the foreseen surgical procedures. On the other hand, was agreed a target number of animals to be submitted to intervention on a daily basis, according to the available surgical staff on duty as well as the extant technical resources (surgical equipment, capture crates, volunteer numbers, etc.) and this target number was attained every day of the ongoing campaign.

Only two casualties (two cats) were observed among the total number of operated animals, both during the surgical period. Although it is difficult to ascertain the causes of death due to the extant conditions, these two situations were probably due to the implemented anaesthetic protocol and by the technical impossibility to perform a pre-operative analytical evaluation of the animals' general health condition.



Top left: Operating room. Top right: Animals on hold before surgical procedure. Bottom left: Surgical team members during a medical procedure. Bottom right: Animals in the operating recovery crates.

Concerning the second aim, a total number of 2183 animals were dewormed during the 13 workdays. All the procedures related to the deworming campaign (trichotomies, washings, internal and external dewormer administration, etc.) were carried out by the experienced team of staff members and volunteers from the Association Bons Amigos, who served all the animal owners of the Bairro who appeared in the facilities assembled in the main square of Palmarejo.



Dogs and their holders waiting for deworming.



Lúcia, staff member of the Associação Bons Amigos, receiving and registering data from the dewormed animals and their respective owners.

Amongst the activities addressed to expand the civil population awareness on the subject there was a conference held in the University of Cabo Verde, entitled “Animais e o seu convívio com os seres humanos” (“Animals in coexistence with people”), in which several scientific arguments were presented to support the significant importance of castration/sterilisation of stray animals and its effects on the efficient population control of stray dogs. Besides the lecture held by the president of VSF-Portugal, Manuel Malta, we also had a presentation given by two doctoral candidates from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, namely Joana Dias and Ana Margarida Alho, addressing the primary health care of companion animals. The result of this initiative was found to be very positive, with the presence of circa 40 students of the University of Cabo Verde and a few Docents.

Besides this Conference, further opportunities for media dissemination came up during the ongoing mission, specifically through radio and television interviews with the President of the VSF-Portugal, with the aims to both promoting the campaign and the civil population awareness regarding the importance of castration/sterilisation of both stray and domestic companion animals.

5. Conclusions

In spite of the much smaller number of operated animals which was accomplished in this mission comparing to the initially estimated figure, on an overall perspective, the attained results were considered quite satisfying, and in some aspects exceeded our initial expectations. The number of surgical interventions performed was substantially lower than the desired goal of 600 animals; however a large number of internal medicine queries and emergency procedures were also carried out, thus enabling access to veterinary consultation to the population of the Bairro do Palmarejo. On the other hand, the daily achievement of the established goals in number of operated animals allowed us to the conclusion that the initially estimated figure was maladjusted to the tangible reality of the ongoing mission on the ground.

We could as well conclude that the campaign results concerning the accomplished figures of deworming and population awareness activities were quite positive, and also accompanied by a remarkable acceptance and participation from the Bairro's population. The presence of the VSF-Portugal team members was highly embraced, and an excellent working dynamics was developed with the team of staff members and volunteers of the Association Bons Amigos. Therefore a new partnership mission between these two entities was since then programmed to June/July 2015 in order to continue this cooperation in the efforts of population control of the dogs and cats living in the city of Praia.

ANNEXE IV



**MISSION OF THE VETERINÁRIOS SEM FRONTEIRAS PORTUGAL IN COOPERATION
WITH THE ASSOCIATION BONOS AMIGOS, IN THE ISLAND OF SANTIAGO, CITY OF
PRAIA, REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE,**

CARRIED OUT BETWEEN JULY 17 AND AUGUST 2, 2015



1. Introduction

In continuity with the work performed during the castration campaign carried out in October/November 2014, in partnership with the Association Bons Amigos, a team of the VSF-Portugal travelled once more to the island of Santiago, city of Praia, Republic of Cabo Verde, with the aim to collaborate in a new campaign for dog sterilisation and deworming, which was carried out in the high school Cesaltina Ramos, Bairro da Achada de Santo António, between July 17 and August 2, 2015.

