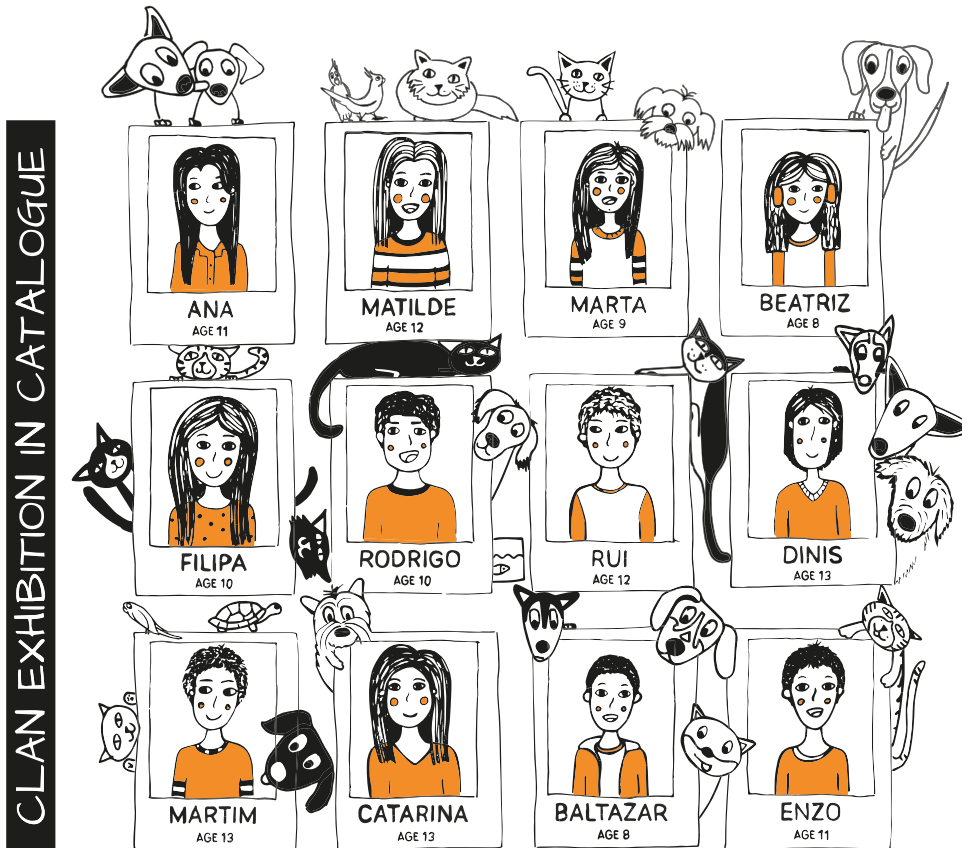


WE PHOTOGRAPHED

WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING AN ANIMAL HERE AT HOME

Verónica Policarpo
Clara Venâncio



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CLAN EXHIBITION IN CATALOGUE

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Coordination: Verónica Policarpo

Texts: Verónica Policarpo

Illustrations: Clara Venâncio

Design: Clara Venâncio

Photographs: children of the CLAN Project

Translation to English: José Newman

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ISBN: 978-972-671-711-9



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book was funded by the research project CLAN - Friendships between Children and Animals: challenging the boundaries between humans and non-humans in contemporary societies, co-ordinated by Verónica Policarpo (PI) and Ana Nunes de Almeida (Co-PI). It was funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology, through national funds, with the reference PTDC/SOC 28415/2017. More information is available at: <http://humanani-malstudies.net/en/clan/>. The book is a scientific dissemination product, built from the materials collected through participatory visual methodologies with the children in the project.

We would particularly like to thank the following people and/or organisations who have contributed in a decisive way to the completion of this book.

Melissa Sevasti-Nolas:

... for the great inspiration and generosity shown in sharing her experience of what it means to build a children's photographic archive. Her invitation to CLAN to become part of the permanent collection of the brand new CPA - Children Photography Archive was decisive in the implementation of this component of the project. In 2017, when we proposed a substantial portion of participatory visual methodologies, and an exhibition based on them, we had

little idea that we would also be able to take part in this project and to learn so much from it. Thank you so much!

Thank you very much!

To all the CLAN team, for the whole journey travelled together.

To Ana Nunes de Almeida, Co-PI, for her constant encouragement, for sharing as a companion in the decisions and for her contribution to the childhood studies, which was crucial to the ethical decisions regarding the final collection.

To Henrique Tereno, CLAN project scholarship-holder during the first two years; and to Vasco Ramos, CLAN project researcher during the first year; for their contribution in all the fieldwork, including the collection of photographic materials and the respective interviews. Doing this work with you was one of the most enjoyable moments that CLAN provided. You will be missed. To Henrique, thank you also for your unfailing availability in contacting the families, in all the thousand and one small tasks that the logistics of participatory methods imply, and for the final revision of this manuscript.

To *Joana Catela*, post-doctoral researcher of the CLAN project in its third year, for her work on the selection and classification of the photographic archive, and its preparation in a database for submission to the Children-Photography Archive, as well as for her contributions to the moderation of the participative workshops.

To *Teresa Libano Monteiro*, for her vital contributions to the analysis of the interview material, discussion and reflection on the results, as well as for the coordination and moderation of the participative workshops involving the children and their parents.

To *Mónica Truninger*, for her contributions to the reflection and her constant encouragement for the original idea of the project.

And in addition:

To the CLAN project consultants *Mara Miele*, *Jêrome Michalon* and *Harry Eckman*, for contributions to discussions.

Maria Saari, visiting researcher at CLAN and HAS-Hub in the last year of the project, for her contributions on critical pedagogy and participatory methods with children.

Leticia Fantinel, *Filipa Soares* and *Mafalda Pereira*, members of HAS-Hub, for their collaboration in the participatory workshops with children and parents.

To *Jussara Rowland*, for sharing her experience in participatory methodologies with children, as well as for introducing us to the Childhood Publics project.

To *Hugo Rodrigues* and *Guideline* for their technical support and help in the production of the virtual CLAN Exhibition, which forms the basis of this book-catalogue.

To *Marta Castelo-Branco*, collaborator at Imprensa de Ciências Sociais, for her help in securing the ISBN and respective bibliographic register of the work.

Finally, and as is often said, "the last are the first". We express our deep gratitude to all the children, mothers, fathers and pets that participated in the project. Without your generous availability and motivation this book wouldn't have been possible. We hope that you will be able to recognise your role in the outcome of our curation. This work is first and foremost yours. And for you.

This book is dedicated to all companion animals, children and families that accept the challenge of multispecies living every day.



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What story does this Exhibition tell?

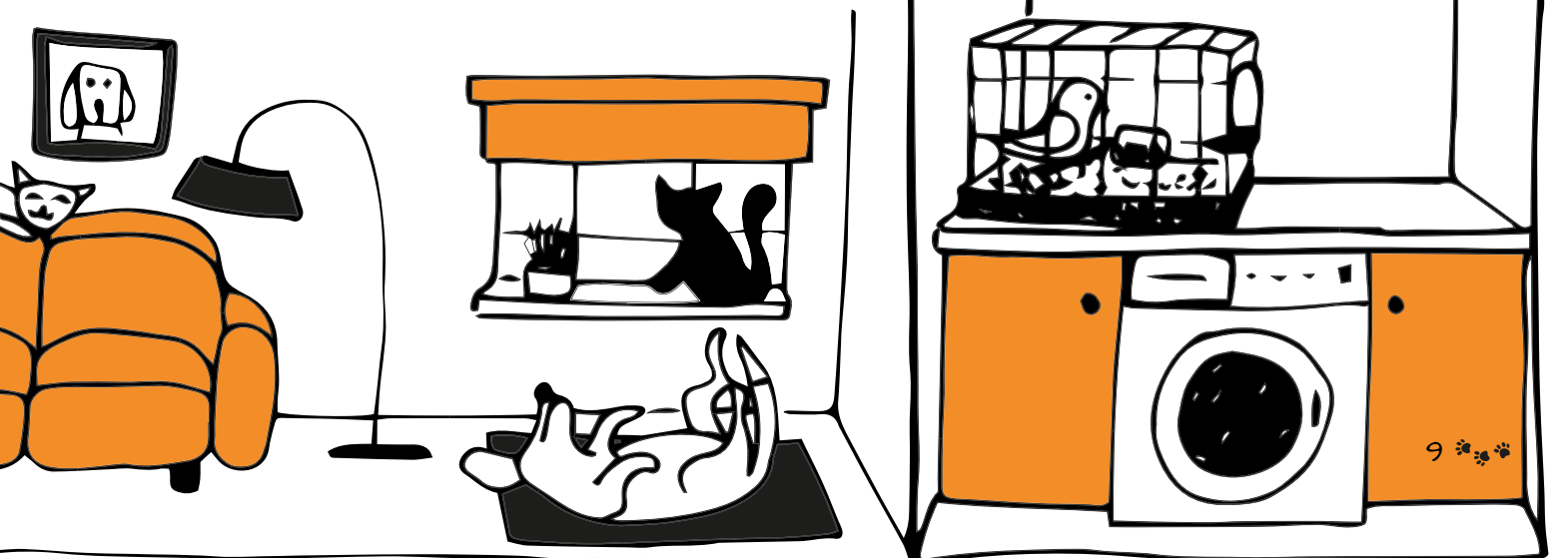
Not one story, but many. Not just stories about humans, but about multispecies. In this exhibition, we will try to relate the life of a pet animal in a Portuguese family, seen through the eyes of children. Can children put themselves "in the little paws" of this animal, and view the world from their perspective? This was the exercise that we proposed to some of the children participating in the CLAN project - Child-Animal Friendships. Over two weeks, 12 children from a total of 24 participants in the project photographed the daily lives of the animals with whom they share their lives and play. We visited the children again to talk to them

about these photographs and these perspectives: what were they doing? Why that one and not another? Which one do they like more and why? This is how, together, we created an Ariadne's thread that helped us better understand what was going on deep inside these child photographers – and how their souls were in harmony with those of the animals they were trying so hard to portray.

