



SOCIETY

## An animal shelter worker explains the irregularities she has suffered

It's about a cleaner who had to give medicine to cats, even though «it's not my job»

Laika denied these accusations in a statement and is now in the hands of justice



PIXABAY

►► Image of four kittens.

MARIA LOZANO / ANNA MENCOS VIÑALS  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY  
X @PeriodicAND

A worker at the cattery who suffered irregularities has denounced the cattery after seeing months of mistreatment of the felines. As Clàudia (fictitious name) explained to EL PERIÒDIC, she works at the cattery as a cleaner, and does not have any degree related to veterinary medicine. Even so, she noted, she was forced to do tasks that do require a degree.

Clàudia explained that her job should consist of cleaning the facilities, but «little by little I started

to have more work: I answered the phone when they called, medicated the cats, cleaned the cages that were special for when the cats arrived and they had to check if they were healthy or not», remarking that «I have even set up houses for the animals».

During the time she was working (it should be noted that she is now on leave) she was able to experience first-hand some incidents and irregularities in the cattery. One of the things that seemed strange to the worker was that to be able to visit the cattery to take one of the animals, you need a prior appointment, and she added



CLÀUDIA  
WITNESS

«Little by little I started to have more work: I answered the phone when they called, medicated the cats, etc.»

«I received an audio from WhatsApp accusing us cleaners of not using gloves to deal with cats»

that «when people called to ask about how the adoption worked or a cat in particular, the answer was for them to fill out the form», adding that «on one occasion, they had called a month later because they had not received an answer and I had to point out the phone and say that they would call». She also explains that she was able to witness how a family asked for a particular cat and the answer was negative from the cattery.

On the other hand, Clàudia commented that on many occasions the gloves are not used to care for the animals or they are not changed every time they are nee-

**The worker has reported the cattery and the Laika Association has denied the accusations**

ded, «being able to transmit various infections between cats», remarked the worker. She saw an extreme case where a cat arrived with a possible bite and was locked in a cage without the vet attending. Five days later the cat had a very serious infection and, although it was treated then, it died shortly afterwards.

Another case was when a cat contracted panleukopenia, and a few days later the disease spread and felines from other cages began to be sick. It was at this moment, Clàudia indicated, when she was accused of being the cause of the transmission: «I received an audio from WhatsApp accusing us cleaners of not using gloves when we took care of the animals», remarked the worker, when «I always worked with gloves and a mask».

Even so, the Laika Association (which takes care of the cat) has denied the accusations and in a statement they explain that «the Association maintains its commitment to transparency and ethics in all its actions and ensures to continue working with diligence and responsibility». So now the case is in the hands of justice. ≡

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HOUSING

# The Government of Catalonia limits the price of rents in La Seu d'Urgell

The application of the measure, which will come into force in February, is confirmed

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The price of apartment rentals will be limited by law in La Seu d'Urgell, among other towns such as Puigcerdà, Tremp, Solsona or Berga - and up to a total of 140 municipalities throughout Catalonia. This fact comes as a result of the approval of the reference price index for this economic activity. In this sense, the Minister of Territory of La Generalitat, Ester Capella, confirmed last Thursday the application of the measure and detailed that it will come into force this February, as reported by RàdioSeu.

According to the new rule, the rent of the new contracts cannot exceed the price of the current contract in the last five years after the annual update. If we are talking about homes of a large holder (natural or legal person with more than 10 urban properties for residential use), the price cannot be higher than the reference index of the rental price.

As indicated, Capella communicated this from Madrid, after meeting with the Minister of Housing of the Spanish Government, Isabel Rodríguez, and explained that the Catalan and Spanish governments have agreed to finish in the coming weeks the work to approve and to publish this index and to declare as tense areas the 140 municipalities indicated by Territory, in a map that



▶▶ Archive image of La Seu d'Urgell.

## The rent of the new contracts cannot exceed the price of the current contract in the last five years

was already presented last year. The councilor believes that «it is very good news» that it has been possible to «renew» the publication of this index, because she sees it as «indispensable to make income containment effective».

As detailed by Capella, the new rule does not have retroactive effects and will have a different application depending on whether the owner of the apartment is a small owner or a large holder. According to Pyrenean politics, the agreement was «expected» and shows «certain harmony» with the new minister Rodríguez. However, she regretted that the pact

on the indices is coming later than they expected. It should be remembered that last June, the municipalities with «tensioned areas» due to the price of housing were expanded from 60 to 140, where owners will have to limit the price of rent. This set of populations or terms add up to a total of 6.2 million inhabitants, 80% of the current Catalan population, which this past year already exceeded eight million.

It should be noted that the average rental price in the capital of the Alt Urgell region was an average of 500 euros in 2022, while in 2017 it was 380 euros. ≡

RELIGION



▶▶ Vives with Pope Francis.

## Josep M. Mauri receives the cross 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice'

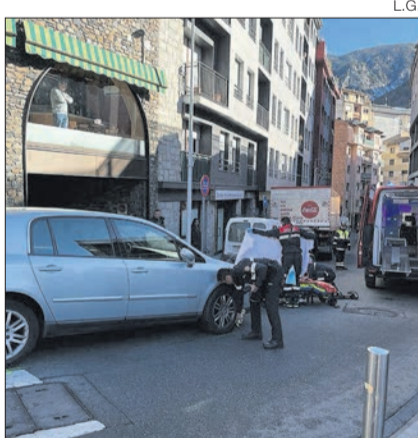
EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The archbishop of Urgell and episcopal co-prince, Joan Enric Vives, imposed on Saturday the high pontifical distinction of the cross 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice' that Pope Francis has granted to the former personal representative of Vives and vicar general of the Diocese of Urgell, Josep M. Mauri, and to the volunteer director of Càritas Diocesana of Urgell, Josep Casanova. The event kicked off at 12.00 in the Palau Episcopal. Authorities from Andorra, La Seu d'Urgell, Càritas Catalunya and the family and friends of the two distinguished people attended. The cross 'Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice' is a pontifical distinction instituted by Pope Leo XIII in 1888, and represents a great recognition of the work of priests and lay people in favor of the Catholic Church and the Holy Father. In this case, the Pope has granted it to them in gratitude and recognition for the work they have both carried out in the service of the episcopal co-prince and the Diocese of Urgell, as well as Càritas Diocesana of Urgell. ≡

brief news

### A woman runed over in Escaldes-Engordany

**ACCIDENT** ▶ Last Friday at 2:10 p.m., a woman was hit in the Les Escoles avenue of Escaldes-Engordany. It seems that the vehicle involved, with Andorran registration, would have encountered the victim in a pedestrian crossing. A traffic patrol, several officers from the Police Force and a fire department went to the scene, which took the injured woman to Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell.



L.G.

### The police are investigating some events in a parking lot

**EVENT** ▶ The Police Force is investigating some incidents that took place last Friday in the car park on the Obac road. Specifically, the police received the warning at 06.50 hours, and once they arrived at the scene, the agents found damage to an ATM and a broken car window, actions that are still being investigated. According to what has been learned, a neighbor of the area saw a masked man and gave the warning.

### Renewed Jaume Tor as judge of the TSJ

**APPOINTMENT** ▶ The Superior Council of Justice (CSJ) renewed Jaume Tor Porta as a magistrate of the Superior Court of Justice, with promotion to a higher grade, by fulfilling the legal requirements established in articles 64 bis and 68 of the Qualified Law of Justice. The renewal, as reported by the CSJ, will be effective from today, Monday, January 15th.



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