

Couple Travels the World Photographing Dogs to Build a Sanctuary in Peru

From London and Paris to Vienna and Barcelona, Michel and Dillon's Paws Around the World project uses free, street-side pet portraits to power a rescue mission in Cusco.



Valencia, Spain Aug 11, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Pet photographer Michel Rohner and his husband, Dillon Beckmann, co-founders of [Arf & Wag](https://www.arfandwag.com), have announced the official launch of [Paws Around the World](https://www.pawsaroundtheworld.com)—a global photography project with a heartfelt mission: to build a permanent canine sanctuary in Cusco, Peru.

Swiss-Peruvian photographer Michel and American creative partner Dillon first established Arf & Wag Studio in Des Moines, Iowa, before relocating to Valencia, Spain, in 2024. While Michel captures the portraits, Dillon plays a critical role behind the scenes—assisting on shoots, managing logistics, and ensuring every project runs seamlessly.

These photo sessions are entirely spontaneous and free, often the result of Michel and Dillon approaching pet owners they encounter on the streets. *Instead of charging for the portraits, the pair relies on the power of digital storytelling—funding the project through social media monetization and community support.*

From the streets of London and Paris to the colorful neighborhoods of Barcelona and Vienna, each

photograph celebrates the universal bond between people and their pets. All proceeds from merchandise sales, donations, and platform earnings are dedicated entirely to funding the sanctuary.

The idea was born from the couple's work with [Cusco Canine Rescue](#), a nonprofit they founded to help street dogs in Peru. After witnessing the overwhelming need for safe, permanent housing for abandoned animals, Michel and Dillon committed to creating a sanctuary that will offer shelter, veterinary care, and adoption opportunities—all sustained through ongoing creative projects like *Paws Around the World*.

"Every dog has a story worth telling," says Michel. "By sharing these moments, we're preserving memories for their owners and building a sanctuary that will help save countless lives."

Over the coming months, *Paws Around the World* will visit cities across Europe, including London, Paris, Geneva, Vienna, and Barcelona, with more destinations to follow. Michel and Dillon encourage anyone who believes in their mission to follow their journey online—every *click, view, and share helps bring us closer to opening the Cusco Canine Rescue sanctuary*.

The sanctuary in Cusco is envisioned as a safe haven for dogs of all sizes, with ample space to run, dedicated medical facilities, and areas for training and socialization. By blending their passion for creativity with their commitment to animal welfare, Michel and Dillon aim to prove that storytelling can be a force for lasting change.

ABOUT ARF & WAG STUDIO

Arf & Wag Studio is a pet photography brand founded by Swiss-Peruvian photographer Michel Rohner and American creative partner Dillon Beckmann in Des Moines, Iowa. Now based in Valencia, Spain, the studio specializes in personality-packed portraits that capture the unique bond between pets and their people. It is also home to *Paws Around the World*—a charitable initiative dedicated to funding the creation of a canine sanctuary in Cusco, Peru.



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