

PAWS2RESCUE



Paws2Rescue

APRIL TO JUNE 2024

Neutering Campaigns

While puppies such as these recently rescued by our team are undeniably gorgeous, we would rather their births had been prevented. That's why neutering stray and abandoned animals remains at the heart of our mission and why we are proud to announce that we recently took part in the TAC Social Annual Neuter Campaign at Pata Rât, Romania's largest landfill site. This area is 'home' to countless unneutered dogs and approximately 1,500 Roma people living in unimaginable conditions. The untreated waste at Pata Rât brings severe pollution risks, putting the dedicated vets and assistants who operate the campaign in constant danger. These heroes face not only the physical threats of toxins seeping into the soil and groundwater but also the pain of witnessing both animals and humans struggling in such deplorable conditions.



This campaign is a beacon of hope, making a profound difference in controlling the dog population and striving to create a safer, healthier environment for the entire community at Pata Rât.

Additionally, thirty-six animals were spayed with the help of our friends at the monastery, making a world of difference. Our neuter campaigns in these monasteries are incredibly important. Thanks to your compassion and donations, the forests around will no longer be overrun with kittens and puppies. Your care is truly making a difference.



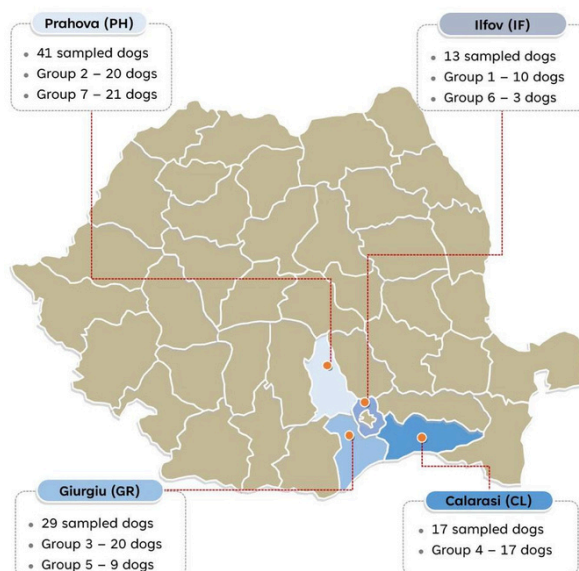
Combating the Spread of Canine Brucellosis

Amid recent press coverage surrounding canine brucellosis in rescued dogs from Romania, we have heard growing concerns and we fully understand why people may be feeling apprehensive.

At Paws2Rescue, we pride ourselves on being a responsible rescue organisation. As loving pet owners ourselves, we take these fears seriously and are committed to ensuring the health and well-being of every dog we rescue and rehome. To address these concerns and promote responsible interventions, Paws2Rescue initiated and funded a crucial study in collaboration with Romanian veterinary professionals and researchers. Our pilot study, conducted with the Spiru Haret Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and the Estonian University of Life Sciences, tested 100 rescued dogs. The results revealed that 8% were positive for *Brucella canis*, a devastating disease that spreads through contact with infected bodily fluids, emphasising the need for ongoing testing and awareness.

Currently, we are testing 300 further dogs, aligning our protocols with international standards and mapping potential hotspots. We are also creating educational materials to inform veterinary professionals and the public about the importance of accurate testing and responsible management. We presented our findings at the 9th International Conference on Emerging Zoonoses in June 2024 and will again at the World One Health Congress in September 2024. Additionally, we will host local workshops and training events in Romania covering prevention and diagnosis.

However, our efforts extend beyond Romania. We aim to educate and raise awareness about responsible management of positive cases to prevent the spread of canine brucellosis in the UK. To understand why dog owners may hesitate to test for canine brucellosis, we are launching a survey. Your participation will help us improve public policies and support humane management practices.



Paws2Rescue is dedicated to advocating for science-backed interventions that protect animal welfare. We support proactive screening, spaying, neutering and isolating positive cases to prevent the spread of brucellosis. Since the end of 2023, we have been sending blood samples of adopted dogs to the cutting-edge APHA laboratory in the UK for testing before they leave Romania. Therefore, we urge everyone to look beyond the negative press and remember that these animals deserve our compassion and help, not vilification. Together, we can limit the transmission of canine brucellosis and continue improving animal welfare in Romania.

