



THE MUTT PITUCO'S LEGACY

**THE PANDEMIC STRAY
WHO BECAME A CIVIC
AND CULTURAL SYMBOL**

TIAGO DE MORAES DAS CHAGAS

INDEPENDENT AUTHOR AND
GRAPHIC STORYTELLER

BRAZIL



A story that didn't start as a story

During the COVID-19 lockdown, in a medium-sized city in the interior of São Paulo, Brazil, a stray dog was adopted at a time when isolation and uncertainty shaped everyday life.

- Pituco was not created to be a symbol.
- He became one.
- His presence helped fill the emotional void of the pandemic.
- His death transformed a private loss into a collective experience.

What followed was not a media strategy, but a spontaneous cultural response.



When personal grief becomes public meaning

In Brazil, cultural symbols are usually born in major capitals or driven by large entertainment structures.

Pituco broke that pattern.

His story resonated because it reflected:

- Pandemic loneliness
- Human–animal bonds
- Grassroots expressions of care and empathy



A universal narrative

Although rooted in a specific Brazilian city, Pituco's story speaks to a global experience.

It addresses:

- How societies remember the pandemic
- The emotional role of animals during crises
- How ordinary lives can acquire symbolic meaning

This is not a story about a dog.

It is a story about how people cope with loss.



From lived experience to graphic literature

Only after the collective response did the story take narrative form.

It inspired:

- Independent graphic literature
- Visual storytelling rooted in memory
- Educational and cultural discussions

The work avoids fictionalization of trauma and focuses on emotional truth and restraint.



Pituco: The Mutt

Originally published in Portuguese, the book blends:

- Memoir
- Graphic narrative
- Documentary sensibility

Rather than dramatizing events, it preserves silence, absence, and reflection as narrative tools.

An English-language edition is currently in development.



Beyond publishing

Without institutional backing, the story gained visibility through:

- Community engagement
- Cultural discussions
- Media interest

Pituco became a reference point for conversations about animal welfare, grief, and memory.

Not as a mascot.

As a lived symbol.



About the author

Tiago de Moraes das Chagas is a Brazilian author and independent publisher based in Marília, São Paulo.

His work focuses on:

- Graphic literature
- Social narrative
- Stories emerging from lived experience

He works outside traditional cultural centers, exploring how local stories can carry universal meaning.



Why this story is being shared internationally

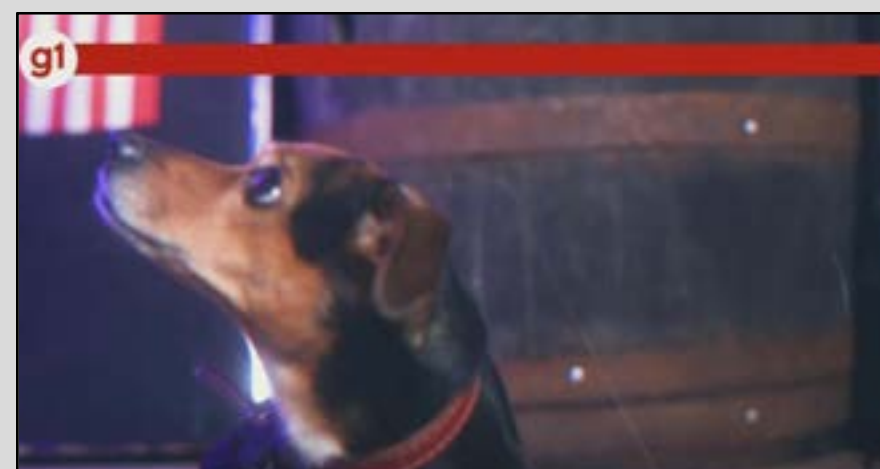
As the world reflects on the long-term emotional impact of the pandemic, stories that emerged organically, outside institutional frameworks, offer a unique perspective.

Pituco's legacy is not about heroism.

It is about memory, affection, and collective healing.

BRAZILIAN MEDIA COVERAGE

Pituco's story drew attention from major Brazilian media outlets after resonating with readers. Coverage focused not on the character as fiction, but on the bond between humans and animals during the pandemic, the collective experience of grief, and how a personal story evolved into a broader cultural reference.





As the Pituco's Legacy is shared as an editorial proposal.

It is not a story about a character, but about how a real bond, formed during the pandemic, became a shared cultural memory.

If this story resonates, I would welcome the opportunity to continue the conversation.

Link

<https://radiushero.com.br/pituco-the-mutt/>

Contact

Tiago de Moraes das Chagas - tiagomustache@gmail.com

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