



# 2022

## ANNUAL REPORT



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Published by  
*FOUNDATION SAVE THE DOGS  
AND OTHER ANIMALS E.T.S.*

Photographs  
*Lillith Photo, Marco Giarracca, Save the Dogs*

Printing  
*Graphicscalve Spa*

Graphic design  
*Studio Akhu*

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# METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The Annual Report of *Save the Dogs and other Animals* E.T.S. aims to communicate and evaluate the results achieved by the Foundation, providing additional elements of its transparency and accountability as available for consultation by its stakeholders. This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions dictated by the Code of the Third Sector (Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July, 2017), to which *Save the Dogs* has complied from a structural point of view. It is inspired by principles of full disclosure, thoroughness, transparency, neutrality, respect of the time period, comparability, clarity, truthfulness and verifiability, reliability and autonomy concerning third parties.

The structure of the financial statements contained in this edition has been implemented in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Financial Statements Social Report of Third Sector Entities" issued by the Ministry of Labor and Political Social Affairs, Decree of 4 July, 2019.

Save the Dogs and other Animals E.T.S. is a recognized Foundation, registered as "SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS ENTITY OF THE THIRD SECTOR" (protocol no. 102012; VAT no. 97394230151) in section "g - Other Third Sector Organizations" as referred to in Article 46, paragraph 1 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July, 2017, in accordance with Article 22 of Legislative Decree No. 117 of 3 July, 2017, and Article 16 of Ministerial Decree No. 106 of 15 September, 2020, issued by the RUNTS Office of the Lombardy Region.





# Message from the President



The pace at which a non-profit organization progresses through the various stages of its history is never a uniform one.

There are moments of **significant acceleration**, perhaps thanks to a substantial testamentary bequest that enables us to expand projects and strengthen the team; and there are **unexpected setbacks**, such as those caused by a pandemic, which paralyzes activities and reduces the impact of our projects.

**2022 was most certainly a year of great acceleration**, driven unfortunately by the tragedy of the war in Ukraine, which led to a **long series of direct repercussions on Save the Dogs, not all of which we could have foreseen.**

We have always been an international entity, with partners and connections throughout Europe, but becoming an operational and logistical reference point for sending aid directly to Ukraine **has opened up new collaborations with British and American organizations** with whom we had never interacted before. The opening of a legal office in the USA arose precisely from the need to facilitate private and institutional donors from that continent, which has shown ever increasing interest in *Save the Dogs* as one of the most well-structured and solid animal protection organizations in the Eastern European region.

Another consequence was undoubtedly the **enormous operational workload imposed on the teams** in Italy and Romania and the **necessity of bringing in additional personnel** to manage the huge volume of materials, contacts and new donors that flowed in during the emergency. Managing the substantial funds that arrived for the Ukrainian animals (which were earmarked, I would like to stress, for use only in that country) diverted our attention away from seeking funds to support our projects in Italy and Romania. We are indeed witnessing the consequences of this “imbalance” in 2023, which is likely to have a major impact on our activities, particularly given the galloping rise in inflation.

The final repercussion of the events of 2022 on *Save the Dogs* is without a shadow of a doubt the **strengthening of our contacts with Italian and Romanian media**, which has enabled us to recount the drama of refugees fleeing war with their animals. This has further enhanced *Save the Dogs*' good reputation in Italy, while the release of my (expanded) autobiography in Romania has finally opened up a dialogue with the general public in that country.

At the end of a hectic year that saw significant expansion of the team in Italy and Romania, we made the decision to take an important step: **that of becoming a recognized Foundation and registering with RUNTS**, the newly established National Single Register of the Third Sector. This is a very clear choice that aligns perfectly with the principles of **maximum transparency, continuity in the association's values and strategy, and growing financial stability**, with a small patrimony to protect the Foundation itself. As we prepare this Annual Report, the transformation from an association to a foundation is already a done deal, and the new course – which includes two individuals with extensive experience in animal protection on the Board of Directors – has already begun. It is for this reason we have decided to introduce the Foundation and the new Board of Directors, which technically approved this Annual Report, in the presentation of the structure of our organization.

In all likelihood, 2023 will be a year of transition, with a return to a situation more similar to that of 2021, without the threat of the pandemic but with a concerning increase in fixed costs caused by the international economic climate. These are new challenges that the Foundation will have to meet, in order to build a future that will help an ever-increasing number of dogs and cats.





# Who we are

It is estimated that there are around 600 million stray dogs worldwide, and an immeasurable number of animals are locked up in kennels from East to West, often condemned to death or destined never to be adopted.

It was to address the tragedy of canine overpopulation that *Save the Dogs and Other Animals* was founded in 2002 by Sara Turetta, a former advertising professional from Milan, after she took a dramatic trip to Romania. Here, the phenomenon of stray animals is particularly severe and, as in many parts of the world, abandoned dogs are killed by the thousands after spending a short time in squalid municipal facilities, just as was the case in Italy before 1991.

With its team of 50 operators, *Save the Dogs* runs an integrated project to combat stray

animal populations in the southeast of the country, restoring dignity to thousands of abandoned animals by **providing treatment for them, offering sterilization programs and rehoming them with adoptive families**. The association's headquarters is *Footprints of Joy*, a Northern European complex that includes a shelter for 200 dogs, a cattery, and a sanctuary for 80 abandoned or maltreated horses and donkeys. In 2017, an 800-square-meter social clinic was inaugurated with the establishment of an environmentally friendly building that serves a vast territory with no veterinary services. To date, the association has provided free sterilization for approximately **41,200 animals, including dogs and cats**, while thanks to an intensive **international adoption program** more than **8,200 animals** have been placed with adoptive families through a network of partner organizations in various European countries.

In addition to **sterilization programs and emergency care**, *Save the Dogs* promotes a **culture of understanding and respect** by conducting **educational outreach activities** with schools involving various entities from the **local community** (centers for people with disabilities, prisons, old people's homes) in order to build **mutually positive connections** between people and animals.

Drawing on its experience in the country with the most dramatic stray animal situation in Europe, *Save the Dogs* launched "**Too Many Puppies**" in 2019, a stray prevention program dedicated to parts of Southern Italy. The project, which initially began with stray dogs and privately-owned dogs in the Litorale Domizio area near Naples, was expanded after the first three years to the Caserta region, specifically Castel Volturno. A similar intervention was also launched in 2021 in Calabria in the provinces of Cosenza and Crotona. As of the present, **2,200 animals have already been sterilized in Italy** thanks to *Save the Dogs*.

In 2021, the "**Friends on the Streets, Companions for Life**" project was launched, providing basic necessities and free veterinary care for dogs belonging to the homeless in Milan. To date, the team has reached out to and assisted 70 people and their four-legged companions.

In the aftermath of the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, *Save the Dogs* immediately committed to **providing aid for people fleeing the country with their pets**. Between March and July 2022, a fixed outpost was set up at the border between Romania and Ukraine for the distribution of essential goods. From March 2022 to the present, *Save the Dogs* has sent over 720,000 kilograms of food to ensure the survival of over 5,000 animals left behind in the country.

## ROMANIA

**41,200**

ANIMALS STERILIZED

**8,200**

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS

## ITALY

**2,200**

ANIMALS STERILIZED

## UKRAINE

MORE THAN **1,000**

PEOPLE FLEEING WITH ANIMALS ASSISTED AT THE ROMANIAN-UKRAINIAN BORDER

**780,000**

KILOS OF FOOD DISPATCHED TO UKRAINE

## AWARDS

*Save the Dogs* has received numerous international awards, including the **Marsh International Animal Welfare Award** and the **Jeanne Marchig Award**. The founder was honored in 2012 with the distinction of the **Order of the Star of Italy** by President Napolitano. She also received the **Clarissa Baldwin Award** from the British organization Dogs Trust, and in 2022, she was awarded the **Margherita d'Argento** (an award granted by the 'Oasi Felina' Feline Sanctuary in Trieste).

## WE ARE A MEMBER OF

the EU Dog & Cat Alliance, Editorial Committee of VITA.



# How much we raised in 2022

**COMPANIES**  
104.505 €

**FOUNDATIONS**  
771.002 €

**PARTNERS & ASSOCIATIONS**  
891.341 €

**FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS**  
1.342.908 €

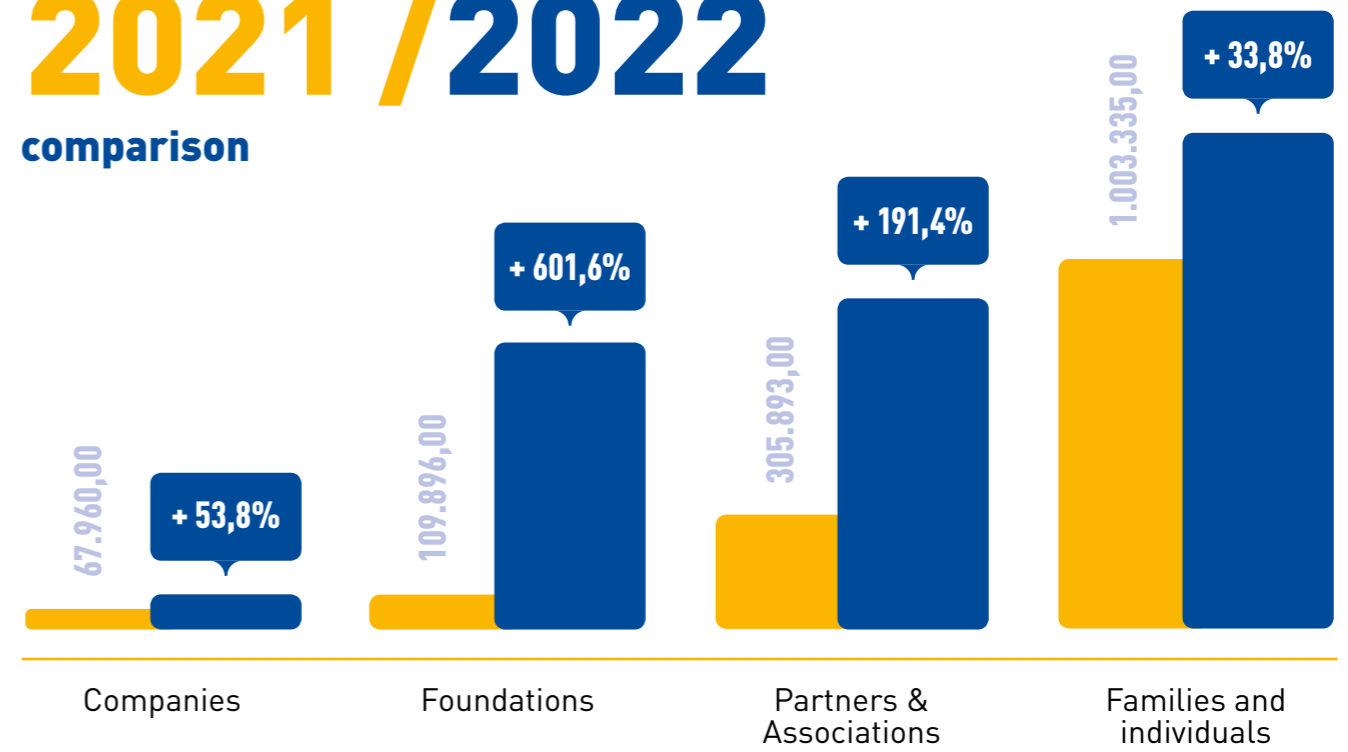


**+ 109%**

**61.000 €**

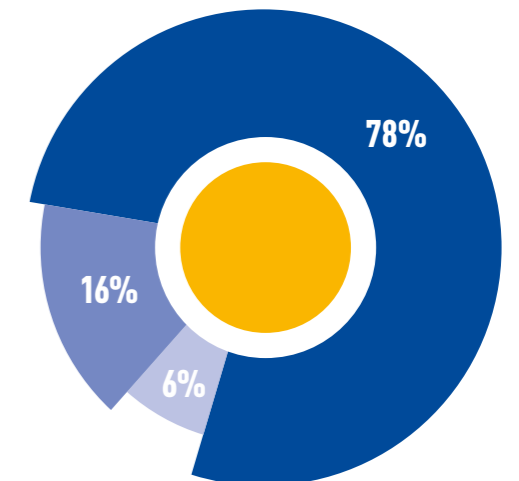
**in-kind donations** from companies and individuals

# 2021 / 2022 comparison

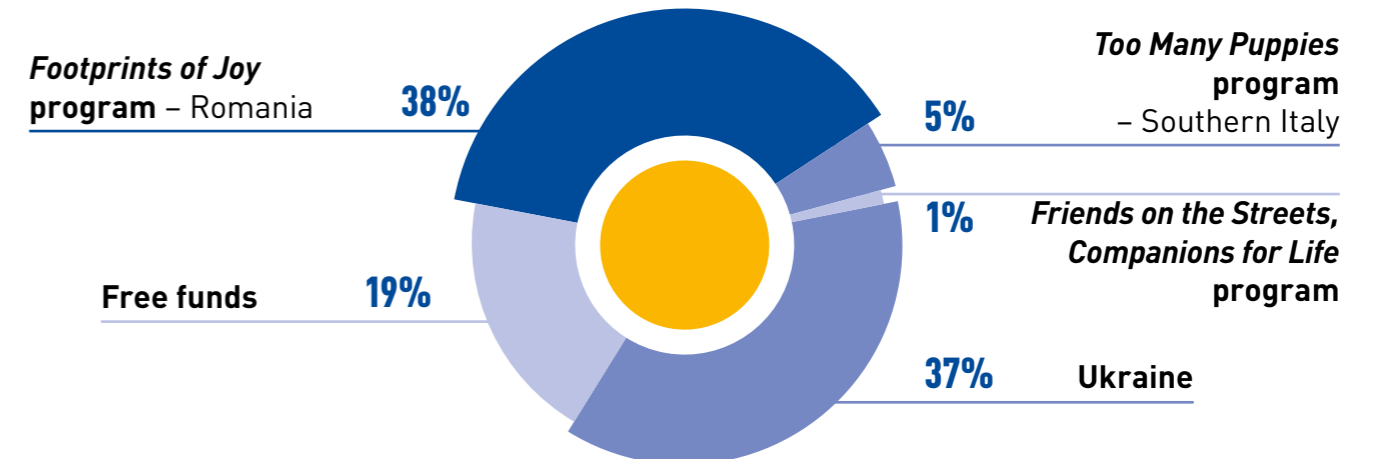


## How we spent the funds

Promotions and Fundraising	515.959 €
Structural costs	220.006 €
Typical activities	2.549.858 €
<b>TOTAL CHARGES</b>	<b>3.285.823 €</b>



## Funds allocated to programs by area of focus







# Mission

We strive for a world where every dog and cat can lead a **dignified life**, whether with a loving family or living wild and free. In order for this to be possible, it is essential to promote the **responsible ownership of pets** and **reduce the number of animals bred** by those who perpetuate the existence of **strays** and the disastrous reality of **dog pounds**.

*Save the Dogs* acts in accordance with its founding principles of **empathy, compassion, solidarity, transparency and lawfulness** and is committed to improving the **effectiveness of its activities**, encouraging constructive communication with its various different stakeholders and increasing **social responsibility** both within and outside the organization.

## → The values we believe in



### The animals

- **non-violence** and **respect** for all living things
- the promotion of **animal well-being**
- **empathy** and **compassion**
- **harmonious cohabitation** between humans and animals
- **protection of the weak** and **the creation of mutually beneficial shared channels** between vulnerable animals and humans

### Our Supporters

- **transparency** about all the financial and operational aspects involved
- **truthful, fair, unambiguous and non-piteous communication**
- **conscientious use** of funds that are in accordance with the donors' intentions
- non-violent **communication** based on the principles of the Manifesto of Non-Hostile Communication



### Our Collaborators

- a serene working environment
- the **safeguarding of well-being in the workplace**
- **compliance with applicable employment law legislation** in the countries where we operate
- **stable contracts** for as many employees as possible
- use of the remote 'smart working' from home formula to improve conditions for the staff

### Environment

- selection of suppliers that offer **eco-sustainable products** (e.g., FSC paper)
- elimination of **single-use plastic**
- use of **renewable energy sources** wherever possible
- limiting home-to-office travel by staff
- waste **recycling**





# A strategy to combat overpopulation and the phenomenon of stray animals



## ➔ Using prevention as a weapon

For many years, the English-speaking world has been fully aware of the **serious worldwide problem of canine and feline overpopulation** and the fact that there are millions more domestic animals being born than there are families willing to take them into their homes. This **man-made imbalance** of wanting to fulfill a (legitimate) desire to share one's life with dogs and cats has resulted in a **tremendous price being paid** both in terms of **animal suffering** (millions are being euthanized or cramped into tiny facilities or are roaming the streets with no protection or safeguards) and in **economic terms**, with a massive amount of public funds being spent by authorities around the world killing or locking up unwanted street cats and dogs.

