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Worldwide.



ACTIVITIES FOR UKRAINIAN DOGS AND CATS IN 2022 IN WARTIME

A report of FOUR PAWS' Stray Animal Care activities
during the Ukrainian-Russian war, until 31.12.2022

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In this report many Ukrainian regions and cities are mentioned for which this overview is helpful.



Note: The Ukrainian provinces - oblasts - are marked, not their capital cities.

1. HELP FOR REFUGEES AND THEIR PETS

While the FOUR PAWS Stray Animal Care teams usually are focused on improving the welfare of stray dogs and cats, the war in Ukraine also required different support. In Ukraine, at the borders and in neighbouring countries our teams were ready to support not only strays, but also refugees with their pets, children that had to witness the horrors of the war and soldiers that got injured.

1.1 Free emergency aid

Within a week after the start of the war, the European Commission asked all its Member States to allow entry to refugees travelling with their pets – even without a valid pet passport and microchip. In order to support refugees and their pets, FOUR PAWS Stray Animal Care teams, together with its partner organisations Animal Society (Romania), Doctor Vet (Moldova) and Zvierací Ombudsman (Slovakia), were active in March and April in countries neighbouring Ukraine.

Refugee families and their pets were offered free emergency aid, such as pet food, pet equipment's and medical care as well as the necessary rabies vaccination, microchipping and pet passports, at the Slovakian-Ukrainian border, in the Moldovan capital of Chisinau, in the Romanian capital of Bucharest and in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia.

Output: Around 2,500 refugee families with their pets were supported.



March 17, 2022: Info point tent at Gara de Nord (Bucharest station) to support refugee families and their pets.
© Animal Society | Santhosh Kumar



March 9, 2022: Veterinarian Dr. Anca Tomescu with a refugee and her dog at Gara de Nord (Bucharest station).
© Animal Society | Narcis Pop

1.2 Visits to refugee centres in Ukraine

Located in the central part of Ukraine, Vinnytsia is one of the cities that is hosting a large number of refugees, fleeing the worst-hit areas like Chernihiv, Mariupol and Kharkiv. Vinnytsia is also the city where FOUR PAWS' Companion Animals team is located. Former stray and now therapy dog Busia together with her handler Nataliia

Sorokina and FOUR PAWS' Practical Psychologist Viktoriia Habryk, are part of the FOUR PAWS Animal Assisted Interventions team in Ukraine. Together, they have been at the railway station daily to help allocate people to refugee centres around the city and providing them with much needed support.

Furthermore, the Animal Assisted Interventions team conducted sessions with groups of 20-30 adults and children in three refugee centres, twice per week. Most of the children arrived from Mariupol and Kharkiv, travelling for over 15 hours on a train having witnessed the horrors of the war. They were very eager to meet therapy dog Busia, and not only the children but also the adults benefited from these sessions.

Output: Since April the team has conducted over 70 sessions with children in refugee camps reaching over 450 refugees.



March 17, 2022: Info point tent at Gara de Nord (Bucharest station) to support refugee families and their pets.
© Animal Society | Santhosh Kumar

1.3 Therapy for recovering soldiers

The FOUR PAWS Animal Assisted Interventions team in Ukraine has not only supported refugees, but has also been providing emotional support and PTSD prevention to servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine who got injured and were recovering in the hospital in Vinnytsia, central Ukraine. Psychologists note that the effects of other methods of rehabilitation are faster and more visible in those veterans who also work with dog therapists. The FOUR PAWS therapy dogs acted as a guide between the psychologist and the patient, creating a trusting, relaxing atmosphere in which the patient feels safe enough to open up. Often the patient has not talked to anyone yet, but starts interacting with the dog after a short



May 26, 2022: Therapy dog Busia supports Ukrainian soldiers who returned from the war.
© FOUR PAWS

period of time. Interaction with the dog helps with social development and relieves anxiety, and the list of conditions for which the so-called canine therapy therefore can be effective includes stress, depressions, crises, aggression, hyperactivity and in this specific case: in order to prevent post-traumatic stress disorder. The FOUR PAWS therapy dogs have been specially trained to respond to human reactions and very clearly identifies people who are tense, stressed and traumatised. By a simple gesture such as licking the hands or touching them with the paw, the patient is invited to interact. Therapy dogs do not judge or evaluate: they bring unconditional love and comfort.

Output: The team conducted 20 sessions with soldiers.

