



**LEGA PRO ANIMALE**  
CENTRO DI STERILIZZAZIONE PER CANI E GATTI **ETS**

FONDAZIONE MONDO ANIMALE



**NEWSLETTER 2023/2024**

**Dear Animal Lovers and Benefactors of our  
Animal Welfare Work in Southern Italy,**

the year 2023 has rushed by again and unfortunately no one has responded to our numerous advertisements and emails and our large, fully equipped veterinary clinic is only used for a "mini spay day" every now and then. There is also a small article on the topic in issue 1/2024 on page 44 of the German Animal Welfare Association's magazine "Du und das Tier" (You and the Animal); (<https://www.legaproanimale.com/2024/05/10/du-und-das-tier-edizione-1-2024/>).

My physical and mental strength seems to be dwindling and every now and then I ask myself how I have managed an immense workload every day for all these decades! Today I "just" look after our animals at the Centre, do all the administrative work for LEGA PRO ANIMALE and the MONDO ANIMALE foundation, the correspondence and the thank you letters, buy the animal food and whatever else we need. Every now and then I struggle to keep up with it all. It's totally unusual for me that I don't always manage to do everything I actually wanted to do!

Then the big blow came in July 2023: The local government decided that freelance veterinarians were no longer allowed to identify stray dogs that someone wanted to adopt. So, our "adopt a stray project", which was continued by Carolin in Rocca D'Evandro and financed by our MONDO ANIMALE Foundation, was completely blocked.

Anyone who had not yet identified and registered their dog and wanted to do so had to pay a fine of 300 euros because the 1991 law had not been followed. After 33 years, they wanted to take tough action. A few years ago, there was a regional law that required puppies to be microchipped in the first 30 days of their life, especially BEFORE being adopted or sold. The idea was good, but the reality here in southern Italy is completely different. Besides that, there was no information given to the public about this innovation and the freelance veterinarians were not informed either. Unwanted or not adoptable puppies have always been simply abandoned here, preferably in a lonely area (so that they starve to death?) or at the gates of people who were known to love dogs and cats. And certainly, without being microchipped! According to the new law, abandoned dogs and puppies must now be caught by dog catchers of the public veterinary services and taken to public facilities where they must stay for at least 30 days until they can be re-homed. During this time, they should be chipped, dewormed, treated for ectoparasites and neutered. That actually sounds pretty good, but the reality is a little different. Many dogs, especially puppies, become ill or even die in these facilities. There is no one who socializes puppies and we all know what consequences that has.

Some of the local animal rights activists organized a protest outside the local Government and I demonstrated on the streets for the first time in my life! There were hundreds of demonstrators there with posters, loudly shouting that animal shelters are prisons and that dogs need a home, not a kennel. I almost cried for joy when I saw and heard that! And we were successful: a group of government councillors temporarily reversed the momentous change to the law. Some of the protesters were invited to a government hearing and we were allowed to present our concerns and alternative suggestions. However, nothing has happened to date, but we veterinarians can again easily chip found dogs that someone has taken into their home. Who knows when everything will again turn back .....

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Apart from the poor dogs who, after being "disposed" by their owners, also have to endure the stress of ending up in an overcrowded animal shelter where no one will hug and comfort these poor creatures. And: the taxpayer would have to pay enormous sums for this change in the law: They wanted to build more public animal shelters and public veterinary clinics, hire more veterinarians and, of course, more staff. If the goal were achieved, i.e. no more stray dogs on the streets to catch, what would be done with these facilities and the staff?

Every day we hear in the news that the Italian state and especially the local government of Campania no longer has enough money to provide people with proper medical care. And then they block enormous free help from animal protection organizations and also from some freelance veterinarians? One could still understand that, but as the statistics show, the years of help from non-profit organizations were crowned with success: only in Campania, in 2018, over 60,000 captured dogs were kept in public kennels at taxpayer expense. Today there are a few more than 16,000. Isn't that a success? Shouldn't the authorities do everything they can to ensure that even more volunteers continue to work at their own expense so that the problem is finally a thing of the past?

But I report from Italy, more precisely southern Italy, and the clocks tick differently here than in Northern European countries. In any case, I'm very curious to see how this continues!

On the next pages there is more news from 2023 and the first half of 2024. Things continue somehow, maybe a little slower, but we have expanded our sphere of influence, especially through the SPAY ITALY project, financed by the MONDO ANIMALE Foundation. But read for yourself!

I would like to thank you very much for your constant help and I very much hope that you will continue to support us.

All the best from Castel Volturno

*Dorothea Friz*

## PREMIO ANIMAL DAY 27. MAGGIO 2023



The delegation of the LEGA PRO ANIMALE:  
GIOVANNI (COUNCILOR), DOROTHEA (PRESIDENT),  
GIOVANNA (VOLUNTEER), CAROLIN (VETERINARY)



STELLA CERVASIO, President of the animal protection organisation "ANIMAL DAY" presents the award IMMA DELLA VALLE 2023 to Dorothea Friz

It was the first time in over 40 years of working for the protection of animals that the LPA was publicly recognized **in Italy!** Every year the "ANIMAL DAY" Association of Naples awards the IMMA DELLA VALLE AWARD to people or organizations particularly committed to animal welfare. In 2023 it was our turn.

You can find the interesting program on our homepage:

<https://www.legaproanimale.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/programma-8-edizione-ANIMAL-DAY.pdf>

All the speakers were of one opinion, including the vice president of the Chamber of Deputies, the Honourable Sergio Costa, the organizations, the delegates of the "Forestate" (the carabinieri who are in charge of the protection of animals and the environment): **It is necessary to increase education and awareness of the public, especially of young people, on animal protection and not only for domestic animals but also for wild ones, since several species already live with us in cities.**

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Please let me know your email address for correspondence - THANKS