2. Goals

- Castration/ sterilisation of around 500 animals (dogs), both stray and non-stray individuals, particularly in the Bairro da Achada de Santo António;
- Increase the number of dewormed animals (both internally and externally);
- Contribute to broaden the civil population awareness, regarding the significant importance of sterilisation and its effects on the efficient population control of stray dogs, thus avoiding the indiscriminate culling of animals.

3. Workgroup

- From Portugal: Manuel Malta (President of the Veterinários sem Fronteiras - Portugal), Márcia Viana and Rui Gaspar (veterinarians and volunteers of the VSF-Portugal);
- From Cabo Verde: Madueno, Eduíno and remaining team of staff members and volunteers of the Association Bons Amigos.



Workgroup composed by Volunteers VSF as well as staff members and volunteers of the Association Bons Amigos.

4. Results

Regarding the first goal of this mission, 450 castrations/ sterilisations were accomplished, which can be seen as a quite satisfactory total considering the foreseeable figure (500 castrations/ sterilisations). The accomplishment of this aim was only possible due to the fact that the numerous internal medicine queries and emergency procedures which turned up at the campaign facilities were redirected to the Association's clinic, thus enabling the exclusive dedication of the surgical team to the surgical labour. On the other hand, a target number of animals to be submitted to intervention were agreed on a daily basis, according to the available surgical staff on duty as well as the extant technical resources (surgical equipment, capture crates, volunteer numbers, etc.) and this target number was attained every day of the ongoing campaign.

Only three casualties, (one stray animal and two companion animals) were observed, among the total number of operated animals, both during the post surgical period. The technical impossibility to perform a pre-operative analytical evaluation of the animals' general health condition hampers to a great degree the ascertainment of the respective causes. However these three operations were successfully executed and without observed clinical disturbances, wherefore the causes of death were most possibly associated to previous health problems.

Concerning the second aim, a total number of around 1000 animals were dewormed during the 12 workdays. All the procedures related to the deworming campaign (trichotomies, washings, internal and external dewormer administration, etc.) were carried out by the experienced team of staff members and volunteers from the Association Bons Amigos, who served all the animal owners of the Bairro who appeared in the facilities assembled in the high school Cesaltina Ramos, in the Bairro da Achada de Santo António.

The activities addressed to expand the civil population awareness were limited to the direct intervention of the team of volunteers from VSF as well as the team of staff members and volunteers from the Association Bons Amigos, who instructed the animal owners and/or "caregivers" of stray animals regarding the primary health care needs of their animals, besides highlighting the importance of castration/sterilisation of stray dogs considering its effects both on the efficient population control of the animals and as a mean of public health preservation.



Top left: Operating room. Top right: Surgical team member during a medical procedure. Bottom left: Animals during the anaesthetic recovery period. Bottom right: Animal after surgical procedure with identification collar placed by the Association staff.

5. Conclusions

The results attained in this mission were considered quite satisfying. The number of surgical interventions performed was nearly close to the desired total of 500 animals and the daily achievement of the established goals in number of operated animals revealed an excellent organisation and planning of the team work as well as a great group work dynamics, thus reflecting the already initiated effort during the previous campaign (Oct/Nov 2014). On the other hand, regarding the accomplished figures of deworming and population awareness activities, the results of this campaign were also quite positive and accompanied by a remarkable approval and participation from the Bairro's population. The presence of the VSF-Portugal team was once again very well accepted and the Association Bons Amigos demonstrated the will to extend this partnership for the dog population control in the city of Praia.



