

JANUARY TO MARCH 2025

# PAWS2RESCUE



Paws2Rescue

## Neutering News

A New Year has arrived, and our commitment to neutering remains as strong as ever. February 25<sup>th</sup> was designated World Spay Day and our incredible team and dedicated rescuers across Romania came together to neuter animals as part of our ongoing mission at Paws2Rescue. Every single animal operated on had a safe, warm place to recover; a vital part of responsible neutering.

This beautiful stray girl, found waiting outside school gates, was one of many spayed through our Spay A Stray campaign. Across the country, over 100 animals were neutered in just one day.

At Paws2Rescue, neutering is at the very heart of what we do. It's not just a one-day effort as our campaigns run throughout the year, aiming to break the cycle of suffering for stray and unwanted animals. By preventing unwanted litters, we reduce abandonment, neglect and the number of animals struggling to survive on the streets..

Our Spay A Stray campaign is back for 2025—one dog at a time, straight from the streets. We're working to reduce the stray dog population in western Romania through free neutering, and every dog we help is a step closer to long-term change.

Since we began spaying in 2014, we've neutered over 19,000 animals, thanks entirely to the generosity of our supporters and the hard graft of our teams on the ground. This vital work is only possible through donations, and we're so grateful to everyone who helps make it happen.

[www.paws2rescue.com/donate](http://www.paws2rescue.com/donate)



# Positive News From Romania!

## FANTASTIC FOOTBALLERS

For decades, stray animals were seen as pests in Romania, but attitudes are changing. Following the example of football teams in Cluj and Bucharest, we now see footballers in Arad bringing shelter puppies onto the pitch. This shift in perception is a sign of progress, which is why Paws2Rescue's Schools Programme and outreach vet and neutering services will continue to promote animal welfare and compassion in rural areas. We want to work with Romania, not just in Romania.

Romania's stray dog problem is complex and worsened in the 1970s with urbanisation, leading to widespread pet abandonment as people moved into smaller homes. Strays bred freely and their numbers spiralled out of control. In the early 2000s, controversial dog culls failed to address the issue. While legislation now prevents stray dogs from being returned to the streets after capture, overcrowded shelters remain under-resourced and many dogs still live on the streets, un-neutered and at risk of disease, injury, starvation or euthanasia. We're working hard to change this and we're thrilled to see the footballers are too!



## ROMANIAN INNOVATION

It may come as a surprise to learn Romania is leading the way with an innovative solution to feeding strays in the capital via the introduction of stray feeding posts in three parks in Bucharest. When an empty plastic bottle is inserted for recycling, food and water are dispensed for stray cats. It's a brilliant initiative and now we need the rest of Europe to follow suit.



## BETTER SHELTERS

It has been incredibly uplifting to witness the gradual yet significant improvements in the conditions for stray and abandoned dogs in Romania. For years, the stories have been a mix of heartbreak and hope, but the balance is finally shifting towards a more positive future. While the road ahead is still long, small but meaningful changes are taking place across various counties and the difference is becoming increasingly noticeable.

One such example is the Suceava Public Shelter, a local government-run facility that is proving that change is possible. While we all know a shelter can never replace a home, this facility is transforming the lives of countless dogs. Play areas have been introduced, providing much-needed space for the dogs to stretch their legs and socialise. Hundreds of new dog houses have been built, offering shelter and warmth and there's been a consistent increase in the quality of care, with canned meat being provided more regularly and radiators in the recovery room for those in need of extra comfort.

Vaccinations and neutering are now part of the regular routine, which is a massive step forward in the fight against overpopulation and disease. A new website has been launched, dedicated to promoting adoptions and volunteers are stepping in to walk the dogs, giving them much-needed social interaction and exercise. Perhaps most encouraging of all is the visible support from the Mayor, who regularly visits the shelter and lends his backing to these positive changes.

These improvements are happening across Romania, albeit slowly, but each step forward represents progress. The balance between the negative and positive stories is finally tilting towards hope, and we are absolutely thrilled to see the changes unfold. It's a heartwarming sight to those of us who have campaigned for and educated local leaders and politicians about the need for better shelters for stray animals across the country.

(Photos belong to Suceava Public Shelter)





# International Update

## UKRAINE

It was with deep sadness that we marked the 24th of February, the three year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This devastating milestone only highlights the dreadful suffering faced by so many, with both people and animals losing their lives needlessly every day in this cruel war. The toll on Irina and her team in Zaporozhye is overwhelming, yet their dedication to the nearly 1,000 animals in their care remains steadfast.

Due to the continued bombing, we are taking even more dogs to the shelter of our sanctuary in Romania, offering them a safe haven away from the horrors of war. We hope that many of these precious animals will find a place on the Happy Van to their forever homes in the UK, shining a ray of hope in the despair.

