

PAWS2RESCUE

10TH CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2022



Dear Paws2Rescue Supporter,

Once again, we hope to make this year's Shoebox Appeal as successful as previous years and we can only do this with your kindness, support and help.

Our work in the communities is vital, and whilst we educate in animal care, we make time to bring joy to the children too at this precious time of the year.

However, we fully appreciate how financially difficult things are for many at this present time, so we are hoping you will be creative in your thinking so that you can still help us reach our target.

For instance, could you ask family or friends to get involved? Asking everyone to contribute just one or two small items would help you to 'build' your shoebox, spreading the cost between you all.

Sadly last year we had to make some major changes to what we were able to send out to Romania due to the strict EU Customs Regulations which came into force following Brexit.

These restrictions still apply but we have been able to make some small adjustments for this year.

WE WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD CAREFULLY READ THROUGH THE FOLLOWING 'QUICK CHECKLIST' AND ALSO FOLLOW OUR STEP-BY-STEP SHOEBOX GUIDE.

Thank you so much.

QUICK CHECKLIST FOR 2022

- **PLEASE DONATE COMPLETE SHOEBOXES (A shoebox filled with colourful gifts).**
This is the main focus of our 2022 Christmas Appeal.
Please follow our Step-by-Step Guide and Gift List
(*Please note we have made small changes to the ages for our age groups)
- In addition to filled shoeboxes, **WE CAN NOW ACCEPT SOME OTHER ITEMS.** (Please scroll down to our 'YES PLEASE' page for details.)
- **SHOEBOX GIFTS STILL HAVE MANY RESTRICTIONS!!**
THIS INCLUDES **NO SWEETS, NO FOOD, NO JEWELLERY, BATTERY & LIQUID ITEMS** (Please scroll down to our 'NO THANK YOU' page for full details.)
- **SHOEBOXES MUST HAVE THEIR LIDS WRAPPED SEPARATELY TO THE BASES AND SECURED WITH A STRONG ELASTIC BAND**
(This is so that we can check that the contents of the boxes meet EU Regulations.)
- We can accept clothing BUT ONLY **WINTER COATS, WINTER JUMPERS, HOODIE/SWEATSHIRTS, WINTER BOOTS, and WINTER BABY CLOTHING**
These **MUST be clean and in very good condition.**
(Please scroll down to our 'CLOTHES AND BOOTS' page for full details.)
WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY OTHER CLOTHING ITEMS
- Unfortunately, **WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY ITEMS FOR DOGS - INCLUDING FOOD.** This is due to Customs regulations requiring separate, paid for, certificates for every single item!
(However, please see details regarding donations for the dogs.)

***** Please refer to our Step-by-Step Guide on how to prepare your Christmas Shoebox and the age appropriate items you CAN include in your shoebox. ****

We thank you for your kindness and understanding.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1	<p>Find a medium sized shoebox. Using Christmas gift wrap, wrap the lid and the base of the shoebox separately.</p>
2	<p>Choose whether you would like your shoebox gift to be for a boy or a girl.</p>
3	<p>Choose the age group you would like your shoebox gift to be for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Toddler (18 months - 2 years)Age 3-4 yearsAge 5-9 yearsAge 10-14 yearsOlder teenager <p>*We are always in need of boxes for teenagers</p>

4	<p style="text-align: center;">Go shopping!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sadly, we are restricted by what EU Customs will allow, so please only choose from the items we have listed on our 'GIFT LIST' pages (or very similar).</p> <p>Ideally, we would like all the shoeboxes to be similar in what they contain as they are often handed to the children in groups, therefore please include gifts from each category, ie. TOYS, STATIONERY, PERSONAL CARE, KEEPING WARM.</p> <p>You can choose more than one item from each category and it would be fantastic if you are able to fill your shoebox entirely.</p> <p>NB: If donated items are second-hand, please ensure that they are clean and in a nearly-new and working condition. For safety reasons, we would prefer newly purchased items for the younger age groups.</p>
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5	<p>Before you put your items in your shoebox, please refer to our 'NO THANK YOU' list. If you have included any items on this list, please REMOVE them as they may cause problems at Customs.</p>
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6	<p>Once your shoebox is filled, close the lid and then secure your box with a strong elastic band.</p>
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Stick a label* on the outside top right hand side of the shoebox lid
**clearly indicating BOY or GIRL and the
AGE your shoebox is for.**

