Cat Museum. A space of public health intervention

Laura Ambrogi, Greta Veronica Berteselli, Monica Bucciarelli
Our story began in 2004 when Paolo Gambacurta's heirs decide to donate to Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise (IZSAM) more than 500 objects among which sculptures, ornaments, paintings, prints, engravings, postcards, stamps, masks, playing cards, posters, books that Paolo had collected in all his life.
Who is Paolo Gambacurta?

Paolo Gambacurta (1943-2003) was a teacher and a poet borned in Foligno. He spent his life in Teramo but curiosity and passion for literature pushed him to travel in search of new culture and... new cats for its collection.

For the first time Paul's roommates left their home and the IZSAM starts a challenging phase of knowledge on art and cat...
Why IZSAM?

The IZSAM is a national public health institute, which operates in Teramo as a technical and scientific arm of the Ministry of Health, the Abruzzo and Molise Regions in the field of veterinary public health.

What could we do?

Commute the collection in a pretext to…

Initially preserve Paolo’s and his roommates memory
Understanding what we get on our hands

Step one: catalogue (IZSAM and Paolo Gambacurta’s heirs) 2004
Step one: catalogue (IZSAM and Paolo Gambacurta’s heirs)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fondo Gambacurta</th>
<th>oggettistica</th>
<th>foto</th>
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- 375 cards with paintings, artefacts, sculptures, prints and plates
- 222 books
- 340 thematic postcards
- 701 stamps

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<tr>
<th>Oggetto: soprammobile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descrizione</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatto di Sandycast, seduto (laterale), occhi verdi, baffi in nylon (?9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provenienza: Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materiale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gesso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colori</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bianco, grigio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dimensione</td>
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<tr>
<td>35x28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scultura di Sandra Brue, dettaglio del pelo</td>
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More than 10 years late, the year was 2016, the Cat Museum finds his location in Teramo (Italy). Initially it was intended to revive the spaces of the Science Park located on the outskirts of the City.

Cat Museum is a pretext to preserve the collection, Paolo’s memory...and local culture.

Phase 1: Cat Museum

Understanding what we get on our hands

Catalogue 2004

Thinking a museum

Step two: project (IZSAM, Teramo Municipality, Abruzzi region)

2016
Step two: project (IZSAM, Teramo Municipality, Abruzzi region)

The choice fell on Palazzo Urbani, a private medieval construction in a hidden area of town, decentralized from the commercial streets, rebuilt in the fifteenth century that had already hosted the G. Braga Musical High School of Teramo.
Step two: project (IZSAM, Teramo Municipality, Abruzzi region)

IZSAM and Teramo Municipality participated in the design phase in the common goal of using the Museum as a tool to promote heritage, health and wellbeing practices. The exposition’s staging obtained public funding of 50000 euro and includes a bookshop, an educational workshop for children, a music environment and a space for IZSAM to disseminate scientific information on animal welfare and human-animal relationship especially on feline sphere.
An Italian heterogeneous professional network works together and thought a tortuous path that reflects, exploiting the different levels, the habitats of feline stray dogs to gain a new reconstruction of wellbeing which can be shared with the entire city. We
Specially crafted cases with red pesta paper columns depicting cats protect the majority of the objects but all the natural architectural elements of the medieval building (seats, steps, windows) have been exploited to make the objects visible to the outside and converse with the citizens who stop in the adjacent square and frequent the alleys of the historic center.

2016 Step three: Museum inauguration
Phase 1: Cat Museum

Understanding what we get on our hands

Catalogue 2004

Thinking a museum agreement

Make an exhibition

Project 2016

Step three: Museum 2016

Earthquake
Agreement

An agreement stipulated in 2016 between IZSAM and Teramo’s Municipality regulates the duties of each member of the network. IZSAM is responsible for a scientific assistance service, research and study relating to the cat and contributes to the creation of events.
Free-roaming Dogs and Cats in Central Italy: Public Perceptions and Magnitude of the Problem

Antonio Di Nardo*, Margaret R. Slater, Ombretta Pediconi, Paolo Dalla Villa, Luca Candeloro, Barbara Alessandri* and Stefania Del Papa*

