



# BEGINNING OF A MISSION

## Djoeke Giliam

"Since childhood my love for dogs was great, but my rescue work really started in 2010 when a large brown stray dog was walking in my street. She lived on a vacant lot and had puppies every 6 months. However, I was unable to catch her..."

## About

I started to feed her and to lure her more and more towards my house, until I could move the food bowl inside the garden, and close the gate. Ascha was my first 'rescue'! My intention was to put her back in her old place after the sterilization, but that didn't feel right, so she stayed with me.

From that moment on I knew that my life had changed. In addition to my job as a teacher, I wanted to do more for the stray dogs. So in 2014 I started my own foundation with the aim of taking in dogs that have little or no chance of finding a home because they are disabled, have behavioral problems or need medical care. Because my name is Djoeke Olga Giliam, the name for the foundation was quickly found; the DOG Foundation."

#makeeverydayadogday







## FROM IDEA, TO PLAN, TO CONSTRUCTION

"In 2016 I had over 80 dogs at home and the plan to start a sanctuary kept running through my mind. Finding the right place was not an easy task. Until by chance I came across a location in Bandabou in the area of Rio Magdalena. On the lot with 5000m2 rental land there was a small house with an even smaller apartment next to it. This was the place! I started writing a plan and the first 'construction drawing' was on a brown paper shopping bag with a marker that happened to be in my car. The dogs' enclosures would be created with containers, the apartment would become the new puppy paradise and the field a place to run and play. A clear picture in my head, a simple scribble on a bag... had I known then what would come next... (I still would have done it!)

The plans had to be approved and money had to be raised. Together with some die-hard volunteers we worked hard and organized a crowdfunding. And with success! Click here for the crowdfunding video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ACvQ25DtVA>

The enthusiasm of the people, the support of everyone, the helping hands of the companies, it was overwhelming. Everyone thought it was a great plan! And when Wout Tieleman from Kunuku Aquaresort offered to build it, we couldn't believe our luck.

In January 2018 we reached our crowdfunding target and Wout was ready, but the plans had not yet been approved by the Government. The wait was long... but in June 2018 we got the approval. The very next day we started with fencing the lot, followed by placement of the containers, roofing, water connections, deep well..., in less than six weeks, the foundation was there. Together with Meyer transport and a lot of volunteers our (then) 100 dogs were transported safely to the sanctuary.

## DREAMS AND SKETCHES REALIZED!

In October 2018 we received 3 extra containers to create a dedicated space for the puppies, and build a storage place. When all was done, we started to settle in and most importantly enjoying the beautiful place we had created. We are so proud of what we have accomplished, and we have so many people to thank."





# SECOND CHANCES

## a better life

The goal of the DOG Curaçao Foundation. is to give unwanted stray dogs a new chance at a better life. These include under-privileged dogs, neglected dogs and dogs with a disability or behavioral problem. With a team of dedicated volunteers, the dogs are cared for, fed and cuddled on a daily basis.



### ADOPTION

For the puppies, teenagers, adult and senior dogs, that are social and fit well into a family, we look for safe and loving homes. This can be on Curacao, but also in Europe and the US.

Our DOG's are not purebred dogs... but in Curaçao we call the 'breed' Westpointers. In general, they are strong, intelligent, medium-sized, sweet (family) dogs, resilient and cheerful.

Are you interested in one of our DOG-ies? Please click on the 'adoption' page and we will help you find the best match for you and your family.



### IF ADOPTION IS NOT AN OPTION...

Nearly half of the dogs at the Sanctuary are 'non-adoptables', they feel most comfortable with their peers and without much human interaction.

Many dogs we meet on the street, especially the older ones, already have a 'backpack'... which can be caused by a lack of socialization in the first phase of their life or by a traumatic event. Just like with humans, some dogs can overcome their trauma, but others can't.

In addition, we also have several dogs with disabilities. They are often not adopted because they need a little more care and/or look less perfect than their peers.







# 101 WAYS TO HELP

## Foster

Although the Sanctuary is a wonderful place for the dogs to play with each other, and receive plenty of attention and care, for some puppies and dogs a home environment is better. It is often a quieter place, where the foster can work one on one with the dog on his or her socialization.

### SOCIALIZE, EDUCATE & CARE

A foster is also ideal for the youngest or the weakest. Naturally, the expenses of fostering are reimbursed by the DOG foundation and personal guidance is given.

The fosters we are looking for offer a safe, caring and educational place where the dog can get to know life within a family and household. This can be in a family with (young) children, with other dogs and/or cats. A foster contributes to the general education and socialization of the dog, including car rides and walking on a leash. Fostering a dog takes time and patience... but it's so much fun getting them ready for their new future.

Are you interested in becoming a foster or volunteer? Please send us an e-mail via our contact page on the website.





# 101 WAYS TO HELP Volunteer

## **FUN, DIRTY, HAPPY AND THANKFUL 'WORK'**

Sometimes it's dirty work,  
sometimes it's hard work,  
sometimes it's wet work,  
but it's always rewarding work!.