* You can choose to use the printable label provided on the last page of this document or write your own label

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Place your shoebox securely in a postal bag
**(wrap it tightly to prevent the shoebox lid
from opening in transit)**
or wrap in brown paper and send to us as follows:

If you choose to deliver in person, please drop your box to the
Reception Desk at the address below.

*Please check for current opening times on their website page.

POSTING DATES:

We can receive your shoebox
between 1st September - 15th November 2022

POSTAL ADDRESS:

Christmas Shoebox Appeal
Paws2Rescue
c/o Big Yellow Self Storage
12 Kimpton Park Way
Sutton, Surrey
SM3 9QS

Please note:

**Sorry, but any items received after the closing date
will not be included in the shipment to Romania and will be
donated to Samaritans in the UK**

HINTS AND TIPS

- Please remember when choosing gifts for your shoebox that they will be received by children in Romania who cannot read English. Therefore please avoid any games which require the need of reading complicated instructions in order to be able to play.
- Please check that games/soft toys don't have hidden batteries inside them as we are not allowed to send any form of batteries.
- We very often hand out shoeboxes to children living in VERY rural areas - many, many miles away from local shops. Therefore, please could you
 1. Include an eraser and pencil sharpener if you are giving pencils (HB or colouring) in your shoebox.
 2. If you are including any form of exercise book/notepad/colouring book or plain paper pads, please could you also include pens, pencils and felt-tips etc to go with the books/paper.
 3. If you are including a toothbrush, please also include toothpaste.

Spread the cost of your shoebox by:

1. Asking family and friends to purchase one or two items each. That will help you to 'build' your shoebox, spreading the cost between you all and everyone will feel they have contributed.
2. Add an item each week to your weekly shopping list - helping to spread the cost over several months, gradually 'building' your shoebox with lots of lovely colourful goodies.

GIFT LIST

TO AVOID PROBLEMS AT CUSTOMS, PLEASE ONLY CHOOSE ITEMS
(OR VERY SIMILAR) FROM THIS LIST.

PLEASE CHOOSE ITEMS FROM EACH CATEGORY
(i.e. toys, stationery, personal care and keeping warm.)

