

HELP STOP THIS DOG HELL NEAR CAMPOSOL NOW!

Most of the Ex pats in the region are aware that Noah's arc, JJ puppies and Animal Angels are involved locally with the care of Abandoned, sick, injured and abused animals.

We are all appalled by some of the scenes we regularly witness, and what you will read below is an account from a local person who has had to witness this abuse day and night for the last two years. Both she and her husband have been so traumatised by the whole episode, that they are now desperate for the help of all of us to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion.

There is no dedicated organisation such as the RSPCA in Spain, which is a sad irony when we live in a European country where cruelty is rife!

Just 2 km from the luxury of what is to be Polaris World's new development in ALHAMA DE MURCIA we are witnessing what must surely be some of the worst cases of dog abuse in the region!

A rectangular strip of land, measuring about 25m wide by 250m.... not enough to legally build any permanent structures but large enough to dump a few animals is being used as a compound for dog abuse on a massive scale. Built in March 2005, a fence was erected and the first of the dogs were confined. There is no power or water supply. The dogs are permanently confined in the compound while their owner remains living in Alhama. Outside her occasional visits (lasting around 1 hour) with food and water the animals have no stimulation, discipline, exercise, affection or leadership.

FIGHTS AND BEATINGS

After many months, during which more dogs were added, there were just over 40 animals there. These bored, neglected, hungry, and dehydrated dogs began to fight amongst themselves. Their owner (after her arrival) made no effort to separate them or tend to their injuries. Any injuries the dogs receive from their assaults remain untreated, with some dogs ultimately suffering an agonising death as a result of their injuries. Their owner clearly has no idea about how to care for dogs, as her only answer to their fights is to try and beat them apart, when all they are trying to do is vie for her attention and food.

Some of the dogs display clear signs of being psychologically unstable.....weaving from side to side, running back and forth for hours at a time. Others have become so aggressive that daily fights and squeals of pain and distress are a daily and nocturnal occurrence

DEATHS AND A SHALLOW GRAVE

More dogs were collected as the weeks went on. One of the bitches gave birth to puppies during the full heat of the summer with no shelter and little water. One of the puppies died before the owner showed. When she did arrive, she dumped the dead puppy into a depression and covered it with a wooden pallet. Ominously there are now numerous shallow depressions covered with wooden pallets.

For many dogs the only shelter they find is that they dig for themselves in the scorched earth. Over the next eighteen months, many more dogs arrived...and more died. Sometimes, the dead animals were brought from somewhere else for burial....so perhaps she has other premises where such disposal of the unfortunate animals is not so simple.

Reports of the illegal structures and the burials were regularly reported to the local Town Hall and Guardia, but until January 08 nothing was done. After two years, the situation had grown out of all proportion. By the summer of 2007, there were more than 40 dogs in the compound.

He howls for most of the night

One calm, submissive and sweet-natured greyhound had been driven up to the far end by the other dogs. He could not go down to the food and water once delivered as the pack attacked him and drove him back. He had become frail and covered in bites and bloody scabs. He howled most of the night, every night. He was the only one to whom we can get close enough to record his injuries, although we know there are others in a worse state in the smaller pits. By November the little greyhound no longer had the strength to wag his tail or wander over for a soft word and a friendly ear-scratch. He stood, motionless, with his tail between his legs and waited..... Sadly this adorable chap gave up his struggle for life at Christmas. Unable to cope with the combination of cold, dehydration, starvation and injuries sustained from the continual attacks, he passed away, alone, in the corner of this vile compound. The poor dog had been dead for three days when we discovered him. Two days later, and almost a week since the owner had visited, the greyhound had been eaten by the pack, themselves near starvation. The Guardia were called to see the body. The owner still failed to show. After the rest of the dogs had eaten what remained, the skull was deposited near to one of the gates where, on her first visit for over two weeks, the owner sat and chatted to her friend, completely unmoved by the obvious results of her abandonment of the animals.

Testicles almost torn from its body!

ON DECEMBER 22nd 2007, we witnessed an attack by four of the larger black dogs (the same dogs that had driven the greyhound to his death), on a smaller brown dog. They dragged it for about 10m, snapping and biting at it all the time, then proceeded to attack it with a ferocity we were too late to catch on camera. When we arrived we managed to drive the attackers off, but the dog was severely injured, its testicles almost torn from its body. It was unable to move for some time, but eventually crawled off to lick its wounds. When the owner returned, in spite of spending several hours at the compound while her friend built additional pens, she sat and paid no attention to this dog's injuries and left it to suffer. By any standards, this is completely unacceptable behaviour.