Success Stories



Paws2Rescue

ATHENA

Senior Athena, now 10 years old, has been loved by her Romanian rescuer for her gentle spirit and unwavering loyalty. While she has watched many of her friends find loving families and start new chapters in their lives, Athena has sadly been left behind time and again.

But now, thanks to the generosity of those who have donated, Athena finally has her chance. We are thrilled to announce she secured a spot on the June Happy Van and is now living in a wonderful home where she is cherished and adored. It's finally her turn to experience the warmth of family life she so deserves after years of patiently waiting.

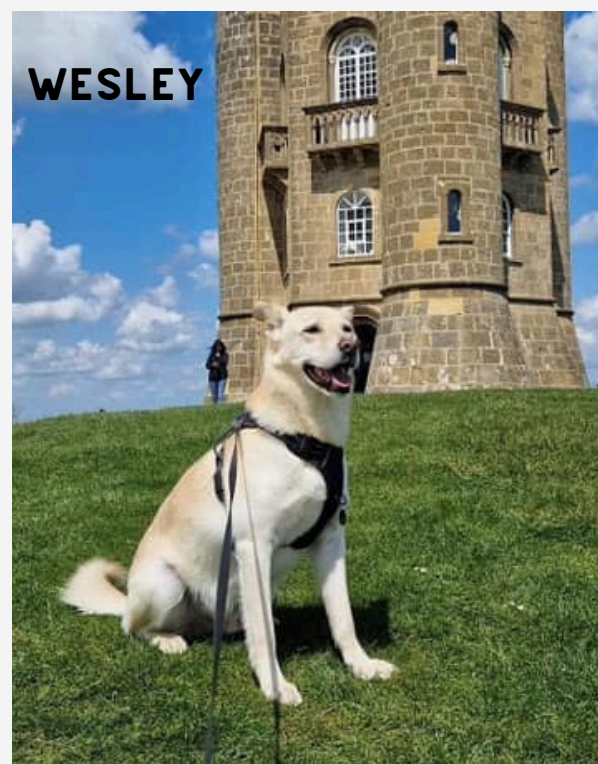
Your support has made this possible, giving Athena hope and a future filled with love. As she embarks on this new journey, we are grateful to our supporters who helped make her dreams come true. Together, we are changing lives and giving deserving animals like Athena the second chances they've been waiting for.

WESLEY

We're constantly awed by our wonderful dogs, just look at Wesley! Today, he's not just a good lad; he's a true hero. Wesley and his family totally smashed the Cotswold Way Challenge, trekking over 102 miles in just 6 days and raising an incredible £2000 for QE Hospital Birmingham.

It's heartwarming stories like Wesley's that show us just how special rescue dogs can be. Too often, people are quick to judge Romanian dogs and write them off. But give them the right home, and there's no limit to what they can achieve. Wesley's journey is proof that with love and opportunity, our dogs can accomplish amazing things.

Full marks to Wesley and his family for showing us all what's possible!



Summer at the Sanctuary

Our Sanctuary continues to go from strength to strength. With our recent expansion, we're looking forward to providing safe, comfortable forever homes to even the most traumatised dogs.

Summers in Romania can be blisteringly hot, with temperatures often soaring to uncomfortable highs. To ensure our dogs don't overheat, we've taken some much-needed measures. Our wonderful supporters have kindly sponsored Memory Trees which we've now planted around the perimeter of our play area. As they grow, these trees will provide welcome shade, creating cooler spots for our lovely dogs to relax in during the sweltering summer days.

In addition to the new greenery, we also have shaded shelters and have made sure there's plenty of fresh water available at all times. We've even added paddling pools for the dogs to splash around in, which they absolutely love! We're monitoring the dogs closely to make sure everyone stays cool and comfortable.

And in other news... thanks to our supporters and a very generous private donor, we have reached the target for solar panels to provide electricity at the shelter!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to this project. Your support is making a real difference in the lives of our dogs, ensuring they can enjoy every day safely and happily.



