

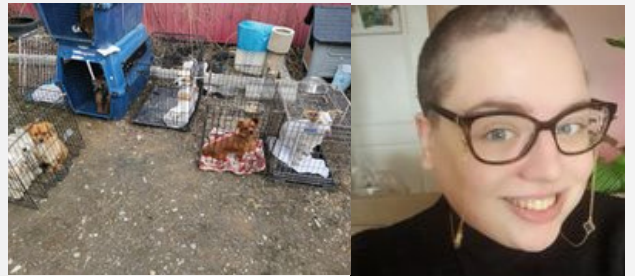


JANUARY TO MARCH 2024

## Fundraising

The cost of living crisis, combined with changes in the post-pandemic world, means that animals need our help more than ever. Unfortunately, like many other rescue organisations, we have experienced a decline in donations just when we need them the most. That's why we are incredibly grateful to the many supporters who continue to help us raise the funds necessary to continue our work. Two of these are team member Lola, who went to the groomers and shaved off her beautiful long hair in a sponsored head shave, and our superhero Ashley Owens who has now reached the incredible milestone of three years living in his tent! Thanks to Ashley's dedication, our Sanctuary is now built and fully operational, providing a safe home for traumatised dogs.

Our many supporters always listen to our pleas for help. Recently, when we needed cages for a neuter campaign, they were quick to respond, enabling us to continue our much - needed work.



## The Medical Centre



We were able to purchase our medical centre last year thanks to donations from our Helping Hands appeal. Since then, we have continued to grow stronger. Our ten-year anniversary fundraiser at Burgh House in London at the end of 2023 and generous donations from private donors and Power of One enabled us to fully equip the centre. One of our most exciting purchases is the gas anesthesia machine which is revolutionising the way our medical team delivers care and saving countless lives.

The benefits of this equipment are immense: we can perform complex examinations and treatments as the gas anesthesia unit empowers our medical team to conduct complex examinations and administer treatments for difficult patients. Higher-risk patients can now undergo surgical interventions with increased safety and precision and our team can now consult and treat small animals, including wildlife, that would otherwise be too difficult to handle.

This medical centre is a truly invaluable asset to the local community providing neutering, operating and vet services, children's education, quarantine of animals, vet training, community medicine and so much more! We're looking forward to seeing it grow and grow.

# Success Stories



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## Shrek

Shrek was found in a terrible state, riddled with bullets and on the brink of death, lying in the snow just waiting for the end. We are profoundly grateful to the team at Happy Shelter in Ukraine for taking him in and thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to cover Shrek's veterinary bills. The initial prognosis was grim: it was unlikely that Shrek would ever walk again. Despite this, Shrek remained happy, wagging his tail, eating well, and enjoying the company of those who loved him. Then, two months later, a miracle occurred—Shrek took his first tentative steps. Against all odds, Shrek is now walking, and we are immensely thankful to everyone who donated to make this possible.



## Otto

His wonderful owners took him home in the autumn of 2019, aged around two years old. Rescued by Melisa Nicoleta Suciu after being run over by a truck, he was left disabled with a damaged rear right leg and a deformed foot. Yet, he now races around at top speed on three legs! With a metal plate and screws repairing his left pelvis, he doesn't let his disability slow him down. He spends two afternoons a week as a therapy dog in a psychiatric hospital and a primary school, spreading love and trust despite the abuse he endured from humans.

There are countless disabled and damaged dogs out there who need homes and we are so grateful to the people who see past their difficulties and welcome them home. They might require a bit more care, but they can live full and wonderful lives, just like Otto.





# Neuter Campaign



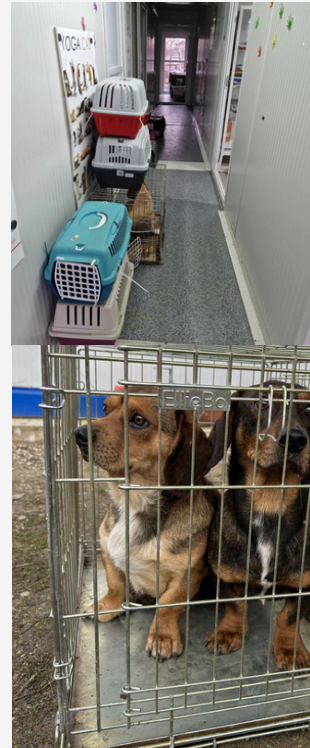
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## Neutering: The Heart of Our Mission

Neutering remains the cornerstone of our mission. From February 14 to 16, we conducted a multi-charity neuter campaign at our vet clinic, targeting both stray and owned dogs. It was a massive success, with 207 animals neutered. A huge thanks to everyone who donated to our appeal!

If you recognize these crates, they're probably yours! We brought them to Romania in December for our campaigns. Thank you! We also want to thank our amazing storage partner, Big Yellow Self Storage, without whom we couldn't have stored these precious cages.

We remain fully committed to neutering throughout 2024 and beyond. While adopting a dog is beautiful, it doesn't solve the stray dog issue. Neutering is the only way to effectively reduce the stray population. We look forward to operating on more animals in the near future.



## Educating for a Pawsitive Future!

We firmly believe that teaching the next generation is one of the keys to enhancing animal welfare standards in Romania. Over the past decade, our dedicated efforts in hard-to-reach communities have yielded promising changes, but we know we have a long way to go. Teaming up with passionate NGOs, we're on a mission to spread compassion far and wide through outreach activities, such as the school visit for Animal Hour pictured below. With every visit, we spark curiosity, empathy, and a deep appreciation for our furry friends. Together, we're sowing the seeds of kindness and nurturing a generation of animal advocates to create a brighter, more compassionate place for all creatures, great and small.





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## Feeding the strays

Every time we post about our efforts to feed the strays, we're met with questions about why we don't bring them all in. The truth is, it's not always possible. The scale of the stray population is staggering, and while our hearts ache to give them all a home, it's simply beyond our capacity. But that doesn't mean we turn our backs on them. Far from it. Through our robust neutering programmes, we're tackling the root of the issue, preventing countless litters and easing the burden on these vulnerable animals. We also provide medical care for those that need it. For those we have to leave to roam, we ensure they receive the care they need to thrive by providing meals so they don't have to scavenge or fight for food.

So the next time you see a post of our rescuers doling out meals to the stray cats and dogs, know that it's not just about filling bellies—it's about showing compassion and doing the best we can.



## The Sanctuary

Our sanctuary, overseen by the amazing Melisa, is a true haven for traumatised dogs. Some arrive so deeply scarred by their past that they flinch at the touch of a human hand. But with time and patience, Melisa works her magic and we've witnessed incredible transformations, where fear melts away, replaced by trust and love.

Yet, we also acknowledge that not every story ends with wagging tails and cuddles. For some, the wounds run too deep, and they may always bear the scars of their past. But here, in our sanctuary, they find solace. They'll never again know the pain of neglect or cruelty. Instead, they'll be sheltered, fed and able to live a life free from fear. Some of our dogs come from the streets, while others are rescued from harsh state-run shelters. Regardless of their origins, they all find refuge in our sanctuary. Here, they receive the care they need to heal and thrive. Many of these dogs undergo rehabilitation and, eventually, get the chance to travel to their forever homes on the Happy Van. It's a heartwarming sight to see them embark on this journey, leaving behind their past struggles for a brighter future.

And now, we're thrilled to announce our next chapter: an ambitious expansion program. With your continued support, we'll be able to reach even more animals in need, offering them the sanctuary they deserve.

