

JANUARY TO MARCH 2026

# PAWS2RESCUE



Paws2Rescue

## World Spay Day

World Spay Day, celebrated this year on Tuesday 24th February 2026, was not just a date in the calendar for Paws2Rescue. It was a call to action and a reminder that prevention is the only lasting way to reduce animal suffering. Spaying and neutering owned and street animals is vital for both population control and long term health. Without neutering, unwanted litters are born into already overwhelmed communities where many animals face hunger and disease. Neutering owned pets prevents accidental litters and reduces the risk of serious health conditions, while neutering street animals helps stabilise populations, reduces fighting and injury and prevents future generations from being born into hardship. Real change begins by stopping the cycle before it starts.



In rural Romania, our vets were on the ground spaying owned and stray animals within local communities. At the same time, Dr Razvan and our Paws2Rescue Vet Scholar Maria travelled to Ukraine, where they carried out vital neutering procedures during the week leading up to World Spay Day and on the day itself, helping animals who would otherwise have no access to veterinary care.



## Update: Romania

In the depths of January, we travelled to our Sanctuary in Romania as temperatures plummeted and snow began to fall. The cold was relentless, the ground frozen solid and every journey outside a reminder of how brutal life can be here for abandoned dogs.

At least the dogs at our Sanctuary know they will be kept safe and warm. Thanks to donated blankets (like the one modelled here by little Syd) we brought from the UK, heat lamps, straw bedding and warm food, they had comfort and protection from the freezing conditions. Even in the cold, they still enjoyed daily playtime outside, running freely in a place where dogs are not locked inside cold, filthy cages.

Sadly, that safety is not the reality for so many others. While travelling, we stopped to feed strays wherever we could. We only had donated gravy bones in the car, but we shared them because for some dogs it may have been the only food they received that day.

Whenever we can, we rescue dogs from the public 'shelter', where fear and uncertainty define daily life. On our trip, we rescued seven dogs who had no other chance, including a senior girl we later named Janie.

We found her cowering in the corner of a freezing cell. She was waiting in terror for the inevitable, surrounded by the deafening screams of other dogs and scraps scattered across a filthy floor. To Janie, humans only meant fear.

But today, Janie is not just surviving, she is blossoming. At the Sanctuary she has swapped steel bars for freedom and the care of true friends like Melisa. Now she is finally learning the truth that not all humans cause suffering, some bring healing.



## Update: Romania

On Sunday 22nd February 2026, a peaceful protest in Romania showed that the tide may finally be turning against decades of shameful treatment of animals. It was a powerful moment of hope and solidarity for dogs who have no voice of their own.

Thousands of Romanians gathered at the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, while a parallel protest took place in Timisoara in the west of the country. In numbers too large to ignore, people came together peacefully to speak out against the public shelters where dogs continue to suffer.

The demonstrations followed the devastating deaths of 15,000 dogs in the public shelter in Suraia. Reports revealed animals living in starvation and cruelty, dying painful deaths without transparency or accountability, while millions of euros of public money funded a system that failed them.

Protesters called for effective and humane management of stray dog populations, making clear that systematic killing is not a solution. Instead, they urged authorities to invest public funds in widespread neutering and microchipping programmes, alongside stronger sanctions for abandonment. Prevention and responsibility were at the heart of their message.

The protests marked an important moment, showing a growing movement within Romania demanding compassion and lasting change. The world was watching, and on that day thousands of voices spoke out for the animals who perished.



## Update: Romania

Despite growing signs of change in Romania and more people speaking out for animal welfare, our work remains as important as ever. Behind every protest and every promise of reform are still countless animals fighting simply to survive.

During our recent time back in Romania, reality reminded us how much work is still needed. In a remote area far from help, Melisa found a mother dog and her tiny puppies stranded with no shelter and no safety, only the daily struggle to stay alive. The puppies were easy to catch, still too young to run from danger or fear human contact. Their mother was different. Driven by instinct and fear, she refused to come close.