TODDLER	<p>TOYS/OTHER ITEMS: All toys must be suitable for toddlers i.e. nothing that can be pulled off and swallowed - please check manufacturer's labels. Soft cuddly toys, building blocks, sensory items, easy shapes, colours and jigsaw sets, musical items (ie shaker), soft skittles, soft fabric picture books.</p> <p>PERSONAL CARE: Face flannel or sponge, soap (solid block), baby toothbrush and toothpaste, small soft brush and comb</p> <p>KEEPING WARM: Hat, mittens, warm socks</p> <p>** FOR SAFETY REASONS, WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SECOND HAND ITEMS FOR TODDLERS</p>
AGE 3-4	<p>TOYS/OTHER ITEMS: Chunky cars, dolls, soft toys, superhero bits and bobs, easy jigsaw, shape sets, easy picture-only card games (eg. Snap), small soft bat&ball, soft skittles sets, building bricks, Duplo sets, small backpack, colourful drinks cup with lid</p> <p>STATIONERY: Easy colouring book, sticker book, plain paper packs, stencils, chubby/easy grip colouring pens, chubby crayons, colourful pencil case, age appropriate craft packs, solid paint blocks (no liquids), chubby paintbrush</p> <p>PERSONAL CARE: Face cloth, soap (solid block), sponge, toothbrush, children's toothpaste, small soft brush/ comb, hair bobbles</p> <p>KEEPING WARM: Hat, gloves or mittens, small scarf, warm socks, bed socks</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">AGE 5-9</p>	<p>TOYS/OTHER ITEMS: Cars, dolls, soft toys, easy travel size games (eg. 4 in a Row), superhero bits and bobs, jigsaws/puzzles, card games (eg Uno), small musical instrument (no batteries), skipping rope, tennis ball, small lego sets, small bat&ball, skittles, colourful water drinking bottles, small backpack.</p> <p>STATIONERY: Notepads, colouring by numbers book, colouring/ easy puzzle book, exercise books, plain paper packs, craft packs, Pritt Stick glue (no liquid glue), biro pens, HB pencils, colouring pens and pencils, solid artist paints (non liquid), paintbrushes, colourful pencil case (* please include a pencil sharpener and eraser with pencils.)</p> <p>PERSONAL CARE: Face cloth, soap (solid block), sponge, toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush/comb, hair bands, hair clips/bobbles</p> <p>KEEPING WARM: Hat, gloves, scarf, warm socks, bed socks</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">AGE 10-14</p>	<p>TOYS/OTHER ITEMS: Card games (eg: Uno), travel size games, dominoes, tennis ball, skipping rope, small musical instrument (no batteries), rubix cube, small lego sets/construction sets, table top table tennis set, football posters, colourful water drinking bottle, small foldable backpack.</p> <p>STATIONERY: Notepads, pretty writing sets, school exercise books, plain paper blocks, maths set, biro pens, HB pencils, colouring pens and pencils, colourful pencil case, rulers, (* Please include a pencil sharpener and eraser with pencils.)</p> <p>PERSONAL CARE: Face cloth, soap (solid block), toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant (solid block type only), hairbrush/comb, hair bands, hair clips/bobbles, pretty toiletry bag</p> <p>KEEPING WARM: Hat, gloves, warm earmuffs, scarf, warm socks, bed socks.</p>
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OLDER TEENAGER

TOYS/OTHER ITEMS

Card games, travel size board games (eg. chess), dominoes, tennis ball, table tennis bats with ping pong balls, water drinking bottles, small foldable backpack.

STATIONERY:

School exercise books, pretty notebooks, football/picture themed notebooks, blocks of plain paper, biro pens, HB pencils, colouring pens and pencils, colourful pencil case, ruler, colouring books for adults, artists paints (solid block type only) and paintbrushes. **(Please include a pencil sharpener and eraser with pencils.)**

PERSONAL CARE:

Face cloth, soap (solid block), toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant (solid block type only), hairbrush/comb, hair bands, hair clips, nail file sets **(NO nail varnish or make-up)**

KEEPING WARM:

Hats, gloves, warm earmuffs, scarf, warm socks, bed socks

***** WE ARE ALWAYS IN SHORT SUPPLY OF SHOEBOXES SUITABLE FOR OLDER TEENAGERS**

DOGS

Unfortunately we are unable to accept any items for dogs (including dog food/treats) for this Christmas campaign.

But we will never forget them!

If you would like to donate either £5, £10, £20, £other, we will purchase dog food/treats in Romania on your behalf and make sure that their hungry tummies receive good quality food this Christmas.

Please donate via our normal methods of payment (PayPal/Bank Transfer etc) and **reference your donation 'CHRISTMAS DOG'**

CLOTHES AND BOOTS

**If you wish to donate winter clothing or boots,
please read the following:-**

- We can ONLY accept WINTER coats, jumpers, hoodies, sweatshirts and boots (NO trousers, shirts, dresses etc.)
- We can only accept clothes and boots suitable for babies, children and teenagers (NO ADULT CLOTHING PLEASE)
- We can accept babygrow all-in-ones, baby vests, baby leggings, baby coats (But please do not put these in your shoebox gift.)
- Please ensure all clothing is very clean and without holes or tears in the fabric
- Please remove any items from pockets and check zips and fastenings work
- We CANNOT accept any light-weight or summer clothes/shoes
- Please ensure any boots are clean and in a nearly new condition
- Only hats, gloves, scarves, and socks can be included into the shoebox gifts. PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY OTHER CLOTHING INTO SHOEBOX GIFTS

Although we are always so very grateful for the donations you provide,
please bear in mind that this campaign is predominantly a
CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX GIFT campaign.

