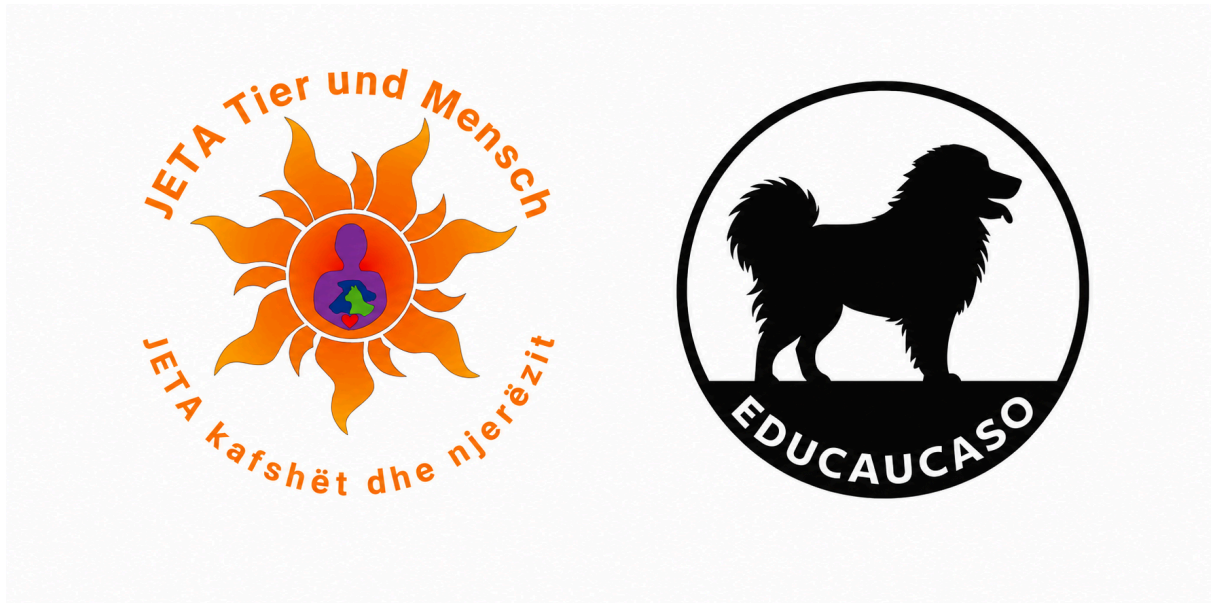




*Alejandro Rodríguez Cardona, qualified in Canine Psychology and Ethology, as well as Canine Education, Dog Training, and the Handling of Potentially Dangerous Dogs.*

**Assessment period:** 6–17 August 2026

**Status:** Ongoing assessment — subject to additional observations

## Emma Report

### ***1. General Information***

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| DOG:               | Emma                     |
| BREED / TYPE:      | Mixed breed (hound-type) |
| SEX / STATUS:      | Female •Spayed           |
| AGE:               | 4                        |
| RESCUE DATE:       | March 2026               |
| WEIGHT             | 20 Kg                    |
| ORGANIZATION:      | Jeta Tier Und Mensch     |
| ASSESSMENT PERIOD: | August 2026              |
| SPECIAL CONDITION  | Left front leg amputated |

### ***2. Background and Rescue History***

Emma came into the care of Jeta Tier und Mensch in March 2026 as part of a neutering project carried out together with the Bashkia and Romeo.

At the time, Emma was extremely fearful of people, which made safely catching her particularly difficult. Tranquilizer was used to sedate her so that she could be transported safely to the clinic.

Once at the clinic, it was discovered that Emma had a wire deeply embedded around her left front leg, which had caused a serious infection. She remained at the clinic for seven days and was also spayed during this period.

Emma was originally expected to be released after the project. Although she had an owner, she was allowed to roam freely and frequently spent time in the area with her sister. When members of the organisation met her owner, they observed circumstances that raised serious concerns regarding neglect and mistreatment.

Due to the condition of Emma's injured leg and the difficulty involved in safely catching her again, the decision was made not to release her.

Unfortunately, the damage to the nerves in her paw was irreversible and the affected leg could not be saved. Her left front leg therefore had to be amputated.

## Emma Report

Following her rescue and treatment, Emma remained in a safe environment where she could recover physically and gradually begin learning that interactions with people could be positive.

### ***3. Initial Behaviour and Response to People***

Emma's history should be taken into consideration when assessing her behaviour. She can initially be distrustful and cautious around unfamiliar people and situations. However, during the assessment period, she demonstrated a clear ability to gradually overcome this initial insecurity when interactions were calm, predictable and respectful.

Despite her initial distrust, Emma appears capable of recognising when someone approaches her with positive and non-threatening intentions. Once she begins to feel safe with a person, her fearful behaviour noticeably decreases and she becomes increasingly receptive to human interaction.

Importantly, Emma does not appear to remain permanently in a fearful state when introduced to a new person. During the assessment period, noticeable progress was observed over a relatively short period of time.

### ***4. Habituation and Adaptability***

A particularly clear example of Emma's ability to adapt was observed during routine cleaning of the clinic.

On the first day, Emma became frightened when she saw me cleaning the floor with a broom. Rather than forcing her to interact with the object or attempting to move her, she was given the opportunity to observe the situation at her own pace.

By the third day, Emma watched me performing the same activity without displaying the same fearful reaction.

This was a significant observation because it demonstrated her ability to become accustomed to an initially concerning stimulus after repeated neutral experiences. Emma appears capable of observing her environment, processing new experiences and modifying her response once she learns that a situation does not represent a threat.

This ability to habituate is particularly encouraging when considering her adaptation to a future home.

### **5. Development of Trust and Affection**

## Emma Report

A noticeable change was also observed in Emma's response to my presence during the assessment period.

Initially, when I entered the clinic, Emma generally remained quietly in her usual area and observed my movements. As the days progressed and she became familiar with me, her response changed considerably.

She gradually moved from simply tolerating my presence to showing clear signs of positive anticipation when I entered the clinic. Her body language became more relaxed and expressive, and she began displaying affectionate gestures and movements when she saw me.

The progression observed over this relatively short period suggests that Emma is capable of establishing positive emotional associations with people once she has had sufficient opportunity to understand that they are safe.

Rather than requiring constant interaction, Emma appears to benefit from being allowed to make this transition at her own pace. Once that trust begins to develop, a considerably more affectionate and socially engaged side of her personality becomes visible.

### ***6. Preliminary Behavioural Assessment***

Based on the observations made during the assessment period, Emma should not be defined solely by the fear and distrust associated with her past experiences.

Her initial caution is understandable considering her history, but equally important is her demonstrated capacity to learn, habituate and develop trust.

During the assessment period, Emma showed:

- progressive reduction of fearful responses towards a familiar person;
- ability to habituate to an initially frightening everyday stimulus;
- increasing comfort with human presence;
- positive anticipation towards a familiar person;
- affectionate behaviour once trust had begun to develop;
- capacity to adapt when given time and predictable, respectful interactions.

These observations are encouraging from an adoption perspective.