1.4 Visits to refugee centres in Romania

The Animal Assisted Interventions team of Romania has been paying biweekly visits to three refugee centres in Peris and Magurele (on the outskirts of Bucharest). These centres host around 150 people, mostly mothers and their children who had to flee Ukraine very suddenly. The dogs in the Animal Assisted Interventions programme are former strays that have been specially selected and trained to become therapy dogs. Their visits come as a breath of fresh air especially for the children as it helps them relax and boost their morale which has been highly affected by what they had to experience. Even in the most challenging times, the therapy dogs can bring a smile to even the most troubled humans!

Output: Around 450 refugees were supported on a biweekly basis.



March 11, 2022: The Animal Assisted Interventions team, together with therapy dogs (former strays) Mica, Pispi, Mura, Max and Bumi, at a school in Magurele.

© Animal Society | Narcis Pop.

2. STERILISATIONS, VACCINATIONS AND TREATMENTS

The FOUR PAWS Stray Animal Care teams in Ukraine have been working in various cities in Ukraine since 2012, and as part of the project we have already sterilised and treated close to 30,000 stray dogs and cats in over 60 communities. Dogs and cats are caught, neutered, vaccinated and returned (CNVR method) to the community: the only humane and sustainable way to reduce stray animal populations. When needed, wounds and diseases are treated and additional surgeries are performed. FOUR PAWS had to briefly interrupt the Stray Animal Care activities in Ukraine when Russia invaded, as the first weeks of the war were extremely challenging and the number one priority was to keep our team members safe. Since mid-April however, the SAC activities are back up and running to deliver much needed support for stray animals: both those that were already living on the street as well as beloved pets and shelter animals that were forced to be left behind when their owners fled the country. Initially, the team worked in smaller groups and closer to home to avoid risks as much as possible and since June, the team is back to work as usual. From sterilising dogs and cats to reduce stray populations to treating sick and injured animals. And additionally, by launching new SAC activities such as 'Project Kishka', we expanded our reach to help animals in need.



May 18, 2022: SAC activities in the destroyed town of Bucha.
© FOUR PAWS | Maksym Havrylov

2.1 Mobile clinic work



May 3, 2022: Neutering of a dog in the clinic near Bucha.
© FOUR PAWS | Maksym Havrylov

Our mobile clinic work for strays has continued during the war since Mid-April in cities like Kyiv, Irpin, Bucha, Korosten, Mykolaiv, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia and Uman, and nearly 2,200 dogs and cats could be sterilised and vaccinated.

In April and May, a specific focus was on the Kyiv area, which was particularly affected during the first stage of the invasion. The entire region in the north of Kyiv is destroyed, many human lives were lost, houses and vital infrastructure like streets and hospitals are destroyed and veterinary clinics and shelters for dogs and cats are also damaged or semi-abandoned. Many pets have become homeless and many stray and shelter animals

are terrified and injured. FOUR PAWS thus decided to help here where help was so desperately needed, and set up a temporary veterinary care project in Belogorodka village, Kyiv Oblast, including serving the areas of Bucha, Irpin and surrounds.

From June to August, the team had a specific focus on the region of Cherkassy: the team went with their FOUR PAWS mobile clinic to the city of Uman where it delivered the 'usual' and much needed care for stray dogs and cats by sterilising and vaccinating them and, where needed, providing additional medical treatments. In addition, we worked together with the local municipality on an event focussing on micro-chipping and vaccinating pets. The team noticed the importance of such a project, especially as during such unstable and stressful times, the importance of providing assistance to those in need is valued a lot.

Prior to the war, FOUR PAWS started a strategic project in the city of Mykolaiv, yet since the city is under bombing since day one of the war, the project had to be halted. In early May however, FOUR PAWS has delivered, with the logistic support of our partner UPAW, 5,000 tick and flea treatments to dogs and cats in Mykolaiv to prevent them from contracting deadly diseases. All veterinary supplies were delivered to the Communal Enterprise: the local clinic with corresponding shelter managed by the municipality

FOUR PAWS has been cooperating with the authorities and Communal Enterprise in Zhytomyr since 2013 and since the city has accepted many refugees during the war, FOUR PAWS helps with sterilising and vaccinating their pets. For this, the Communal Enterprise provided its premises for free and supports with the coordination. Furthermore FOUR PAWS delivers support to shelter animals and has delivered veterinary medicine to the Communal Enterprise, enabling their vets to carry out their work and using the quality standards of FOUR PAWS.

Output: This year, almost 2,200 dogs and cats have been neutered and medically treated by the FOUR PAWS team (NOTE: this is only with our regular mobile clinic work, without Project Kishka and the USAVA cooperation) and with this thousands of births on the streets could be prevented. An addition of 5,000 dogs and cats in the area of Mykolaiv have been supported with tick and flea treatments.