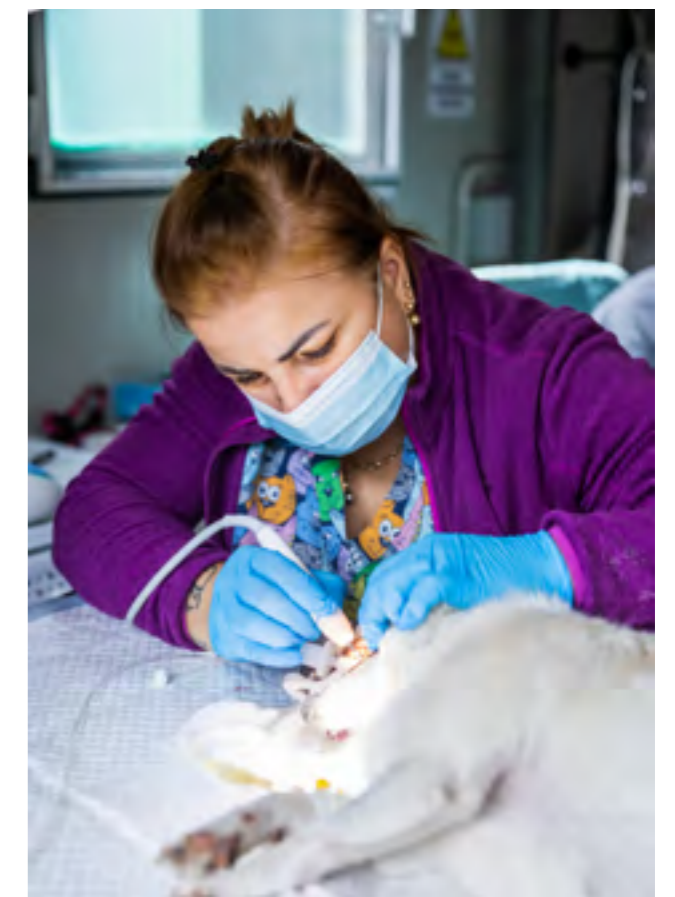
This awareness on behalf of Anglo-Saxon countries is not, unfortunately, echoed in a similar way in countries that have Latin or Slavic cultures, where a combination of historical and socio-economic factors has seen the problem of overpopulation becoming ever more serious (there is a greater resistance to carrying out birth control methods), with **animal protection organizations primarily focusing on one aspect: finding homes for animals that have already been born**. Noble and important as this is, this approach is ultimately not a solution.

*Save the Dogs* has espoused the philosophy of the Anglo-Saxon animal protection movement and has chosen to tackle the problem of canine and feline overpopulation and stray animals by **prioritizing the root causes** rather than the consequences.

**Prevention is therefore central to everything we do**, addressing the reasons that lead to an excessive number of animals being born and investing in the single action that has the greatest impact on the canine and feline population: namely, **sterilization**. By sterilizing one animal, we are effectively saving the lives of thousands of dogs and cats that will not be born to that individual animal and its offspring.

In an ideal world, it would be the responsibility of a country's authorities to recognize prevention as a priority. One would therefore expect there to be free or subsidized sterilization programs, both in Italy and in Romania. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

***Save the Dogs'* prime objective is to convince the local administrations where we operate to invest in prevention** rather than continuing to spend alarming amounts of money on managing dog pounds or on the killing of animals, actions that have proven to be both ineffective and unethical.





## → Local community involvement

The issue of overpopulation is closely linked to that of **responsible coexistence with animals**, which signifies not only taking responsibility for birth control but also understanding their needs, respecting their well-being, and enforcing laws regarding identification and official registration. In our view, it is therefore essential to **integrate veterinary activities such as sterilization with other types of initiatives of a cultural, educational, and social nature** in order to stimulate a change in the mentality regarding coexistence with cats and dogs and,

consequently, responsibility for birth control. From a strategic point of view, **involving the local community does lead to a lasting change in mentality**, as well as fostering beneficial relationships between *Save the Dogs* and other entities in this area. Furthermore, by offering opportunities to vulnerable populations such as the elderly, disabled individuals, refugees, and prisoners, we are able to demonstrate that animals can be life companions and **positive contributors to our society**, even when they are considered “cast-offs” to be eliminated or hidden from view.



## → Contributing to Sustainable Development Goals

Working with local communities and actively engaging in impoverished rural areas (in Romania) means that *Save the Dogs*' initiatives are in line with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), signed on 25 September, 2015. All 193 signatory countries have committed to achieving the agreed-upon targets within the set timeframe, including Italy, with everyone being called to account: governments, businesses, institutions, civil society organizations, and individuals. Animal welfare organizations are also playing a significant role in this endeavor, contributing in concrete ways to achieving these goals.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an important reference point for our work, and *Save the Dogs* is an active participant, focusing in particular on 6 key objectives:



### 1 No poverty & 2 No Hunger

Working animals in Romania are essential to the livelihoods of the poorest communities. Ensuring free veterinary care and equipment for donkeys and horses helps owners keep their animals healthy, which has a positive impact on household economies.



### 3 Good health and well-being

The *One Health* concept recognizes that the health and well-being of humans, animals, and ecosystems are all interconnected. By protecting the health of animals, we are also safeguarding the health of the humans who live in contact with them and the surrounding environment.



### 10 Reduced inequalities

We strive to improve the quality of life of vulnerable animals and people (the elderly, the disabled, children, prisoners) through projects that involve both, thereby adopting an inclusive approach.



### 15 Life on land

We combat the issue of stray animals and canine and feline overpopulation, which has a significant impact on wildlife as well as on the lives of communities. We actively work to ensure that pets and working animals can lead a dignified and healthy life.



### 17 Partnership for the goals

Public-private partnerships can be effective in supporting initiatives aimed at improving animal welfare. *Save the Dogs* always seeks to partner with local Administrations, even if this is not always possible. We also network with other non-profit organizations whenever the opportunity presents itself. Furthermore, we establish collaborations with companies that prioritize animal rights, as demonstrated by our long-standing partnership with **Save The Duck**, the first Italian company to obtain the B Corp® certification in the fashion industry, founded in 2012 with the goal of creating a 100% animal-free product that respects animals, people, and the environment.



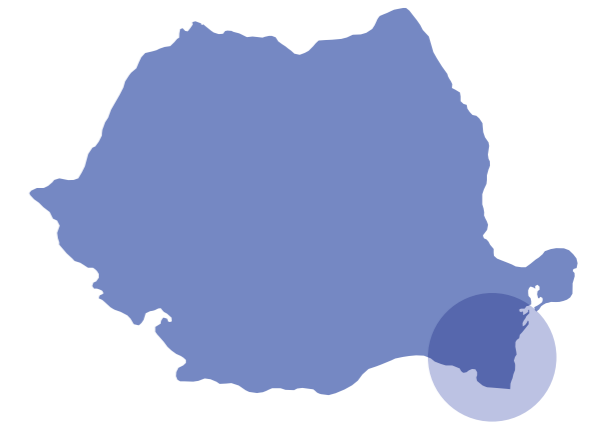


## → In Romania

With its team of 50 operators, *Save the Dogs* runs an integrated project to combat stray animal populations in Cernavoda in the southeast of the country, restoring dignity to thousands of abandoned animals by **providing treatment for them, offering sterilization programs and rehoming them with adoptive families**. The association's headquarters is *Footprints of Joy*, a Northern European complex that includes a shelter for 200 dogs, a cattery, and a sanctuary for 80 abandoned or maltreated horses and donkeys. In 2017, an 800-square-meter social clinic was inaugurated with the establishment of an environmentally friendly building that serves a vast territory with no veterinary services.

*Save the Dogs* seeks to be of benefit to both animals and vulnerable people living in the territories where the organization operates, in the firm belief that the **fate of those living on the margins of society is united by the same**

**lack of rights**, and that it is only by bringing these things together that it is possible to make the world a better place. For this reason, *Save the Dogs* has always implemented community-led programs in Romania to provide substantial benefits for people and animals living in vulnerable conditions, by means of door-to-door aid programs, education, and animal-assisted interventions.



How we work





## → In Italy

In Southern Italy, where we do not have a center like the one we have in Romania, our principal mode of intervention is via our local partners who play a strategic role in the “Too Many Puppies” program. These are voluntary associations that work together with us to combat the phenomenon of stray animals, and we are fully committed to **building lasting networks and relationships with these organizations**. Partnerships like these enable us to reinforce the framework of the local community by identifying deep-rooted realities that we can support by developing skillsets, strengthening infrastructures, and improving relationships with the local government authorities.

In Milan, as part of our “Friends on the Streets, Companions for Life” program, *Save the Dogs* has created operational synergies with various humanitarian entities that have long been involved in assisting the homeless. In addition, we are also collaborating with institutions to draw attention to structural rather than ad hoc issues regarding the attention that is given to animals, especially as they play an essential role in providing affection for vulnerable individuals, as is often the case where complex social phenomena is concerned.



### CAMPANIA

- **Project partner:** San Francesco Dog Shelter
- **Beneficiaries:** neighborhood dogs, stray dogs and cats, privately-owned dogs and cats
- **Area concerned:** Castel Volturno and the surrounding areas
- **Activities:** free sterilizations and microchipping, support for the San Francesco dog shelter
- **Period:** September 2022 - ongoing

### CALABRIA

- **Project partners:** Amici Animali FEF Association (Cosenza) and the Oasi Argo shelter (Crotone)
- **Institutional partners:** we have had a number of institutional meetings with a significant number of mayors, with whom we are working in order to achieve cultural growth which will lead to innovative regulatory provisions, striving to engage in a dialogue for improvements in regional legislation to combat stray animals. We are also maintaining a close collaboration with the municipality of Cirò Marina so that we can address issues related to the installation of the veterinary clinic we funded within the Oasi Argo shelter.
- **Beneficiaries:** stray dogs; neighborhood dogs; privately-owned dogs; dogs that are resident at the Oasi Argo shelter
- **Area concerned:** 20 municipalities in the province of Cosenza, the City Council of Cirò Marina
- **Activities:** sterilizations; microchipping; raising local awareness
- **Period:** March 2021 – ongoing

## → In Ukraine

In March 2022, *Save the Dogs* began assisting animals belonging to refugees from Ukraine and set up a fixed station at the border with Romania, as well as helping to organize first aid shipments to Odessa and Izmail. As the war continued and the border point at Isaccea was dismantled, the food aid operation was expanded and extended to other regions in the South and Southeast of Ukraine. Today, **the operation covers a wide area of Ukraine**, including **Kharkiv** in the northeast, **Mykolaiv** in the south, and Kherson behind the Russian front line.

Direct and constant communication with the network of Ukrainian shelters and, through them, with the hundreds of volunteers who are feeding stray cats and dogs, has been fundamental in order to understand the ongoing situation in the country, which can change from one day to the next, and also for adjusting the dispatch of essential goods, according to the prevailing situation. In 2023, we planned the launch of a free sterilization program.



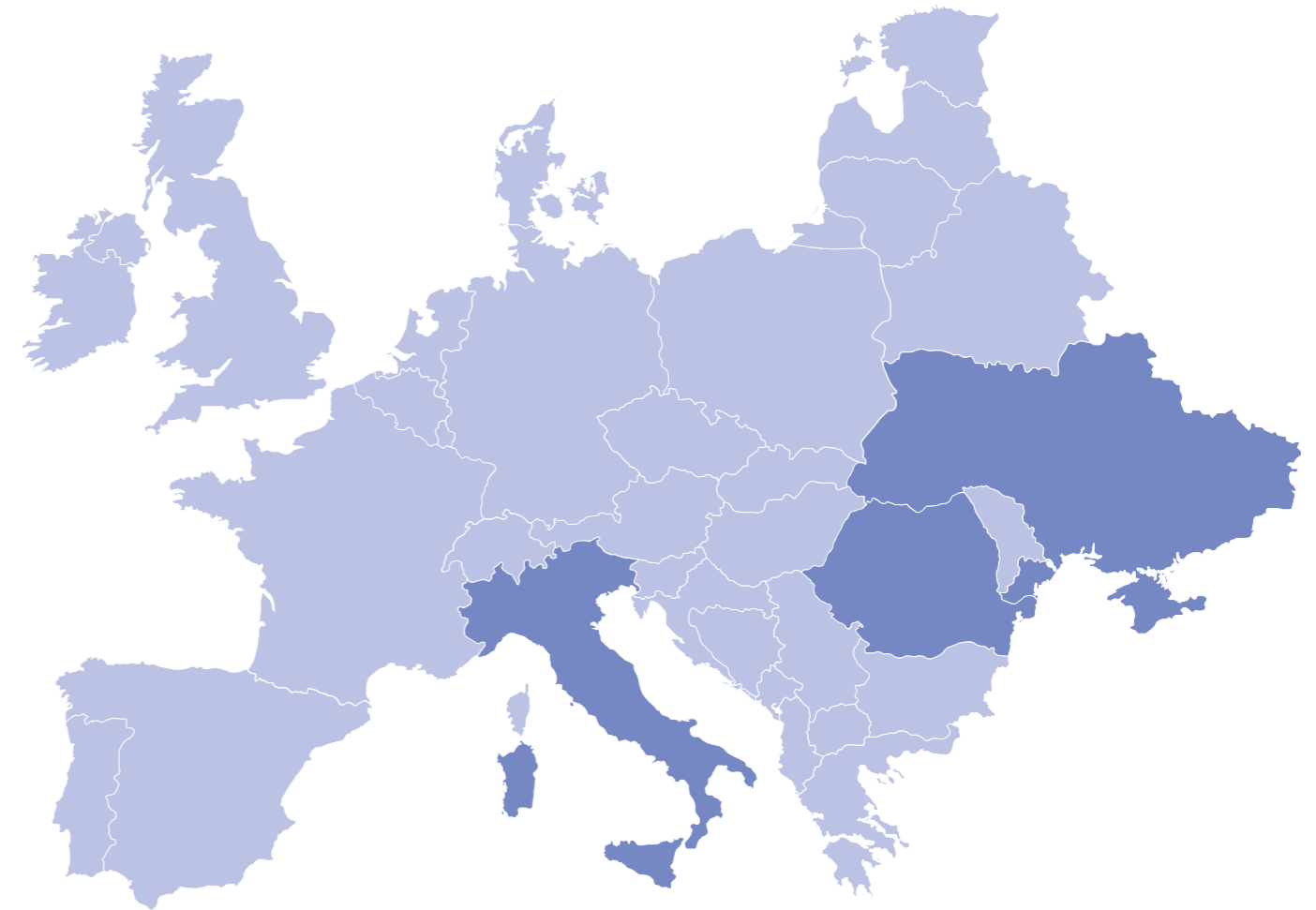
- **Project partner:** 20 shelters and 400 volunteers
- **Institutional partners:** Romanian border authorities, Ukrainian military authorities for the authorization of the local distribution of supplies
- **Beneficiaries:** stray dogs and cats, refugees accompanied by their pets, dog shelters and catteries
- **Area concerned:** 9 cities and over 80 villages in the areas of **Odessa**, **Kharkiv** in the northeast, **Mykolaiv** in the south, and **Kherson**
- **Activities:** distribution of food and essential supplies necessary for the animals' survival
- **Period:** March 2021 – ongoing





# The international structure

*Save the Dogs and other Animals E.T.S Foundation* is an international organization that is active in **Romania, Italy** and **Ukraine** with projects to combat the phenomenon of canine and feline stray animals.



STAFF



## → Italy

### SARA TURETTA

#### President and Founder

A former advertising executive, Sara abandoned her career in 2002 to move to Cernavoda, Romania, and launch Save the Dogs. After living in the country for many years, as recounted in her autobiography "I cani, la mia vita" ("Dogs are my life"), she decided to return permanently to Milan once the veterinary clinic had been completed in 2018, in order to establish the association's key projects in Italy and to focus on the organization's strategic development. Sara has received numerous national and international awards and prizes for her ongoing commitment to animals.

### BARBARA MASSA

#### Vice President

Having always been passionate about nature and animals, with a particular interest in ethology and botany, Barbara has transformed her lifelong interest into a renowned career.

After an initial period working as a volunteer in different kennels and shelters both in Italy and abroad, she has been working internationally in the field of equine welfare and protection since 2007. In 2009, she trained in the realm of Animal Assisted Interventions, subsequently specializing in working with donkeys, and managing targeted projects for people with special needs and children.

For 12 years, Barbara managed the Italian office of the British association *The Donkey Sanctuary* before becoming Country Manager for all of the European offices.

### SERGIO SELLITTO

#### Treasurer

Born in Milan, Italy, Sergio is a hospital surgeon and independent practitioner who graduated in Medicine and Surgery, specializing in Orthopedics and Traumatology. A lifelong animal lover, he was a volunteer with the National Animal Protection Agency for 25 years, where he served as National Vice President and National Treasurer. He has been the Director of a number of rescue shelters, including centres in Varese, Crema and Lucca, and has also been a member of the 'Consiglio Randagismo' advisory board for stray animals in the Lombardy Region. He lives in the province of Varese in the company of his 12 dogs and 5 cats.

### LUIGI CORBELLA

#### Supervisory Board

Born in Monza in 1967, Luigi Corbella is a certified public accountant, auditor and freelance journalist. Considered to be a leading expert in the Third Sector, he has collaborated for many years with numerous organizations, both from a business point of view and as a strategic consultant, particularly in the healthcare and social welfare sectors, as well as for prominent foundations, including Caritas Ambrosiana, the Fondazione Opera Aiuto Fraterno institution, Fondazione ISMU, Fondazione Feltrinelli and Fondazione Mondadori. A dog and nature lover, he regularly writes about non-profit issues for various newspapers (including *Avvenire* and *Il Sole 24 Ore*) and he has participated in countless specialist conferences and conventions at a national level.

## → Romania

### SARA TURETTA

#### President

### EMERIC TORKOS

#### Treasurer

An entrepreneur, Emeric lives in Bucharest. Together with his wife Marina, he has adopted numerous abandoned dogs and cats in his city. He supports various social causes, which range from humanitarian to environmental issues.

### ANDREA LENCHIEVICI

#### Director

Specializing in emergency medicine, Andrea works in a large hospital in Bucharest. Thanks to her intervention, many dozens of cats and dogs have been sterilized and adopted over the past two decades, many of them remaining permanently at Andrea's home.

### ELENA MIRCESCU

#### Auditor

## → USA

### SARA TURETTA

#### President

### GREGG TULLY

#### Treasurer

Gregg earned a Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from the University of California Santa Barbara in 2006.

He has a long international experience in managerial roles in the animal rights field as the Executive Director of the Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA), the largest association of wildlife centers in Africa, the Development Director of the Nepal Youth Foundation, and in Marketing and Communications at the Marin Humane Society in California.

Tully moved to Nepal in 2011 and worked as the Development and Communications Manager and acting Executive Director of the Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre. After receiving the Marin Humane Society's Humanitarian of the Year award for his commitment to animal protection worldwide, he moved to Thailand in 2012 to join Soi Dog Foundation, the largest animal protection organization in Southeast Asia.

He left Thailand to become the Executive Director of PASA in 2015, a position he held until early 2022.

