

Tierfreunde Lesbos e.V.



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Dear animal lovers,

we have decided to bring the newsletter back to life.

- 1. Let's start with the story of Janosch, who was kept as a chain dog for 7 years. He was freed from his prison in August 2021, thanks to the courageous and tireless efforts of Karoline, a member of our association, by the police.**



Janosch was adopted this year by Eleni and Richard from Norway.

Here is a letter from both of them:

Since we were kids both of us has always had a fondness for animals, and especially dogs. A harsh reality when growing up is realizing that a lot of people mistreats animals, without acknowledging their value as living beings. The profound bond, loyalty and love a dog can provide is second to none, and something we want in our lives permanently. It is sincerely heartwarming to see the effort Tierfreunde has been doing for dogs and cats in Greece over the years. More than 1000 dogs have found their way from Petra, Lesvos to loving homes all over Europe, which is an absolutely magnificent effort, and provides all of us animal lovers with hope and gratitude.

Petra has been in our lives for several decades, but it was just a couple of years ago we realized there was a shelter here. Vi visited the shelter several times during this stay. The last day before we were going back to Norway Wanda told us the heartbreaking story of a dog that just arrived, having been brought in by the police due to severe neglect and abuse for many years. Janosch, sat inside his little house in his private enclosure, furthest possible away from people, looking at us with such scared eyes it was devastating to look at. Janosch had been taken away from his owners that had him for the first 7 years of his life. Heavy abuse and neglect were all he knew. He was severely malnourished, and weight half of what he does today. He had lost a lot of his fur and had several scars from the abuse all over his body. His scared eyes looked at us, and it just crushed our hearts seeing the state he was in, yet his eyes conveyed so much friendliness. It was such a relief to know that no one will mistreat him again. Eleni could hardly leave his enclosure as tears rolled down her cheeks.

We suddenly lost our Jack Russel Terrier Mikey of 11 years to cancer later that year. Although, we wouldn't be able to fill his void, it felt completely natural when the time felt right that our next family member would be 4 paws from the shelter in Petra. As we browsed through the dogs available in the shelter online, we were so surprised to see that the same beautiful kind eyes were looking straight at us. Janosch had gained weight and looked so much healthier. He had adapted well with the group of young dogs and looked like a dog on his way to happiness. Being a mature dog at the age of 7, suitors are not always easy to come by. This boy deserves a proper chance of life. It takes a little bit more to get the trust of a senior dog, but there was no doubt in our minds. We would apply for adoption for Janosh!

After a few weeks dialogue with Monika it was all set. He would become our new family member and would come live with us from June 2022. This was actually happening!! Now it was down to us to ensure no one would ever mistreat this friendly little pup ever again. The rush of emotions was indescribable, and the days until our trip to Petra could not come fast enough.

We kept close dialogue with Gabi (hat's off for her!) from Tierfreunde upon arrival and got pictures and videos of Janosch to see his progress. The last 4 weeks before we came to Petra, Gabi moved Janosch to live with her in her house, so he would get used to everyday sounds like tv/radio++. The day had finally come. We were going to meet Janosch and start our journey together. Gabi opened the door to her living room that had a dog crate in the corner. She literally had to drag him out and shut the cage door to avoid him from escaping us. He sat almost glued in the corner, hiding from us, looking petrified- -Although a tad chubbier, beautiful silky fur, and

with this loving and hopeful glimmer in his eyes. As both of us battled tears, trying to tell him it will be fine. 7 years of abuse will take a long time to shrug off, but the first step of our journey had commenced. Step by step.

We kept visiting Janosch every day of our 10day holiday in Petra, and also joined Ute (one of very few Janosch trusted in addition to Gabi) on some walks. He kept turning around, looking at us with disbelief; "why is he still coming after me?!?!". There was no doubt we had a long and hard journey in front of us, but we felt 100 % secure that it would be worth it in the end.

Today Janosch have been living with us for 8 weeks here in Norway, and we see a progress in him every day and every week. In our home with just the 3 of us he acts more and more like a «normal» dog. He follows us wherever we go, and absolutely loves tummy rubs. The lack of affection for the first 7 years of his life is definitely evident, but he gets calmer and more relaxed every week. Going for walks in a slightly urban area, meeting new people and hearing sounds is still a huge fear factor for him, and it will take a bit longer for him to adopt and trust strangers (understandable to say the least). We have yet to make him play with us, but hopefully it is just a matter of time. Janosch has so much love to give and with the progress after 8 weeks we cannot wait for the next chapter of our journey together.

We´ve seen countless of videos on youtube with abused dogs get a second chance at life, and it feels unreal to be a part of such a story ourselves. We cannot express our gratitude towards Tierfreunde enough. For all you people out there reading this letter. If you have any doubt about adopting an older dog. Don´t let the doubt win! All animals are born loving and caring and unfortunately dependent on people like Gabi, Wanda and the rest of the Tierfreunde team to speak up for them and take responsibility.

At the shelter, there is a significant effort in making the dogs sociable, friendly and adaptable. Puppies and young dogs are easier to adopt, but don´t forget the senior compatriots. Some may take some effort, yes, but they certainly deserve a loving home. For us it felt right to give a senior dog with a broken past a chance since his odds of being adopted would be lesser than his fellow furbuddies at the Shelter.