Any clothing we receive has to be checked for wear and tear prior to sending
to Romania by a very small team of Paws2Rescue charity volunteers.

This can be a mammoth task!

It would therefore be of great help to us if you could only donate

WINTER items of **NEARLY NEW CONDITION AND
ENSURE THEY ARE CLEAN.**

Thank you so much.

**Romanian children are always extremely grateful for the things
they receive but you will bring extra big smiles to their faces if the clothing
you donate has a logo on it - they love to have a logo like Nike or Adidas!!
It's a real treat for them to be able to have.**

X SORRY, BUT “NO THANK YOU”

Please DO NOT include any of the following items in your shoebox:

- SWEETS
- CHOCOLATE
- FOOD (of any kind)
- LIQUIDS OR LOTIONS
- PRESSURISED CANS (eg Aerosols)
- BATTERIES
- ANY ITEMS CONTAINING BATTERIES
- GLASS ITEMS (eg. bottles)
- MIRRORS
- MAKE-UP OF ANY KIND including NAIL VARNISH
- RELIGIOUS/POLITICAL ITEMS
- WAR RELATED ITEMS (eg toy guns or knives)
- PLANTS OR SEEDS
- READING BOOKS
- SHARP/ FRAGILE ITEMS/ BREAKABLE ITEMS
- DAMAGED/ DIRTY ITEMS
- ITEMS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE AGE GROUP YOU HAVE CHOSEN

X PLEASE ALSO DO NOT SEND US -

- ANY CLOTHES in your shoebox (with exception of hats, gloves, scarves, socks)
- ANY CLOTHES (with exception of those listed on our CLOTHES/BOOTS page)
- BABY ITEMS (eg. prams, buggies, moses baskets etc.)
- LARGE TOYS (with the exception of those listed on our ‘YES PLEASE’ page)
- DOG ITEMS (of any kind and including food)

**Any inappropriate items will be removed from shoeboxes.
If this happens the item will be forwarded on to another charity.**

YES PLEASE!

We would be very grateful for the following items:

- **Your shoebox filled with lots of lovely colourful goodies.**
Please don't forget to include items from each category i.e., toys, stationery, personal care and keeping warm - as listed in our 'Step-by-Step/Gift List Guide' pages.
- **Winter clothing**
(please read the 'CLOTHES AND BOOTS' page prior to sending.)
- **Winter boots**
(please read the 'CLOTHES AND BOOTS' page prior to sending.)
- **Baby clothing** (ONLY babygrow all-in-ones, baby vests, baby leggings, baby coats. (Please read the 'CLOTHES AND BOOTS' page prior to sending. Please do not include these in your shoebox gift.)
- **Large soft toys** which are too big to fit within a shoebox.
(Please note that we cannot accept any which have batteries within them)
- **Knitted blankets** (for use by adults and children)
- **New blankets** (for use by adults and children)
- **Any SINGLE items listed on our 'GIFT LIST' pages.**
Paws2Rescue volunteers can combine these together to make up complete shoeboxes. * Unfortunately, we can only accept NEW items for this purpose and please only send us small items which fit easily into an average size shoebox.

*****(please ensure all items are clean)*****

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED...

Q. Paws2Rescue is a dog charity, so why do you do a Christmas Shoebox appeal for children?

A. Our work within the Romanian communities is vitally important. We need to build strong and happy relationships with the adults and children who live in areas (often very low-income) where large populations of stray dogs exist.

These communities often have very different values to ours and stray dogs have historically been regarded - and remain to be regarded - as a type of 'vermin'. Indeed, even the dogs which have 'owners' are often kept in dire conditions..... It is regarded as 'normal'.

When we hand out our shoebox gifts, it gives us that vital opportunity to talk to the children and their parents. Educating them to show love and kindness to both the stray dogs and the ones they 'own' is the key. It gives us the opportunity to talk to them about neutering and how that stops lots of unwanted puppies being born. It gives us the opportunity to check over their own dogs, to offer our help etc.