### CRISTIANA RECANATI

#### Secretary

A lifelong animal lover, Cristiana is passionate about fostering a world in which animals are free, protected, respected and loved. She believes that education is key to enabling people to establish rapport with animals based on mutual respect, and that we can learn empathy and compassion from them.

In parallel with her long career at the United Nations, Cristiana's public service commitments include volunteering at various shelters and sanctuaries in New York and Italy. She advocates legislative changes for facilitating the adoption of stray dogs and cats, improving the conditions of farm animals and eliminating animal testing. She has also completed courses in Reiki for animals.

Together with Cristiana's dog Nocciola, she visits patients in rehabilitative and hospital settings via The Good Dog Foundation.

Since 2022, Cristiana has served as the Secretary of the Board of the Directors for *Save the Dogs* and *Other Animals US*.







# Our team

## ➔ Save the Dogs staff members in Italy

In 2022, *Save the Dogs* Italy welcomed new skillsets and professional qualities with the arrival of extra team members, both in the programming area and in the fundraising and administration departments.

This expansion represents a vital prerequisite for the organization's continuing growth, indispensable in ensuring that our processes are ever more efficient and enabling us to fully develop our projects for aiding animals going forward.



“After spending many years in Italy, Germany, Denmark, and Sweden, I realized that generating wealth for myself doesn't bring as much fulfillment as working for a better world, where the most vulnerable animals and people get the help they need.”

### INTRODUCING...

#### SOFIE BUMKE

##### Animal welfare officer and Street Unit Coordinator in Milan

Graduating in Social Sciences for Globalization, Sofie went on to earn an initial Master's Degree in ethology and dog education at a spin-off of the University of Padua, followed by a secondary Masters in Project Management at 24ore Business School. Sofie was 13 when she first started volunteering at a rescue shelter, and her love for animals in various forms has remained a passion ever since. She lives in Milan, where she coordinates the street unit of the "Friends on the Streets, Companions for Life" project, also working long-distance on the outreach Romanian program and tracking elements of the data collated. She travels to Romania every month, where she spends part of her time acting as dog educator for residents at the Save the dogs center, while also helping with some of the activities carried out in Cernavoda.

#### DANIEL FUCHS

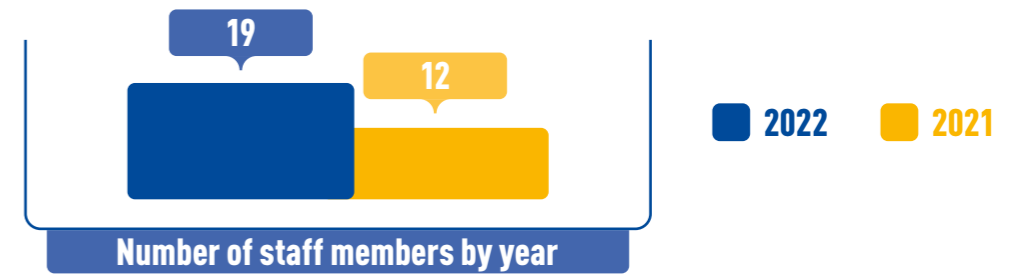
##### Logistics and Warehouse Manager

Daniel followed a multidisciplinary course of study and worked for a large company dealing with food safety in various countries in Europe with a cross-cutting approach, also dealing with logistics, administration, and sales. Starting from 2017, he began to undertake a series of international volunteering experiences that led him, after a few years, to leave his work in the for-profit world and move to the non-profit world. He has worked on environmental conservation in Thailand, on humanitarian emergencies in Greece, and he joined the *Save the Dogs* team in 2022.





## ➔ Save the Dogs Italy

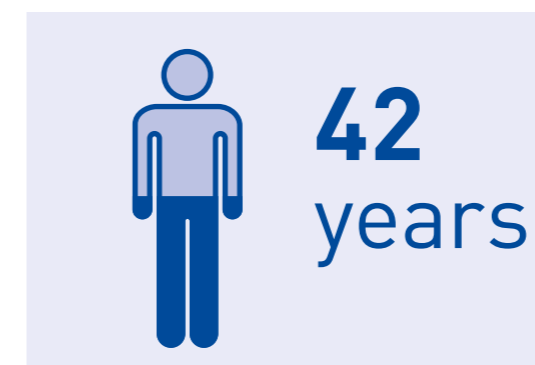


Number of staff members by year

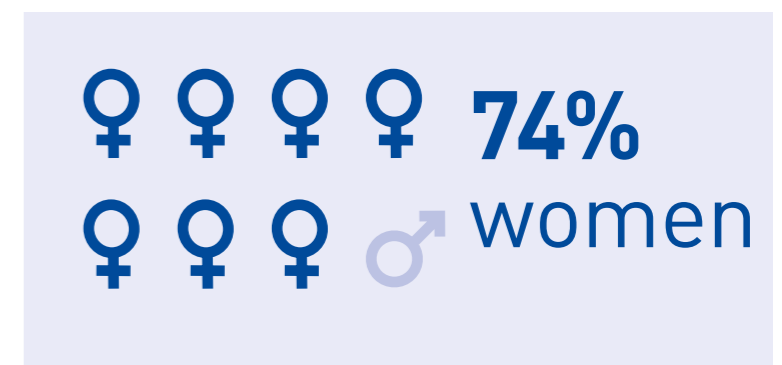
### Type of contracts



### Average age of employees



### Percentage of women



Maximum salary

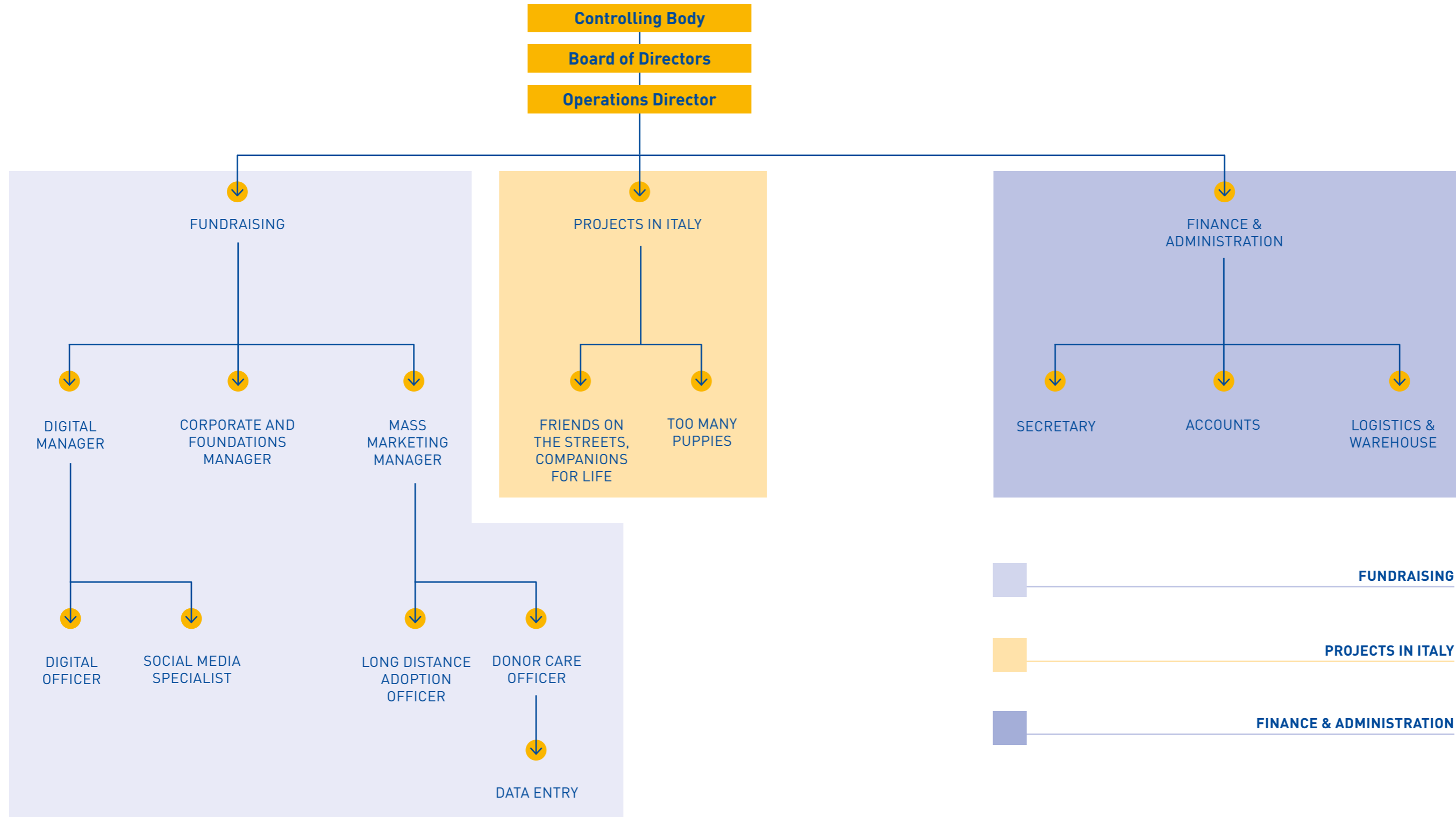
2.200 (Director)

Minimum salary

1.000 (internship)



# → Save the Dogs Italy Organizational Management





## → Save the Dogs staff members in Romania

In 2022, the *Save the Dogs* team in Romania welcomed new key professionals to support the organization's future growth and increase our impact in the region.

**Gregg Tully** was hired as the Executive Director and joined the team right at the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis. He personally managed the emergency response, establishing new international contacts and significantly contributing to the increase in revenues in 2022.

At the Isaccea border between Romania and Ukraine, we met the new Director of Cernavoda, **Adriana Susma**, her Deputy, **Steliana Mazilu**, and the new Director of the Community Engagement program, **Liliana Pacheco** from Spain.

**However, recruiting qualified staff in Cernavoda remains a critical aspect** of running our center, given the difficulty in attracting expertise to Cernavoda, especially veterinarians and nurses.

### INTRODUCING...

#### ADRIANA SUSMĂ

##### Managing Director

Adriana's professional career started 10 years ago with a Junior Project Manager role as volunteer in an NGO focused on human rights and youth educational programs. After this, she chose to be actively involved in several projects as a volunteer by coordinating and managing various teams from 5 to 100 people in different contexts and countries.

In parallel, she gained further skills by working in the corporate environment for around 5 years, where she specialized in high levels of customer service and project management. She is currently following the Intercultural Management Master Program at the University of Bucharest and is working on her thesis about women in leadership.

One of the happiest moments of her life was 12 years ago when she finally adopted her first cat, a childhood dream. She currently resides with three cats and a dog, which were all rescued off the streets.

#### STELIANA MAZILU

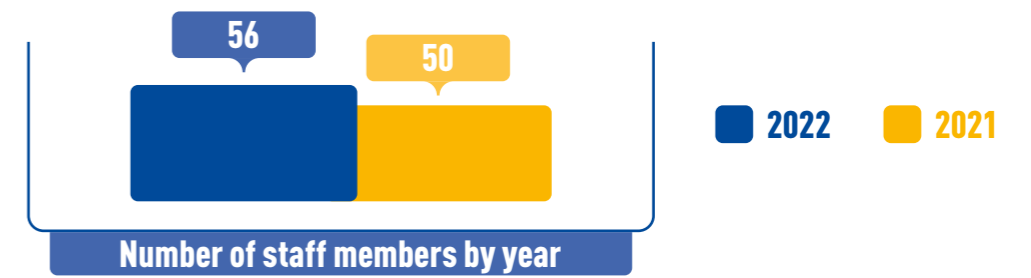
##### Assistant Director

Animal lover and nature enthusiast, Steliana fell head over heels with *Save the Dogs* right from the very first moment. She decided to leave her previous job after working as Cloud Project Manager for many years and joined the Cernavoda team in December 2022.

If she is not in her office, you can be sure to find her out with the donkeys, which are her new passion and inspiration!



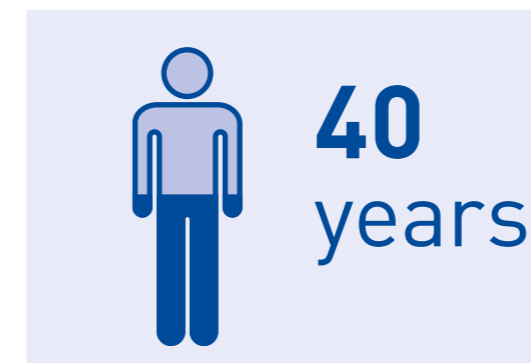
## → Save the Dogs Romania



### Type of contracts



### Average age of employees

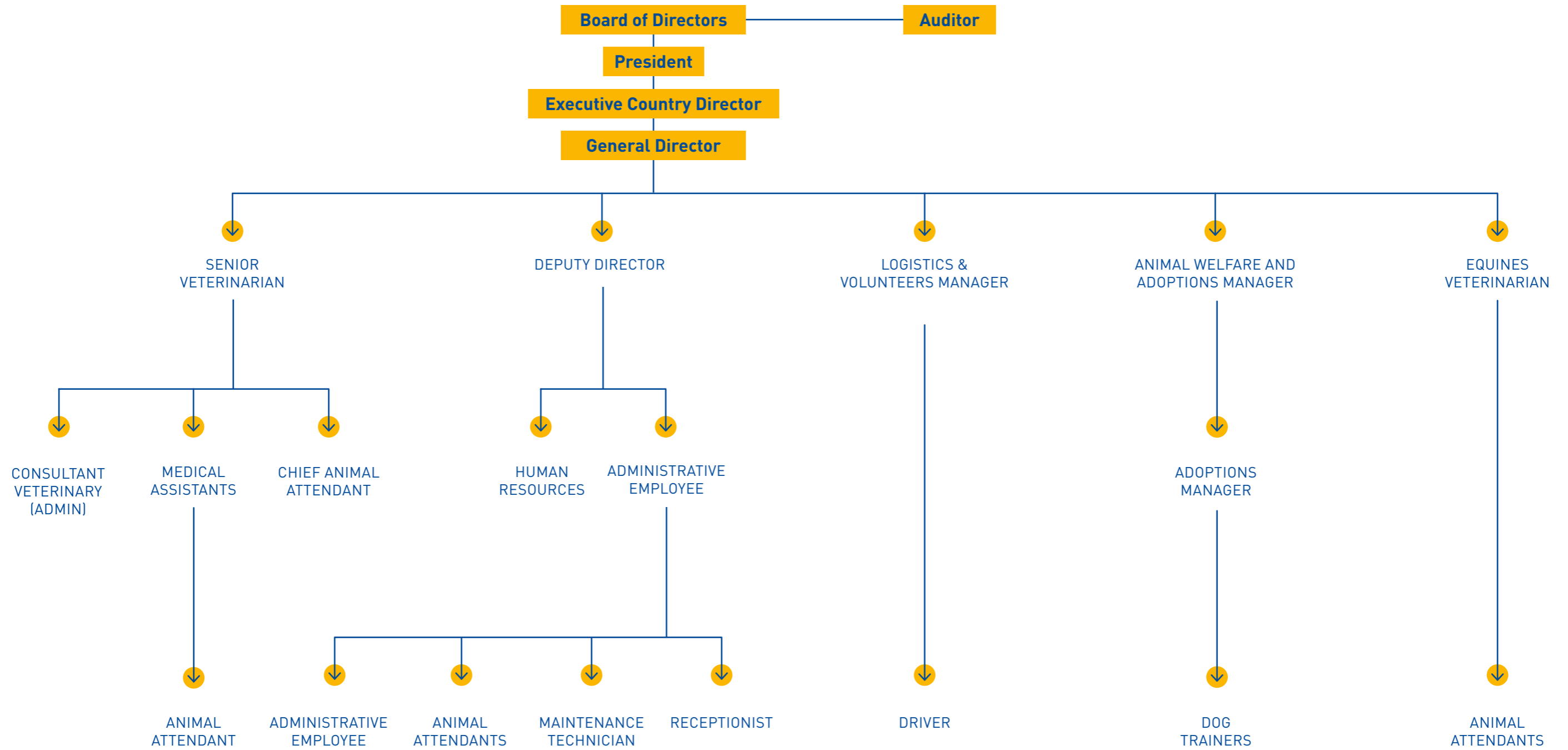


### Percentage of women





# → Save the Dogs Romania Organizational Management





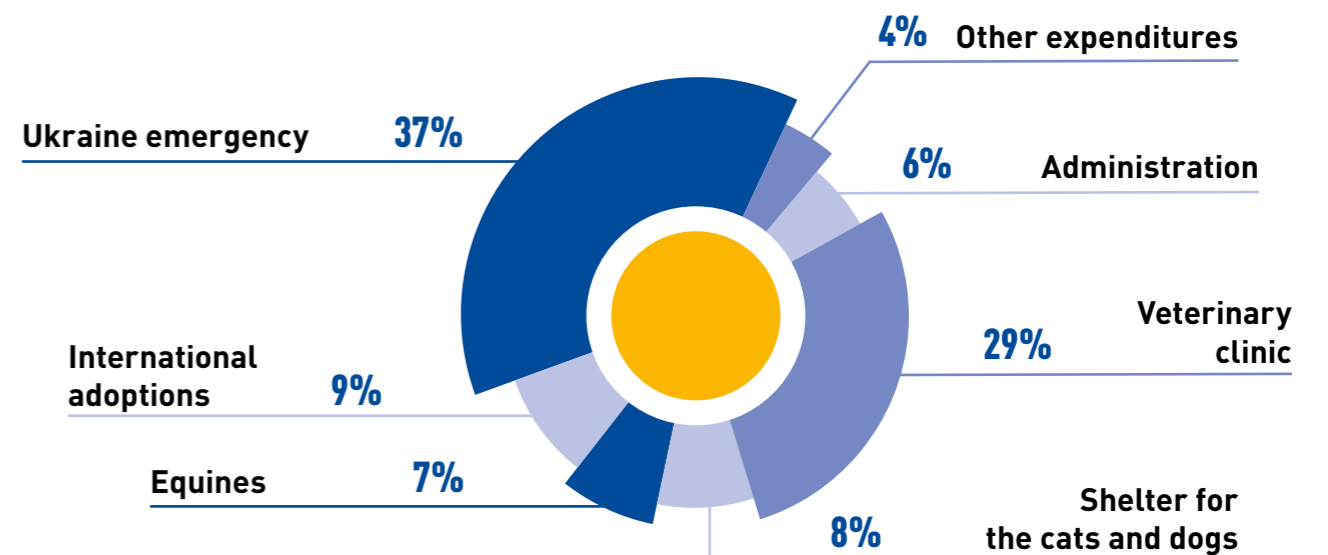
# What we did in 2022 in ROMANIA

A slight increase in the amount of sterilizations carried out, a significant decrease in the number of adoptions. These are the two key elements that emerge when analyzing the statistics of our work in Romania in 2022, most certainly influenced by the changing European scenario and the arrival of many dogs from Ukraine, welcomed by countries that were previously used to taking in Romanian dogs. It is however a struggle to develop a mentality that is favorable to local adoption in Romania, a country still divided between the rural culture of the provinces and a demand for purebred dogs in the cities, the latter driven by unregulated and rampant commercialization. In this context, one counter trend is the increasing number of European cats being adopted into families in Bucharest, which unfortunately is not observed in the provincial areas where *Save the Dogs* is operational. Sterilizations have shown limited growth due to the **shortage of veterinarians**, which was partially compensated by the arrival

of a support team from the capital city. On the other hand, relationships with the **local community** have strengthened, **with more people becoming increasingly willing to have their animals sterilized**. This encouraging trend reaffirms the valuable role that organizations like *Save the Dogs* can have in promoting the benefits of **sterilization** as a **good practice**, integral to responsible coexistence.

