

One in four pets left untreated

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Despite there being an estimated 1.5 million pets in the country, the amount of money Portugal invests in its pets as well as the percentage that are actually given medical treatment is far inferior to the European average.

It has been estimated that only one in every four domestic pets are given any type of medical veterinary assistance.

Regarding cats and in comparison to the European average, in Portugal 7.1 fewer felines are treated, along with 11.1 percent fewer dogs.

And on a general scale, the Portuguese spend an average 33.8 percent less on their pets than the rest of Europe, according to national specialists.

These statistics, however, did not come as a surprise to the head of the Portuguese Domestic Pet Specialists Veterinaries (APMVEAC), Sameiro de Sousa.

“Sadly, this is not new. There are a large percentage of animals that are not subjected to regular veterinary check-ups” and he considered it a “shame” that Portugal “does not invest much in preventative measures”.

Veterinary Cláudio Mendão explained that, despite the Portuguese “improving on the consumption of animal health products”, a survey carried out in numerous clinics showed that “there is a large percentage of the population that does not give their animals any type of prevention and they only take their pets to the vets when it is sick”.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 62 percent of all human illnesses are transmitted by animals, particularly amongst the most vulnerable, like children, pregnant women, and elderly people.

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