In addition to providing care for these animals, we continue to support Irina and her team in any way we can, sending gifts to help with much-needed food for the shelter. As we reflect on this tragic anniversary, we ask that you join us in sending prayers and hopes for peace in Ukraine in 2025.

## UK FAMILIES FOR UKRAINIAN DOGS

We were absolutely over the moon when our beautiful Ukrainian dogs finally boarded the Happy Van with their friends bound for the UK to begin their new lives with loving families!

Their families waited patiently through the long process of vaccinations, rabies and titre tests, quarantine and UK brucellosis tests. Throughout this time, the dogs were lovingly cared for, and just like us, managed to pile on a few extra pounds over Christmas, ready for their new start.



The horrors of war have caused so much misery and we wish with all our hearts that we could find homes for every homeless dog in Ukraine, as so many continue to endure desperate conditions. But for now, we are thrilled that Rafik, Daisy, Benia, Tesla, and Sabina have found their happy ever afters.

A huge thank you to Irina in Ukraine and Melisa in Romania for their dedication and support.

# Adopted and Adored

## NERO AND CINDY

After more than two years of waiting, we are overjoyed to share the best news ever: Nero and Cindy have finally found their forever home! Rescued together in early 2022, they were so close that we initially thought they were mother and daughter. It turned out to be even more unique: a dad and his little girl.

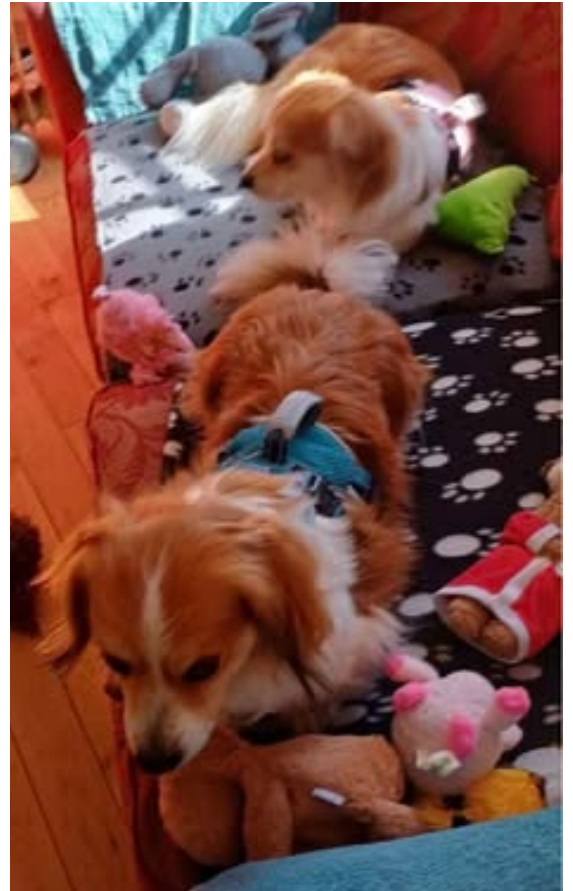
The search for their forever home began, and in December 2022, they came to the UK and into a wonderful foster home. Week after week, we tried to find the perfect match, and then, after over two years in foster care, they were finally adopted together. It was so worth the wait to keep them united!

Now, after just three days in their new family, Cindy has become Sophie, and Nero is now Harley. Their mum shared this adorable story: “I’ve never had dogs who watch TV before. I couldn’t figure out what was causing all the barking... it was the goats on TV!” We are absolutely grinning from ear to ear, knowing that after all this time, Nero and Cindy have found their perfect happy ever after.

## UMA

Uma had just given birth to her 7 puppies in the garden of an old house when the owner threatened to poison them. Thankfully, our rescuers arrived just in time, and now Uma and all of her puppies are safe and thriving in loving homes.

Look at Uma now—adopted, adored, and showing off her best bandana! While attitudes toward animals in Romania are slowly improving, there is still much work to be done before our message of compassion reaches everyone. We remain committed to continuing this important work, ensuring that more animals like Uma and her puppies can find the love and care they deserve.





## LUNA

Rescued from a restaurant where she was left to starve, Luna spent her days begging for scraps from anyone who would spare her a moment's attention. She lived in constant hunger and fear, with no hope of a better life. But everything changed when she was taken in by our team. Now, Luna is living the life she always dreamed of. Adopted into a loving home, she is adored by her new family who ensure she is never alone or hungry again. She has found the warmth, care and love she deserves, and every day, she thrives in the comfort of knowing that her past is behind her.