One final reflection: it is worth noting that despite the fact that some staff members were involved in manning the station at the Ukrainian front and providing emergency assistance, **the overall figures of our work in Cernavoda have not been affected**. This is an important achievement and was by no means a foregone conclusion.

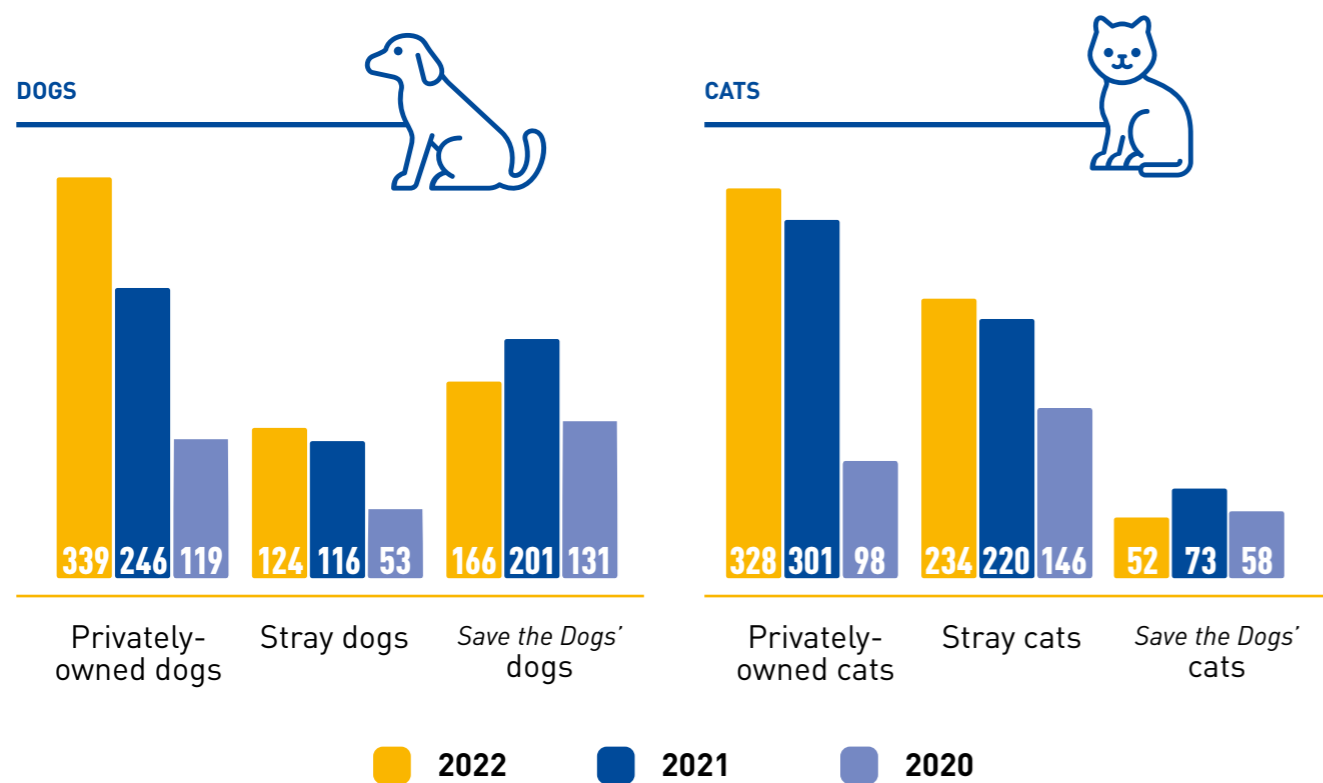
## ➔ Details of costs incurred by the project



## → Program Footprints of Joy

In 2022, the positive trend from the previous year in terms of the number of sterilizations conducted at our center continued (+7.3%). We performed a total of **1,243 free sterilizations** (629 dogs and 614 cats), with 54% being privately-owned animals, while 29% were strays, and 17% were animals that entered our shelter.

Only in the months of November and December were sterilizations of stray dogs temporarily halted due to the return of dogcatchers in Cernavoda.



Key factors contributing to this number were the **spayathons**, days entirely dedicated to sterilizations with highly specialized veterinarians from other Romanian cities. Thanks to this intensive program, **we were able to double the number of sterilizations performed** compared to regular working months.

## → The impact of our work

For every animal that is sterilized, approximately **500 potential offspring are prevented from being born in the next three years**, sparing them a life of hardship, illness, or certain death in public dog pounds.

### Lucia and Kyra



*We met them during the latest Spayathon, the sterilization marathon we periodically organize at our clinic in Cernavoda, Romania. In this photo, we had just taken Kira back home after her treatment.*

**1,243** TOTAL STERILIZATIONS IN 2022

**621,500** TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS THAT WILL NOT BE BORN IN THE NEXT 3 YEARS

*Spayathons* (from the word "spay", meaning 'to sterilize' in English) are present a valuable opportunity to connect with dog owners and provide them with useful information about "responsible coexistence". During these occasions, in fact, we often convince them to use leashes and harnesses rather than makeshift methods such as chains or choke collars.

Moreover, numerous families with animals express their gratitude for our work. **We are, in fact, the only veterinary facility between Bucharest and Costanza**, and have become an important point of reference for those who care about their pets. Many of these people become aware of our center thanks to these marathons.

The operational costs of the sterilizations are covered by the generous contribution of the **Suzy Utzinger Foundation**, which has stood at our side again this year in our fight against the canine and feline stray population in Romania and to whom we express our heartfelt gratitude.



## → Our clinic

We provided emergency care for 238 animals at our clinic, with a slight decrease in cases compared to 2021 (-2.1%), mainly due to the clinic's one-month closure because of a shortage of veterinarians. Nevertheless, thanks to increased and consistent activity in the field, we were able to respond to all reported cases throughout the year, thereby making the

difference between life and death for a great many animals in need.

59% of first-aid cases involved **stray animals**, while **41%** of cases were for **privately-owned animals**, which is in line with the figures in 2021.

**1.243**  
Sterilizations



**629**  
DOGS



**614**  
CATS



**238**  
EMERGENCIES

**257**  
NEW ENTRIES  
INTO THE FACILITY\*



**203**  
ADOPTIONS



**392**  
VISITS TO  
PRIVATELY-OWNED  
ANIMALS

**+ 1.648** ANIMALS TREATED IN THE CLINIC

\*refers to cats and dogs taken in permanently by Save the Dogs for treatment and adoption placement programs (the figure also includes animals who subsequently died due to the severity of their illnesses or injuries).

In 2022, we saw almost double the number of adult dogs entering the shelter compared to 2021 (80 adult dogs compared to 49 adult dogs in 2021). This increase was due to the **30 dogs we saved from the war in Ukraine** in March, and the **14 dogs rescued from the dogcatchers** in Cernavoda in October.

On a positive note, there was a **decrease in the number of abandoned puppies** left in front of the shelter. Almost all puppy admissions were managed through waiting lists. This is a positive development, as it allows us to move away from working solely in emergency mode and instead enables us to schedule the admissions of new animals.

With regard to cats, the situation remained similar to that of the previous year, with an increase in the stray cat population in the area, resulting unfortunately in there being constant pressure in terms of admissions.



### Length of stay at our facility

The average length of stay for dogs admitted to our facility is very low. This is crucial for ensuring the well-being of the animals, with them remaining in the shelter or clinic for the minimum time necessary before being welcomed by their adoptive families. As a result, the population 'density' in the shelter enclosures is also reduced, with a maximum of three dogs per enclosure, except in the case of bigger litters, when the puppies are all kept together.

### Average length of stay

**DOGS**  
**210**  
DAYS



**CATS**  
**60**  
DAYS



## → International adoptions A year which saw a reversal in the trends

2022 saw a reversal in the number of animals adopted, with a total of 203 adoptions (147 dogs and 56 cats), 69 fewer than in 2021.

This negative figure can be attributed to multiple factors. Firstly, the **increased demand for Ukrainian dogs** following the outbreak of the conflict affected requests for dogs from other countries. Additionally, the **rising cost of living** played a significant role in discouraging more and more families from the idea of adopting, mindful of the cost of veterinary fees.

Furthermore, the **discontinuation of our partnership with Befreite Hunde**, our long-standing partner in Germany, **where about**

**50/55 dogs were adopted annually**, had a considerable impact on the numbers. The association has taken the decision to only accept dogs from a German shelter in Timisoara, relinquishing their partnership with *Save the Dogs*.

For 2023, it will be crucial to identify a stable new partner for international dog adoptions to replace the *Befreite Hunde* association, in order to ensure a higher number of **departures from our shelter again and a good “turnover” between admissions and departures at the facility.**

In total, **203** animals were adopted: **147** dogs and **56** cats

COUNTRY	DOGS	CATS
Sweden	122	0
Germany	17	1
Switzerland	3	0
Romania	4	2
France (private adoption)	1	0
Italy	0	51
USA (private adoption)	0	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>56</b>

## → *Footprints of Freedom.* A new home for dogs that cannot be adopted

**Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to create *Footprints of Freedom***, our new sanctuary for dogs that are unlikely to be adopted by a family. Dogs like Inca.

The first thing Inca did when we opened the **carrier** that had transported her to *Footprints of Freedom* was to sniff the **grass around her** at length. **Every now and again, she would cast a glance at us, her educators, as if seeking confirmation of what she was perhaps already imagining.** Then, all of a sudden, it was as if she understood the situation: placing one steady paw after another, she stepped out of the carrier, explored **the length and breadth of** the entire area, and only after having completed a thorough reconnaissance **tour did she lie** down in the sun, close her eyes, and enjoy a good nap.

**Work first began in the fall of 2022 and was completed in the spring of 2023.** *Footprints of Freedom* is the new area of our shelter in Romania especially designed for dogs that cannot be adopted. Here, they have access to a large 500-square-meter enclosure where they can live in complete freedom, far removed from all the things that have terrified them in the past.

This area is intended for **dogs that have experienced severe difficulties in the past** and have been damaged by severe maltreatment or trauma that is so profound that they cannot be adopted by a family. None of these animals allow us to touch them or agree to wear a harness. Many completely refuse any human contact at all and just being close to people causes them deep discomfort. This is why they require professional help, a peaceful environment and specific attention.





## → Equines

### Donkeys and horses

Save the Dogs' equine sanctuary houses **63 donkeys** and **22 horses** rescued from cruelty and neglect. While we aim to keep the dogs and cats in the shelter for the shortest period of time possible so that we have space to rescue more animals, we provide **lifetime care for horses and donkeys**.

**Save the Dogs has become a reference point in equine welfare in the Costanza area.** Through our collaboration with the Animal Police, we receive reports about horses and donkeys in need of rescue or urgent veterinary treatment. While the Animal Police have law enforcement capabilities, they do not have vets on their staff or dedicated animal care facilities, so for the moment they sometimes need to rely on us.



*The two Rasova donkeys, shortly after they arrived at Save the Dogs' shelter*

### The Rasova donkeys

Two donkeys were abandoned by an impoverished elderly couple in a village near Rasova who were no longer able to take care of the animals because their house had burned down. We rescued both donkeys, who were severely malnourished and weak.

Our equine veterinarian conducted medical exams and developed a plan to treat and rehabilitate them. After a period of quarantine, they too will be able to join the other donkeys who have been assured lifelong protection and care at our shelter.



## → Working with the local communities

*Save the Dogs* has implemented a **door-to-door aid program**, aimed at the poorest people living in the rural areas of Cernavoda, with a special focus on the elderly. Our work enables us to build stable relationships with communities, identify the needs of both people and animals, and provide **basic necessities** and **free veterinary services**.

### Distribution of basic necessities

Dogs and cats owned by elderly people living in the countryside are often their only companions, and they frequently experience **social isolation** and lack a **family support network**. With their meager pension, moreover, they struggle to meet even the basic needs of the animals, which are sometimes very numerous and have previously been abandoned, as can be typical in rural settings. It is for this reason that *Save the Dogs* regularly distributes food, bowls, and kennels to them to improve the living conditions of the animals themselves, while also ensuring that these individuals do not have to deprive themselves of the few resources they need for their own sustenance.



### Aurelia Sirbu's story



Aurelia Sirbu lives with her cats in Dunarea, a village not far from Cernavoda in Romania. Her home is completely devoid of all the essentials: electricity, heating, food, medicine. However, **Aurelia would do anything in the world**

**for her cats.** One day we bumped into her while she was hunting around for empty boxes: she had discovered that her pets liked to play with them and was desperate to find some larger ones so that she could shelter them from the cold night temperatures. Despite her huge financial difficulties, Aurelia has never stopped caring for all these abandoned cats.

It is almost as if the cats know they will be safe with her. **Aurelia has rescued dozens of them over the years, many of them arriving at her door in a terrible state.** She has nursed them, fed them and even managed to find some of them a family to live with.

In her garden there is a small gazebo where she feeds them every day. She leans on her stick as she fills a large container she has carefully placed under a table with food for them. "That way, even if it rains, it all stays dry", she explained to us.

We pay a visit to Aurelia every month to provide her with the supplies she needs and make sure all the animals are in good health, as well as sterilizing them free of charge.

### Community health care

The absence of a strong animal welfare culture, combined with the severe economic conditions, **lack of transportation**, and **limited access to healthcare services**, all tend to discourage most Romanians living in the countryside from going to see a vet. The *Save the Dogs'* clinic is the only veterinary hospital along the axis from Bucharest to Costanza, and **our team's home visits are crucial for reaching animals that would otherwise receive no assistance.** This door-to-door activity facilitates access to the free services provided by the clinic and allows us to distribute preventative pesticides that not only protect the health of the animals but also the family unit.

Taking care of the animals' welfare means we can aim to **protect** the emotional bond with their owners as well as the **health of the people living in contact with them**, preventing the spread of **transmissible diseases** (such as zoonosis).



### Raising awareness

During home visits, our aim is to convey key messages and **raise awareness** by distributing **educational information about animal welfare** and emphasizing the importance of **sterilizations** (mandatory by law in Romania but almost never carried out) **to combat the phenomenon of strays**, as well as vaccination to protect against major infectious diseases.



# What we did in 2022 in **UKRAINE**

## ➔ The conflict in Ukraine: *Save the dogs'* response

February 24, 2023 marks one year since the large-scale invasion of Ukraine. Twelve months that have brought unimaginable death, destruction, loss, and suffering to both people and animals.

In the days immediately following the outbreak of the conflict, Save the Dogs took action to provide assistance on two fronts: in **Romania** for the people fleeing the conflict with their pets in tow and in **Ukraine**, supporting the people and animals remaining in the country.

### Strategic priorities of the intervention

- Ensure that **people arriving at the border fleeing with their animals receive basic necessities**, assistance, and information on the documents required to continue their onward journey to European countries
- Create space at the Cernavoda shelter to accommodate **dogs and cats** unable to continue their journey with their families as well as animals evacuated from Ukraine
- Ensure a **regular supply of food** for the shelters and a network of volunteers in **Ukraine** with whom we are in contact in the Odessa area.