Educa_ção

(Public Health Project)



Fase 2 Ação 1

Island of Príncipe- STP

HBD, RODES, VSF-Portugal, SEAS e SP
Malta, M. – Team Manager, Veterinary
January / February 2015
someone@example.com

Summary

Execution of the Phase 2 – Action 1 of the Project Educa_Cão, in the island of Príncipe, which consisted in the observation, identification and internal deworming of every dog presented by its caregiver, besides the sterilisation of the highest possible number of these animals with duly authorisation from their respective owners. Biological sample collection was also performed for sampling analyses aimed to detect the presence of zoonotic diseases.

Goals

- › Identify the adult dogs (males and females) with numbered yellow collars (e.g. 1-15, referring to the animal 1 of the year 2015), and subcutaneous administration, slightly behind the left ear, of an electronic identification device (microchip), in order to allow the distinct identification of the animal during its whole life.
- › Filling up a data sheet with the name and contact of the animal owner with the aim to create a data base for use and updating by the Livestock Services and/or the Municipal Services.
- › Filling up an Individual Health Booklet for each animal to be handed to their respective owners.
- › Brief medical examination in order to identify the zoonosis carriers (infectious diseases that can be naturally transmitted to humans).
- › Surgical sterilisation of all animals duly authorised by the respective owners.



Dogs and their holders waiting for the registration and procedures.

Activity Schedule of the VSF-Portugal Team

> 27 January

07h30 – Departure from Lisbon of the team members Isabel de Santiago (IS) and Manuel Malta (MM)

17h40 – Arrival to São Tomé and transfer to the Omali Lodge

19h00 – Press Conference in the Omali Lodge regarding the project EDUCA_CÃO

> 28 January

08h30 – Meeting with the Director-General of Livestock of STP, and customs clearance formalities during the rest of the day for the pharmaceuticals and medical equipment



Island of Príncipe, STP.

> 29 January

08h00 – All day in the General Customs Administration

17h40 – Arrival to São Tomé and transfer to the Omali Lodge of the remaining VSF-Portugal team members

> 30 January

07h00 – Departure to the island of Príncipe of some of the VSF-Portugal team members;

Equipment collection and transportation from the customs services to the Omali lodge (MM)

15h00 – Departure to the island of Príncipe

16h00 – Meeting with Dr^a Ana Silva, Health Delegate of the Regional Government of the island of Príncipe

> 31 January to 7 February

Fieldwork in the various communities

› **4 February**

15h00 - Meeting between MM and Dr. Pina Gil (State Secretary for Social Affairs of the Government of the Autonomous Region of the island of Príncipe), after previous contacts between the latter and Isabel de Santiago

› **8 February**

Day off

› **9 February**

07h00 – Departure to São Tomé

09h00 – Meeting with the Director-General of Livestock of STP, Dr. Idalécio Barreto

› **10 February**

17h30 – Departure to Lisbon

Geographic Location

After visiting the main localities of the island, in the course of the Phase 2 – Action 1, with the aim to select the best locations to install the “campaign hospitals” and promote the civil population awareness regarding the public health issues that the stray dogs may entail, we contacted the leaders of the local communities in order to invite them to encourage the animals owners to present their respective animals in the attendance stations, and we produced the following schedule for the several locations:

Island of Príncipe

- › 31 Jan – St António – Nova Apostólica Health Centre
- › 1 Feb – St António – Stadium 13 de Junho
- › 2 Feb – Nova Estrela
- › 3 Feb – Azeitona
- › 4 Feb – Paciência
- › 5 Feb – Sundry
- › 6 Feb – Porto Real
- › 7 Feb morning – Praia Abade

› 7 Feb afternoon – Picão

On the 7th February, the initially planned schedule had to be changed from the initially scheduled all day presence in Praia Abade, due to the very low adhesion of the population for reasons still unknown to us, and therefore we made use of the afternoon to settle ourselves in Picão, for we had been given the impression that many people were unable to appear in the Roça Paciência, probably due to the distance.