In the CLAN Exhibition we bring you some of those perspectives. We share some of the results we arrived at built up side-by-side, in partnership with the children. CLAN and



the CLAN-animals. The biggest challenge was to select only a small portion of the rich collection we had gathered: 762 photographs. The watchword was to follow the clues provided by our child-photographers. We then decided to organise them around some major themes that we considered central to the project, in order to understand the relationship between children and animals. And so, through the hands and eyes of the children, we invite you to enter the multispecies world of Portuguese families.

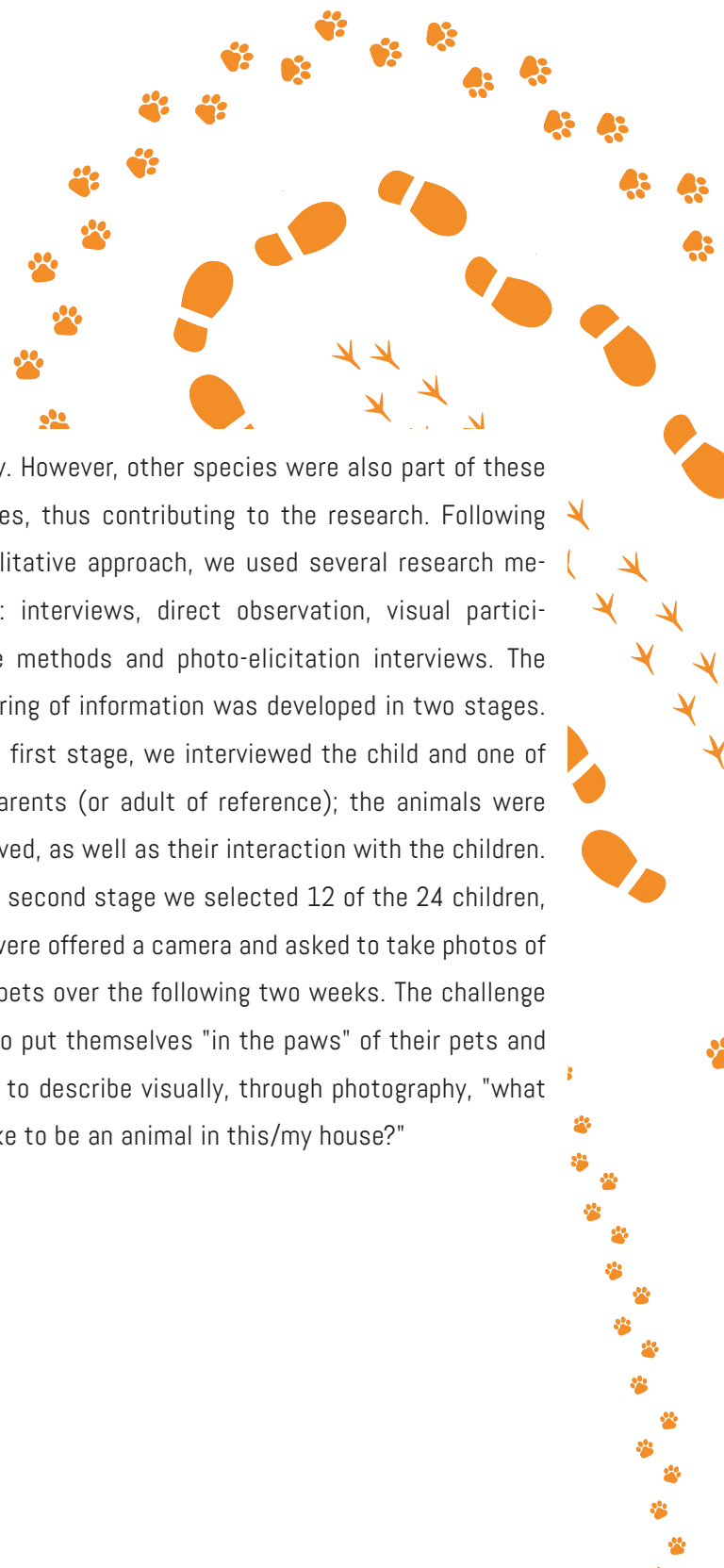



What is the CLAN project?

A study of the relationships between children and pets, in the context of domestic and family life in Portugal. Between 2018 and 2022, we investigated the extent to which the shared and daily lives of children and animals challenges interspecies barriers, promoting more cooperative relationships with non-human worlds. The practices between children and animals are considered in the wider context of family practices, including parenting styles, relationships with the home, the domestic space and objects.

Between October 2019 and July 2020, we visited 24 Portuguese, middle-class, urban families living in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. These families had been selected according to two criteria: living with one or more children aged between 8 and 14 years old; and living with at least one dog or cat for at least 6 months. This last criterion reflects the fact that dogs and cats are more prevalent in Portuguese families, according to some surveys carried out by the companion animals in-

dustry. However, other species were also part of these families, thus contributing to the research. Following a qualitative approach, we used several research methods: interviews, direct observation, visual participative methods and photo-elicitation interviews. The gathering of information was developed in two stages. In the first stage, we interviewed the child and one of the parents (or adult of reference); the animals were observed, as well as their interaction with the children. In the second stage we selected 12 of the 24 children, who were offered a camera and asked to take photos of their pets over the following two weeks. The challenge was to put themselves "in the paws" of their pets and to try to describe visually, through photography, "what it's like to be an animal in this/my house?"





CLAN in times of Covid-19

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic affected the world at large, as well as families and the CLAN project. The second stage of the fieldwork had to be postponed for a few months. Meanwhile, Covid's impact was visible in the results. The main difference was the fact that the families obviously now spent much more time at home, and thus in the company of their animals. This happened during the first lockdown period, and continued with varying intensity during the remote work and study periods. This scenario clearly changed the dynamics of interaction with companion animals, their expectations about the coexistence and behaviour of "their humans" and even the composition of families. Between the first and second phases of CLAN's fieldwork, some families faced mourning the death of their companion animal, others adopted an(other) animal and almost all developed new work and household routines that also included animals. Thus, quite unexpectedly, CLAN opened a window for a glimpse of the shared lives and vulnerability of

children and their companion animals during these moments marked by the collective trauma of impending illness, death and bereavement, blocking and restrictions on freedom of movement. During the two-week exercise of photographing the animals, already in a context of de-confinement between June and July 2020, the 12 children took 762 photographs. Afterwards, through a photo-elicitation interview, we asked the children to tell us what it had been like for them to undertake this exercise. They described to us the stories behind the photographs and the context in which they were taken. They talked at length about their pets' preferences, personalities, loves and dislikes, as well as the context of the very image through which they would be immortalised. We used in vivo extracts from their speeches as contextual captions for the images.

Children and animals in 8 galleries

By depicting the life of children with pets through the practices of feeding, bathing, walking, playing or sleeping, we hope that this sub-sample will contribute to stimulating our sociological imagination around "what it is like to be a pet animal in a Portuguese family's home". Among the themes that pervade the children's visual reports on their animals' lives, we find domestic themes, linked to practices of care: bathing, feeding, sleeping, visits to the vet, walking. But, also themes in which children and animals leave the private sphere and encounter public life through contact with colonies of street cats, adoption of stray dogs or cats, playing in the street/outdoors, walks in the neighbourhood or walks in nature, for example for a dip at the beach or in a lake. We also found that the worlds of animals and children are inclusive, not only made up of "their" companion animals, but of all animals that are part of a wider personal network of neighbours, family, friends, schoolmates. With all this, we invite you to think about

the lives of Portuguese multispecies families, described through the lives of their companion animal(s). Through eight galleries that portray eight core dimensions of the practices through which the lives of children and animals are woven together, in the family and in the home. The challenge is to get as close as possible to a multispecies perspective: that is, one that focuses on the relationship between humans and non-humans, in which other animals are seen as co-producers of meaning. If manage to do this, we will have achieved our goal: to contribute to the questioning of the view that, in our society, considers humans as the point of reference, assigning them an exceptional and privileged status, to the detriment of other species.

GALLERY

01 • FEEDING





FEEDING

Living with an animal means, from the outset, taking care of it. And knowing how to do it. Children and adults organise themselves so that their companions of other species have what they need to be well and happy, engaging in various activities and tasks that punctuate the family's day. Perhaps the first is the task of feeding: both food and drink. Which is also the first of the five freedoms conducive to animal well-being – ensuring that the animal is free of hunger and thirst, through ready access to fresh water and a healthy diet.