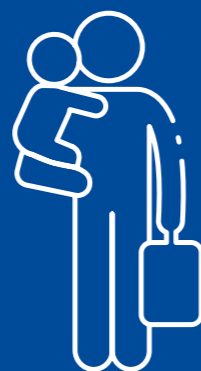


## IN ROMANIA AT THE BORDER WITH ISACCEA



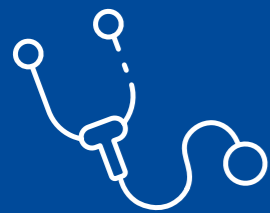
**42**

Volunteers and staff at border



**1025**

Refugee pets assisted



**3**

Vet emergencies



**414**

Pet carriers donated to refugees



**105**

Pet carriers donated to airport + train station



**132**

Tray cat litters for refugee animals



**343**

Bowls



**88**

Blankets



**407**

Harnesses + leashes



**338**

Pampers

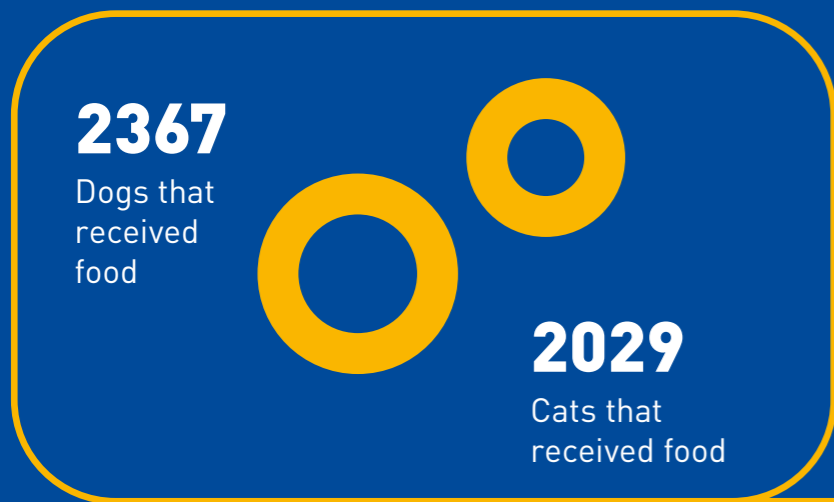


**898 kg**

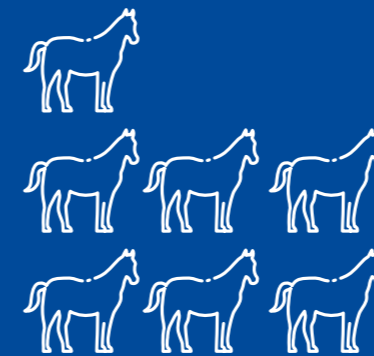
Pet food for refugee animals



**IN UKRAINE**  
**ODESSA, IZMAIL, MYKOLAIV, KHARKIV**



**+ 400**  
Volunteer street feeders that received food



**7**  
Horses that received hay and straw (Ukrainian horses that arrived in Romania with a refugee)



**533.000 kg\***  
Dog and cat food provided to shelters



**455**  
Kennels for dogs



**80**  
Blankets for animals



**180**  
Dog coats



**1548**  
Flea/tick collars



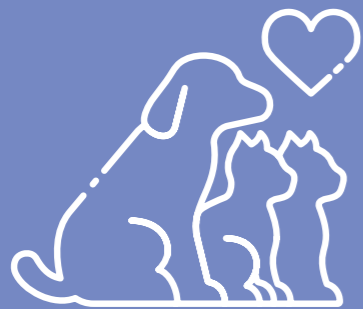
**30**  
Dogs rescued from shelter



**+ 20**  
Shelters that received food

\* data updated 10 February

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**



**3**

Animals reunited with their family



**2**

Accommodation found for refugees with their pets



**1**

Boarding paid for refugee pets



Read the full report  
**'Animals at war. The impact of the conflict in Ukraine on dogs and cats'**





## → 30 Dogs fleeing Odessa

Extract taken from 'Urme de Bucurie, și alte amintiri românești ale unei italience' Sara Turetta, Edizioni Humanitas

There are hundreds of kennels scattered throughout Ukraine, some of them numbering an excess of 1,000 animals apiece. Adoption programs are almost nonexistent, apart from a lucky few who manage to organize transport to Germany, which has always been the most generous country with regard to the taking in of strays from southern and eastern Europe. In 2012, at the time of the European soccer championships, reports of the slaughter of stray cats and dogs ricocheted all over the world. Since then, however, Ukrainian animal activists have remained on the sidelines of activism in Europe, and information about the current situation is sketchy at best. The language barrier has played a decisive role, as the second language in Ukraine is traditionally Russian, while English is rarely spoken, and use of the Cyrillic alphabet serves only to further complicate matters, as this makes it difficult to establish stable partnerships.

The suppression of abandoned dogs is no longer permitted by Ukrainian law, although we recently heard reports about a (failed) attempt to reintroduce such legislation. Unfortunately, however, no structured sterilization programs

such as those that Save the Dogs and other associations have been carrying out for some time now in other Eastern countries are in existence. There is a general feeling that Ukrainian animal welfare is experiencing a very similar phase to the one that existed in Romania twenty years ago, which I recount in the first chapters of this book: activists hoard animals "rescued" from the streets without seeing adoption as a priority and without being committed to adopting preventive measures. For them, the key thing is to keep the dogs "alive," without asking too many questions about what "being alive" really means when it signifies these poor creatures being imprisoned for the rest of their lives in a cage.

When the war broke out, we quickly realized how many Ukrainian dog pounds existed, and how overcrowded they were, not to mention their being isolated from each other and highly disorganized. Most of the bank accounts we had access to were registered to individuals, and it was impossible to understand what kind of principles governed the work carried out by the volunteers. Deciding what to donate to whom became a dilemma, so with Gregg we quickly agreed that the best thing to do

would be to dispatch food in bulk for the thousands of cats and dogs left behind in the country, thereby avoiding money transfers. We also recognized that, given the current circumstances, there was a risk in fact that the money might not even be put to good use.

One of the shelters we were in contact with was Loving Hearts in Odessa, which was managed and run by Olga. She had more than 200 dogs in her care, and when some of the fences were damaged by a Russian attack, she asked us to take in thirty or so of her residents. By a happy coincidence, twenty dogs had just left Cernavoda bound for Sweden, so we were fortuitously able to organize the reception of these Ukrainian quadrupeds.

It was a very hectic time: it was a real challenge for Gregg to obtain suitable photos and paperwork for the incoming animals, and we quickly realized that we would have to do everything from scratch, only assessing their adoptability and health status once they had safely arrived at our center. There was a strong possibility that it would be very difficult to prepare some of the dogs for adoption, but we decide to take that risk.

Over the whole course of this crisis, the day that Olga traveled to the border from Odessa was one of the longest ever for the Save the Dogs team.

Alessandra and the girls working in the adoption department prepared all the special areas where the new arrivals were to be placed, both in and close to the clinic; Gregg stayed in constant contact with Olga, who duly left at dawn with a driver and another volunteer. Communication via WhatsApp proved tricky, as the connection was frequently interrupted, and at one point all we managed to ascertain was that there were countless Ukrainian armed force checkpoints along the way. It was unclear if they would make it through and what time of day they would arrive at the border. During the afternoon, Alessandra, Gea and four other drivers and operators traveled to Isaccea, where they waited for Olga to arrive for hours on end in the freezing cold, not knowing whether she would actually make it across the

Danube with her four-legged companions.

At 10 p.m. the dogs finally arrived and the team's joy at the border was indescribable. Videos taken at Isaccea show the 30 dogs jammed into makeshift cages being expertly transferred by our staff into the four Save the Dogs vans. I had decided to wait for the convoy at the Cernavoda shelter with Gregg, but when news came that they would not arrive before midnight I went home to give myself a couple hours' sleep.

As the clock struck midnight we stood at the doors of the clinic waiting for the vehicles to drive up, together with a small group of workers who had offered to take care of the dogs as they arrived. When the four vans finally made their appearance, we were all exhausted and emotional. The only person to show no visible signs of stress was Gregg, who was as unflappable and calm as ever, despite having worked for 15 hours straight under intense pressure. We all finally retired to bed at one o'clock in the morning, worn out but relieved.

I fell asleep thinking how grateful I was to be sharing this complicated moment with such an extraordinary team of people.



HOW WE SPENT THE FUNDS IN 2022

TOTAL EXPENDITURE:  
**900.118 €**



**2%**

Donations to other organizations



**2%**

Volunteers at the border



**8%**

Supplies donated at the border and new storage area



**12%**

Personnel



**61%**

Food & transport to Ukraine



**10%**

Purchase of vans



**5%**

Dogs houses



# What we did in 2022 in ITALY

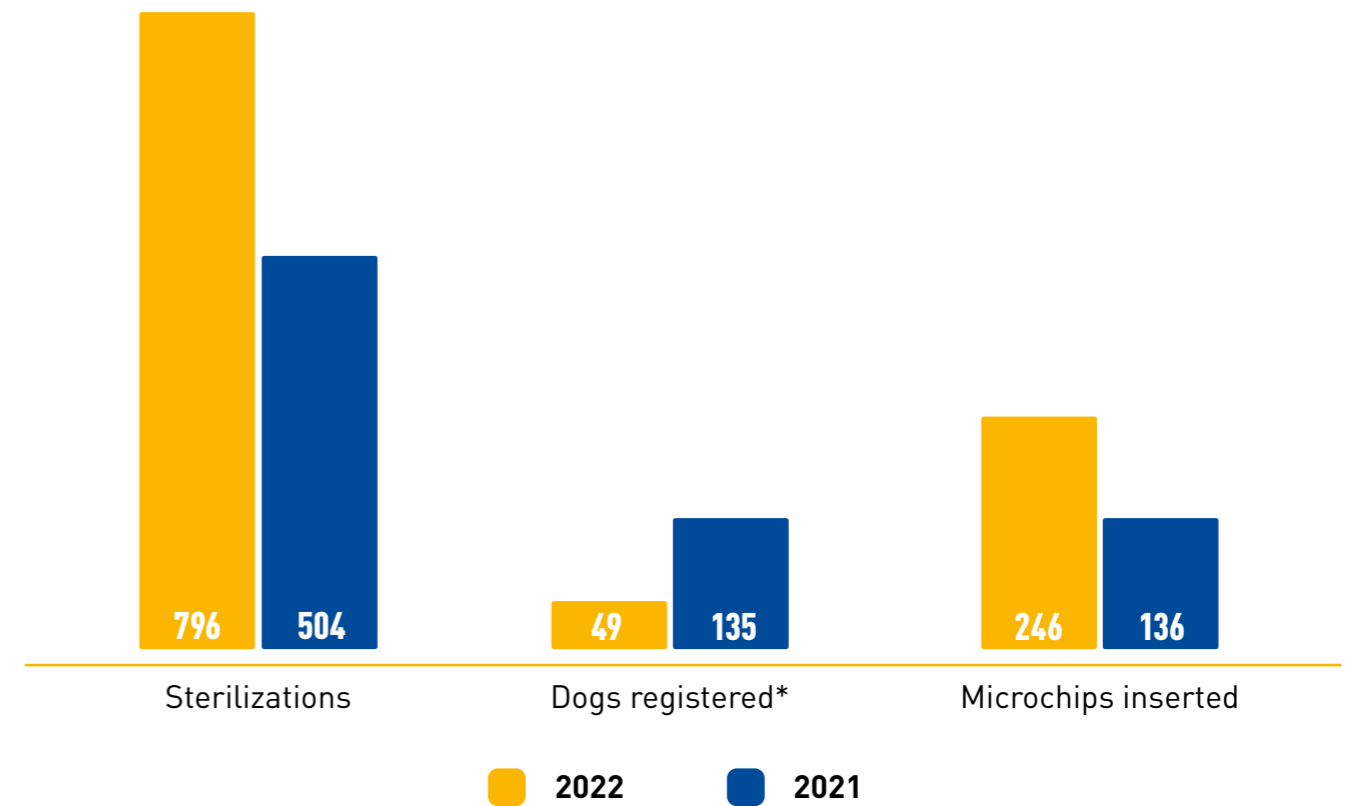


CHALLENGES	OUR RESPONSE	THE IMPACT
In Southern Italy, the mismanagement of the canine and feline population by the local authorities results in a high number of <b>stray animals</b> and <b>overcrowded shelters</b> , imposing enormous costs on the community.	In Campania and Calabria, we provide sterilization and microchipping for stray and privately-owned animals free of charge, preventive actions that should be carried out by the local health authorities (ASL) and municipalities.	In the medium to long term, sterilization helps to <b>control</b> the canine and feline population, reduce the number of animals on the streets, admissions into shelters, and irresponsible adoptions.
The lack of awareness among pet owners regarding the meaning of “ <b>well-being</b> ” for their dogs and cats leads to situations of maltreatment, while uncontrolled breeding results in <b>unwanted litters</b> and <b>abandoned animals</b> .	<b>We support communities by promoting responsible coexistence with their pets.</b> We do this using educational materials and engaging in dialogues with people, promoting the good practice of sterilization and registration of their domestic animals.	Pet owners gain <b>awareness</b> and gradually adopt <b>responsible behavior</b> . Regarding official registration, we explain the legalities and promote the <b>importance of complying with the regulations</b> .
The rise in <b>new forms of poverty puts</b> the ability of pet owners to adequately care for the health of their four-legged companions in jeopardy.	Pet owners who live in <b>vulnerable</b> conditions (such as the homeless or those accessing social services) are supported with basic necessities and access to free veterinary services.	The health of the animal and its human caregiver is preserved, protecting their <b>emotional bond</b> and <b>preventing the animals being abandoned</b> for economic reasons.





## ➔ “Too many puppies” Italy 2022 in numbers



\* The number of registrations has decreased both for technical reasons (lack of signal in Sila territories) and because there has been an increasing focus on privately-owned dogs.

In Italy, *Save the Dogs* decided to invest in **small associations** that are **already well-established in their area**, identifying trusted local partners with whom to collaborate. This ensures that the “Too Many Puppies” program benefits from having people who perfectly understand the local context and are completely integrated, as well as allowing us to work on reinforcing local community spirit.

**In 2022, we increased the number of sterilizations carried out, achieving a total of 796, which represents a 58% growth compared to 2021 (688 dogs and 108 cats). 246 animals were officially registered.**

An encouraging fact we noted compared to 2021 is the **increase in sterilization requests** for privately-owned dogs. This is of fundamental importance for two reasons: on the one hand,

it indicates that there is a growing awareness that the number of strays often results from the mismanagement of dog owners, and an understanding of the importance of preventing the **birth of home litters and reducing the number of abandoned dogs in the territory**. It also confirms our strong belief that projects like “Too Many Puppies” have the power to **positively influence local mentality**, even where there is strong cultural resistance to the issue of birth control.





## → Campania

2022 was the year in which we started working with a **new local partner** in Campania, collaborating with the *San Francesco Dog Shelter Association*. The shelter is located in Castel Volturno in the province of Caserta, which is a challenging area that also saw the closure of Dorothea Friz's veterinary clinic (Associazione Mondo Animale) in 2022. This clinic had been tirelessly sterilizing hundreds of thousands of animals for some 40 years and has thus left a

huge void that we aim to try and fill.

In 2022, we sterilized **106 dogs** and **47 cats** at the *San Francesco Dog Shelter*, while with the *Oreste Zevola Association*, our first partner in this region based in Licola Mare, **210 sterilizations (149 dogs and 61 cats)** were performed, resulting in a total of **255 dogs** and **108 cats** being **sterilized** in Campania.



## Brand new equipment for the Castel Volturno clinic

The *San Francesco Dog Shelter* houses approximately **200 dogs** and includes **areas where dogs can play, an infirmary, and an outpatient clinic where the sterilizations are performed**. We decided to equip the shelter's outpatient clinic, including a fully functional surgical room, purchasing:

- a **veterinary anesthesia gas machine**, considered to be one of the safest techniques for the deep sedation of animals, ensuring the best conditions for maintaining general anesthesia. This technique means that the animals awaken sooner, have a better postoperative recovery time, and there are fewer problems during the performance of surgical operations.
- an **oxygen concentrator device** that ensures greater safety and reliability in delivering oxygen to the animal during the sterilization process;
- a **hydraulic operating table** that is more suitable for sterilizing larger animals
- a **trolley** for the surgical instruments used during the sterilizations
- a **stretcher** that enables staff to move animals around safely within the clinic, both before and after surgery.

**Expanding facilities in the south is one of the prime objectives** of the Too Many Puppies program. This is why we are committed to sterilizing as many animals as possible and helping to make the shelters run by local associations more functional and better equipped, as these investments will also be beneficial in the future.





## → Calabria

Calabria is well known for its serious problem with **stray animals** and for the high number of dogs locked up in facilities which they are unfortunately unlikely to leave. The last official information dates back to a few years ago, reporting approximately 15,000 animals segregated in contracted kennels, while the local government bodies continue to fail to provide any official updates (LAV Report 2022), which speaks volumes about the situation in this region.

**There are many complex problems, some of which can be considered “chronic”:** from the shady management of mega-shelters with exorbitant costs to the lack of veterinary services in the area, and from an **absence of organized volunteering** to the **endemic corruption** that exists in the various institutional sectors. It is a real “system” that cannot be easily unraveled, and sometimes even well-intentioned mayors are thwarted by bureaucratic issues when trying to engage in worthy initiatives. There have been several judicial investigations involving large shelters in the region, often managed by obscure “entrepreneurs”.

Given this scenario, **supporting and reinforcing small local organizations that have been**

**operating in the area for years becomes the only viable approach**, while at the same time continuing to seek a dialogue with the Calabrian local authorities. It was for this reason that, in addition to funding hundreds of free sterilizations, we decided to set up a **veterinary clinic** within *Oasi Argo*, the association presided over by Caterina Semerano in Cirò Marina in the province of Crotone. The new clinic will be a place where sterilizations can be performed, and animals residing in the sanctuary as well as stray animals in need of shelter can receive proper care. Funds were raised on the occasion of President Sara Turetta’s birthday campaign (2022), but due to a complex and unforeseen bureaucratic problem related to land ownership, **the project has had to be put on hold**. At the time of drafting this annual report, significant steps are being taken to resolve the situation, thanks in part to our positive collaboration with the Municipality of Cirò Marina. However, this incident once again confirms the structural difficulties of operating in such a region.

In 2022, in **Calabria**, together with our two local partners, *Amici Animali* FEF and *Oasi Argo*, we **sterilized 433 dogs** and registered **125 animals**.



## A new regional law on stray animals

We would like to draw attention to an important initiative taken by Regional Councilor, Giuseppe Graziano. In September 2022, he proposed a **new law for the protection of pets and prevention of stray animals**, including a series of substantial improvements compared to the situation in the past in the bill. As soon as we received the news, the *Save the Dogs* team immediately expressed our support to the Councilor and encouraged him to continue with this initiative, **also requesting the Health Commission to consider incorporating certain modifications that would have made the law even more useful for effectively combating stray animals**, especially considering the difficulties faced by the healthcare system of Calabria, which hinders the precise implementation of national regulations, particularly regarding sterilizations. The

amendments requested by some local voluntary organizations were unfortunately not taken up by the Health Commission, which chose to proceed with the legislative process without changing the overall structure of the new law. Unless the Regional Council decides otherwise, the legislation will therefore be approved in its current version, which in any case we still consider positive, and which would still represent a historic step for the fight against strays and the protection of animal rights in Calabria.

