

Djimba Foundation needs help

Since 2000, Betty Heideman has been committed to caring for animals in need. During the past 23 years she has rescued many animals, mainly dogs, but also cats, rodents, birds, chickens and even a wild boar, and given them all a refuge. This work began first with Greyhounds Rescue Holland Foundation, and later its AMCF Foundation helped more than 80 animal shelters worldwide with medical and relief supplies.

Betty, herself, moved to France in 2005 and whilst there continued to take care of more and more dogs (and cats) with a disability, abandoned dogs, old and sick dogs, and badly traumatized dogs.

In 2010, Betty established a Foundation in order to be able to do more for the animals in need. The Djimba Foundation, together with ANBI Keurmerk, has had more than 40 animals under her care. The name Djimba comes from the name of the first Galga rescued, Djara, and the special Greyhound called Simba, who Betty rescued.

In order to be closer to her parents, Betty moved to Germany in 2016, where she has been living with her Djimba family, 13 dogs and 2 cats, for 7 years now. She had wanted to move to the Netherlands, but it was not an option because of the high cost of housing. Since April 2022, Djimba Foundation has also been an official German Foundation.

In addition to her work as a driver for a Day Care Centre for the elderly with dementia, and the care of her partner, Betty cares for the animals, designs images for mobile phone cases and writes columns. She also has the additional concern of her 89 year old father, who lives in the Netherlands. Betty has also collected material donations for other animal foundations at home and abroad, for many years.

As a result of the serious illness of her husband, as well as many setbacks, both emotionally and financial, Betty and her husband are forced to sell the house where they live, and have the very real threat of becoming homeless.

Betty has to drive every 2 weeks to the Netherlands to care for her father, and whilst she is gone, her partner, Fred, has to stay at home alone. Fred has early stage dementia, besides a serious illness, and Betty does not know how long he can continue to be left alone.

The house no longer has a heating system that works and the high cost of adapting the house for a wheelchair are two of the reasons why it is untenable to continue to live in the house. Fred is not allowed to walk as he has AGV 2 vertebrae that have been eaten by cancer.

It will be impossible to relocate the dogs as three legged Galga, Mila, and little Sofie are both terrified of strange people and are only able to be cared for by Betty.

Disabled German Shepherd Aimi has a fear of everything except people. Dana has chronic incontinence. Heidi has a chronic inflammation of her vulva. Cleo is blind. Luna is almost

blind having been kept constantly in a dark cellar. Elfie has a past of abuse. And yet despite all their traumatic backgrounds, the dogs are a strong pack and support one another.

Due to Betty's low income, (she is unable to work full time because of her husband), and the age of her husband, she is unable to get a mortgage.

With the sale of the house, Betty and Fred of course hope to be able to partly pay for a new home themselves, and every euro Betty makes from designing and selling images is saved, but this will never be enough to buy another home.

Please help Djimba Foundation and Betty and Fred so that they will not be homeless.