2.2 Project Kishka

In October 2022, FOUR PAWS launched the unique 'Project Kishka', a project fully dedicated to help the stray cats of Ukraine (Kishka means 'female cat' in Ukrainian). Because despite the ever-changing unpredictable environment in the country, the FOUR PAWS SAC Europe team is unstoppable to find the best solutions to animal suffering. It is known that when stray dog populations reduce, stray cat populations can increase dramatically. To prevent a situation where countless of stray cats are suffering in Ukraine, action is needed. We therefore started a long-term project to assist local communities to stabilise their stray cat populations. The goal is to sterilise, vaccinate and,



July 16, 2022: Microchipping of pets in the mobile clinic in the region of Cherkassy.
© FOUR PAWS

if needed, medically treat approximately 10,000 stray cats until December 2023. In order to achieve this goal, we already successfully started this project since October 2022 in Chernihiv and Sumy, by hiring two new veterinarians in the regions, who are trained and supervised by an experienced FOUR PAWS veterinarian.

Output: Over 460 cats have been treated in two regions in 2022.



November 10, 2022: A cat in Chernihiv during Project Kishka.
© FOUR PAWS | Maksym Havrylov



November 10, 2022: Sterilisation of a stray cat.
© FOUR PAWS | Maksym Havrylov

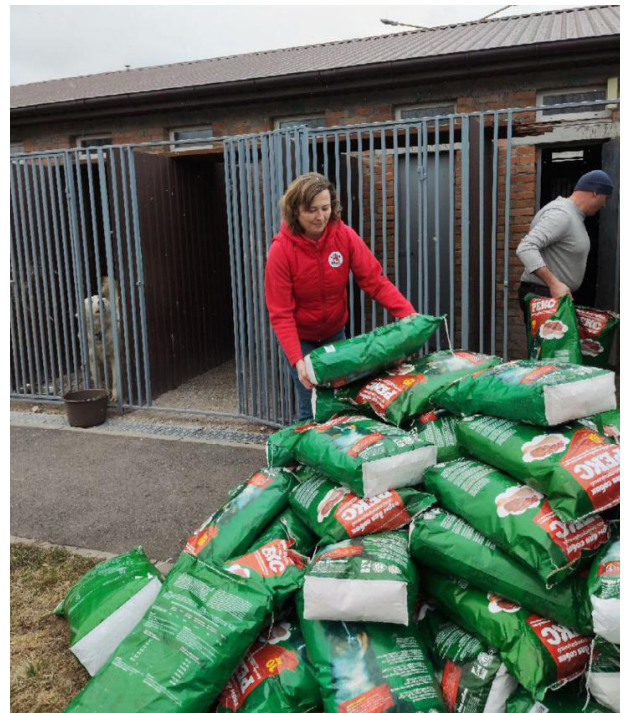
3. FEEDING PROJECTS

FOUR PAWS Stray Animal Care activities in Eastern Europe focus on CNVR: Catch – Neuter – Vaccinate – Return. While in Southeast Asia we also carry out feeding programmes, this is not the focus in Eastern Europe. However, there are exceptions, for instance during the outbreak of COVID-19 and now, in wartime. FOUR PAWS has conducted small feeding projects for shelters and in Mykolaiv and Kherson (this excludes the food distribution by our partnership with UPAW, which is mentioned in chapter 5).

3.1. Food deliveries to shelters

While many refugees managed to escape the country with their pets, there are still thousands of animals that have been left behind. In addition many people fleeing Ukraine have handed their pets into shelters if they have been unable to travel with them. This has added to the already substantial number of stray animals in the Ukrainian shelters and is an additional burden to the already stressed system.

While FOUR PAWS has, together with partners, delivered essential support with the establishment of a large, sustainable platform for the distribution of food (more about this in chapter 5), we have also independently supported some smaller ‘Communal Enterprises’, which are veterinarian clinics with corresponding shelters, in Vinnytsia and Mykolaiv, as well as a private shelter near Kyiv. The Vinnytsia Municipal Shelter was visited by the FOUR PAWS SAC team, delivering much needed food. Early March, 1,5 ton of dry food had been delivered, enough to feed the approximately 320 dogs for about a month. Mid-March, FOUR PAWS delivered 1 tons of dog food to the Communal Enterprise in Mykolaiv with about 40 dogs. Furthermore, FOUR PAWS arranged two emergency food deliveries for zoo animals in Ukraine and during the first food delivery in April, there was the chance as well to bring 1,8 tons of pet food that was delivered to a shelter close to Kyiv Zoo: SOS Shelter in Pyrogovo, a private shelter that rescues and rehomes stray animals and currently takes care of more than 300 animals. Furthermore, people came from different places to take pet food and distribute it in their areas.