Moreover, it should be noted that further improvements could also be incorporated at a later date within the framework of an implementing regulation concerning operational modalities, which could have a better opportunity of having an impact on the region’s requirements.





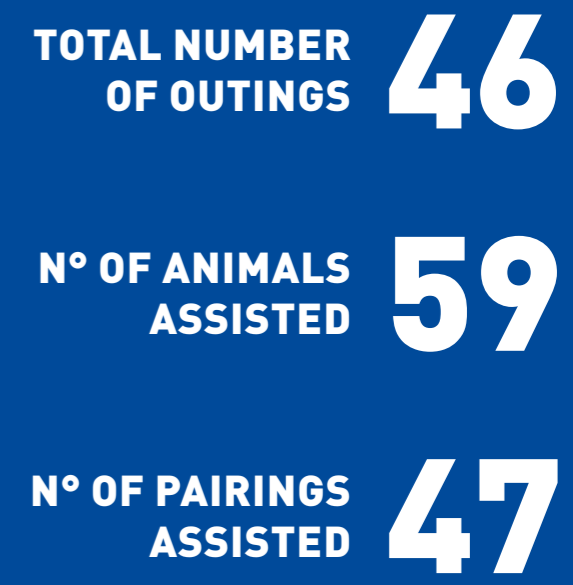
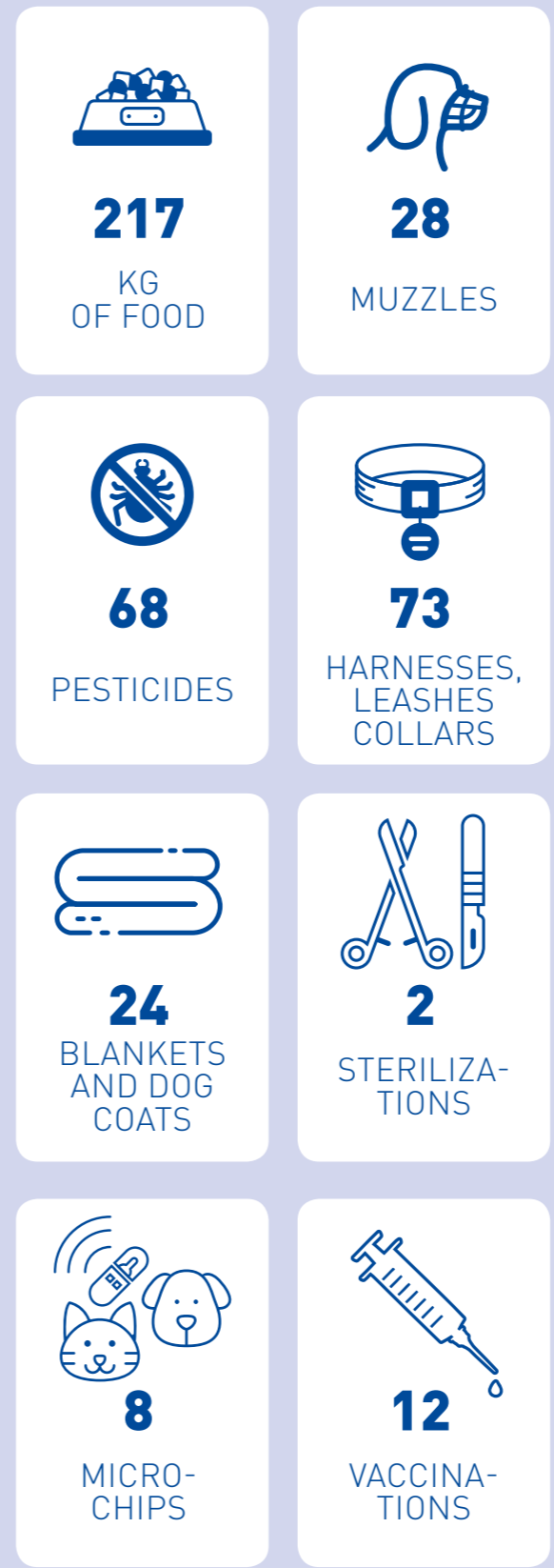
## → Friends on the streets, companions for life

ASSISTING DOGS BELONGING TO THE HOMELESS IN MILAN



2022 was a year of consolidation for our “Friends on the Streets” project and our relationship with the dog owners, who have come to recognize us as a reference point for the health and well-being of their pets. Requests for veterinary services have grown, thanks also in part to word of mouth among these users of the services provided by the humanitarian associations in the area with whom we collaborate. **With the help of veterinarians and our agreement with the Municipality of Milan** (which provides us with vouchers for free sterilizations through the ATS national health system), **we have sterilized the first dogs that would otherwise have potentially contributed to an increase in the number of animals housed in the municipal shelter.** Our evening presence around the Lambrate station on the outskirts of Milan, where we meet many dog owners in need of food and veterinary assistance, has gradually become a strategic focal point for homeless people who have pets. Our street unit also reaches people who, although not actually living on the streets, are currently experiencing extremely precarious economic difficulties, residing in squats or temporary accommodation. **Thanks to the veterinarians who volunteer their time,** we are able to provide **vaccines and pesticides** for people who otherwise would not have access to these treatments. With the financial resources we currently have available, we are not yet able to carry out any preventative procedures or screening for major vector-borne diseases (such as heartworm), but we hope to be able to include these veterinary services in the future, for the benefit of both the animals and their owners.

We predict that the demand for medical assistance will further increase in 2023, given the growing number of homeless people in the city and the **economic difficulties faced by certain segments of the population.** One of *Save the Dogs*’ future priorities will be that of securing funding in order to help an increasing number of animals belonging to individuals or families in need.



### ← MATERIAL DISTRIBUTED

(data collected from 17 February)







In total, we assisted **60** people and **71** animals

Zone	N° OF INDIVIDUALS	N° OF ANIMALS
Lambrate	30	42
Corso Europa and Duomo	18	15
XXIV Maggio Square	3	3
Arco della Pace	1	1
Ortomercato Zone	1	1
Corso Vercelli	1	1
Sesto Marelli	1	1
Arcimboldi Zone	1	1
Cavalcavia Affori	1	1
Via Solferino	1	1
Assago	1	1
Columns of San Lorenzo	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>56</b>

The data in the table refers to the individuals and their animals with whom we have been in contact from 2021 to the present time. Some of these people are no longer in contact with us, probably due to them having relocated to another city. We meet the vast majority of people in areas that do not always correspond to the place where they spend the night. Milan, April 2023

## Elia and Giovanni, an emblematic story

Elia is a forty-year-old Italian who has been living in social housing in the Lambrate neighborhood for over 10 years. He is not homeless, but calls upon the services of the humanitarian associations that distribute food near the railway station. Elia is one of many Milanese people struggling to make ends meet and has had a difficult past. Rejected by his family of origin because of his sexual orientation, he has a problem with one leg that prevents him from being able to stand for long periods of time and which also causes mobility problems. Adopting Mia his dog eased his loneliness, and it was through her that Elia met Giovanni, a man of Moroccan origin and a real dog lover. Their own love story ensued, prompting Elia to build a

family with Giovanni, and they have subsequently adopted a second puppy, little Athena. The two dogs have been instrumental in helping them both cope with the discomfort and distress caused by threats from both their neighbors and Giovanni's family, although providing for their care has become challenging due to the couple's precarious financial situation. Since we met them, we have been able to support them by providing food for the two dogs, microchipping them, and giving them their vaccinations. We are now trying to convince them to have Mia and Athena sterilized. Elia and Giovanni are both reluctant to agree, but we are hoping to convince them that this would be the right thing to do.







## ➔ Fundraising

### Variation compared with the previous year

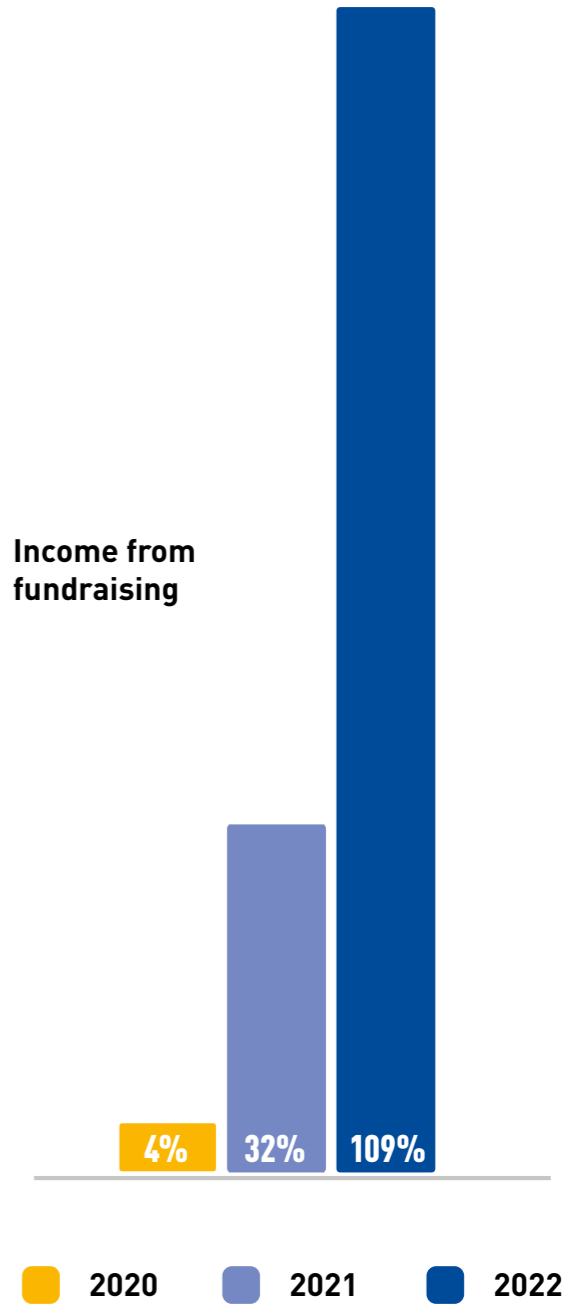
Individuals, companies, and foundations are the true protagonists of our work and represent the very essence of our actions, enabling us to do more and to do better.

In particular, following the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine, the *Save the Dogs* community of supporters demonstrated **great solidarity towards the war-affected animals**. The generous response to our appeals allowed us to provide an immediate and concrete response and to continue our assistance even a year after the start of the war. We are truly grateful to each and every one of them.

The past year not only confirms the positive trend of the last two years, but also shows a significant leap forward, driven precisely by donations related to the conflict in Ukraine.

In **2022**, we raised **€3,109,757.00**, an increase of **109%** compared with 2021.

Income from fundraising





# ➔ Fundraising: private individuals

## Individual donors

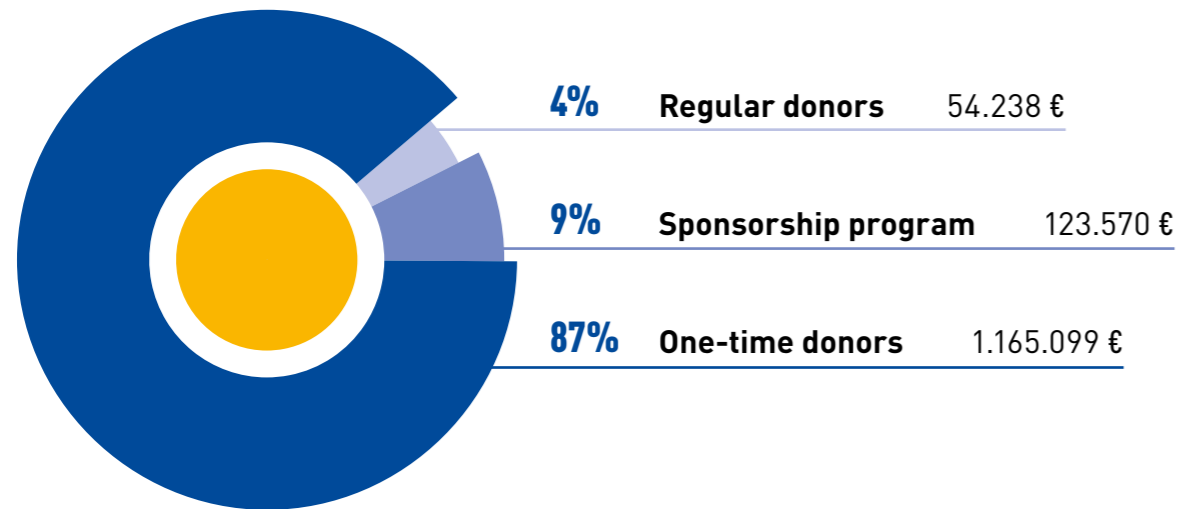
**Individual donors**, single donators and families contributed **€1,342,908.11** or **43%** of the total raised.

The number of individual donors increased significantly in 2022 compared to 2021 (+41%).

The positive trend is confirmed across all types of support. **One-time donors recorded a 38%**

**increase in funds raised**, with a total amount of **€1,165,099.07**.

A similar increase is observed in **regular donors**, who contributed **€54,238.12**. **The Sponsorship Program showed a 21% growth**, with a total amount raised of **€123,570.92**.



## Save the Dogs regular donors

In 2022, the number of individuals who chose to support *Save the Dogs* with regular donations recorded a substantial increase of **46%**.

Regular donations are of fundamental importance in order to plan our work effectively and guarantee continuity with regard to our ongoing projects.



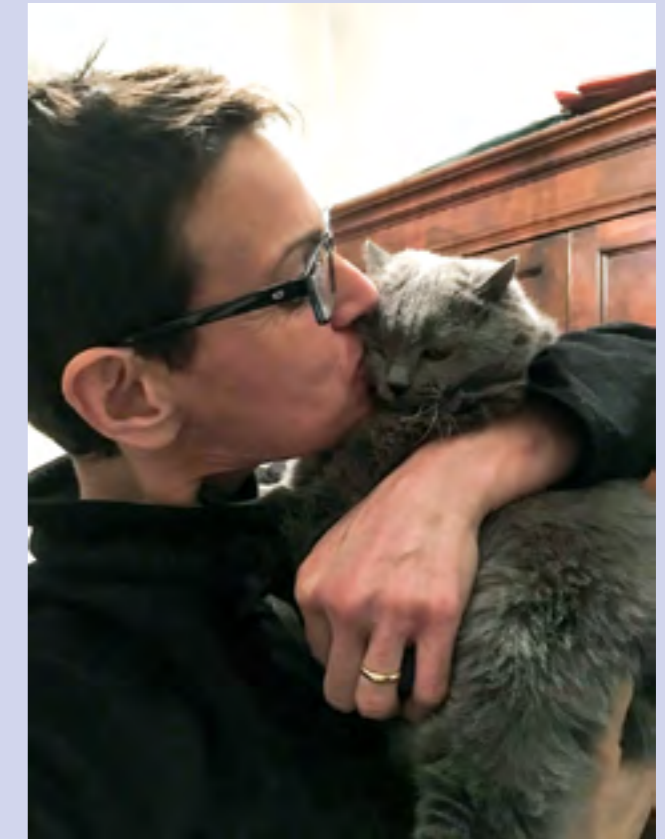
## Antonella's testimony

*It has been many years since I gave my first donation to Save the Dogs! It was back in 2007, and it feels like **this wonderful experience has always been part of my life**. I gradually fell in love with the idea, initially spurred on by my love of animals and then by the emotion generated by the stories I read about. But it was more than just that.*

*I work in media communication, and I soon realized that it was also the manner in which the tragic stories of those unfortunate animals were recounted that resonated with me. **Each tale was told in a transparent and factual way, devoid of any attempt to gratuitously shock the reader**. All the messages were conveyed in a clear fashion, in other words, and always with a glimmer of hope.*

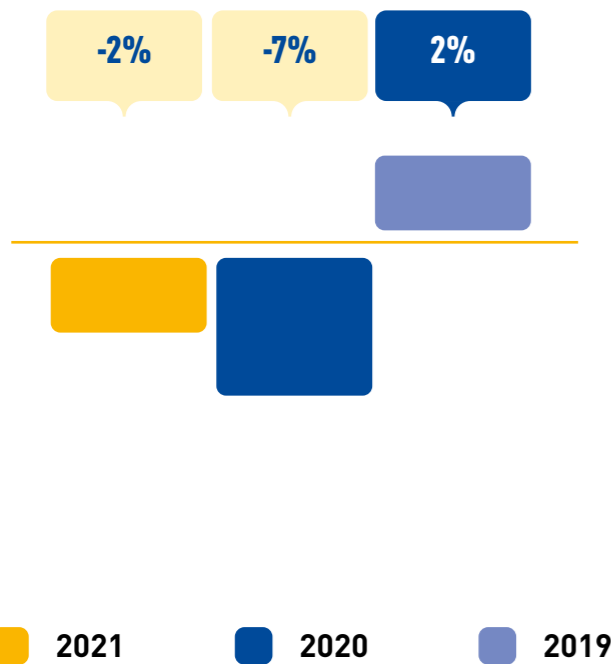
*I remember saying to myself one day, **'Save the Dogs is my opportunity to do something for the animals that are suffering the most**. I trust the association and I don't want to just "stand on the sidelines" anymore.'* So I decided to become a regular donor. I chose a monthly amount dedicated to their first aid activities, and from then on in, **I felt that I was making my own really tangible commitment to animals in need**. I was also telling Save the Dogs they could count on me, and that I would stand the test of time.