One Husky in particular, that we affectionately named Jake, who was always running around and wagging his tail at strangers, now no longer moved from one day to the next. He, more than any of the others, appeared to have completely lost the will to live. He sits guarding the pile of food that his owner dumps on the ground, He is protecting it, as he has no idea when, or if, the next meal will arrive.

WHATS IN THE BOX?

At the end of the compound there is a wooden box. 3ftx4ftx3ft. The only opening is at the top, over which there is a wire mesh, covered by a wooden pallet, Daylight can barely filter through the space that is left. Inside is an animal. It never sees the light of day and never leaves its box. The owner visits this box once a week, (if that), to remove a feeding bowl and replaces it with another. Nothing else happens. Like the compound, it has never been cleaned out. Why does she keep it? Would YOU keep any animal like this?

At least five dead dogs have been hastily and ineffectively buried, only to be excavated by the hungry pack. All have been buried within an area in which other dogs live and roam. Other dogs may have been buried surreptitiously as many trips to feed the animals began to take place at night!

Plagues of flies and rats

With plagues of flies and rats infesting the area, the compound has become a health hazard not only for the dogs but to all the neighbours.

The compound has never been cleaned and the animals live amongst an ever-increasing spread of their own faeces and urine.... particularly distressing for those who live in the confines of the smaller pits. The stench of the dogs and their waste is very powerful during warm weather. For some, though, their own faeces has provided them with the sustenance their owner was incapable of providing.

After repeated requests to the Seprona branch of the Guardia Civil. They came out on Boxing Day to see the cause of our distress and take pictures. Nothing more was heard until we returned to the Guardia Civil office to ask for action to be taken. We hoped they would act more speedily, as we believed they were genuinely shocked by the conditions and wanted to help.

Another body is found

January 2008 another body, this time of a terrier, is found. The owner does not even bother to bury the animal this time, even leaving it lying where it fell after one of her visits. She appears to show no concern or compassion for these animals and their suffering.

Eventually, the Guardia turned up with a couple of vans and collected 35 of the surviving dogs. They took them, initially, to Totana but, before they could return for the remaining dogs, the owner discovered where they were and returned three of them back to the compound. However, by January 8th 2008, all the dogs had been removed and taken to a holding centre near Alicante. There they will be put down if not rehomed or claimed within a short time.

Despite police intervention, it appears that the woman has not been cautioned, fined or prosecuted. Two weeks after the removal of the dogs, the owner returned, with help, and covered all the internal fencing with green plastic, making it impossible to (easily) see the animals or conditions inside. Slowly, she is re-stocking the place. There are now nine dogs there and she has visited three times in the last month. As this article is written, at the beginning of March, she has not been seen for 15 days!

Prison sentence

The above account is an accurate portrayal of events there, and we, at Noah's Arc feel, as do both JJ puppies and Animal Angels, that this woman is, at best, an individual with a deep obsession for collecting dogs as one would collect stamps, and at worst a serial dog abuser causing the death of numerous dogs, most suffering agonising and horrific ends. If this woman had been carrying on this regime in the UK (according to the RSPCA) she would have faced a criminal prosecution, resulting in a huge fine, or prison sentence and a lifetime ban on keeping any animals.

If you have read this far well done! Many people I speak to don't want to know. They get very uncomfortable about this kind of abuse so close to home. Once you visit the famine stricken areas of Africa your life can change in an instant, you realise that, values that you once held dear are somehow not quite so relevant. Visit this compound, and you too will become focused on but one objective, justice for these poor dogs, and justice for the perpetrators.

Let there be no misunderstanding. Noah's Arc, JJ puppies and Animal Angels are determined to work day and night to find a solution to this nightmare!

WHAT CAN YOU DO ?

So what are you going to do now, flip the page and try to forget the nightmare that is going on in your own back yard or help us with our fight?

PETITION and DENUNCIA

There is a petition currently being circulated. You can sign this at 'Happy Pets' in Camposol B (Mazarron) if you would like to add your voice to this ongoing saga. Another petition is in both Noah's Arc and JJ puppies shops in the port. The owner's name and address are also available there if you feel strongly enough to place your own 'denuncia'. Go to www.animalcrueltynearpolarisworld.com for more information and pictures of the goings on there.

For the sake of the entire dog-loving population in the area, whether German, Spanish, English or Chinese, **LET US TRY TO STOP THIS WOMAN NOW!!**