

# Algarve Boxer dog crowned world champion in Spain

**VICTORY** || Algarve dog trainer João Paulino and two-year-old Boxer dog Echo von der Königswiese made history after being crowned world champions while representing Portugal in the IPO1 category at the IPO ATIBOX WM world championship which took place on April 7 and 8 in Haro, La Rioja (Spain).

Not only was it the first time that a Portuguese trainer qualified for the event with a Boxer dog, but the duo achieved an impressive 268 score out of a total 300 in their debut.

The pair scored 99 points (out of 100) in the tracking test, 85 in the obedience category, and 84 in protection.

Over 30 pairs of trainers and dogs took part in the event,



which attracted thousands of eager spectators.

Trainer João Paulino described the first-place finish in an international competition as a “dream come true, especially with such a high score”.

He explained that he has been training Echo since he was two months old.

“Since then, we have been training every day and he loves it. We are a very close team, inseparable.”

Paulino also stressed the importance of the feat for Boxer dogs, which “unfortunately are not often seen competing despite being considered a working breed”.

“We are fighting to change this paradigm and inspire more people

to compete in this sport, no matter the breed of the dog.”

He also vowed to continue “promoting the sport in the Algarve, especially following the international recognition of our work”.

“Winning a competition of this size and importance is the only way of proving the quality of our work. However, we want to stay discreet and continue the work we have developed thus far.”

The trainer, who runs the Iron Dog Algarve dog training school in Quarteira, said he is preparing to launch a series of initiatives in the Algarve to inform, raise awareness and show people that dogs also need to exercise and be stimulated to enjoy a better quality of life.

## Beau wins best in show in Aljezur

**COMPETITION** || The Costa Vicentina Fun Dog Show was held last Sunday at Vale da Telha in Aljezur, raising around €700 for local dog and cat shelter AEZA.

The show was hosted by Friends of AEZA and was held on and between the terraces of two neighbouring restaurants – Vale da Telha and Hugo’s Bar – around the landmark pines roundabout.

Show organiser Lynda Clarke said there are usually around 40-60 dogs and cats in the shelter, with another 30-40 in foster care, and all the dogs get walked three times a week by volunteers. Shelter volunteers also go to local

schools to educate the local children in animal care.

A total of 56 dogs were entered into the various classes and the day began with an obedience and agility demonstration with the dogs and members from the Algarve Dog Training Club.

There were visiting stands selling arts and crafts, jewellery, fashion, doggie treats, vegan and vegetarian foods. All stallholders made a donation to AEZA.

There was a large selection of homemade savouries and cakes for sale with the restaurants supplying hot and cold food and beverages all day.



### || Dog show winners

Best rescue:	Ron with Matti
Best pedigree:	Gail with Zsa
Veteran over 8 years:	Simone with Patusca
Puppy under 1 year:	Brenda with Beau
Pretty bitch:	Bethan with Lula
Handsome dog:	Mira with Pablo
Agility:	Gail with Fig
Owner look-alike:	Gail with Fig
Waggiest tail:	Graig with Murphy
Best trick:	Gail with Key
Sit and stay:	Margaret with Atena
Best in show:	Brenda with Beau