There are many ways in which practices around feeding are manifested. Each species has its own needs, and feeding them means acquiring specific skills to know how to do this in order to maintain the health and well-being of individuals. For example, what is the exact portion of food for reptiles, or fish?... What is the best feed for dogs and cats?... What to do in the case of animals with specific illnesses, that have to be fed at certain times, or with special feed?... These skills are an essential component of "animal care". They are acquired with practice, through dialogue with professionals such as vets, and against a backdrop of information available on the internet and through other media. Children often take the lead in these processes of searching for information, especially when they have a special interest in a particular species or breed.

Meanwhile, animals have their own routines, preferences and desires. In this way, they actively influence what goes on in the family. For example, Denahi insists on having dinner at the table with her family. Mia lets John know when she hasn't had enough of her catnip yet. Xavi insists on drinking water from the bidet! And Mitsu has discovered the water inside the cactus pot in the garden!



ZARÍ



"Now, here
he's eating."



MIA



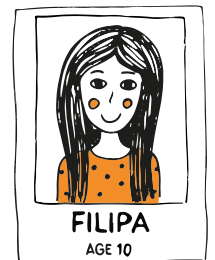
RUI
AGE 12

"Because she starts off there in the sun, then she keeps looking at the window and smelling the place where the grass is. Then, if we open the window, we give it to her and she stays there playing with the grass. Sometimes we take it away because we think that's enough, and she puts her hand on our wrist as if to say: 'I want more!' Then we leave her there until she gets fed up. We communicate very well between us and her. And that's also my favourite photo, because her tongue is sticking out... and she doesn't usually stick it out."

FEEDING · 01



DENAHİ



"That was her having dinner with us. While we were having dinner my sister went to get something and she took advantage of it and lay down!"



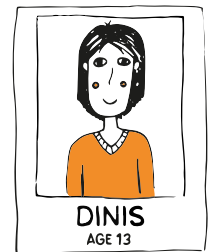
XAVI



"He's drinking water from the bidet! I'm the one who opens it. I go away and then when I listen, I realise that he's gone, and I go to close it! Then I realise that the water's hot! I think he's telling me: 'Oh, little girl, the water's hot in there, can you just make it cold? And then I have to close the tap and stick it on cold water. I've already told my parents, 'We have to teach him to turn the tap on and off'. I don't think it is very common to see a dog drinking water from the bidet! Dogs are more used to drinking out of their little bowls. But not Xavi, he's a special dog! He's been doing it since he was very small!"



MITSU



Dinis' father: "I've got a cactus over there that's just sprouting roots, isn't it, it's in the water, and he went over there..."

1

Start
here!



3



go to
the third
←

2

then
see this
one →



4

and
fourth →



→
flip the
page

5

it ends
here!



DARLING



"That's me taking the food out for Darling and putting it in the bowl. And then that's her going to eat it. She came up to me and I stroked her. And after the photo she gave me a little kiss."

GALLERY

02 · CLEANING





CLEANING

As with food, keeping animals clean and in suitably hygienic conditions is an activity that has a considerable impact on daily family life. It is essential to take care of the environment in which the animal lives, to keep it healthy and appropriate for the species and to ensure that the animal is free from any kind of discomfort. This task features in the children's accounts as something that "someone" inevitably has to do, during the day... Not all these tasks are equal, some of them being more pleasant than others. For example, bathing can be fun for children and animals! Other chores are viewed less favourably. Cleaning the cats' gravel, picking up cat or dog poo, are never viewed positively. This can give rise to negotiation, and sometimes conflict. Ultimately, "because someone has to do it", adults often end up taking over these tasks, which are unpleasant from a child's perspective. So, there is a contradiction between the discourse that values the children's role in caring and the practice in which, despite everything, such care is mainly guaranteed by the adults. It is therefore somewhat unclear how the parents' educational project based on consciously educating their children to be able to care for other living beings and species can actually be put into practice.

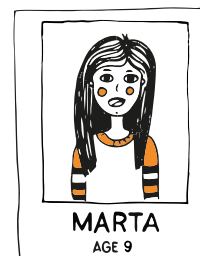
Meanwhile, animals also care for each other! For example, when Ollie gives Periquito a bath. According to Marta, "It's like he's the father."



OLLIE



PERIQUITO

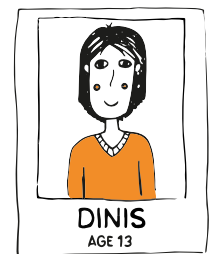


MARTA
AGE 9

"That's Ollie giving Periquito a bath. It's like he's the father."



ROOKIE



"Then, here, Rookie stayed in this position all the time, never moving. He behaved really well."

CLEANING · 02

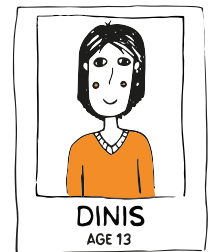


PERIQUITO





LUCKY



Dinis' Dad: "This is a verrrrrrrry difficult task!"

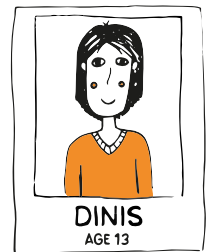
Dinis: "Lucky was always moving around. When she felt the first jet of water, she started moving and jumping around."



"I thought it was kind of bad, but then I wanted to delete it and I didn't manage to.
I'm not sure, but I think it says a lot... That we are just like dogs..."



MITSU



DINIS
AGE 13

"Here, Mitsu's fur looks really strange."

Dinis' Dad: "He looks like a Yeti."

GALLERY

03 · ACCOMPANYING





ACCOMPANYING

Perhaps the animal action that is most recognised and appreciated by children is, after all, one that is not so much about doing, but rather about being. A calm attitude of simply accompanying humans in whatever situation they find themselves. A quality of presence – constant, loyal, that provides a sense of physical, emotional and psychological security. A presence that validates who we are, without criticism or judgement. After all, it is not by mere chance that we call these animals "companions".

In this companionship, children and animals share the intimacy of silence, or rest in a time-space where each one does what they most feel like doing. While children read, listen to music, or do their homework, dogs and cats sleep, stretch out in the sun, or stay around "simply keeping them company." Other moments in family routines promote multispecies gathering. The presence of animals is also crucial while working or studying and became highly relevant and visible during the Covid-19 pandemic, where tele-working and tele-schooling became the norm during lockdowns. In particular, cats invaded the desks of adults and children, as well as many of the online teleworking sessions. Such is the case of Simba and Kidah.

On the other hand, the potential of each animal and species in "companionship", or keeping company, is closely associated with their propensity for interacting directly with humans. Dogs and cats are the ones that children and parents highlight the most. Other species remain more in the background. For example, Pipa and Pipo, the two cockatiels that peer out from behind Simba.

ACCOMPANYING · 03



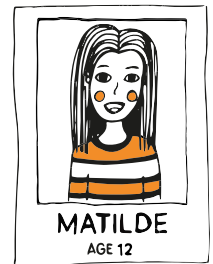
MIA



"I like that one where she's lying down and belly up. Yeah... where she's getting the sun from the blinds."