Celebrating Volunteer Week

Every single member of the Paws team is a volunteer who juggles hectic life commitments with their hard work on behalf of the dogs. To celebrate everyone's commitment, Alison wrote the following message:



I am so truly proud of each and every one of our 45 volunteers, they are truly the best. Each has their own role, own responsibilities, each one of us different strengths and qualities which make Paws2Rescue who we are.

Our Investor In Volunteers accreditation, achievement of the quality standard for good practice, is just one evidence of how fantastic and valued each of our team members are. They are thanked and appreciated every single day, and a special mention, to each of them on National Volunteer Week, along with this inscribed beautiful card sent to each one.

You are simply the best Team Paws, and the strays are lucky to have you all. Your passion, your love, make us the best family ever.

Alison aka Mama Paws.

Celebrating Our Vet Scholars

We are overjoyed to extend a HUGE congratulations to three of our Paws2Rescue vet scholars who have recently graduated! After six years of rigorous study alongside their own rescue work – an impressive and demanding journey – we are immensely proud of Alina, Luminita, and Dan. The community and stray animals are truly blessed to gain three wonderful new vets, and we are excited to continue supporting you in your future endeavours.



Our vet scholarship scheme, now in its seventh year, continues to thrive. Each year, we welcome a new intake of promising students.

This highly sought-after scholarship sees every candidate hand-picked, not only for their academic excellence but also for their commitment to community work. We will soon be announcing our new scholars, once the application process is complete.

Together, we are building a brighter future for the animals.

Lending a Helping Paw in Ukraine and Egypt

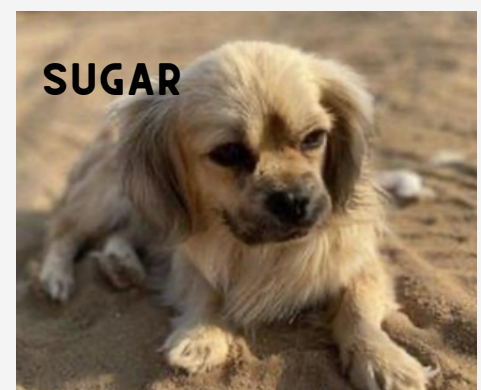


In May, Irina's shelter in Zaporozhye, Ukraine was rocked when a bomb exploded just outside. With 520 dogs inside, it was a miracle they were saved. However, the daily sirens and bombs are deeply affecting so many dogs—dogs who have already lost their homes and families. Irina and her team face the immense challenge of rehabilitating these traumatised animals. Living in daily danger, they are our superheroes. So imagine our delight when we were able to be part of a rescue mission to bring 5 dogs to Romania.

These lovely dogs were all blood tested, vaccinated and vet-checked before travel. They spent some time decompressing with Melisa for extra cuddles before being welcomed into the newly opened second part of the Sanctuary. While we follow all our usual quarantine procedures, the dogs will be able to sleep in peace and run freely on the grass all day long. We are thrilled to know that, for the first time in years, these dogs will not hear sirens or shelling at night. They are our little miracles. Welcome, Daisy, Tesla, Rafik, Benia, and Sabina!



In May, we worked with our friend, Hanan, to bring five dogs over from Egypt. Well, we're delighted to say that beautiful Sugar and her friends have found loving forever homes in the UK. A happy ever after for us all to treasure.



Fundraising and Events

In these challenging times, we're incredibly grateful to all our supporters. Whether you volunteer, adopt, foster, donate, attend our events, or fundraise for us, your dedication means the world. Take Ralph, proudly showing off his dad Ben's London Landmarks half marathon medal, or the amazing Roxana, who completed the marathon in her wheelchair in record time.

Meeting our supporters is always a joy, like the 23 dogs and their humans who joined our Manchester meet-up in June or those who attended our Pet Blessing ceremony in Sutton. And with just sixth months left until 2025, why not jump ahead and make a New Year resolution to run for Paws2Rescue in the 2025 London Landmarks Half Marathon? All you need to do is dust off your running shoes and drop an email to operations@paws2rescue.com to chat with our team.

However you choose to support us, we want to say a heartfelt thank you – because without you, we couldn't continue helping animals in need.

Thank you!