## **VOLUNTEERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

Hetty: "I like to roll up my sleeves and take care of the dogs and make their lives a bit more pleasant. It is not completely selfless because I enjoy it very much myself!"

Danielle: "Being a DOG volunteer is a win-win for everyone! You can clear your head for a few hours, put the phone away and the dogs benefit from that undivided attention! It is almost therapeutic."

Corine: "Every time I come to DOG, I am showered with hugs, licks and welcome barks.

That makes me happy and that's all the appreciation I need to keep doing this work."



## **THE HEART OF THE SANCTUARY**

With an average of 120 dogs in the shelter, volunteers are very important! There is plenty to do... from shoveling poop, washing food bowls, cleaning the enclosures to cuddling dogs and so much more...

If you are unable to come and help physically at the Sanctuary, there are also other 'jobs' that you can help the DOG Foundation with, such as taking beautiful photos and videos of the dogs for our socials, assisting with the work of the Sterilization Fund, becoming a flight attendant for a traveling dog or helping out with fundraising.







**DOG Curacao Foundation recently founded 'DOG Sterilization Fund', a spay and neuter program.**

### **MISSION | STOP Overpopulation**

Spaying and neutering is the only way to combat the overpopulation of dogs and reduce animal suffering on the island of Curacao. Our mission is to do this by means of a structural and long-term dog sterilization campaign.

### **GOAL | Right target group**

Creating awareness of the importance of sterilization with the right target group is step 1. In addition we offer financial help to the less fortunate to sterilize their dogs. We started in the area of Bandabou, because this region is often forgotten and there is relatively much poverty, so sterilization of the dog is not a priority.

### **APPROACH | Let's get going!**

We do radio interviews, weekly posts on socials, door-to-door campaigns and we send out flyers in the food packages for the less fortunate.

### **STERILIZATION vs Castration**

This was a conscious choice, in consultation with the veterinary practice. By sterilizing the bitches, the best results can be achieved in the long run.

### **THE EXTRA MILE | Nexgard**

Not only the sterilization is taken care of. Many dogs need a Nexgard pill to kill ticks and fleas. No pesky critters on the operating table!

### **LET'S CONTINUE! | Word of Mouth**

Fortunately, there are many dog owners who really appreciate the help and see the usefulness of sterilization, YEAH! The volunteers therefore encourage people to inform neighbors, friends and family.

At the moment, about 5 sterilizations per week are done in collaboration with Veterinary Center Curaçao in Tera Kora and Ronde Klip.

A structural sterilization campaign for a continuous period of time is the solution for reducing animal suffering. Support the sterilization fund, your donation is much appreciated!

[#helpstopoverpopulation](#)





# 101 WAYS TO HELP

## VET SAVINGS JAR

The foundation has a separate savings jar for all individual donations which are used for the many vet visits! The veterinary savings jar pays for the sterilizations and castrations of the dogs and, for example, the medical treatments of dogs that are found on the street and need urgent treatment.



## DONATIONS AND 'REMOTE DOG OWNERS'

The DOG Curaçao Foundation is fully privately financed. At the DOG Curaçao Foundation, ideally every dog has a WRO (Westpointer Remote Owner) who contributes to his/her livelihood every month for the amount of US\$ 60,-. As a WRO you help to buy a bag of food and the monthly Heartgard pill for your dog, as well as the Nexgard pill (every 6 months) and the annual vaccination and deworming.

## TRAVEL (FLIGHT) COMPAGNION

You can also accompany a dog to his / her new owners abroad. All expenses are taken care of by the foundation.

## HELP WITH THE SHOPPING LIST

DOG Foundation's monthly shopping list includes:

- Deworming (drontal dog)
- Nexgard pills (purple, orange, or blue)
  - Heartgard Pills (green)
- Bags of dog food, including puppy kibble
  - Biscuits, biscuits, biscuits...for the dogs!
- Cleaning agents that are disinfecting (chlorine)
  - Brooms, mops, buckets etc.
- Towels, sheets (second hand is fine)
  - Poo shovels ... always welcome.







# ASK, HELP OR DONATE

## Contact

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Whether it concerns an adoption, a dog in need or a dog that you wish to give up for the sterilization program, feel free to email us. We would also love to hear if you would like to become a volunteer or foster or if you can support the foundation in any other way.

## Donate

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### EVERY DOLLAR WELL SPENT

The DOG Foundation is not financially supported by the Government and depends fully on gifts and donations. All forms of donations are welcome and are used directly for the dogs and the sanctuary; from cash to cleaning products, kibble and biscuits, toys and more.

Thank you very much for your support! Please visit our [donation page](#) and scroll down for the English version.



### EVERY DOLLAR WELL SPENT

The DOG Foundation is officially registered in both Curacao and the Netherlands at the Chamber of Commerce. In addition, the foundation has the official 'Anbi' registration in the Netherlands.

The foundation only works with voluntary employees who do not receive any compensation for their work. The foundation has no rewards or bonus system.

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