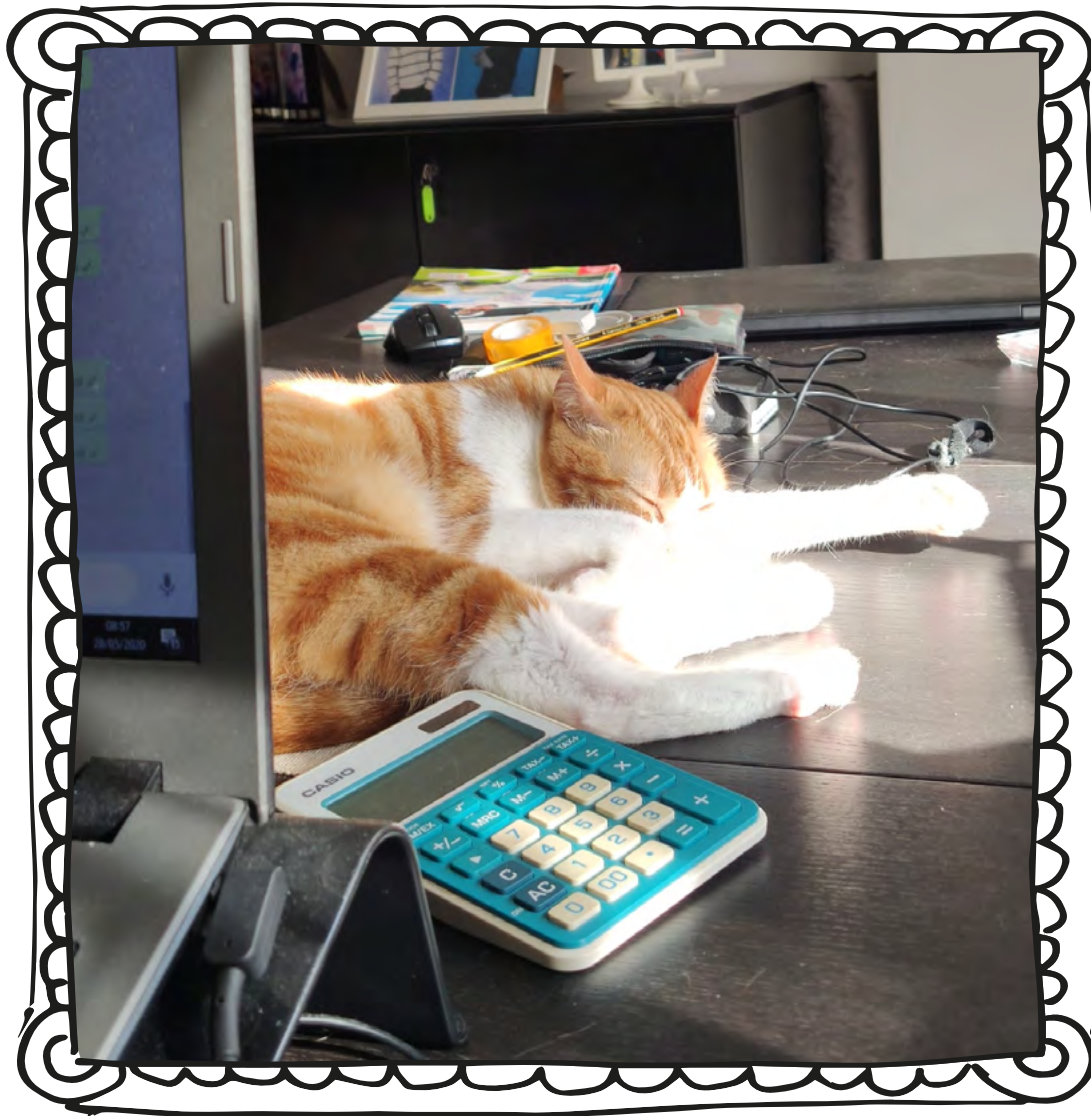


SIMBA



"In this one, he spends a lot of his time like this. It's already a part of his life. He really likes to keep people company. I think he really enjoys being with us."

ACCOMPANYING · 03



KIDAH





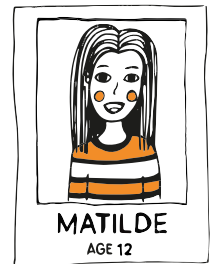
XAVI



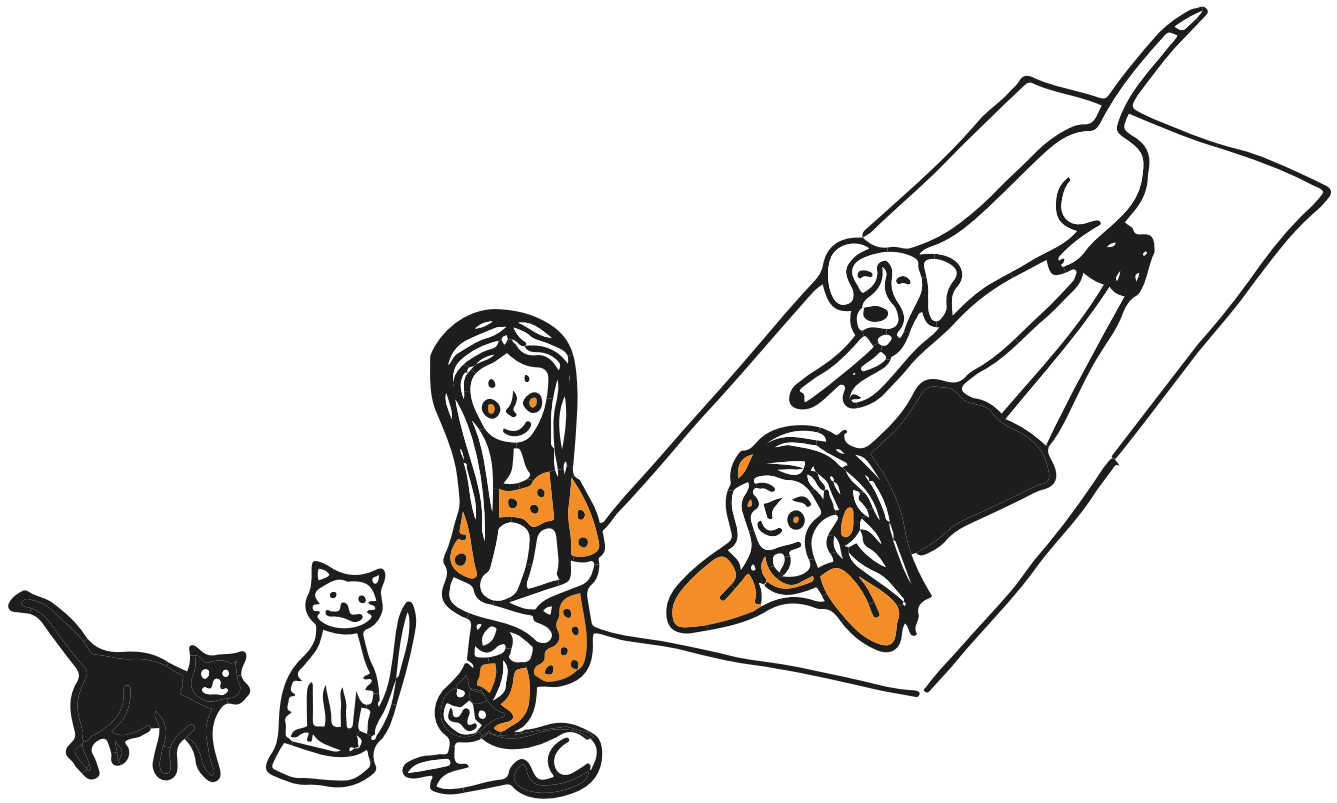
"Then, I think my grandmother was slicing bread there, and my dog loves bread! He loves it, loves it! He loves apples, he loves meat...anything he sees in front of him, he loves it! Or maybe she was cutting some apple... I'm not sure... she might have been slicing some bread"



SIMBA



"He stays next to the cockatiels, he loves being in the sun like that, this is a balcony... The sun shines there and when he stares at a spot, he gets this streak in his eyes. He kills flies, he kills moths. Normally we call him and he comes and kills them!"



GALLERY

04 · STROKING





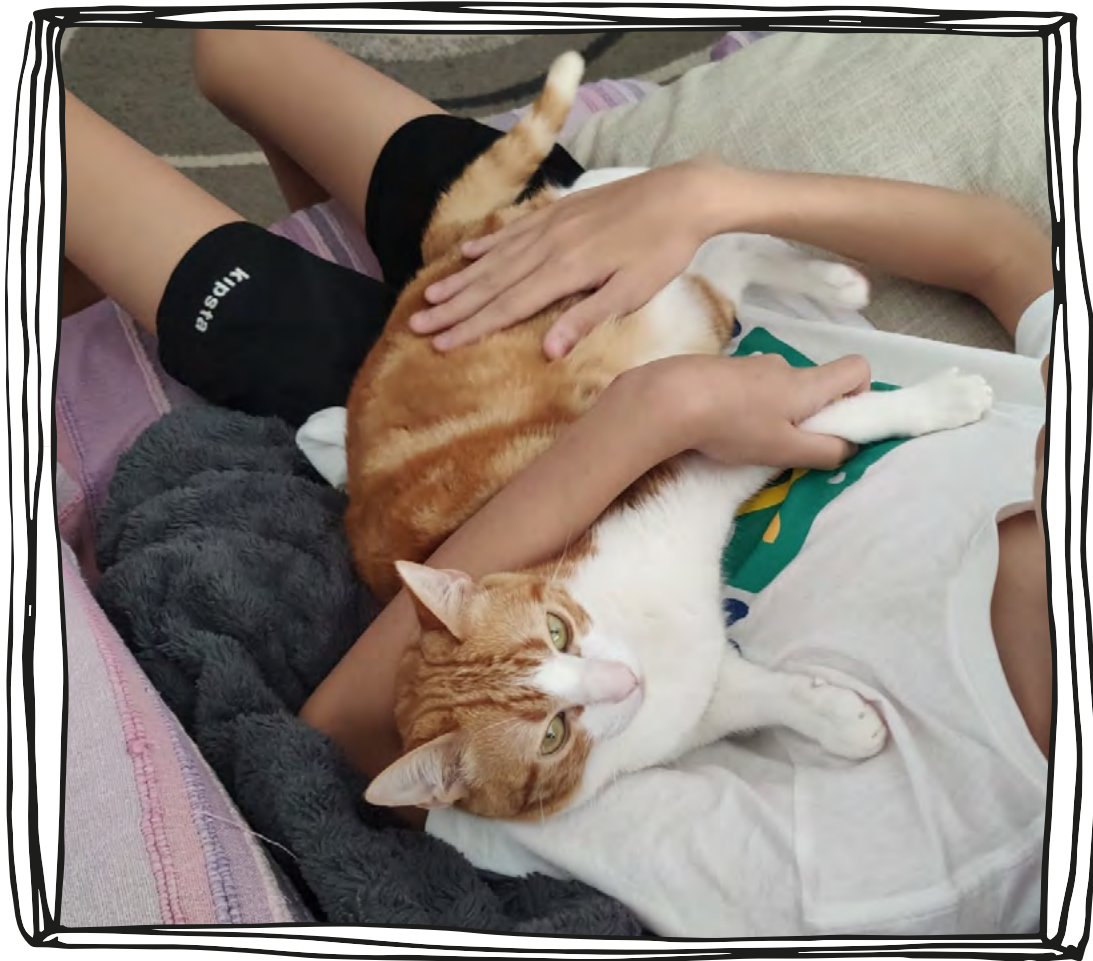
STROKING

The act of stroking encompasses much of what takes place between children and animals. Two important dimensions intersect in this act. That of corporality: bodies that touch, move, settle, and become restless. And that of affection: bodies which, in those moments they touch, impress movement on each other, in the sense of leading to a shift in state – for example, from the state of sadness to the state of consolation; or, signalling the opposite, from a state of tranquillity to a state of fear. This affective dimension is therefore also linked to the feelings and emotions that envelope the relationships between children and animals.

