



years

with the dogs, cats, and the people who take care of them.

Activity Report 2022



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Activity Report 2022



1. Activities of the entity Activity report 2022

1. Activities of the entity

The year 2022 has been the year of the return to "normality". Although we have not left the pandemic fully behind us, we have managed to recuperate previous levels of activity.

It has been a year in which we have strengthened many of our existing collaborations and partnerships, deepening some programmes while innovating in other areas, always with a focus on our mission:

Spread the benefits of the Bond between people, dogs and cats, and our work areas: Research, Social Action and Awareness.

We have given a voice to witnesses of the therapy programmes who have shared their experience of how some therapy dogs have changed their lives.

We have extended the *Aid Plan "Nurturing bonds in diffi- cult moments"* another year, to help animals and vulnerable families acquire food for dogs and cats via entities such
as Caritas, the Red Cross, Food bank, FAADA and FEEL.

We have strengthened our partnership with University Hospital Sagrat Cor, continuing the innovative therapy programme *Stronger Together* aimed at helping frail patients, and have started a new programme at the Eating Disorders Unit, *Looks that Heal*, accompanying young people in their recovery process.

In the field of research, our work on the benefits of the bond has guided us towards delving into the idea of *Animals* as a *Source of Social Support*, especially in difficult moments. To this end, we have conducted a preliminary study in various countries.

We have continued analysing abandonment with our **Yearly Study "They would never do it"**, providing numbers and contributing an integral vision of the motives for abandonment, and possible solutions such as adoption, which we promote together with the digital adoption platform, **Miwuki**.

In the year 2022 we have been able to go further in our mission thanks to our accord with media outlet Atresmedia to promote the *cause Inseparables*, with the aim of fostering happier and healthier relations between people and animals.

We have completed the year with an innovative format, the **vodcast Oh miau dog!**, which shows every month what the bond with our animals in reality consists of, with various testimonies of well-known people who through humour, closeness and transparency, share with us anecdotes and experiences of living with a dog or a cat.

The year 2022 had a special meaning, as we celebrated the Affinity Foundation's 35th anniversary.

We have taken the opportunity to look back and review how our society has evolve in this period, how the relationship with the companion animals has changed in such a profound way.

While being aware of what we still have to achieve, we also believe this is a good moment to identify and celebrate the progress we have made thanks to the efforts of so many people, entities and institutions who dedicate their time to the improvement of the lives of animals and people.

For another year we have seen the role the animals that surround us play in our lives, an important source of social support, especially in difficult moments. We have also invited people to reflect on how we can improve our bond with them, and we have had the opportunity to listen to real life testimonies that inspire us and make us understand how each bond is unique and unrepeatable.

We could not have initiated all these projects only by ourselves. Collaboration and partnerships are necessary to be able to improve the lives of people, dogs, and cats, and to demonstrate to society that our world improves for everybody if there are dogs and cats around.



2. 2021 in numbers Activity report 2022

2021 in numbers

Research

5

5

research studies (vs 4 in '21)

1

scientific publication (vs 5 in '21)

7

conferences in congresses and symposia (vs 7 in '21)

Animal Assisted Therapy

19

programmes (vs 22 in '21)

855

direct beneficiaries (+85% vs '21)

77

Abandonment and Adoption

461

organisations (animal shelters) participate in the "They would never do it" study (9% of the total, +8% vs '21)

8,030

animals adopted through Miwuki adoption platform (-6% vs '21)



Awareness Raising

159,000

followers on social media (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook & Youtube)

99%

of pet parents (aged 18 to 45 years old) have seen our messages in Spain (equal to '21) 1,000,903

web users (-52% vs '21)

99%

of pet parents (aged 18 to 45 years old) have seen our messages in France (+6 pp vs '21) 1,957

news appearances in the media (+52% vs '21)

960,8

million impacts in Spain and France. (+37% vs '21)



Research area

We continue our agreement with the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona, for the upkeep of the Chair Affinity Foundation Animals and Health UAB. 5 studies have been set up and/or conducted, and 1 publication has seen the light of day.

Pilot Study to evaluate the results of therapies within the CREI programme

The therapy programme at CREI in Lleida works with children and teenagers who are under supervision of the Generalitat and in foster care at a CREI (Residential Centre for Intensive Education), putting forth activities to improve behaviour and affectivity, thanks to the participation of therapy dogs as role model. In practice, the idea is to improve the affective bond with the centre's staff and between classmates, canalise frustration, improve communication, and reduce the tendency to overstep boundaries.