March 8, 2022: Delivery of 1,5 tons of pet food to Vinnytsia Municipal Shelter.
© FOUR PAWS

Output: Direct delivery of 4,3 tons of pet food that provided nearly 700 dogs with food for one month.

3.2. Emergency feeding in Mykolaiv and Kherson

The life of stray dogs and cats is hard, very hard. Every day is a struggle for them to find food to stay alive and to find shelter against extreme weather conditions. There is competition amongst strays, and human-stray conflicts occur on a daily basis. Mykolaiv has become one of the most bombed and shelled cities in Ukraine. The neighbouring

region Kherson was only recently liberated and now lacks all basic needs: water, electricity, etc. While life for strays is always incredibly hard, in times of war it is even harder. Therefore, in December, FOUR PAWS and UPAW established a feeding project for stray animals in Mykolaiv and neighbouring region Kherson, to ease the daily search for food. A total of 24 tons was delivered in two separate deliveries. (NOTE: although this is a partnership between FOUR PAWS and the organisation UPAW, it is separate from the UPAW platform that FOUR PAWS helped establish in order to distribute food to registered shelters and volunteers)

Output: 24 tons of pet food, which ensured around 4,000 dogs and cats (2,000 dogs with 20 tons and 2,000 cats with 4 tons) with food for an entire month.



December 20, 2022: Delivery and distribution of 24 tons of pet food in Mykolaiv and Kherson.
© FOUR PAWS

4. OTHER FOUR PAWS ACTIVITIES

An overview of some other projects done by FOUR PAWS for stray and shelter animals in Ukraine.

4.1. Animal welfare survey

FOUR PAWS has conducted the first ever survey in Ukraine to find out about the welfare of companion animals during the war and what support is needed by shelters and volunteers in Ukraine to help those animals. The survey showed that the biggest problem is still abandonment of pets alongside the need for sterilisation of animals living on the streets and for pet food for pets, strays and shelter animals. The survey had 670 respondents and was open for 20 days. The full survey results can be found [here](#).

Output: An understanding of the biggest companion animal welfare problems during the war thanks to 670 respondents.

4.2. Heating systems for Vinnytsia shelter

In September, FOUR PAWS provided a heating system for additional kennel blocks in the shelter of Vinnytsia to provide the animals with a comfortable environment during the winter months.

Output: reaching around 100 dogs.

4.3. Shelter Adoption Academy

In November, FOUR PAWS launched the Shelter Adoption Academy. This is a free e-learning course designed to help shelters increase their local adoption rate by providing best practice guidelines to help improve the skills and knowledge of shelter staff and volunteers, supporting them to overcome the most common challenges to adoption. It aims to substantially increase the adoption rate in shelters so that thousands of dogs are placed in responsible and caring homes, create a local adoption culture and improve the quality of life for animals during their stay in shelters.

Output: Transforming shelters from permanent homes to rehoming centers by substantially increasing local adoption rates.

5. PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

FOUR PAWS is dedicated to make an impact for animals in need around the world, and while being active in Ukraine for over a decade for both companion animals and wild animals, it is without a doubt that the damage caused by the Russian invasion is greater than anyone could have ever foreseen. This requires a greater approach, and therefore FOUR PAWS has joined forces and entered into new partnerships to help as many animals in need as possible.

5.1. UPAW

The need for dog and cat food in Ukraine is so big, we cannot meet these requests alone. Therefore, together with Dogs Trust Worldwide, we have supported International Registration System Animal ID to launch a new organisation called Ukrainian Pet Association Worldwide: UPAW. The main objective of UPAW is to provide food to starving dogs and cats. The special website works as a platform where Ukrainian shelters can register and fill in information regarding their most needed requirements, mainly food and other supplies. FOUR PAWS has provided the platform, the IT system and the logistic basis, so that food can be distributed efficiently and to ensure a platform exists where others feel comfortable donating to. Warehouses have been set up to store and distribute the food within Ukraine. In this way, FOUR PAWS and others are able to provide a large number of registered and verified shelters and volunteers with a way to request pet food and other humanitarian aid supplies. In addition, pet food suppliers can also make in-kind donations for onward distribution to shelters in Ukraine. This transparent system helps collecting and distributing aid to those in need fairly and equally across the country.