According to the CLAN children, being stroked or "being petted" is something that "animals like", something that they require in order to be happy. And which is good for them. This is why they seek out human company so much. And in this search, they are active agents and have an impact on the development of things around them. Some animals seek to be petted. This is the case of Fifi who, if it were up to her, "would be like this 24 hours", leaning against the body of humans and being petted. Animals also like petting. When they do, they often become caregivers. They provide protection, care, affection, consolation. They help to restore the emotional balance that is upset in moments of sadness, fear, anxiety, abandonment. This happens both with children and with animals, like Cutchie and Ollie, here. In this physical proximity, an intimacy is built that brings these animals closer to what it means to "be a friend" and "be family". It is mainly cats and dogs that benefit from this relationship.

However, some animals do not like being touched or held. For example, Kidah, who sometimes bites Enzo. On the other hand, species whose relationship with touch is less similar to that of humans are less perceived and felt as "close", "intimate", "companionable". This is the case with reptiles, fish, insects.

STROKING · 04



KIDAH



"I was just pestering her. She was on my lap, I like holding her all the time, but sometimes she bites me."



CUTCHI



OLLIE

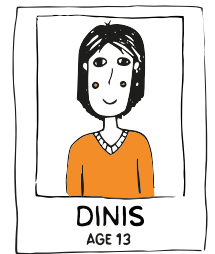


"They all hug each other!"

STROKING · 04



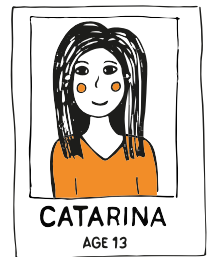
MITSU



"It was always me who gave him his food, I always asked him for his paw, and then the other one...and then only when I said so would he go and eat."

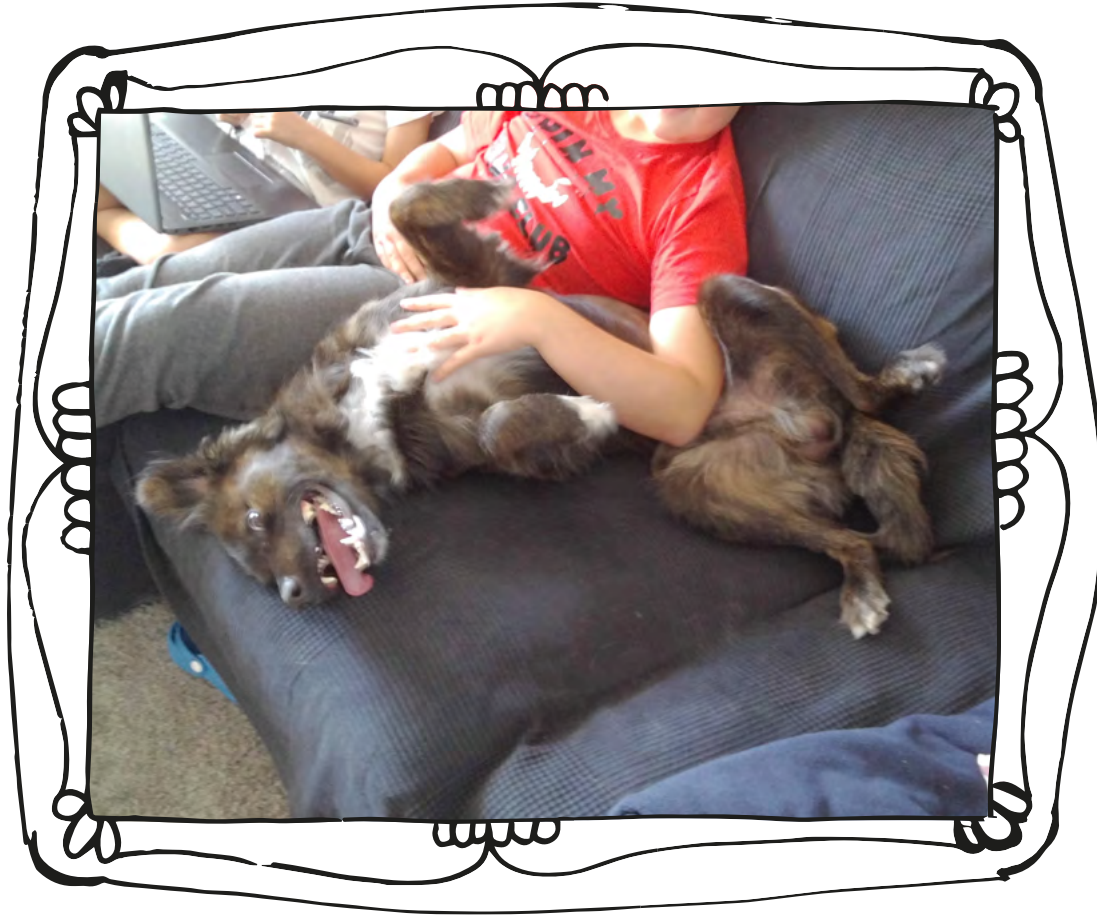


FIFI



"This one, she spends nearly twenty-four hours like this."

STROKING · 04



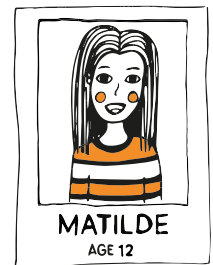
BENJI



"What Benji does pretty much every day is never stay still! So, he was kind of all like this wiggling around. So, I chose this picture which is to represent Benji's life!"

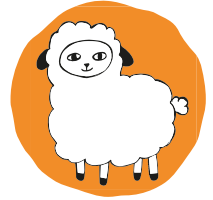


BIANCA



"There's one here where I appear, that is, my hands. I spend a lot of time stroking her, especially Bianca! She's like that, bigger, I love big dogs. I had a Golden Retriever once, but he died, Roy. And so I pretend she's Roy because he was like... I didn't have my sister at the time. And it was like he was a brother. He'd play with me. I'd sleep on top of him... He was really big."

STROKING · 04



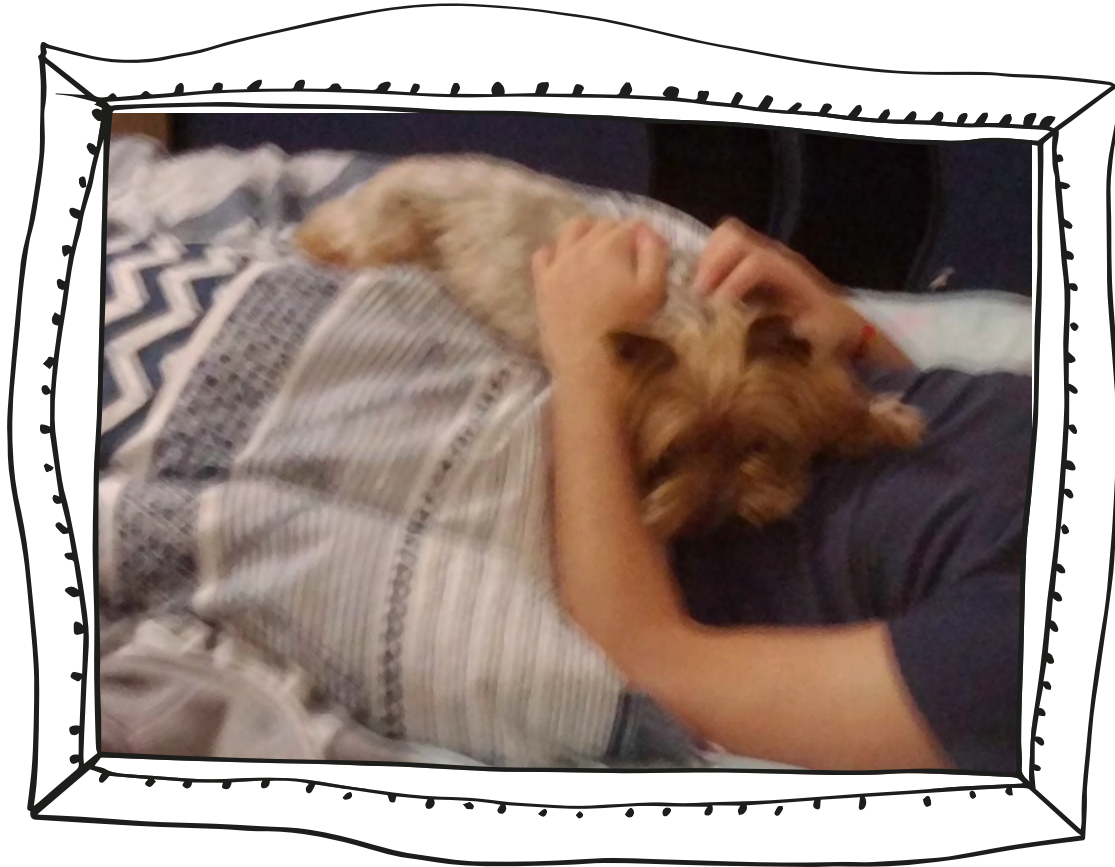


CUTCHI

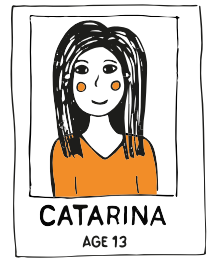


"...giving Cutchi
a hug."