Study to evaluate the benefits within the framework of the therapy programme Stronger together (Frailty Unit – Hospital Sagrat Cor)

The programme Stronger together, aimed at frail patients who after a stay at the ICU are in need of rehabilitation, has also been scientifically evaluated.

The study confirms that the presence of dogs reduces the patients' anxiety and improves their attitude and participation in a rehabilitation session.

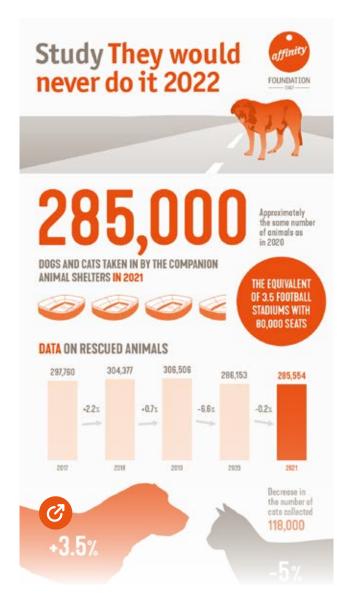
Study "They would never do it" about Abandonment and Adoption 2021.

For more than 25 years we have conducted the Study "They would never do it", about Abandonment and Adoption, to put numbers to the major abandonment problem. The importance of this study lies in the fact it is the only study that offers an overall vision that is both evolutionary and representative of the problem in Spain.

In this sense it is acknowledged as a reference by animal protection entities public and private, institutions and media, in raising awareness and fighting against abandonment.

Close to 461 entities have provided data in this edition. Over the course of the year, they compile all the needed information about the animals they attend.

The figures abandonment remain constant, with a slightly downwards tendency. More than 285,000 dogs and cats arrived at the 1,591 Spanish shelters in the year 2022.



For further information: See infographics

Study "Veterinarian Occupational Health VetBonds Project" (Chair Affinity Foundation/Avepa).

Nowadays, burnout and compassion fatigue are a major problem in the health professions. Among those, it seems that the veterinarian profession is especially affected. Studies from various countries are starting to bring the topic to light in order to create awareness, although studies that expand on the issue are lacking.

With a first group of veterinarians, this study has analysed the satisfaction and occupational health of the veterinarian community. One of the most prominent results of the study is the fact that the immense majority of the 210 participants showed moderate levels of burnout, which over time might result in problems of adaptation and occupational and personal well-being.

Research area



For further information: https://vetbonds.com/

 Study "What is unique about the social support that people receive from their dogs"

Social support is a well-defined concept used in the fields of medicine, psychology, education, and social work.

The social support a person can count on, today is considered one of the best predictors of good mental health and physical and psychological well-being.

We were interested in finding out what role companion animals play as a source of social support for people. To this end, we conducted an initial qualitative study among 240 people in the United States, the United Kingdom and other countries. The study was carried out in collaboration with the Polytechnic University of California.

The investigative work of the Chair has come to light



in an article published in Veterinary Sciences, fruit of our collaboration with the University of Pisa, that looks in depth at the effects of the pandemic confinement on the behaviour of companion animals and their bond with humans. Beyond the pandemic, this scientific study suggests that the well-being of many cats and dogs improves with a growing presence and attention from the family. It proposes a debate about the level of implication of carers in the improvement of the well-being of their dogs and cats once normality has been reinstated.

Riggio, G.; Borrelli, C.; Piotti, P.; Grondona, A.; Gazzano, A.; Di Iacovo, F.P.; Fatjó, J.; Bowen, J.E.; Mota-Rojas, D.; Pirrone, F.; Mariti, C. Cat–Owner Relationship and Cat Behaviour: Effects of the COVID-19 Confinement and Implications for Feline Management. *Vet. Sci.* 2022, 9, 369. https://doi.org/10.3390/vetsci9070369



Giacomo Riggio ¹©, Carmen Borrelli ¹, Patrizia Piotti ²©, Anna Grondona ¹©, Angelo Gazzano ¹©, Francesco P. Di Iacovo ¹, Jaume Fatjó ¹©, Jonathan E. Bowen ^{3,4}, Daniel Mota-Rojas ⁵©, Federica Pirrone ²© Ind Chiara Mariti ^{1,4}©

Feline Management

The Chair has participated in conferences and symposiums such as My dog is my home Co-sheltering Conference (New York), the Annual Meeting of European Veterinary Congress of Animal Welfare and Behavioural Medicine, the International Criminalistics Symposium on Cases of Cruelty to Domestic Animals (University of Medellin), the Ethology Post-graduate Study of the University of Padua, the XXVII International Nursing Research Conference, and the X Ibero-American Congress of Qualitative Health Research, and two conferences organised by AVEPA (Association of Veterinarians of Small Animals).