Looking back at the dog we saw 12 months ago, it is surreal to witness this comfortable dog loving bellyrubs and food. Being a part of his journey is a privilege we can thank Tierfreunde for. His first tailwag, the first time he approached us, the first time he started collecting socks and shoes to keep in his crate, the first time he climbed into our bed are all memorable steps on this ride we will experience together. Our main goal is to make Janosch past a distant memory for him. It will take time, but with patience and love we know we will succeed and be able to provide him with his second part of life filled with love and joy. Thanks for sharing our story! If you, or anyone you know are considering a new companion, please adopt!

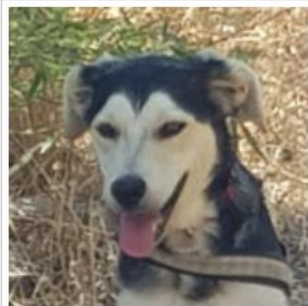
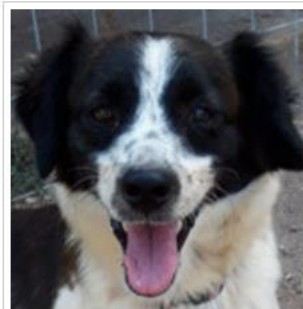
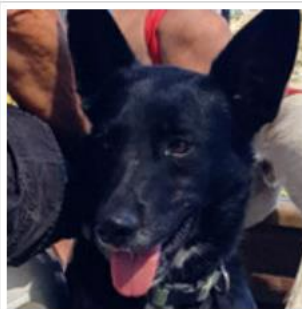
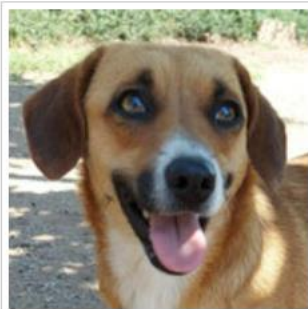
2. We have decided to gradually translate the website into English as well, as interest in our animals has spread to other countries as well. We are very happy about that

Herzlich willkommen bei Tierfreunde Lesbos e.V.

Welcome to Animal Friends Lesbos e.V.

Sie suchen einen Hund der zu Ihnen passt? ...und diese entzückenden Fellnasen würden sehr gern bei Ihnen einziehen!!!

Are you looking for a new family member? ...and these adorable dogs would love to move in with you!!!



Bitte klicken Sie auf die Schaltflächen, um schnell zur jeweiligen Kategorie zu gelangen.
Please click on the buttons to quickly go to the respective category.

Vermittlung -
Welpen /
Adoption - Puppies

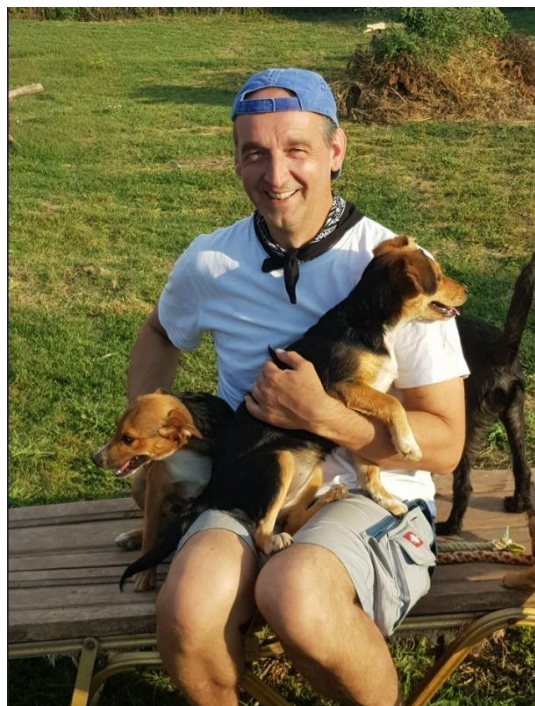
Vermittlung -
Junghunde /
Adoption - Young Dogs

Vermittlung -
Erwachsene Hunde /
Adoption - Adult Dogs

- 3. Our team on Lesbos has grown. Patrick has found his way to us. He is an absolute enrichment for Gabi, Wanda and the four-legged friends!**



Team Germany has also changed. The board team now consists of Monika, Julia, Jenny and Steffen has joined as 1st chairman, as Rosi has moved into well-deserved retirement. The circle of volunteers is also growing, thanks also to all flight sponsors, foster homes and 'idea donors'...



4. For the very hot days, a shade sail was sponsored by our animal friend Alex. The construction was then carried out by Steffen, Patrick and Alex.



And now there is a little more shade in the freewheel. Some photo models have also made themselves available spontaneously here 😊





5. Planned new projects for 2023

- Swimmingpool for the dogs
- Light poles for the shelter, for the winter
- Water access for the rear enclosures (the feasibility we still have to check)
- Dog kennels are repaired or renewed

We hope that the newsletter is informative for you and if you like it, it can be subscribed too. It will be published quarterly and we would welcome suggestions for topics from you. We would be happy to take it up.....

The team of Animal Friends Lesbos e.V.

Publisher of the newsletter: Tierfreunde Lesbos e.V. / Editor: Steffen Seidemann

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