My experience as a Media Volunteer for Lanta Animal Welfare was much better than I expected. My job consisted of taking photos and videos of all the rescue dogs and cats at the center for use on the web site and social media. But more importantly, the photos and videos had to tell their stories.

The most rewarding part of the job was to document the progress of each animal from the moment he/she came to the center—sick or injured—to the moment he/she completely recovered. For that reason, it’s very important to always be aware of new animals that come to the center, and to get to know their daily routine. I would follow up with the animal by taking new pictures and videos of him/her every 2 weeks or anytime he/she made an improvement: eating, playing for the first time, going for a walk for the first time, integration walks, etc. That is why, as a media volunteer, you have to be organized and good with short deadlines.

You also have to be fairly savvy with photo and video editing. This is an important aspect of the role, as you will need to review all the photos and videos you took, select the best ones, edit them, and upload only the quality ones onto DropBox. For videos, you will also need to find the right music to accompany the video in order to create the emotional impact you want. You will be working closely with the Fundraising Copywriter / Communications Manager to obtain the text that will go along with the images and convey the right message.

You may be asked to help maintain LAW’s Instagram account (in my case it was posting Instagram Stories) and update it with the latest news. If nothing happened that day, you just share a glimpse of daily life at the center: dogs playing in the area, volunteers working, Kitty City Cafe activity, etc.

Since this role requires you to take good pictures and videos by catching the right moments with the animals, it’s very important to create a good bond with them. You end up spending a lot of time playing or just chilling with the animals in their daytime areas. That is one of the most enjoyable aspects of the role. I also loved to help the general volunteers with the morning and evening feedings as well as taking the dogs out for walks.

Overall, it was an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable experience that I highly recommend.

- Emma C.
  Media Volunteer