Melisa refused to leave her behind. She sat and waited in a cold roadside ditch for three hours, patient and still, giving the frightened mother the time she needed. She could have given up but she stayed to save another life. Eventually, the moment came. Slowly and cautiously, the mother stepped into the cage and Melisa was able to bring all four dogs to safety.

Progress may be beginning, but stories like this show why rescue work is still vital. Change does not happen overnight, and until every animal is safe, the work continues. Sometimes heroes are not visible. Sometimes they are simply the people who sit quietly in a ditch, refusing to give up.



# Update: Romania

In Romania, ticks are sadly far more common than in the UK, and they can cause serious health problems for dogs, including blood loss, skin infections, and the spread of dangerous diseases like Lyme disease and babesiosis. The warmer climate and many rural areas with long grass and woodland make ticks especially prevalent, so our dogs are at higher risk.

Right now, Melisa is battling an infestation at the Sanctuary and is working hard to stop the dogs from becoming unwell. She needs our help to buy treatments.

To support her, we are running a Friday Fundraiser to purchase doses of Simparica, which protects dogs from fleas and ticks for three months. Each dose costs £8, and our Sanctuary is currently caring for 105 dogs, so your help is urgently needed.

Even a donation the cost of a cup of coffee would make a huge difference. No gift is too small.

You can donate by PayPal to [paws2rescue@outlook.com](mailto:paws2rescue@outlook.com), by using the Facebook donate button, or by visiting our website for other ways to contribute.



# Update: Ukraine

**Our worst fears happened. After four years of this brutal war, tragedy struck the shelter of our dear friend and rescuer Irina Didur in Ukraine. A direct shelling hit the site, leaving dogs dead, many seriously injured and others missing. Volunteers were hurt and shaken, and 25 enclosures were completely destroyed.**

**In the face of this emergency, our priority was clear. Urgent veterinary care for the injured animals and securing the shelter. Thanks to an incredible fundraising effort, we were able to send over £10,000 to support Irina and her team. We will continue to stand beside them, as we always have. We are the only charity that has been adopting dogs from this shelter, and that commitment will not change.**

**With no electricity at the shelter, updates have had to be shared from a nearby veterinary clinic. A second, smaller shelter has been built about 20 kilometres away, providing relative safety for around 100 animals. However, more than 400 animals remain, with no local options to move them. The need for ongoing support is urgent.**

**Irina told us that she and her team had survived a terrible tragedy. Before the shelling, they had already appealed for help to evacuate the animals, but no one was able to assist. Almost 100 animals, including cats, small mammals and some of the most vulnerable dogs, were moved to the second shelter. Even with these animals relocated, the situation remains extremely difficult. The shelter has been without electricity for days at a time, there is no internet and sometimes no water for 24 hours. Food and supplies must be brought from the city for all the animals, and injured dogs are taken to the clinic for treatment.**



‘The new shelter is small, with only a few rooms and limited enclosures. It is not yet fully equipped, and further work is needed to insulate buildings and create safe spaces for all animals. At the moment, most of the work falls to Irina alone. She finishes cleaning and feeding late at night and only then can post updates online.

Irin explained that the mental toll has been immense. There are so few people left to help, and so much responsibility rests on the team. Every day they must prioritise the animals first—feeding, cleaning and providing medical care—before anything else.

She thanked everyone for their incredible support but highlighted the scale of the challenge. Maintaining a shelter of this size costs around 600,000 UAH each month. Builders will begin repairing the damage so that more animals can return to safe enclosures, but a full evacuation of the shelter is not possible. Partial evacuation to safe shelters remains the only realistic option.

As the world moves on from this story, we will not. We will continue to support Irina and her team through the aftermath and beyond. They still need our help, and every donation counts.



As well as helping Irina financially, we were able to take seven Ukrainian shelter dogs to the Sanctuary. We are overjoyed to have them.