*Anyone can become a regular donor, because it is not the amount of money that matters, but the **ongoing nature of the donation that makes the difference**. Once you have set it up, you never have to think about it again! You barely notice your regular donation, but your action has a very real impact, in just the same way that Save the Dogs' projects do!*





### N° signatures



### 5X1000

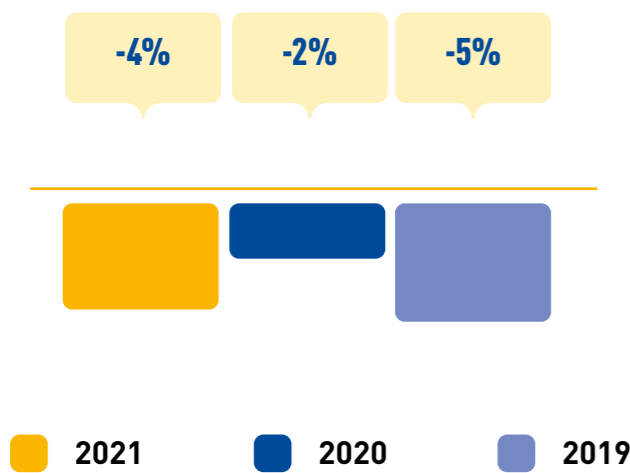
In Italy, the “5x1000” enables every individual to allocate a portion of their income taxes to *Save the Dogs*, without them incurring any additional costs, by simply entering our tax code and putting their signature in the “Support for voluntary work and other non-profit organizations in the social sector” section indicated on the 730 tax form.

In 2022, **4.713** people allocated their 5x1000 to *Save the Dogs*, equating to a total amount of **€172.039**, representing a decrease of 2% in value, and a 4% reduction in numbers on the previous year.

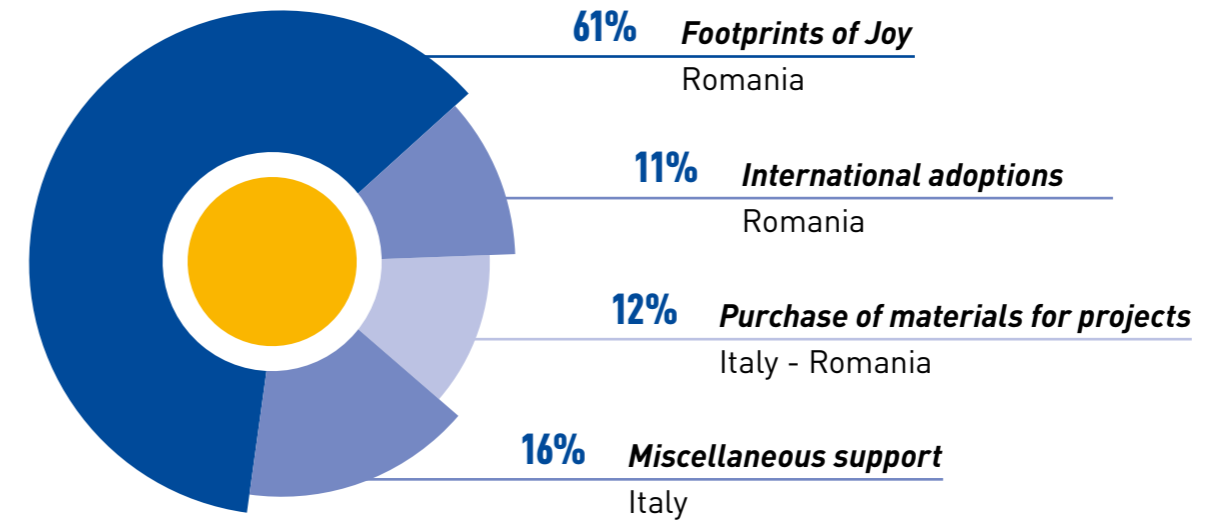
### Variation compared with the previous year

Despite the negative trend over the last few years (given the strong competition with tens of thousands of other non-profit organizations, and the absence of any advertising investment), the **5x1000 remains a crucial resource for *Save the Dogs* as a means of bolstering its projects.** In the future, it will be essential to place more emphasis on communicating this asset, in the hope that the increased visibility the organization is receiving at the time of drafting this report will have a positive influence on the 5x1000 choices made by an increasing number of Italian citizens.

### Amount collected



Thanks to the 5x1000 contributions made by so many generous Italians last year, we have been able to allocate the funds as follows:





## ➔ Fundraising: companies, foundations and partners

Contributions from **companies, foundations and partners** who supported our projects grew substantially, totaling **€1,766,848.89**, an increase of **265% over the previous year**. The largest contribution came from international organizations that consistently supported our intervention in Ukraine.

**Support from companies** also grew, with a **53.8% increase compared to 2021**.

### Enormous solidarity for the animals and people of Ukraine

It is in the face of great challenges that the best synergies are created. This was indeed the case with *Save the Dogs'* partner companies and international organizations, which provided extraordinary support for our work on behalf of animals and people affected by the war in Ukraine. A portion of the funds received was put into a fund that is enabling us to continue sending food supplies in 2023.

We extend our sincere gratitude to each and every partner and funder.

### Fundraising by the Ca' Zampa Veterinary Clinics in Milan

In March 2022, the veterinary clinics of the Ca' Zampa Group in Milan began a **collection of basic necessities** for pets belonging to Ukrainian refugees.

For every donation, **Ca' Zampa doubled the amount collected**.

This campaign of solidarity and concrete aid was in support of the thousands of cats and dogs that had been forced to flee their country together with women and children at the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine.

Thanks to the collection organized at the Ca' Zampa Centers in Milan (located in Via Monte Nero and Piazza Portello), more than **100 kilograms of food were dispatched, along with pet carriers, bowls, harnesses for dogs and cats, and leashes**, and arrived safely at the assistance point at the border between Romania and Ukraine in Isaccea. Their assistance was invaluable and represented an initiative that helped raise awareness among the clinics' customers about the suffering of animals caught up in the conflict.

### Sharing the same values is what makes our partnership with Save the Duck so strong

Save the Duck has joined forces with *Save the Dogs* for many years, supporting our projects in Italy and Romania. Between 2021 and 2022, the company enabled us to help animals living in the Romanian countryside with the distribution of 50 wooden kennels, 580 kg of dry dog food, 24 kg of wet dog food, 100 kg of dry cat food, 15 collars, and 36 bowls. In 2022, assistance from this international, 100% animal-free brand was even more important.

*“It is so wonderful when a company embraces a non-profit organization's mission. This is precisely the case of Save The Duck. Our deep gratitude goes to CEO Nicolas Bargi and his whole team of employees, who chose to continue their commitment to animals by making a donation in the aftermath of the outbreak of war in Ukraine, and who donated 20% of the proceeds of all summer retail sales and European e-commerce to support our projects.”*

**Sara Turetta,**  
President of *Save the Dogs*.

### FRIENDS OF SAVE THE DOGS

Save the Duck  
Miomojo  
Petsoul Jewelry  
Calze G.M.  
Trixie Italia  
Royal Canin Italia  
Ca' Zampa  
Save the Polar Bear  
KPET Charity di KPET  
Mabina S.P.A

### ITALIAN FOUNDATIONS

Unione buddista italiana  
Umanità

### INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

*Soi Dog Foundation* has enabled *Save the Dogs* to send hundreds of tons of dog and cat food to Ukraine, distributed through the local volunteers we collaborate with who have been feeding thousands of animals on the streets and in shelters. In addition, *Soi Dog's* support has also meant we have been able to donate numerous kennels that have protected stray animals from the snow and rain during the harsh Ukrainian winter.

*World Animal Protection Netherlands* ensured the purchase and transportation of food for animals left behind in Ukraine, as well as providing pet carriers at the Isaccea border.

A Kinder World Foundation  
Abraham Foundation  
Ahimsa Foundation  
Animal Welfare Institute  
Animals' Angels

Arukah Animal International  
Blue Cross  
Center for a Humane Economy  
Dogs Trust  
Edgard & Cooper Foundation  
Fondation Brigitte Bardot  
Greater Good Charities  
Humane Society International (HSI)  
Hundhjalpen  
IFAW  
International Animal Rescue (IAR)  
K9Aid  
L'homme et son Chien  
Leslie L. Alexander Foundation  
Magic Marble Foundation  
Marchig Charities  
Mars  
Olsen Animal Trust  
Soi Dog Foundation  
Summerlee Foundation  
Susy Utzinger Stiftung fur Tierschutz  
TASSO  
Vets Beyond Borders Australia  
Vets Beyond Borders Denmark  
Wagmore Foundation  
Wellbeing International  
World Animal Protection Netherlands





# → Communication

## Social media

Save the Dogs' presence on social media is key to raising awareness of the Foundation's projects and initiatives. In 2022, the community grew steadily on all existing channels, but leading the way in terms of followers is still **Facebook**, with a bank of nearly **240,000 users**. This is followed by **Instagram**, which grew by **21%** to more than **17,000 followers**.

Instagram remains the best channel for us in terms of user engagement and interactions with posted content.

**Twitter, LinkedIn** and **YouTube** are also showing steady growth with respective increases of **26%**, **37,5%** and **3%**. In December, the association has also created a presence on Tik Tok that has attracted over a thousand followers in just under a month.

These numbers become particularly significant when placed in the context of fundraising. In 2022, the sum of **€99,580** was raised thanks to the association's campaigns and the initiatives of individual users who, for example, chose *Save the Dogs* as the recipient of fundraising efforts to celebrate their birthdays.

## Press releases, radio and TV

The year 2022 was a very busy year from a communications perspective, and our frontline involvement in Ukraine multiplied our contacts with the Italian media, who frequently sought our input on radio and TV channels. The press office closely followed our activities on behalf of Ukraine but also supported the Foundation's other projects, ensuring constant and continuous visibility across multiple channels.

As this was an exceptional year, it is not possible to make comparisons with previous years. However, the results achieved in 2022 are very positive, not only in quantitative terms but also qualitatively, resulting in numerous interviews and much in-depth coverage.



**219** TOTAL NUMBER OF ARTICLES

**27** INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED ON TV AND RADIO

# → The issues that garnered the most media coverage

## UKRAINE PROJECT

**84** ARTICLES

## FRIENDS ON THE STREETS, COMPANIONS FOR LIFE PROJECT

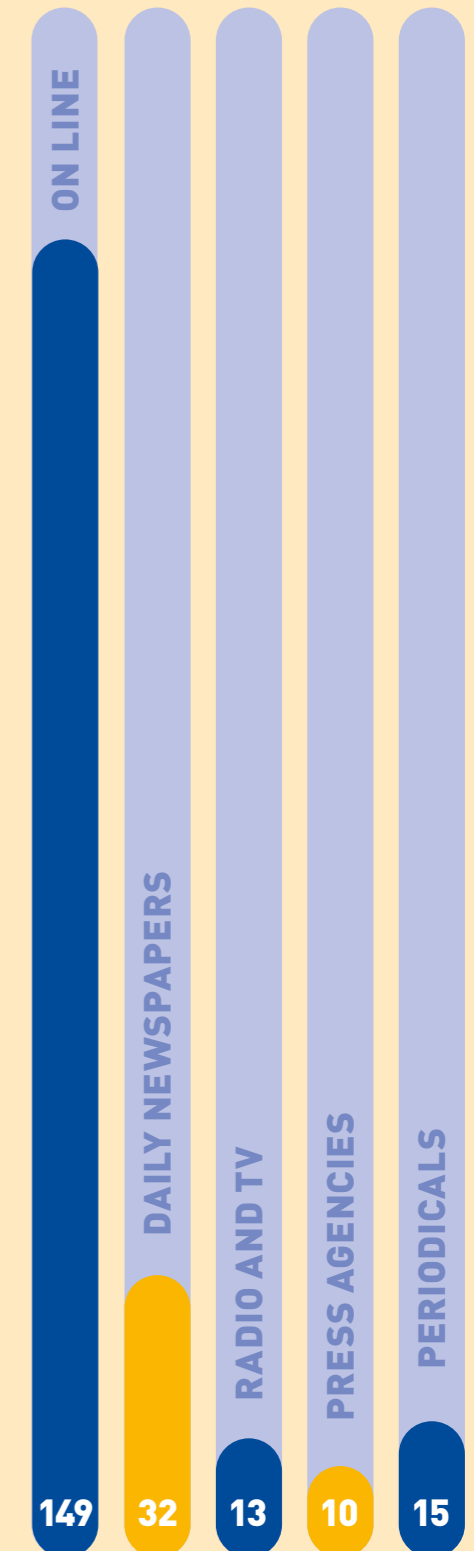
**45** ARTICLES

## SAVE THE DOGS IN GENERAL

**159** ARTICLES

## MENTIONS

**60** ARTICLES





## ➔ Sara Turetta's autobiography presented in six Romanian cities

The publication in Romania of *Urme de Bucurie*, an expanded edition of the Italian version of Sara Turetta's autobiography, gave our founder and president the opportunity of traveling across the country and meeting many important people in Romanian society.

In collaboration with the publishing house Humanitas, the book was presented in bookstores in all the major Romanian cities and attracted many activists as well as students, university professors and members of the general public, who were intrigued by Sara Turetta's story and united by a single desire: that of **seeing their dreams for the future of Romania's animals fulfilled**.

*Urme de Bucurie* was also presented at the Italian Cultural Institute in Bucharest in the presence of the Italian Ambassador, Alfredo Durante Mangoni and his wife Eleonora, **together with a very special guest: film director Cristian Mungiu**, one of the first people to read the Romanian version of the book, who testified about his personal love of animals and recounted an episode from his youth, when he

was a university student in Bucharest and tried to rescue a stray dog from the dog catchers.

At the time of writing this Annual Report, a thousand copies of the book have been sold so far (with a total print run of 3,500 for the first edition). But over and above the numbers, **"Urme de Bucurie" aims to preserve the memory of a page in Romania's recent history that was in danger of disappearing through the cracks of social media**, in other words, the brutal killing of stray animals in the early 2000s that still today, unfortunately, continues in many Romanian cities, including our very own Cernavoda. Thanks to a prestigious publishing house like *Humanitas*, this book will be read by intellectuals, journalists and cultural figures who have traditionally been far removed from our world. We are convinced that many of them will feel the need to make their own contribution to the cause of animal rights.

"We feel that *Urme de Bucurie* is only at the start of its trajectory, and we believe it will reap many dividends, some of which may be totally unexpected."





# Balance sheet Italy

## ➔ Balance sheet *Save the Dogs* Italy

2022 was an anomalous year in the association's history, with **overall numbers not comparable to any of the previous years** due to the Ukraine emergency. **Revenues**, driven by donations for the war and especially contributions from foreign organizations, **increased by 92%**, while **overall costs grew by 74%**. The difference between the increased revenues and higher expenditures was allocated to a Ukraine Fund (worth €300,000 euros) to continue supporting the response to the emergency during the course of 2023.

At the same time, the **financial commitment to support the ongoing expenses** of the Footprints of Joy center in Romania increased (+113%) as did as all the other entries related to general interest activities.

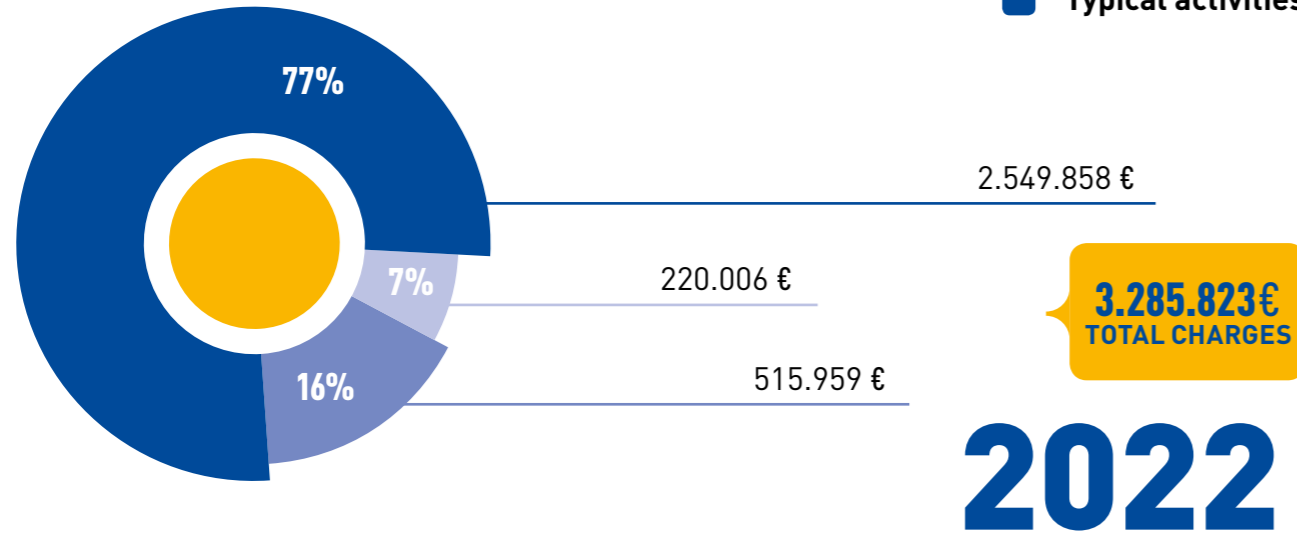
To enable the Italian structure to manage the **extraordinary workload brought about by the Ukrainian emergency**, it was essential to integrate new professional staff members, which inevitably had an impact on the organization's fixed costs. These additions to the team made it possible to manage the massive increase of operations carried out in 2022 and allowed for an improvement in the restructuring the roles, both in the administrative and fundraising departments, which had always been understaffed compared with the effective needs.



