

Practical information on volunteering & internships



You can find information here about our location, how to reach us, about living at the shelter, working at the shelter as well as a few tips (clothing/shoes). This will help you prepare for a nice stay. You can always email or call us with any questions. We look forward to seeing you!

About Paws Patas

- Paws Patas is a Spanish non-profit shelter for dogs and cats. Our shelter relies on teams of passionate local and international volunteers. All with a big heart for animals as well as knowledge and experience in animal care. We are helped by foster carers who look after our animals at home when there is no more room at the shelter. On average, about 100 dogs stay at the shelter.
- Founded in 1989, Paws Patas was formally registered as a Spanish charitable organisation in 1996.
- We have 4 second-hand stores whose proceeds go to the shelter.
- Our dogs and cats stay at the shelter until they are adopted. Fortunately, our dogs and cats are able to quickly find nice homes.

Address

Partido del Marguizo s/n Rambla de los Hornicos
A-370, 04280 Los Gallardos, Almería, Spain

Our shelter is located 100 km north of Almería and 200 km south of Alicante on the southeast coast of Spain. It is close to villages such as Mojácar, Los Gallardos, Vera and Garrucha and about 10 kilometres from the coast.



Contact

Do you have questions or want more information? Antoinette is happy to help you!

antoinette@paws-patas.org

click & visit



www.paws-patas.org

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How can you reach us?

Almeria

- The Almeria airport is about a 1-hour drive from the shelter. You can fly directly to Almeria from Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Brussels.
- You can be picked up and dropped off at the airport in return for a reimbursement of the fuel costs (€25 each way). You can settle this fee directly with the person who is transporting you.
- There is also a private bus company (www.exclusiveairportshuttles.co.uk) that connects to flights from the Netherlands, Belgium and England, and runs from the Almeria airport to Los Gallardos. The cost for this service is €20. We can pick you up from the bus station in Los Gallardos and bring you to the shelter.

Alicante

- You can fly directly to Alicante from Amsterdam, Eindhoven and Brussels. Then you can take a bus from the Alicante airport to the Vera bus station and vice versa. We can pick you up from Vera and take you to the shelter. Expect a travel time of 4 to 5 hours by bus. A bus ticket costs about €15. This route is very feasible if the bus schedules match up well with flight times.
- There is also a private bus company (www.exclusiveairportshuttles.co.uk) that connects to flights from the Netherlands, Belgium and England and runs from Alicante airport to Los Gallardos. The cost for this service is €33. We can pick you up from the bus station in Los Gallardos and bring you to the shelter.

Own transport

If you are coming with your own transport, you can park your car at the shelter.

Arrival

- If you are staying at the shelter, we ask that you arrive between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. so we are able to welcome you and show you around. If that is not possible, please contact Antoinette well in advance.
- If we are picking you up from the airport or bus station, we will make sure that you can do some grocery shopping either on the way to the shelter or after you have arrived.



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Our accommodations

There are opportunities for temporary housing at the shelter. Lots of fun with other international interns and volunteers! Our facilities include:

- two mobile homes (Casa Azul and Casa Verde) that you will share with other interns and volunteers. These mobile homes have their own kitchen including a refrigerator. There is a shared washroom (shower, sink, toilet) and a washing machine.
- one caravan (Casa Ariana) with a kitchen and refrigerator. There is a shared washroom (shower, sink, toilet) and a washing machine.
- two recently renovated studio flats (Casita Jungle and Casa Pablo)
 - Casita Jungle is a cosy little studio flat with its own cooking area and a refrigerator. There is a separate shower room including toilet and sink next to the studio.
 - Casa Pablo is a spacious studio flat, with a kitchen, dining area, bathroom and double bedroom. This studio is reserved for administrators who work full-time at the shelter for an extended period.

Bedding and towels are available at the shelter, so you do not need to bring them with you. You may live at the shelter if you work 5 days a week and stay for a minimum of 2 weeks.

Costs

We ask for a contribution of €20 p.p per week for volunteers and €30 p.p. per week for interns (with an internship agreement). This is for the cost of water, electricity and maintenance, etc. for the accommodations. In addition, we also ask for a fee/deposit of €50: €25 of which is reserved for cleaning costs and the remaining €25 will be returned to you if your accommodation is left in order. Groceries are at your own expense.



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Tips

We recommend that you get a tetanus shot prior to your arrival. Please bring:

- plenty of appropriate work clothes (you will get wet and dirty).
- good, sturdy and waterproof shoes. No flip-flops are allowed while working.
- earplugs if necessary. The dogs may bark at night.
- your international health insurance card/ internationale health card.
- plenty of sunscreen with a high sun protection factor. There is a lot of bright. sunshine here. If you come in winter, be sure to bring rain gear as well.

Good to know

The shelter is not connected to potable tap water. Drinking water is delivered to us periodically. Although we make every effort, we do sometimes run out of water for a while. You can buy cheap bottled water at the supermarket. It's a good idea to have a few extra bottles just in case.

We train everyone who comes to work with us. During your first shifts in a new department, you will always be working alongside an experienced volunteer. This allows you to really get to know the shelter, all of the departments as well as our dogs. There is definitely room for your personal input, but we do expect you to follow our protocol, working hours and schedules.

We work a morning shift (9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.) and an afternoon shift (3 p.m.-6 p.m.). These times may change depending on the number of dogs staying at the shelter. Daily duties include cleaning the kennels and play areas, feeding the dogs, giving them medication, walking, training and socialising them. If you live at the shelter you will have 4 (half-day) shifts off per week, these could be given as full days or half days.

The shelter is located in a quiet area, not far from the beach and a few pleasant Spanish villages and places of interest. So there is plenty to do on your days off! Our local volunteers are happy to help you with transport for grocery shopping, a day at the beach, or other outings in the area. Or you can also take a cab. Mojacar and Vera also have public transportation. Amenities are not far from the shelter, but are not within walking distance.

You will basically be working at the dog kennel. If it is possible and you are interested, there will always be an opportunity to have a look at the cattery as well.

See you at our shelter!



*A unique experience where you can truly make a difference: for our animals and for yourself.
You can turn your passion into action here: working with our animals and for them.*