

6 Musketeers – The Puppies' Story

When it all started I said, perhaps I should note down this story. Such a connection of so-called coincidences and mutual help (nowadays called networking) is sometimes too complicated to remember what happened and how it all fell into place.

I took the notes step by step while the events evolved and here is the whole true story:

Chapter 1: The unwanted puppies

At the beginning of May 2016, I learned from a call for help by an acquaintance of Erica of the Group "Pupils for Animals" in Vladimirescu/Romania that the female dog of the cousin of this acquaintance in Onesti, high up in the Carpatians should be spayed. However, the cousin had neither the money nor transport to find a Veterinarian. We asked around how we could help, but we were not fast enough. The dog "Jessy" fell pregnant shortly after the call for help. At the beginning of July, Jessy delivered five puppies.

At the end of July, Karin of the Association "The Voice of Animals" went on mission to Onesti to visit some related projects. We asked her: "Could you kindly check whether we could do something for the dog-mom and her puppies?" Karin met Lidia, a student of veterinary medicine who takes care of some projects for spaying in the area. Lidia telephoned with the dog owner. The result was not very encouraging. The old lady had no money and wanted to get rid of the puppies somehow. The puppies were in danger. The most urgent step was to mobilize some food supply for the puppies.



When Karin came back to Germany, she reported on the critical situation. As a first step, Michael of the internet portal for donating food to animal protection activities quickly established a new category „Emergency Food Delivery” on his Website:

<https://www.tierschutzfutter.de/index.php/de/frei>

Hence, we were able to send Lidia food for the puppies of the old lady. It was also enough for other dogs that Lidia takes care of. She brought twice food to the old lady and dewormed the puppies and

the dog-mom. In October, Lidia organized the spaying of the dog-mom and the transport to a bigger spaying project. The puppies were still too young for this. Then it became more difficult since Lidia went back to her studies at the university. However, she organized from remote for the visit of the local veterinary to vaccinate the puppies at home since there was no transport to the vet. Nevertheless, the puppies had no chance to stay and nobody would adopt them locally.



I ask Matthias from the “Tierhilfe Hoffnung” whether he had an idea how to further help the puppies? He said that we should have the puppies brought to their shelter in Smeura near Pitesti. From there they could later leave to Germany, probably to the shelter of Alsfeld. We asked around for a possible transport – without success. Then Michael found a possibility through Facebook which was however not that very certain. Shortly afterwards Lidia came up with a

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very concrete and immediate solution. Within 3 days there would be a transport by the “Zoo-Taxi”. After some hours on the telephone it was settled: the puppies would be transported on Monday morning at 9:00. Meanwhile a 6th puppy

from the street joined the group. Or was it hidden by the dog-mom before? Now there were 3 girls und 3 boys. They all got permission to travel.

The great journey to happiness took place end October. The puppies mostly slept calmly during the 5 hours-trip. Even though it was raining at the arrival in the Smeura the 6 musketeers felt comfortable tightly snuggled together. We strongly hoped that luck would stay with them in and after the Smeura. They all waited for their own family.

<https://www.tierschutzfutter.de/index.php/de/rumaenien/smeura>



Chapter 2: Waiting in the Smeura

And yes, luck remained with the puppies. It seemed as if some additional guardian angels were charged to accompany their entry into life. The puppies were registered and chipped. They were kept in one group together and they enjoyed this situation to the fullest. They had enough to eat and they grew nicely. They became even round since they had not much exercise and movement.



But the puppies had to wait for the next step of their journey. The shelter of Alsfeld in Hessen (Germany) promised to host them when they had place. But there was no space yet in November since the dogs who waited there had not yet found a home. Waiting is difficult for puppies. But it was also difficult to watch how this waiting might also mean losing precious time. It is known that the

young puppies find best a family. For young adolescent dogs close to their teens this is much more difficult. But it worked; the little ones were allowed to travel from the Smeura on 21 December 2016.

Chapter 3: Shelter Alsfeld

The puppies arrived 2 days before Christmas 2016 in the shelter of Alsfeld. They were welcomed by the president, Ann-Catrin personally. They were overwhelmingly active despite the long journey. Already in the night they animated the puppies' run area of the shelter. They became the stars of little videos which were sent around immediately. But they did not want to be a gift for Christmas; they wanted to be a gift for the whole life. They all received their names, starting all with the letter "J" like their mom Jessy.



When you looked at their photos, you could see that each one was unique. Hence, they would find a unique family. Their journey had not yet come to an end, but they all looked with confidence into the New Year 2017. Everybody who was involved in their journey was wishing that to the puppies.

Chapter 4: The leap into their own home

This is the most difficult moment in the life of a young puppy. Sometimes it takes very long and it is heart-breaking to watch how they try desperately to join the people whom they want to be with. Sometimes it does not work but there is always a new chance, sometimes this chance is even better than the one before. Sometimes it works at first glance, instantly – love at first sight.

With the 6 musketeers it was fast, but not always easy.

Josephine managed on the very first day to get the promise that a family would take her home after the Christmas days. Everybody was wondering how she achieved this?? Coincidence?? Really? Perhaps her guardian angels whispered something in her ear? In the future she would be the guardian angel for this family.

Then it was the turn of the others during the course of the next few days. They still remained in the shelter, since the various medical examinations were not yet finished. The brothers and sisters took advantage to play and enjoy the time together. Only Jim was a bit sad because he did not manage to attract the interest of somebody. But while Julika was still waiting for the last medical examination, Jim convinced the family who had chosen little Julika to take him instead her and moved out of the shelter.

But Julika was forgiving; she was a cheerful doggy girl and had already spotted another person. A lady came to visit the shelter. She had had several dogs in her life and had thought very carefully how a dog should be to live jointly with young and old members in the family in order to be a dog-for-ever. By coincidence (?) I was present and I felt that Julika knew that these moments were decisive. The next day I heard that the lady took her home.



Jane was marked for a long time as „reserved“ and everybody in the shelter thought that her people would just to come to pick her up. She was waiting and waiting ... When they came however, they took another dog home. And suddenly the word “reserved” disappeared under her name on the website of the shelter. She joined the dog-school of the shelter. She enjoyed learning and she learned quickly. One of the dog walkers took a bit interest in her – but too late. A few days later, I discovered that Jane

appears under the category “found a home“. Did the participation in the dog school help her? Or was that again a coincidence? In any event also Jane was able to move into a wonderful home. We all were fascinated that all 6 musketeers were able to succeed with the leap in their own home despite all deviations – and that within one month! Record time for “coincidence? 😊

Also the puppies’ mom Jessy succeeded; she was able to keep her home for herself and was spayed. Now she could enjoy the rest of her life in her home.

(Dr Gabriele Ullrich 08.03.17)