Keywords: free-roaming dogs, free-roaming cats, public health, welfare

Feline Morbillivirus identificato nelle urine di un gatto anziano e nefropatico nella città di Teramo


Development of a Welfare Assessment Protocol for Cats Housed in Rescue Shelters. A Preliminary Study

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Incentivizing Cat Electronic Identification

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LA DEFINIZIONE DEL PROFILO PSICO-DIAGNOSTICO E LA DEFINIZIONE DEGLI OBIETTIVI DELL’INTERVENTO

di Lejla Valerii, Stefania Del Papa, Laura Corona e Michela Galante

Programma sperimentale di terapie e attività assistite con animali (TAA/AAA)
Stefania Del Papa, Barbara Alessandrinii, Filograzia Iannino, Ombretta Pediconi, Silvia Scaioli, Lejla Valerii

I benefici delle terapie assistite con animali sui bambini: i risultati della ricerca sperimentale dell’Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise

Barbara Alessandrinii, Tiziana Brocclii, Stefania Del Papa, Maria Di Blasio, Domenico Montebello, Ombretta Pediconi, Silvia Scaioli, Lejla Valerii

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4Libero Professionista
2016 Step three: Museum inauguration
Phase 2: Cat Museum for animal’s health and animal’s welfare

First way: promote activities on animal’s health

Step four: Lessons for child, Dissemination for adult, Guided tours, citizens participation

2017
Cat Museum was a pretext to promote animal’s health (IZSAM and citizens)

Step four: activities to promote animal’s health and animal’s welfare

The consumer interest in animal welfare and living condition of livestock is actually growing steadily. An animal is therefore in a good state of welfare if is healthy, well fed and provided with adequate shelter, and able to express their behavioural inner traits. Also the relations between companion animals and humans is considered an important topic in order to increase knowledge on dogs and cat’s ethological needs and to promote a responsible ownership, according to One health’s approach.
During the spring and summer season in 2017 meetings on
- dog and cat’s
communication,
- the social role of
animals through fairy
- the actions of the
IZSAM for animal
rescue during the
recent natural disasters
were illustrated in order to
involve the community and
primary school pupils

Lessons for child
We had transform dark alleys in urban theater proscenium where the community plays a new learning capacity and participates to health’s promoting.
Dissemination for adult: Incontriamoci in piazzetta (2017)

to discuss with citizens on food safety, welfare and animal health through short films and friendly scientific conversations
Dissemination for adult: Incontriamoci in piazzetta (second edition)
Guided tours for national and international delegation visited the IZSAM
The Cat Museum permits to improve the citizen’s quality of life through cultural and scientific approach with possible positive impacts on health promotion and illness prevention.

The first way is through human-artistic manifacture relationship: the citizen is actor in the construction of museum suggesting topics to explore and through guided tours and donations.
Un dono per il museo del gatto di Ana Basiba Valente

Certificato d'autenticità

Autore Ana Basiba Valente
Titolo Cumplicità
Tecnica olio su tela
Misura 60x60
Anno 2017
Tiratura Unica
Esempio Unico

Garantisco l'originalità di questa autrice opera eseguita in data Apriile 2017
Firma Ana Basiba Valente
Phase 2: Cat Museum for animal’s health

How??

First way: promote activities on animal’s health

Second way: promote activities on human’s wellbeing

Step four 2017

Step five: Cat & CATs
Developments: Cat & CAT (Creative Art Terapies)

Supported by human-animal relationship in holistic health program, according to city council, part of the collection could become, with the facilitation of veterinaries, psychologists and museum operators, an instrument to overcome traumas trigging memories touching and talking about cat both object of manipulation and animal to take care.

The skills of experts will be useful to create programs suitable to particular audiences and to provide linkages between a museum’s resources and a community’s needs.

The expertise of IZSAM in the field of TAA (Therapy Assisted Animal) can assure a systematic and scientific support to the health promotion strategy.

Focused on research into animal sentience, emerging from neuroscience, evolutionary biology, zoology and philosophy.
Thank's for your attention