Output: UPAW has taken care of the distribution of more than 1,000,000 kilogrammes of humanitarian aid, which has reached over 110,000 dogs and cats.



April 1, 2022: Delivery of food through UPAW to “Chance Shelter” in Zaporizhzhia,
© UPAW

5.2. Project Povidok

Thousands of pets have already been reported missing in Ukraine during wartime. Prior to the war, pet identification was not popular in Ukraine. During an emergency evacuation or when there are a lot of explosions around, there is a high risk of losing a pet. Not being able to identify the pet, makes it nearly impossible to reunite it with the owner. To prevent pets from getting lost (during an emergency), FOUR PAWS together with Animal ID have set up ‘Project Povidok’ (Povidok means ‘collar’ in Ukrainian) to protect as many pets of Ukraine as possible by being identified with a QR ID tag and be registered in the special Pet Care App, free of charge. A QR ID tag is a small token that can be clipped onto a pet’s collar or harness. FOUR PAWS and Animal ID spread the QR ID tags for free

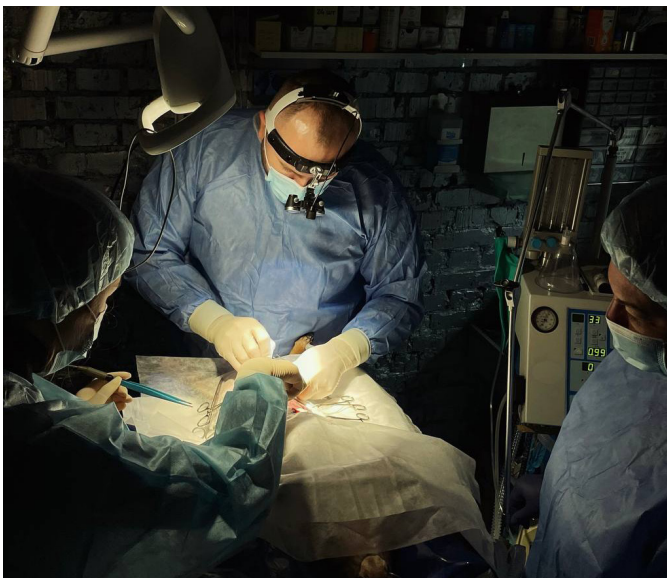
through a network of shops that can be found even in very remote areas. The owner signs up to a database and if the animal gets lost, whoever finds the dog or cat can scan the code with his or her phone and directly reunite the lost pet with its owner. Although microchips have one distinct advantage over a QR ID tag – they are permanent and cannot get lost or removed – they can only be implanted by a veterinarian (and many people in rural areas do not have easily access to a veterinarian, especially not in these challenging times) and they are rather costly. Therefore the QR ID tag is the best option for many pet owners.

Output: FOUR PAWS supported 20,000 dogs getting a QR ID tag.



August 2, 2022: A dog with a QR ID tag on its collar.
© FOUR PAWS

5.3. USAVA Collaboration



December 20, 2022: Working in challenging circumstances, in a basement and sometimes hours without electricity, in Zaporizhzhia.
© FOUR PAWS | USAVA

With winter looming over war-torn Ukraine, FOUR PAWS started a new project in collaboration with USAVA (Ukrainian Small Animal Veterinary Association), an umbrella organisation uniting many small animal veterinary practices in Ukraine. At the end of 2022, USAVA contracted three private veterinary clinics in three cities most affected by the current war: Mykolaiv, Sumy, and Zaporizhzhia. The objective of the project is to continue to provide veterinary services to companion animals (both strays and pets) in these areas. We want to ensure that cats and dogs that are sick or injured or need other medical treatments like sterilisation to prevent pregnancies, or vaccinations, can continue to receive them at their local private veterinarian. We are also reaching out to local shelters and volunteers taking care of strays and let them know to which clinics they can bring animals for free treatments.

Output: Over 700 dogs and cats have been treated in three private clinics in 2022.

About FOUR PAWS

FOUR PAWS is the global animal welfare organisation for animals under direct human influence, which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them. Founded in 1988 in Vienna by Heli Dungler and friends, the organisation advocates for a world where humans treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding. The sustainable campaigns and projects of FOUR PAWS focus on companion animals including stray dogs and cats, farm animals and wild animals – such as bears, big cats and orangutans – kept in inappropriate conditions as well as in disaster and conflict zones. With offices in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Kosovo, the Netherlands, Switzerland, South Africa, Thailand, Ukraine, the UK, the USA and Vietnam as well as sanctuaries for rescued animals in eleven countries, FOUR PAWS provides rapid help and long-term solutions.



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