In 2022 the Affinity Private Foundation has contributed 113,181 euros. In 2021, the Affinity Foundation allocated 133.119 euros to this area.



Social action

Animal assisted therapy

In 2022 we are back to normality in the therapy programmes.

We have carried out 19 therapy programmes.

We mantain programme Respect Me at the Lleó XIII School, for the prevention of bullying and the promotion of respect at an educational institution.

We have also continued the programme Parents and Children at the parental CRAE, under the agreement with the DGAIA (Directorate General of Attention to Children and Adolescents of the Generalitat), the programme Opening Doors (penitentiary centres), as well as other programmes in geriatric residences, centres for minors and centres for mental health.







We also pilot the programme Huscan/Barnahus, with the DGAIA, aiming to help minors who are victims of sexual violence.

Through this programme, a therapy dog accompanies the minor during their interview or examination, giving emotional support in order to help them relate their experience.

The goal is to reduce stress and anxiety levels and improve the communication between minors and therapists.



For further information: https://www.fundacion-affinity.org/blog/intervenciones-asistidas-con-animales-en-el-modelo-barnahus







We continued our partnership with University Hospital Sagrat Cor in Barcelona, through which we conduct the programme Stronger together at the Frailty Unit of the hospital, aimed at contributing to the rehabilitation of patients leaving the ICU.



Additionally, within the framework of this partnership we started a new programme in 2022, Looks that Heal, aimed at minors who suffer from Eating Disorders.

Social action

Adoption

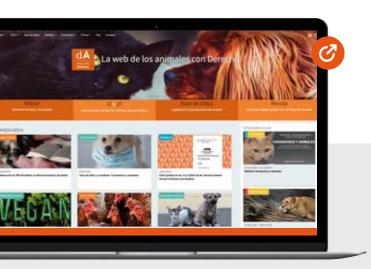
We continued our partnership with Miwuki, the free web platform and app that connects shelters and potential adopters.

During 2002, 8,030 adoptions were registered through this platform, 6% less than in 2021.

We have promoted adoption creating content in our social networks and the internet.







Animal Law: Portal, Master in Animal Law, ICALP

We support training and information surrounding Animal Law, supporting the website <u>derechoanimal.info</u>, the only juridical data base concerning companion animals in Spain. We also continue to support the Master Animal Law, a benchmark training course, as well as the investigative work of ICALP.

Aid Plan "Nourishing Bonds in Difficult Moments"

Via the Support Plan that we initiated in 2021 and that we extended one more year, in 2022 we distributed more than 71,000 daily rations of dog and cat food, equivalent to almost 23 tons, reaching animals and families at social risk.

The support from Affinity's brand Libra, and the cooperation from entities such as the Red Cross, Caritas and the Food Bank, as well as other entities such as Project Lola and FAADA, has been fundamental in getting the food to animals and families in need.









The financial support of the Affinity Private Foundation in the Area of Social Action in 2022 has totalled 144,113 euros, VAT included, of which 111,692 were destined to programmes of Therapy with Help of Animals, and 32,420 to collaborations with other entities.

In 2021 the Affinity Foundation destined 183,745 euros to this area.



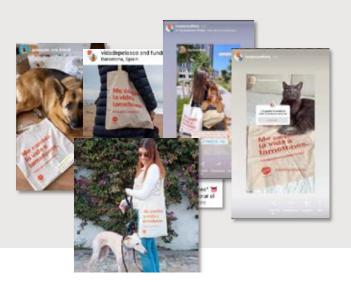
We have continued creating general content, both in Spain and in France: web articles, videos, infographics, posts... all with the aim of spreading awareness about the benefits of the bond between dogs, cats, and people, as well as the respect our animals deserve.

We started the **campaign Animals change lives**, with the testimony of Antonio, who spoke first hand about his experience with the therapy programme Opening Doors, and how meeting the Princess and the King changed his life.