STROKING · 04



FIFI

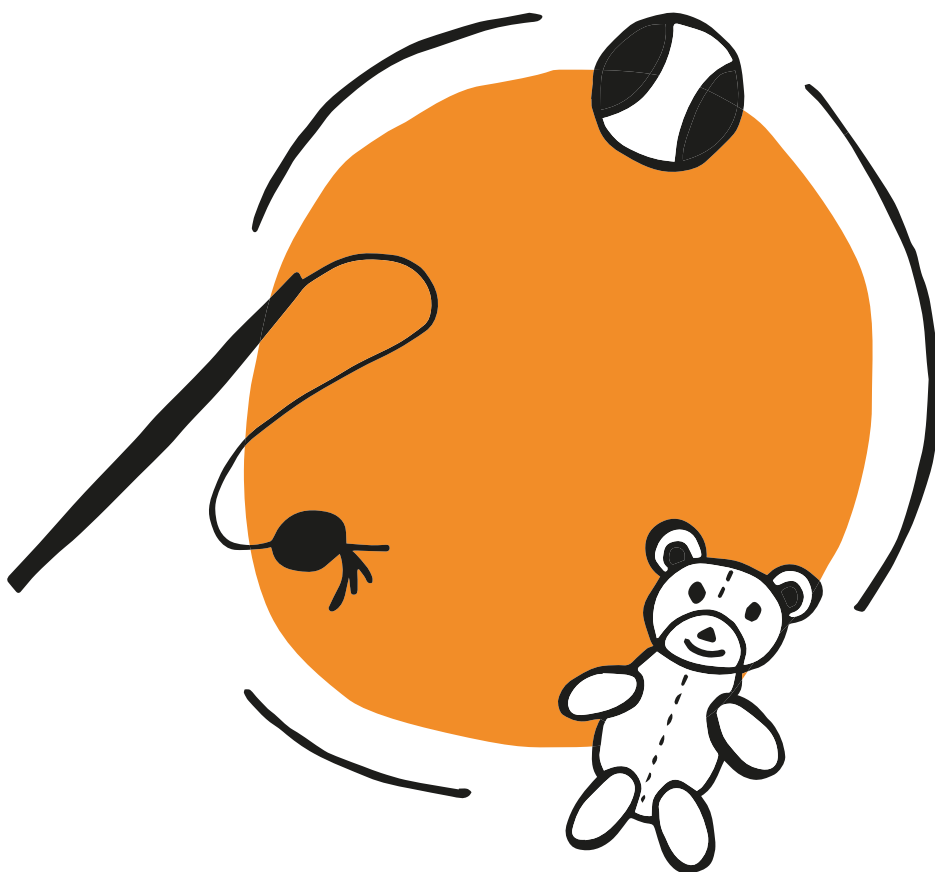


"I think my mum took this one. She never lies down like that, she doesn't like it. And she, well I think she laid down like that voluntarily... because she doesn't like to lie like that, she likes to lie on her side, but always leaning. But now she needed attention, I think"



GALLERY

05 · PLAYING





Playing is the verb that best conjugates the relationship between children and animals. The action where their childhoods – whether real or symbolic – meet in a shared space-time. Like the act of stroking, the act of playing emerges from the conjugation of physicality and affection. Which may be harmonious – in which case, play is fun, bringing sharing and intimacy. But it can also become disharmonious – in which case, the dividing line between play and conflict becomes tenuous and fragile.

Playing often means having favourite objects, which become the focus of play. These objects are not always the most predictable ones. For example, Sammy likes to play with human hair, or Simba with a straw. On other occasions, they participate in the children's play, like Cutchie pretending to sleep next to Marta's doll, or riding a tricycle. Thus, they become "friends" or "siblings" through play.

Sometimes, the animals have their own objects. And the children are aware of their preferences. For instance, Mia loves her cardboard scratch pad with cat grass. And Denahi loves playing in the tube they bought specially for her, which is now part of the living room décor. So much so that she even bites and scratches if anyone else tries to get in her tube. This is how boundaries are established. And through these, respect for the subjectivity of each individual. The culture of objects is certainly part of this dance of bodies that have fun together.

The space in which everything takes place is also critical. Being "outdoors" or "here inside" makes a real difference. And it is very much linked to the characteristics of the animal itself, or of the species. There are animals with high energy levels, that are restless, and need space and activity outside. Like Benji, who won't keep still in the garden. At other times, and depending on the species, it is indoors that play takes place, often as part of the daily chores.

For example, when Denahi plays on the mattress while the bedclothes are being changed. Animals thus modify the perception and use that humans make of space. At the same time, this is a structuring factor in child-animal play and practices.

Therefore, for children, playing is a way of caring. Children feel they are taking care of their companions by giving them something they claim they need to be happy. They also feel cared for by the animals. After all, the dimension of play is one of the most central elements in the role of being a child. Because in the end, as Filipa says about Denahi – when it comes to playing, animals take everything very seriously! And so do children!





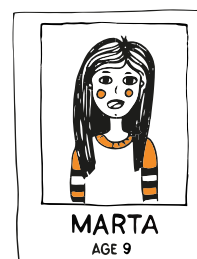
SAMMY



"Here he was
playing with
my sister's
hair."



OLLIE





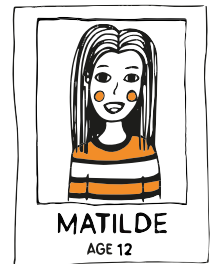
BENJI



"Benji's a very lively dog and sometimes he starts running around the garden. But he doesn't run like a normal dog. He'll go running, hit his paws on the wall and give a thrust to the other side. He goes running and comes back, then he gives a thrust again, then he goes, then he does that thrust... But it's also impossible because he doesn't keep still, it's all blurry!"



SIMBA



MATILDE
AGE 12

"Here was my mum playing with a straw. He spends a lot of time playing with us, he really likes to play with us, and especially with straws. So, I think it's also a routine already."



SAMMY



"Then it was
him playing ...
Indoors."



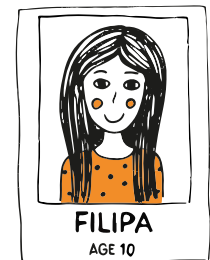
CUTCHI



"Ah, it's him on the tricycle! On the tricycle... It was me, it was me. I like to play with Cutchi on the tricycle... because I don't have anyone else to play with."



DENAHİ



"It was her playing in the tube that's there in the living room. I went to get the camera while she was playing. I went a little behind her and then when she got into the tube I stood by the entrance and took the photo! When she's in the tube you can't touch her because she'll bite you. She bites and scratches. because when she wants to play, she takes it very seriously!"

PLAYING · 05



LUCKY



"Here I think we were by the pool, or I was playing ball and I took some photos. They always lie like that. Rookie not so much anymore. Rookie is more just sideways; he never lies belly up like that."



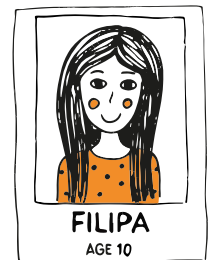
XAVI



"It's a little rope that he likes. It has a little plastic thing on it to make his teeth stronger. So sometimes we go there like this, shake it, stretch it... And sometimes we have to let him win because, if not, he's not interested in playing anymore."



DENAHI



"That's what happened. They were left playing on top of the mattress. It's my sister after picking up Denahi, she's playing with her because Denahi got away and usually where she goes is under my parents' bed, and then when she comes out she jumps on top of the bed. And then we get to play with her."



CUTCHI



"It's a doll... I play with him as if he were a person my age, things I like to play with. If he didn't like it, he'd run off! Then it would be easy to."

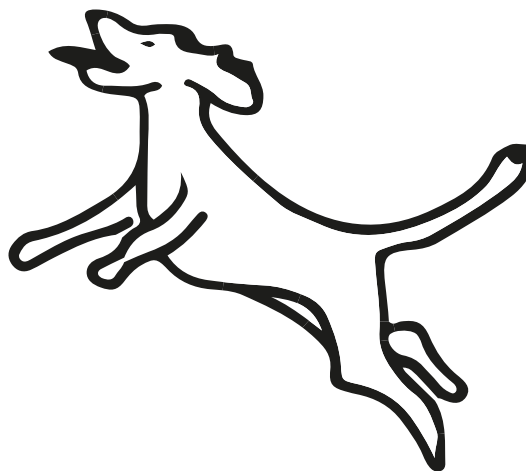


MIA



RUI
AGE 12

"It's like a piece of card that has bits of cat grass on it and it's also compact, we put it on the floor there and she rubs against it. Then we take it away, and she keeps rubbing herself on the floor. It's shaky because she never keeps still."



GALLERY

06 · RESTING





RESTING

This is what animals do most, and best, according to CLAN children! Simply being. Not doing anything! Existing! In a relaxed way. Resting from the interludes of playing, going for walks, or taking care of their children – both human and non-human. Surrendering to the sweet comfort of their favourite places. To the sensory experience of what feels good to them, such as simply being in the sun.

