



259 PEOPLE ALIVE THANKS TO TRANSPLANTS

New organ donation record

The Canary Islands Government concluded the year with a very positive balance sheet in the health sector.

Last year, there were organ donations from the bodies of 105 people, an increase of 13 per cent and in addition there were five living donors. Both the number of donors and the number of transplants undertaken reached a new record high in 2018 with a total of 203 organ transplants performed. Over the course of the year, 155 kidneys, 42 livers and six pancreases were transplanted, saving or prolonging the lives of 259 patients. The donor rate here is 49.5 per million inhabitants. The transplants were carried out both at the university hospitals in Tenerife and Gran Canaria. In five cases, kidneys from living donors were transplanted at the university hospital HUC in La Laguna. The advantage

of this is that the patient's chances of survival are even greater with living donors because the organ is better accepted by the recipient. The number of donations for heart failure patients, for which certain strict criteria of circulatory and respiratory arrest must be met, has increased to 18 donors. There is good news for patients waiting for a heart transplant because these operations are soon to be performed at the Dr. Negrin University Hospital in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, starting probably in the second half of the year. Previously, these patients had to travel to the Peninsula for treatment and spend months there.

Thanks to the donors

The health authorities would like to take this opportunity to thank the donors and their

families who have made themselves available in this selfless way after their death. The same goes for the more than 100 medical professionals who make these transplants possible in the Canary Islands, where the patients and their families are able to enjoy their proximity to home.

An organ donor card expresses a donor's wish but has no legal value in Spain. Anyone wishing to donate organs should first discuss this with their family members. As a rule, they are the ones who have to make this decision at an already difficult time. In addition, the Manifestación Anticipada de Voluntad (MAV), a document in which everyone can determine which organs and tissues they would like to donate in the event of death, can be obtained and signed in front of Health Department officials or a public notary. ■



Animundo
2ª FERIA DEL ANIMAL DE COMPAÑÍA

DOG FAIR WITH ADOPTION OPPORTUNITIES

Animundo 2019 in Las Palmas

The Animundo fair will be celebrated for the second time in Gran Canaria on the last weekend of January.

The response last year was so good that it will be even bigger this time, in fact it is going to grow from 3,500 square metres of exhibition space to 5,700 square metres. It's aimed at dog owners who care for the welfare of their four-legged pets. Animal hospitals, veterinarians, dog groomers and specialised shops will be able to present themselves and the message is clear, a dog can be a great companion for a single person, for a couple or for the whole family. At this fair, 40 dogs from local shelters will also be there who are all looking for a new home. A total of four dog show runs are planned each day and should the response be as great as

last year, the animal welfare associations have left it open to organise a fifth show run too. Last year all 40 of the dogs presented finally found a home, let's hope that will be repeated this year.

Assessment of the future owner takes place as strictly, as with every other adoption. During the fair there will also be exhibitions and demonstrations in Agility and by the Police Squadron. For the first time, a musical entitled Mirame de frente 2 will be performed the evening before, on Friday, on the theme of the well-being of animals. Restaurants, hotels, rural hotels and other holiday providers that allow dogs will also be represented at the fair, showing how much easier it can be to plan a holiday with animals. If you bring your dog, you can also use the park or

outside dog pool with your pet, making an entertaining leisure activity for animals and their humans.

The fair takes place on Saturday, January 26 from 10.30am to 8pm, and on Sunday, January 27 from 10.30am to 6pm. Entrance costs €2.50 for humans and one euro for dogs.

There are 120,000 registered pets in Gran Canaria. Most of them are dogs, because domestic cats are not usually registered and therefore do not appear in the statistics in any real order of magnitude. At the same time, the island has one of the highest exposure rates in Europe. Eight out of ten dogs that are abandoned are not microchipped as prescribed. Trade fairs like these offer animal shelters the chance to present their protégés to a broader audience. ■



Photo: GobCan

↑ Good news from the transplant sector



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