## LOLA

Brought to the shelter by her family when they no longer wanted her, Lola's story is a sadly familiar one that breaks our hearts every time. The cold, heartless way they simply drove away, leaving her behind as if she were nothing more than an unwanted possession, is a reality we see far too often. It's a painful reminder of how some people discard animals without a second thought.

But fast forward to today and Lola's life has taken a positive turn. She was adopted by a loving family in the UK who will never cast her aside. In their care, Lola has found the love and security she deserves. Never again will she face abandonment. She's cherished, adored and treated like the beloved family member she is. For Lola, knowing that she's finally found a place where she'll always belong truly means the world.





## A MIRACLE FOR ALIS

When we first found Alis, she was in a horrific state. Left lying in the grass, unable to move, with no food or water, she had been brutally beaten and was suffering from a severe leg injury. Her face, neck and body were covered in wounds, some inflicted by human hands, others from dog bites. The blackened areas on her body showed where the wounds had turned necrotic. At around 10 years old, she was lying there, waiting to die from the intense pain, her eyes filled with sadness and her spirit broken.

Alis was rushed to the vet, where the full extent of her condition became clear. Unfortunately, her blood tests revealed an infection caused by untreated wounds and pancreatitis. She was in critical condition, and we honestly didn't think she'd have the strength to survive. It was touch and go and our hearts broke for this sweet, innocent girl who had suffered so much cruelty.

But Alis is a true fighter. With the help of a dedicated veterinary team, she began her long road to recovery. She was put on medication and an intravenous drip, and although she wasn't eating at first, we held onto hope. Gradually, she began to eat and show small signs of improvement. To see her lift her head, smile and brighten up even a little was a real turning point.

As the weeks passed, Alis continued to fight. The vet confirmed she had one broken leg, but thankfully, the others were intact. She still had a long road ahead of her, but with each passing day, she grew stronger. Her wounds began to heal, and the sadness in her eyes slowly faded. To see her smile once again meant the world to us and we all fell in love with this very special senior.

Our prayers for her recovery were answered and now we're praying she can find her forever home. At the age of 10, she has proven that age and hardship can be overcome with resilience and love. She's a gentle soul who deserves to spend her golden years in peace and comfort, surrounded by a family who will cherish her.



# Thank you!

Daniela wanted to buy 3 Tomahawk cat traps to help capture the cats around Bucharest for spaying. There are too many starving feral cats on the streets and this will help stop them breeding. We were delighted to help her to buy these: thanks to all of you who send general donations, this is all thanks to you for your amazing support. And a big thank you to everyone who contributes to our feed a stray campaign - helping to ease the suffering of dogs on the street.

We're also hugely appreciative of the continued support from Oh So Precious pet keepsakes, Jaime Correia Aesthetics in Manchester, Timeless Beauty in Cumbria and Clever Soap vegan body products, whose kindness means so much to us. And, as always, a massive thank you to Big Yellow Self Storage who support us, rain or shine. A special shoutout to St Alban's Under 8s girls' football team for choosing us as their sponsor for 2025—what an honour!

And of course, our regular supporters, the ones who kindly donate when we post an appeal and share our social media posts. Your generosity and belief in our mission make all the difference—thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



**CLEVER  
SOAP.**



*Oh So Precious*  
PET KEEPSAKES





# Ways to Help Us.

As a registered charity, we are reliant on the generosity of our supporters to enable us to continue to end animal suffering. We are extremely grateful for any donations, however small. Donations can be made to Paws2Rescue in a number of ways:

**Cheques/ Charitable Aid Foundation** cheques can be sent to our registered address at 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9JQ.

**Bank Transfer.** Metro Bank Account name: PAWS2RESCUE Sort code 23-05-80  
Account number 13210508 IBAN: GB19MYMB23058013210508 SWIFT: MYMBGB2L

**Standing Order/ Direct Debit.** Regular monthly donations can be set up by standing order.

**Legacies.** Please consider leaving us a small sum in your will.

**PayPal and Just Giving.** Ad hoc donations can be made online via Just Giving or PayPal using [paws2rescue@outlook.com](mailto:paws2rescue@outlook.com).

**Text.** PAWS + amount e.g. PAWS10 to 70085.

**Facebook.** We're a Facebook Registered Charity and you can set up your own fundraiser for us on Facebook. Why not set one up for your birthday and ask people to donate the cost of a birthday card?

**eBay.** You can sell your items on eBay under your own account and ask for a percentage of the money raised to go to Paws2Rescue.

**Easyfundraising.org.uk.** Just shop online using the [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) website. Over 2,700 major retailers are on this site. A percentage of everything you buy comes to us and it does not cost you a penny!

**Own a small business or run a sports team?**

Please email [management@paws2rescue.com](mailto:management@paws2rescue.com) for ways you could support us.

*Thank you!*