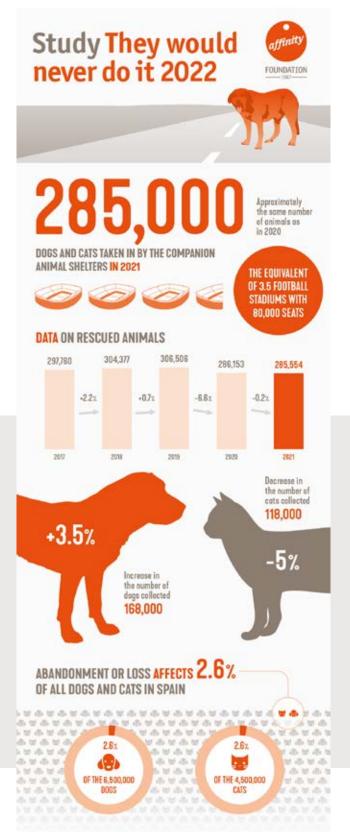


Link to vídeo Antonio: https://www.fundacion-affinity.org/en/dogs-cats-and-people/healing-animals/animals-change-lives

This campaign involved many people and influencers who shared the cause on social media and explained how animals had also changed their own lives.



As in every year, we once again presented the results of the Affinity Foundation Study They would never do it, with infographics, a whitepaper, and content for social media, showing that animal abandonment remains the major problem that companion animals are facing.



In summer we launched the campaign Inseparables together with Atresmedia. This collaboration has the aim of promoting happy bonds between people and animals.

We raised awareness about the importance of dedicating time to getting to know our animals better and understanding their needs, since this will lead to a better bond and thus a happier coexistence.

To this end we have joined forces with Helena Resano, ambassador of the cause. Content has been created for television, radio, internet, and our website.













For further information: https://www.fundacion-affinity.org/inseparables/





In autumn we **created the vodcast (video podcast) Oh Miau Dog**, an innovative format to talk about the bond, show real relationships, and, with humour and closeness, touch on topics such as education, humanisation, abandonment, adoption, accessibility... and other aspects related to our animals.

We counted with Martita de Graná, and with 6 influencers who in each of the 6 episodes told us their stories.







For further information: https://youtu.be/rBt4UZwYpwQ





La historia de Abril





In general, over the course of the year we created content for social media and the website concerning various projects of the Affinity Foundation: the study Social support from animals for people living on the streets, the therapy programmes of the Foundation, animal accessibility problems, and the message that animals are not toys.



Media Campaigns

To raise awareness in society, we disseminate content through digital media campaigns. Thanks to our collaboration with Atresmedia Group and the campaign Inseparables, we have also reached television and radio this year.

During the year 2022 we have registered a total of 115 million impacts in Spain and France (some 43% less than the previous year), reaching 99% of our target audience in Spain (the same as in '21), and 99% in France (+6 pp vs '21), with our messages.





La dificultat de llogar un pis amb mascotes: només un 4% dels propietaris ho permeten

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Public Relations

Mass media play and important role as loudspeakers for our awareness messages. In 2022 we sent **12 press releases** to various media.

We have shared topics such as the partnership with FAADA to conduct the study into Social Support from animals for people in a situation of homelessness; Bullying Day within the framework of our therapy programme at Lleó XIII School; therapy programme Barnahus, the study He would never do that, the Animal strike, and accessibility barriers for families with animals.

In 2022 we generated **1,957 news reports**, 52% more than in the previous year. Our **aggregate potential audience was over 877 million**, 78% more than in 2021.







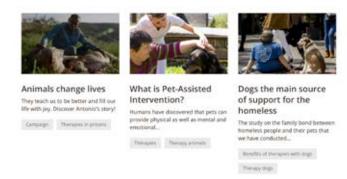
HOLA!

Website

Our website has been visited from more than 200 countries, with Spanish, French and English the most read languages.

This year we have collected on our website the various campaigns we carried out over the course of the year, with special emphasis on the campaigns Animals change lives, Inseparables, and the vodcast Oh miau Dog!

In 2022 our website was visited by **1.000.903 unsers**, 52% less than the previous year.







In 2022 the Affinity Private Foundation contributed 829,894 euros VAT included to the Communication area In 2021 the Affinity Foundation allocated 755,047 euros to this area.



2. Financial data 2022 Activity report 2022

Financial 2022

20

Total Budget 1,215,150€

Awareness	951,847 €
Awareness campaigns	951,847 €
Content creation	255,638 €
Media campaigns	621,141 €
Website	75,000 €
Public Relations	68 €
Research	113,181 €
Chair Animals and Health	81,600 €
Research surveys	31,581 €
Social Action	144,113 €
Animal-Assisted Therapies	111,692 €
Programme Costs (nutrition and veterinarians)	16,075 €
Technical Team and New Programmes	95,617 €
Partnerships	32,421 €
Animal Law Website	7,393 €
Adoption partnership	18,150 €
Aid Plan	6,878 €
Other costs	6,009 €

