**Meet the regal Solana Sultana - a stunning pointer with leishmaniasis belonging to Pointer in Need founder Claire**

Yimba, a beautiful, intelligent but very sad eight-year-old working pointer was discovered at a kill shelter in Malaga. She had been exploited by her previous owner, a hunter, as a brood bitch and had produced numerous litters for him.  When he discovered she had Leishmaniasis, and was now too old to breed, she was of no further use to him. She was sent to the shelter to die.

Showing visible signs of leish including skin lesions on her feet and joints, she was spotted in the shelter, and taken into the care of local animal rescuer, Sarah Taylor-Moore. Sarah gave her good food, a calm, stress-free environment and veterinary care, including full blood tests, to establish the treatment she needed to get well.  She was prescribed a high dosage of Allopurinol (an inexpensive drug also used to treat gout in humans). After six months, further blood tests were taken and, still on the medication, she began to recover.

Sarah kept Claire fully informed about Yimba and, after conducting her own research, and with the support of her local vet and the Liverpool Veterinary Hospital, Claire decided to adopt her.

Here, Claire takes up the story.

“Yimba arrived at our home in the early hours of the morning. Not knowing quite what to expect, we spent our first night cuddling and sleeping on the sofa together. The next day she was introduced to my pack and, to our joy, she fitted in like a dream.

Now, she lives the life of a Lady! She has prime position on the sofa and commands respect from all my youngsters.  And last year, at the sprightly age of 11, she won Reserve Best Oldie as a charity dog show!

As Leish can be controlled, but never completely cured, our girl still has regular blood tests. We’re delighted that she is now in ‘remission’ and doesn’t need any medication at all.

Yimba is now called Solana. Yimba was her past life.... Solana is her new life.  In Spanish Solana translates to 'sunshine ' and this beautiful girl really does shine and light up our life. She is an amazing Pointer.

I hope our story will encourage anyone to adopt a pointer with Leishmaniasis. We love Solana and wouldn’t change her for the world.