## Update: Peru



**Once again, our incredible team in Peru has been hard at work, continuing their vital neutering programme. They spayed and neutered over 300 dogs, both strays and owned pets, at the end of March. A fantastic achievement!**

**The shanty towns around El Agustino are in urgent need of support. Alongside neutering, the veterinary team are also providing vaccinations and carrying out minor surgeries, helping animals who would otherwise go without any care at all.**

**Thank you to everyone who supports our Spay A Stray work in Peru. Together, we are making a real difference in some of the most challenging areas, where reducing the stray population is essential to improving animal welfare.**

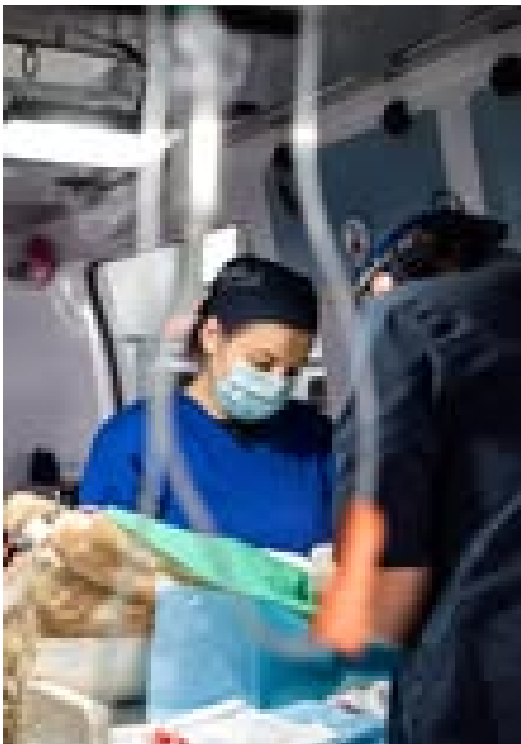


# Have you joined our auction group?

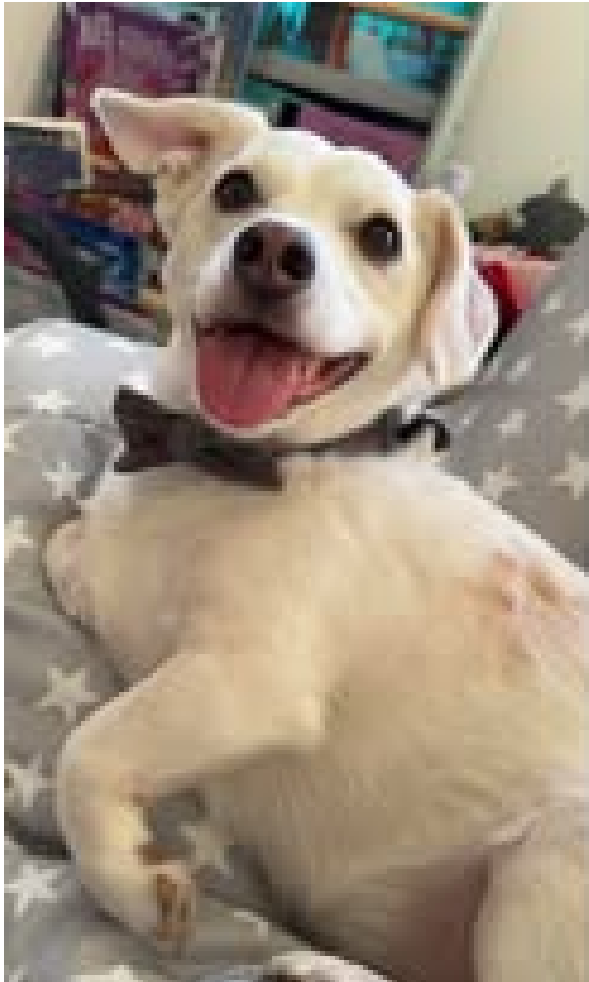
Our auctions have been incredibly important to our fundraising. A huge thank you to every single person who donated items or placed a bid. Together, in our first auction of 2026, we raised an incredible £1,062.50 meaning Dr Razvan and our Paws2Rescue Vet Scholar Maria were able to travel to Ukraine ready to carry out neutering work on and around World Spay Day. We donated all the funds from this auction to support them, because the cats and dogs truly need our help and neutering is so important.