The young adults and children are the future generation and the ones who can make a difference in years to come. It is very often the children who are able to influence their parents!

Adoption of dogs is not the only answer to the problem.

Educating the future generation is .

But in order to educate, we need to build trust and a relationship with the people in the community.

Our shoebox gifts enable us to do that....they give us that vital gateway in.

(We also occasionally hand shoeboxes to children living in orphanages etc)

Q. Why are there so many restrictions on what we can donate?

A. Unfortunately, we now have to adhere to new EU Customs Regulations which came into force following our departure from the EU in 2020.

Since then, we have worked very closely with a shipping company which only handles humanitarian/charitable aid and they have guided us through the rigours of each process.

The EU has specified certain restrictions. If we do not comply, it is possible that we would incur problems at Customs. This may result in donations being held at Customs and therefore possible expensive costs to us which, of course, we cannot afford.

There has also been a huge increase in the amount of paperwork/documentation required. Charities are required to complete these documents.

Our small group of Paws2Rescue charity volunteers also now have to thoroughly check that all donations fall within the guidelines. We now have to carefully pack so that our pallets of donations exactly match our paperwork/documentation.

Paws2Rescue has also applied one or two extra restrictions. This is purely for safety reasons for the recipients of the shoeboxes.

We have tried to simplify and make the process as easy and as clear as we can by producing our Step-by-Step Guide, our Gift Lists and most importantly our 'Sorry, but no thank you' list. We would be grateful if you could follow these as it will help us enormously.

Q. What happens to donations which are sent to Paws2Rescue, but which cannot be forwarded onto Romania?

A. Paws2Rescue will forward any unsuitable donations on to other reputable UK charities.

Q. Can I drop my shoebox gift and other donations off to a 'Drop-Off' point near to where I live?

A. At the present time, we are unable to guarantee that this will be possible. However, we are working hard to try to make it as easy as possible for you to get your shoebox/donations to us. Please follow our social media platforms for further updates.

Our postal address is to Big Yellow Self Storage in Sutton, Surrey
(full address details are within the Step-by-Step Guide.)

** Please ensure they reach us within the dates specified.

Q. Why do I have to wrap the shoebox lid and base separately?

A. The contents of all shoeboxes will be checked by our small team of Paws2Rescue volunteers. We do this to ensure that the contents are age appropriate and to check that they meet EU Customs regulations.

Please be assured that we do not disturb your shoeboxes. We know that you have lovingly packed your shoebox with care and we treat your shoebox in the same way.

Q. Why do you ask for new and nearly new items? Why can't I just donate items I already have and no longer use?

A. Safety is at the forefront of our minds. We cannot risk giving young (and older) children items which may end up being harmful to them if pieces break due to previous wear and tear.

Also, we give your shoebox gift as a Christmas present rather than purely as a donated item, so we feel that receiving new items is a little bit extra special and a real treat for the children who receive them.

Many of the children in rural Romania have very little - we feel they deserve the very best we can give to them.

And to see their smiles when they open their shoebox and see lots of lovely new and colourful goodies - it's just wonderful.

AND LASTLY, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY

**The whole of the Paws2Rescue team
and the children and dogs in Romania would like to
say a huge thank you for your love and kindness
and your continuing support.**

Together we can put smiles on faces this Christmas.

And teach the important message of how to love
and look after ALL dogs.



Paws2Rescue

Paws2Rescue is supported by the
Big Yellow Self Storage Company
(Sutton, Surrey Branch)

PRINTABLE LABEL FOR YOUR SHOEBOX LID



CRACIUN FERICIT
HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Paws2Rescue



- BAIAT / BOY**
- FATA / GIRL**

- VARSTA / AGE.....**



You can either choose to print the above label or write your own.

Please print out the above label, cut it to size and stick it onto the top right hand side of your shoebox lid.

Please tick for 'boy' or 'girl'.

Please write the age group your shoebox gift is for.

Thank you.