In such moments, the way they use and appropriate the house, the furniture, the objects is striking. Their favourite places, which they use unexpectedly. The television box. The PlayStation. The cooker. The dark corner inside the wardrobe. The desk where someone studies or works. The pouf that was originally meant for humans... Or the bed where their favourite humans sleep.

Sometimes, the disruptive use that these animals make of space prompts humans to change the arrangement of objects, for the animals' benefit. For example, when Enzo removes the grid from the cooker, so Kidah can get more comfortable. Or he makes a bed made entirely of blankets and dressing gowns next to the oil heater in winter. At other times, animals adopt objects or places specifically designed for them. Such is the case with Kidah's suspended bed or refuge-bed, or Malandrinha's shoebox.

Dark and shady, warm, silent, quiet, hidden – the watchword is confidence. To feel safe in these places and moments. And in this way, they can devote themselves, completely and untroubled, to the sleep and rest of the righteous. Like Xavi! This surrender also promotes resting. Something that children also aspire to, involved as they are in extremely busy routines and loaded with school and extra-curricular responsibilities. To what extent, does the rest that their animal companions enjoy also inspire them to indulge, in slow motion, in this confident surrender to a slowing down of their daily lives?

RESTING · 06



MALHADINHA



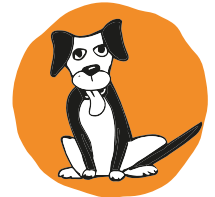
"It's Malhadinha! Except that.. Malhadinha is a kitten that we had at our grandparents', but when she got older, and I showed you a photo of her of when she was older, she was run over by a car. And her mother was also run over."



KIDAH



ENZO
AGE 11



XAVI



"He sleeps like this... for example, sometimes he sleeps normally, like curled up in a little ball. Other times he sleeps like he's dead... At other times he sleeps like this... it's a different way each time!"

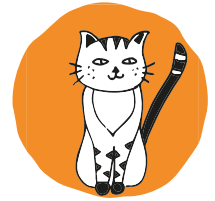


ZARÍ



"Here he's sleeping, that's when we got home from my grandmother's house. We'd gone for a swim. We were on poufs, we have poufs, one's brown and one's white."

RESTING · 06



KIDAH



"She likes - sometimes when it's cold - to go behind my Playstation, where it's very warm. She stays there. Sometimes it's cold like that too and she goes there, it's not really in the Winter."



KIDAH



"It's one of her beds, which she doesn't use much now... I mean, she only uses it at night, but she used to use it more before. And she was there trying out the bed. She likes it. It's when it's colder and it's her most comfortable bed. She must have about six of them."



CHACRA



"It's a wardrobe that's fixed to the wall where the suits my dad wears for work are kept. Chacra - because she thinks it's a place with less light and its where my dad takes his clothes off and then closes it - gets inside because there are also fewer people there and it must be comfortable, I don't know. Cats also have to sleep a lot during the day, ten to sixteen hours, because otherwise they get all moody and when they get older they have problems, I think."



KIDAH



"It's the bed when it was winter, it was her bed by the heater. It was made out of dressing gowns and blankets.."

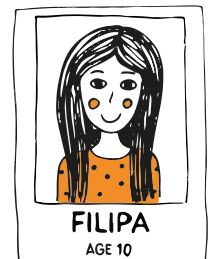
RESTING · 06



SITKA



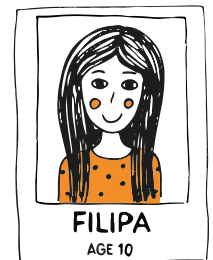
DENAHİ



"And then it's both of them sleeping on my bed. Sometimes she sleeps on this bed, sometimes on my sister's, and at other times on my mum and dad's...and on the chair, on this one... And here I really liked seeing them sleeping together."



KODA



"That was Koda in her other favourite place. Close to my sister. It's one of her favourite places. The little blanket is there, we have it, there's always the blanket there which is for her to sleep on. Then, because she's very black, you can't tell where her ears are...and sometimes her head is turned towards the door, but she's all curled up and has her eyes closed, so you can't see her eyes."

RESTING · 06



KIDAH



"There she was on the cooker and she was already lying down, that's the position she gets into. I'd take that black thing off around the cooker to make her more comfortable."



KIDAH



"It's the suspended bed. And I felt like taking pictures of her."

GALLERY

07 · GOING OUT FOR WALKS





GOING OUT FOR WALKS

Somewhere on the continuum between playing and caring, "going outside" or going out for a walk with animals is, without a doubt, one of the most demanding activities in the daily lives of families. The impact is very different depending on the species of the animal, or the type of house and surrounding outdoor space. Dogs are certainly the animals that humans take for walks the most. If they live in an apartment, they need to go outside every day. And while waiting, some animals like to peer outside, like Xavi! Although there are exceptions, most go out accompanied, with or without a leash. An object that provoke some ambivalence – after all, friends aren't tied to a leash... Therefore, particularly when the house is located in more isolated places, or surrounded by open countryside, walks do not require a leash. And there are those who carry the leash in their mouth although they don't need it, like Maré! On the other hand, in the city or places subject to heavy traffic, going out for a walk without a leash poses risks to the safety and lives of the animals. Although children and adults are often willing to take such risks so that they can offer their companions a few minutes of unrestricted movement, the price to be paid can be high. As a result, risk and protection are brought together in the task of caring.

Sometimes, the walk is an exception to daily routines: like when Beatriz's family went out for a swim in the lake, and Xavi went along too! On these occasions, the walk means fun and games. This also happens in everyday life, when going for a walk is the highlight of the day. For example for Rookie, Mitsu or Lucky, who eagerly wait for someone to open the door. Yet at other times, walking the animals can become a burden and duty. At dawn or on dark, cold, rainy nights, fun is replaced by a sense of commitment. Play gives way to complicity forged through acts of caring. This is mainly the parents' responsibility and not so much the children's.

GOING OUT FOR WALKS · 07



XAVI



"Sometimes Xavi hears these little dogs barking in the street. Of course, we let him do this, but I was a bit scared in the beginning. My mum explained that when he gets up on the balcony with his paws like that he doesn't have enough strength to jump up with both of them. Even so, I stay there and watch him like this"



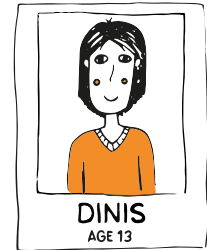
ROOKIE



MITSU



LUCKY



DINIS
AGE 13

"This is when we went for a walk, we all went for a walk. And the one that gets most restless when it's time to go out is Lucky. She starts jumping and tugging on the lead. She's also the smallest, but she's always tugging."

GOING OUT FOR WALKS · 07



MARÉ



MARTIM
AGE 13

"We were
out walking in
some hills..."



XAVI



"He was already tired and was going to drink water. We have a little bag.. it's not really a bag, it's a... it looks like a bowl which we put water in with a bottle just for Xavi."

GOING OUT FOR WALKS · 07



XAVI



"There he was
just about to
lie down."



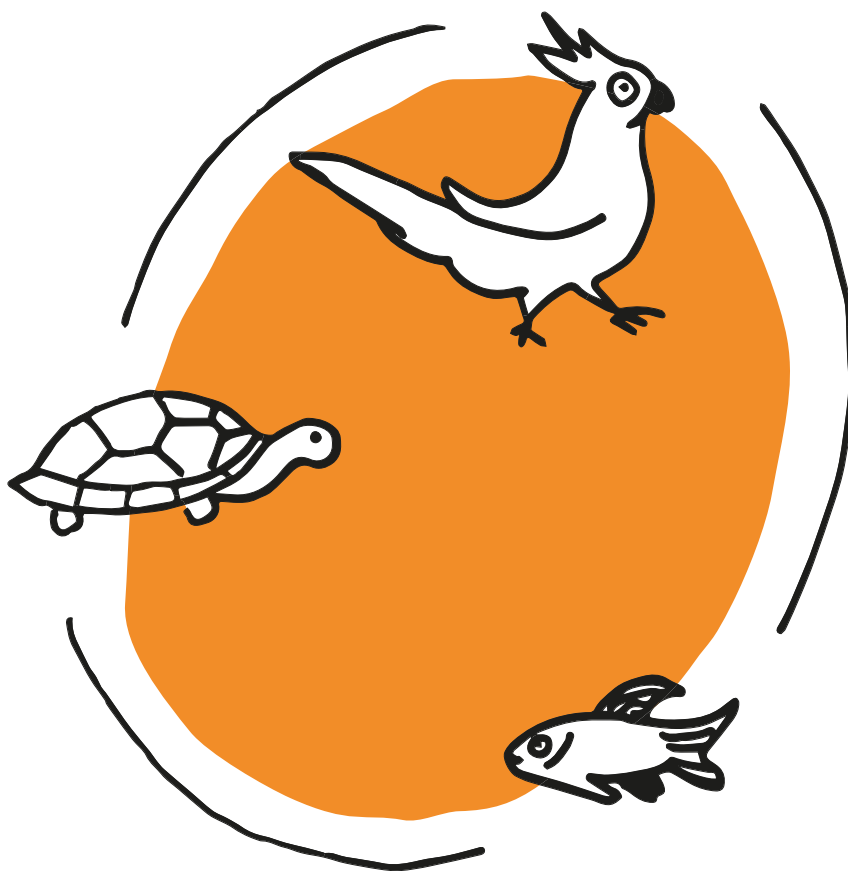
XAVI



"He was swimming. We threw the stick... it has to be a stick that floats... Only, for example, here it was very, very close. So, we let him go, but always keeping an eye on him."