Through our Facebook auction group you can bid on a wide range of items knowing that every penny goes towards our work, such as taking dogs out of the grim public shelters so they can live a better life at our Sanctuary. It is a simple way to support us while picking up something you like at the same time. So why not join the Paws2Rescue Auction Facebook Group and get involved?

We know that many people are feeling the pressure of the cost of living and that donating is not always easy. That is why our auctions work so well. With our auction, you can treat yourself, buy a gift or bid for a useful item for your dog. What you spend helps us continue our vital work. Or you could declutter and donate an item or simply share the group with others. Every bit of support adds up and together we can help animals where they need it most.



# Adopted and Adored



A few words from Toby's adopter:

"In 2019 I stumbled across Toby online and myself and my partner had agreed that one day, we'd quite like to get a dog. My partner had said he'd like a Beagle. Toby was absolutely not a Beagle but I'd fallen in love and the rest was history.

The day we collected him I was hit with a love that I'd never felt before. This tiny, timid little baby was ours to love forever and I will never be able to thank Paws2Rescue enough for giving us that.

He was only timid for maybe a little bit under 24 hours before anarchy was established, ankles were bitten, socks were stolen, and snacks were demanded, and it's been the same ever since. We wouldn't change it for the world. He is our whole world in little legs form.

I personally was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2021 and he's been there every step of the way mopping up tears and being at hand for a cuddle. I sometimes don't think I'd have pushed my way through without him. He's been through the good and the bad with us.

He was there when we bought our first home together and we moved in, and in 2021 we also welcomed his little brother, Hendrix, who confused nursery by explaining to them he has a big brother and asked if he could take him to visit the nursery. I did have to explain that his big brother is in fact a Toby Dog and not a human brother. He's still the best big brother in the world according to Hendrix.

Toby likes to be involved in everything whether that's playing guitar, having a sleepover with his brother, movie nights, Christmas, absolutely everything. He'll even sit in our games night circle with us for a game of Harry Potter Dobble. He doesn't do much but supervising is an important role to play.

Paws2Rescue, and Toby, without knowing have made our lives and hearts incredibly full. We all worship the ground he walks on and it shows because he truly thinks he's royalty and rightfully so.

Thanks Paws2Rescue! Your work is incredible and so important."

# Adopted and Adored



**A few words from Esther's adopter:**

**Our beautiful rescue girl is truly living her best life now. From the moment she heads out the door, we can see how much she loves her walks, tail wagging, nose busy, soaking up every little adventure.**

**The biggest change though? She feels safe. You can see it in the way she relaxes, the way she looks at us, and the way she's really settled into home life.**

**And the sweetest part... she's been choosing cuddles over independence. Instead of going off to her own bed, Esther now snuggles up with her sister, sharing space, warmth, and comfort. She's not just settling in... she's thriving**



**Remember Elsa?**

**Rescued with her tiny babies in October last year from terrible conditions, Elsa had endured cold and fear. Her pups were fragile and she was desperate to keep them safe, but thanks to our team, they were all nursed back to health at the Sanctuary.**

**We are over the moon to share that in March, Elsa left Romania behind for her very own happy ever after. She has been adopted and is now adored in Switzerland. All of her pups have also been rehomed into loving families, just as they deserve. Adopted and adored, Elsa and her little ones now have the lives they always should have had.**

# Thank you!

We are so grateful to all our sponsors and supporters whose generosity keeps our work going.

Huge thanks to Oh So Precious Pet Keepsakes, the Lovely Keepsake Company, Jaime Correia Aesthetics in Manchester, Timeless Beauty in Cumbria, St Alban's Under-8s Girls' Football Team and Clever Soap Vegan Body Products for their continued kindness. We also want to give a very special shout out to Big Yellow Self Storage for all their incredible help . Their support is always amazing.

And of course we couldn't do any of this without our regular supporters. Whether you donate when we post appeals, share our updates on social media or simply tell others about our work, your generosity and belief in what we do mean the world to us. Thank you for being part of the Paws family and helping us make a real difference every day.

*theWellHouse*



# 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!*