Identification, Deworming and Surgical Intervention

We performed the identification of 196 animals, all with known owner, although we could not administrate the microchip to 3 of these animals due to the fact that they ran away during the course of the query, but they were however identified with a numbered collar.

The animals aged less than 5 months old were only identified through the Individual Health Booklet, and we also proceeded to their respective deworming. Their owners were advised to present these animals for castration during the course of the next mission (Phase 2 – Action 3).

Table 3. Surgical Intervention by Location.

Date	Location	Oophorectomy and hysterectomy	Vasectomy	Orchidectomy	ID without surgery	Queries/ Deworming	TOTAL SURGERY	TOTAL ID
31 Jan 15	Nova Apost.	8	6	0	3	4	14	17
1 Feb 15	Estádio	8	4	1	16 (1 chip)	6	13	29
2 Feb 15	Nova Estrela	3	15	0	8	2	18	26
3 Feb 15	Azeitona	3	8	0	3 (2 without chip)	1	11	14
4 Feb 15	Paciência	9	2	3	14	4	14	28
5 Feb 15	Sundy	3	2	7	3	11	12	15
6 Feb 15	Porto Real	9	0	15	8	4	24	32
7 Feb 15	Praia Abade	1	0	4	0	0	5	5
7 Feb 15	Picão	6	0	10	14	5	16	30
TOTAL		50	37	40	69	37	127	196

The following operations were also performed:

- Limb amputation
- Skin tumour extraction



Surgical team members during a medical procedure.

Of the 196 identified animals, 127 were surgically sterilised, namely 50 females and 77 males. The obtained percentage of sterilised animals in relation to the total population presented/ captured was 64%, therefore slightly below the 70% figure recommended by FAO. The total number of intervened animals, 196, was also below the goal that we initially settled, probably due to a more precautionary approach that generally characterises a first time intervention besides the considerable distance evidenced between the communities.

Our proposal of anti-rabies vaccination was not authorised by the Office of the General Directorate of Livestock of STP. However, during a meeting with the Director-General of Livestock of STP, Dr. Idalécio Barreto, we could realise that there is a good acceptance to our vaccination proposal provided that concerted action is taken with the Regional Government of the island of Príncipe.

We also performed sampling analyses aimed to detect relevant public health diseases, therefore increasing the size of the first sampling (Phase 1 – Action 1). In the course of the clinical observation we registered the existence of several animals infected with zoonotic diseases (scabies and ringworm).

Conclusions

Our proposed goals were not fully accomplished probably due to the natural suspicion of the civil population regarding this kind of intervention, but the obtained results were quite close to the FAO recommendation, namely 70% sterilisation of the dog population which was presented/ captured. We obtained a figure of 64.8%, in this action, but we only intervened in the animals which were presented by their respective owners.

In respect to zoonotic diseases, we consider reason for concern that we made the observation of animals infected with scabies and ringworm, as well as the results from the first sampling analyses, which indicate a high prevalence of gastrointestinal worms, therefore representing a high risk of infection for the population, especially the children.

Acknowledgements

- › To the population at large for embracing this project, therefore presenting the owned dogs in the attendance stations sometimes at a considerable distance from home.
- › To Dr. Idalécio Barreto for the precious collaboration that we were given.
- › To the Regional Government of the island of Príncipe, namely through the collaboration of Dr. Pina Gil, State Secretary for Social Affairs, Dr. Ana Silva, Health Delegate, and Mr Aldo Pires, Administrator of the Sto. António Hospital
- › To the HBD members who voluntarily accompanied and worked with the VSF team staff: Teresa Pires, Rita Alves, Estrela Matilde and Herculano da Silva.
- › To Rádio Regional do Príncipe, namely through Fredibel Umbelina.
- › To the Volunteer Veterinarians of the VSF-Portugal: Drs. Margarida Simões, Márcia Viana and Rui Gaspar, for their excellent performance.
- › To the STP mobile phone provider for having sent text messages to all its subscribers.