GALLERY

08 · OTHER COMPANY





OTHER COMPANYY

Good animal companionship is not only made up of cats and dogs! Although canines and felines are the preferred species for families, many other species belong to these compositions. Parakeets, lovebirds, cockatiels, tortoises, parrots, rabbits, fish. Companions that despite being even more unlike humans, inspire even greater curiosity to learn about their behaviour, needs and preferences.

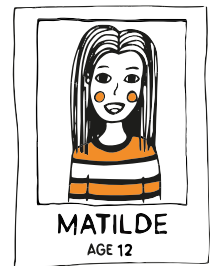
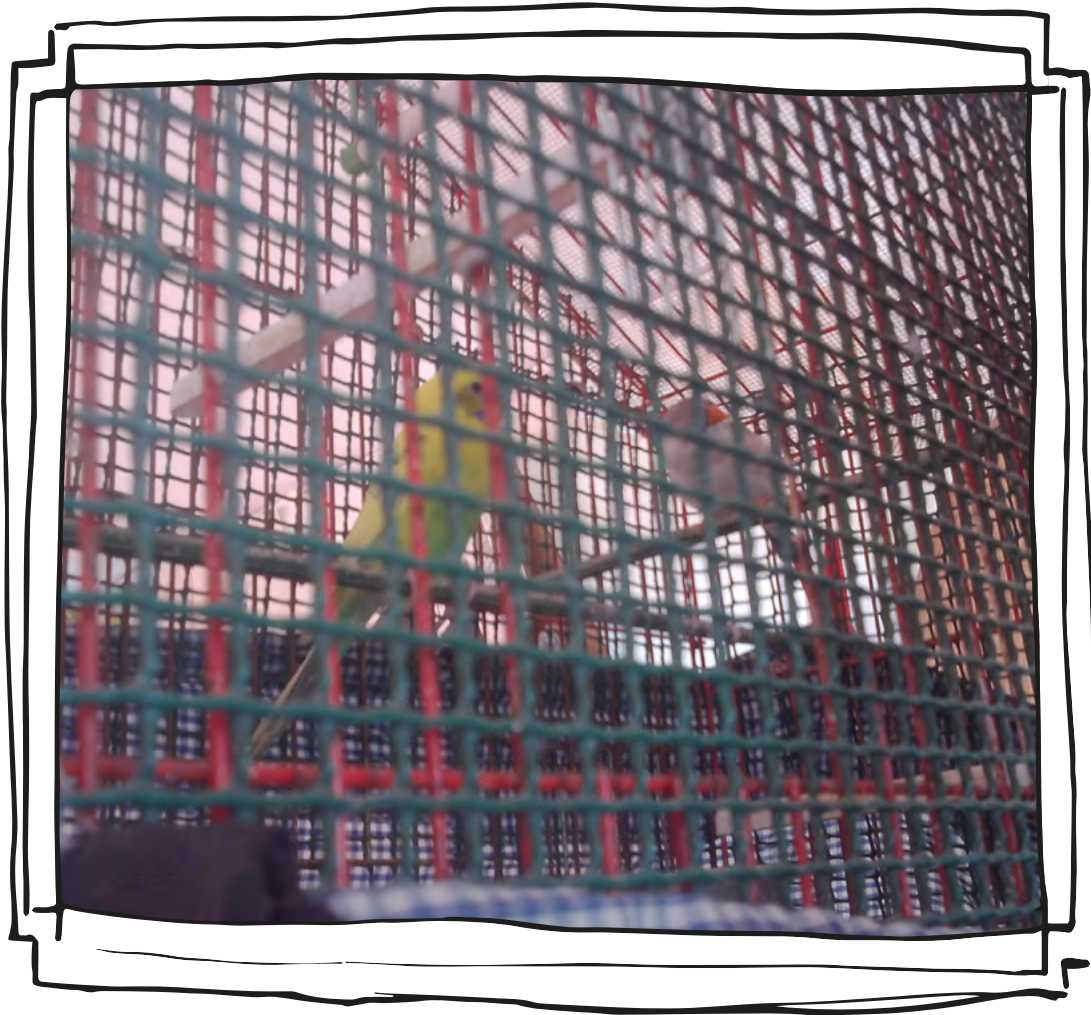
More so than dogs and cats, with whom mutual acculturation goes back a long way, these species have needs that can be more demanding for humans to fulfil. For example, birds, even when in cages, "dirty everything, flapping their wings, scattering feathers and birdseed"... Or turtles, who live in water, and who require the right conditions to be able to withdraw during their hibernation period.

Sometimes having just one animal belonging to an exotic species is already so demanding that we don't even consider the fact that some of these species are social, and need to have others like them, with whom to socialise. At other times, the longevity of the species, as is the case with turtles and parrots, brings challenges that, even when they have been anticipated, become difficult to accommodate as life progresses.

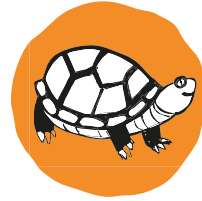
In general, these species also coexist with dogs and cats, regarded as the "companion animal" par excellence. These other companions are relegated to a more secondary plan. They live more confined lives, with reduced mobility, in cages, boxes, terrariums.

Some do not even have a name. The practice of giving them a name raises these animals a little higher in the human evaluation of different species, which places dogs and cats at the top. Other conditions also help, such as having outdoor space. This is how Maior and Menor can "go to wherever they want" and "be in the sun".





"And here are my grandmother's birds."



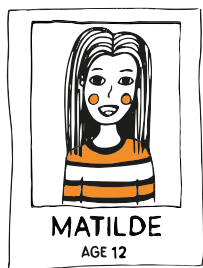
"One is bigger and one is smaller... so they're called Maior and Menor! [Bigger and Smaller]. They were out of the pond. And it looked nice on the lawn. Basically, they can go anywhere they want. They can be in the sun, etc."



PIPA



PIPO



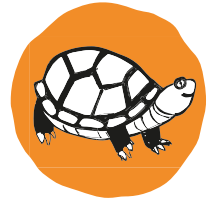
"Here are the cockatiels. It's the cockatiels. That's the male and the female. Umm... it's Pipo and Pipa!"



DOURADINHO



"Here's Douradinho."



PATA DURA



"It's Pata Dura [Hard Paw], it's Pata Dura! because when we put her down, she pushes with her paws and since she pushes hard she's called Pata Dura!"

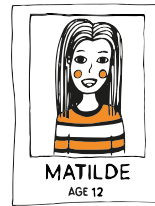
Authors



THE PHOTOGRAPHERS



... lives with her parents and her two dogs Akira and Goya. Life without animals would be "different, I wouldn't have any animals to play with."



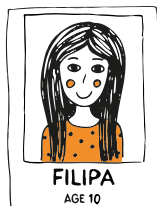
... lives with her parents, sister, cat Simba, cockatiels Pipo and Pipa and the memory of dog Roy. "We have pictures together. I remember him very well."



... lives with her mother, brother, cat Ollie, dog Cutchi and cat Periquito. Cutchi and Ollie "are usually always playing."



... lives with her parents, brother and dog Xavi. "If Xavi isn't around, nothing special will happen because he's the one who moves everything around here!"



... lives with her parents, her sister, the cats Koda, Sitka and Dinahi who "are always with their tails up in the air (...) are all happy!"



... lives with his parents, brother and seven animals: cat Chacra, dog Benji "who came off the streets", turtles Pata Dura and Brincalhona and three fish.



... lives with his mother, two older brothers and the cat Mia. "When she came here I started feeling happier".

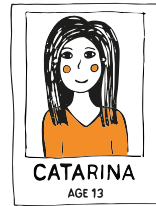


... lives with her parents, brother and dogs Rookie, Mitsu and Lucky. "I've been with them for many years now and they're like members of my family."



MARTIM
AGE 13

... lives with his parents, sister, dog Maré, cat Noah, cat Sammy, a parakeet, turtles Maior and Menor, and two birds of the agapornis species.



CATARINA
AGE 13

... lives with her mother, older brother and dog Fifi. "Sometimes we are in the kitchen and she comes with the toy and so we socialise more."



BALTAZAR
AGE 8

... lives with his parents, younger brother, dog Zari and dog Darling. "My mother plays with her the most, I pet her a lot too."



ENZO
AGE 11

... lives with his mother and cat Kidah, who is like a sister. In the morning his mother "brings Kidah to me, because I like to wake up with Kidah beside me."

CURATORSHIP



... is passionate about living and studying with animals. She has shared her life with many dogs, parakeets, terrapins, fish, turtles, hamsters. A special dog, called Piloto, occupies a special place in her heart. She has lived since 2011 with the yellow cat Mostarda, adopted from a street colony. Two years later the Siamese cat Coco joined the family, rescued from a car engine.



... loves sharing her life with animals. She has lived with several cats rescued from the street, fish, guinea pigs, parakeets, lovebirds and later with a dog called Simba. The cat Turi has always remained in her heart and the prototype Locus Turi was named after her as a tribute. She currently lives with the sister cats Tofu and Xica and, together with her mother, she is taking care of the kitten Amalia until she is old enough to be adopted.

2022 EDITION