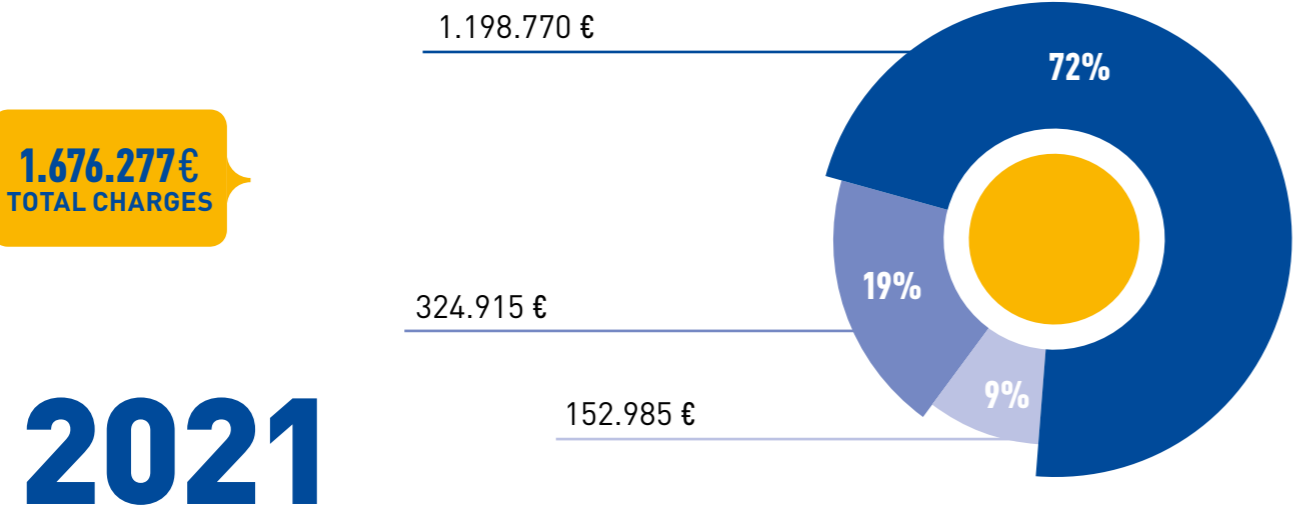


### Breakdown of charges

- Promotions
- Structural costs
- Typical activities

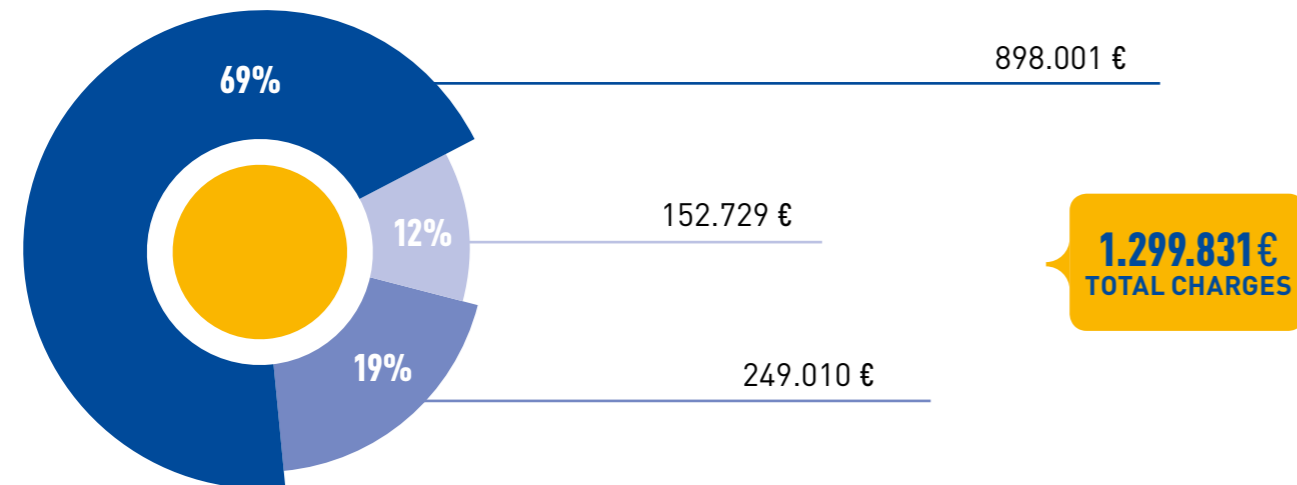


# 2022



# 2021

# 2020







# Balance sheet

at 31-12-2022

	31.12.2022	31.12.2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>A) FIXED ASSETS</b>		
<b>I - Intangible fixed assets</b>		
Software	€ 7.001	€ 9.714
Deferred charges	€ 381	€ 761
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 7.382</b>	<b>€ 10.475</b>
<b>II - Tangible fixed assets</b>		
Lightweight Construction	€ 115.828	-
Equipment	€ 15.065	€ 16.334
Vehicles	€ 9.178	€ 20.747
Electronic Machinery	€ 5.631	€ 1.166
Office furniture	€ 748	-
Assets less than 516,45	€ 80	-
Land	€ 43.000	€ 43.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 189.530</b>	<b>€ 81.247</b>
<b>III - Financial fixed assets</b>		
Security deposits	€ 3.900	€ 3.900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 3.900</b>	<b>€ 3.900</b>
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>€ 200.812</b>	<b>€ 95.622</b>
<b>B) CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>I - Inventory</b>		
Raw, ancillary and consumable materials	€ 12.586	€ 3.153
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 12.586</b>	<b>€ 3.153</b>
<b>II - Receivables</b>		
Tax receivables	€ 3.062	€ 3.632
Other receivables	€ 1.744	€ 1.574
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 4.806</b>	<b>€ 5.206</b>
<b>III - Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Banca Intesa	€ 416.882	€ 202.014
Credit Agricole	€ 57.993	€ 90.733
Paypal	€ 6.058	€ 2.892
Paypal 2	€ 22	-
Banco Posta	€ 19.127	€ 18.593
Postfinance	€ 2.770	€ 2.954
Stripe	€ 4.046	€ 4.844
Banca Intesa with guarantee	€ 30.000	-
Libretto Postale	€ 709	€ 1.081
Administrator's cash funds	€ 300	€ 278
Cash in hand	€ 1.619	€ 1.209
Cash checks	€ 9.315	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 548.842</b>	<b>€ 324.596</b>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>€ 566.234</b>	<b>€ 332.956</b>
<b>C) ACCRUALS AND DEFERRALS</b>		
Deferred income	€ 7.938	€ 5.402
<b>TOTAL ACCRUALS AND DEFERRALS</b>	<b>€ 7.938</b>	<b>€ 5.402</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>€ 774.984</b>	<b>€ 433.980</b>



# Balance sheet

at 31-12-2022

	31.12.2022	31.12.2021
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>A) NET EQUITY</b>		
I - Endowment capital	€ 100.000	€ 100.000
II - Restricted assets		
Statutory reserves	-€ 4.562	-€ 248
Reserves restricted by decision of the Board of Directors	€ 249.892	-
III - Operating surplus/deficit	€ 9.994	-€ 4.315
<b>TOTAL NET EQUITY</b>	<b>€ 355.323</b>	<b>€ 95.437</b>
<b>B) PROVISIONS FOR CONTINGENCIES AND OTHER CHARGES</b>		
1) Provision for contingencies	€ 35	€ 35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 35</b>	<b>€ 35</b>
<b>C) EMPLOYMENT SEVERANCE INDEMNITY</b>		
Employment severance indemnity	€ 80.940	€ 64.348
Provision for supplementary pensions	€ 1.443	€ 1.443
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 82.383</b>	<b>€ 65.791</b>
<b>D) PAYABLES</b>		
1) Payables to banks	€ 160.042	€ 202.691
2) Payables to suppliers	€ 56.306	€ 40.947
3) Tax payables	€ 11.972	€ 9.507
4) Payables to social security institutions	€ 36.299	€ 16.079
5) Payables to employees and contractors	€ 42.755	€ 3.164
6) Other payables	€ 329	€ 329
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 307.702</b>	<b>€ 272.717</b>
<b>ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME</b>		
Accrued expenses	€ 20.463	-
Deferred income	€ 9.077	-
<b>TOTAL ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME</b>	<b>€ 29.540</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>€ 774.984</b>	<b>€ 433.980</b>



## ➔ Profit and loss account

at 31-12-2022

	31.12.2022	31.12.2021
<b>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>A) COSTS AND EXPENSES FROM GENERAL ACTIVITIES</b>		
1) Raw, ancillary and consumable goods and materials	€ 117.192	€ 36.764
2) Services	€ 94.811	€ 51.485
3) Contributions for projects	€ 1.806.722	€ 983.159
4) Use of third-party goods	€ 1.747	-
5) Personnel	€ 255.605	€ 109.104
6) Depreciation and amortization	€ 20.736	€ 13.143
7) Opening inventories	€ 3.153	€ 4.723
8) Miscellaneous operating expenses		
9) Allocation to restricted reserve	€ 249.892	
<b>TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES FROM GENERAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 2.549.858</b>	<b>€ 1.198.377</b>
<b>B) COSTS AND EXPENSES FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>C) COSTS AND EXPENSES FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</b>		
1) Charges from regular fundraising activities	€ 85.129	€ 73.563
2) Charges from occasional fundraising activities	€ 11.845	€ 369
3) Other charges	€ 418.985	€ 250.983
<b>TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 515.959</b>	<b>€ 324.915</b>
<b>D) COSTS AND EXPENSES FROM FINANCIAL AND EQUITY ACTIVITIES</b>		
1) Bank reports	€ 18.000	€ 10.751
2) Loans	€ 3.273	€ 3.287
3) Extraordinary charges	€ 17.242	
<b>TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES FROM FINANCIAL AND EQUITY ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 38.515</b>	<b>€ 14.039</b>
<b>E) GENERAL SUPPORT COSTS AND EXPENSES</b>		
1) Raw, ancillary and consumable goods and materials	€ 6.958	€ 5.572
2) Services	€ 53.484	€ 36.801
3) Use of third-party goods	€ 18.816	€ 18.751
4) Personnel	€ 90.369	€ 67.052
5) Depreciation and amortization	€ 11.085	€ 9.544
6) Other charges	€ 779	€ 1.227
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT COSTS AND EXPENSES</b>	<b>€ 181.491</b>	<b>€ 138.947</b>
<b>TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES</b>	<b>€ 3.285.823</b>	<b>€ 1.676.277</b>

## ➔ Profit and loss account

at 31-12-2022

	31.12.2022	31.12.2021
<b>INCOME AND REVENUES</b>		
<b>A) INCOME AND REVENUES FROM GENERAL ACTIVITIES</b>		
1) Income from membership fees	€ 300	€ 320
2) Income from members for mutual activities	-	-
3) Income from membership services and transfers	-	-
4) Charitable donations	€ 550.692	€ 438.059
5) Income from 5 x 1000 initiative	€ 172.039	€ 178.913
6) Contributions from private parties	€ 219.375	€ 454.490
7) Revenues from third-party contributions and transfers		
8) Contributions from public entities		
9) Income from public contracts		
10) Other income and revenues		
11) Closing inventories	€ 12.586	€ 3.153
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUES FROM GENERAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 954.992</b>	<b>€ 1.074.935</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FROM GENERAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-€ 1.594.866</b>	<b>-€ 123.442</b>
<b>B) INCOME AND REVENUES FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUES FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>C) INCOME AND REVENUES FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</b>		
1) Proceeds from regular fundraising activities	€ 1.199.272	€ 523.782
2) Proceeds from occasional fundraising activities	€ 1.140.118	€ 70.433
3) Other income		
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUES FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 2.339.390</b>	<b>€ 594.215</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 1.823.431</b>	<b>€ 269.300</b>
<b>D) INCOME AND REVENUES FROM FINANCIAL AND EQUITY ACTIVITIES</b>		
1) Bank reports	€ 17	€ 99
2) Other income	€ 1.418	€ 2.713
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUES FROM FINANCIAL AND EQUITY ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>€ 1.435</b>	<b>€ 2.812</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FROM FINANCIAL AND EQUITY ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-€ 37.080</b>	<b>-€ 11.227</b>
<b>E) GENERAL SUPPORT INCOME</b>		
<b>TOTAL GENERAL SUPPORT INCOME</b>		
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT FROM GENERAL SUPPORT INCOME</b>	<b>-€ 181.491</b>	<b>-138.947</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME AND REVENUES</b>	<b>€ 3.295.817</b>	<b>€ 1.671.962</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>€ 9.994</b>	<b>-€ 4.315</b>



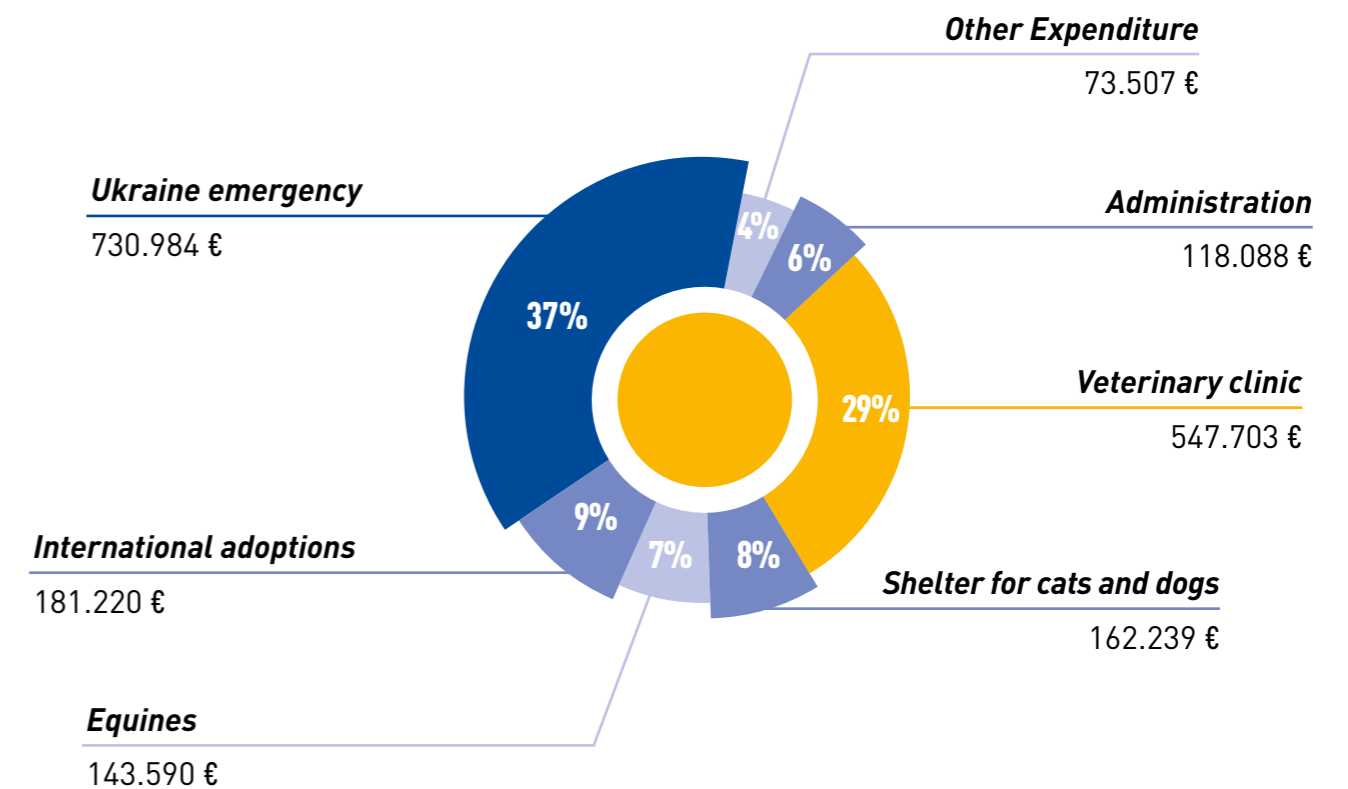
# Balance sheet Romania



## ➔ Financial Statement Save the Dogs Romania

The team in the Romanian office also witnessed a series of new additions, which were crucial to ensuring intervention at the Ukraine border and regular aid shipments to the Odessa region. When coupled with the additional increases imposed by the Government concerning minimum wages and the sharp rise in inflation (over 15%), fueled by the international geopolitical situation, it is easy to understand the reasons **behind a 27% increase in overall expenditures.**

Compared to previous years, we have started making **small investments to initiate fundraising** and have established *Footprints of Freedom*, our sanctuary for dogs that cannot be adopted, which was entirely funded by the Italian offices (€40,000 contribution in 2022). For the first time, the Romanian headquarters directly received a significant contribution from an international animal protection organization (HSI), in support of the dispatching of food and equipment to Ukraine. **The entry related to managing the emergency in the neighboring country accounts for 37% of the total expenses.**





# Financial statement

at 31.12.2022

	2022	2021
	Euro	Euro
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Membership fees	€ 61	€ 153
3,5%	€ 2.011	€ 2.936
Local donations	€ 9.597	€ 9.049
Save the Dogs Italy (for projects)	€ 957.139	€ 840.000
Save the Dogs Italy (for Ukraine)	€ 707.888	
Save the Dogs Italy (extraordinary expenses)	€ 92.512	€ 97.750
Donations from international organizations	€ 136.404	
Revenues from companies and organizations	€ 3.435	€ -
Sponsorships	€ -	€ 3.571
Revenue from veterinary care services	€ 6.093	€ -
Financial income (exchange rate differences, interest income)	€ 31.189	€ 6
Sale of goods	€ 731	€ -
In kind donations	€ 103.565	
Other income	€ 93.916	€ -
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 2.144.541</b>	<b>€ 953.465</b>

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Staff	€ 72.823	€ 53.425
Consultants (personnel management, health and safety at work)	€ 3.118	€ 2.204
Transport of staff	€ 11.402	€ 7.000
Apartment rental	€ 11.753	€ 4.246
Utilities	€ 705	€ 1.032
Equipment	€ 2.123	€ -
Consumables	€ 540	€ -
Bank fees/exchange rate differences	€ 4.222	€ 4.465
Inventory	€ 556	€ 220
Miscellaneous	€ 10.846	€ 3.179
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>	<b>€ 118.088</b>	<b>€ 75.711</b>

<b>VETERINARY CLINIC</b>		
Staff	€ 220.854	€ 211.208
Consultants	€ 25.499	€ 27.691
Medications, tests, consumable health supplies	€ 94.792	€ 75.460
Operations, X-rays and external specialist visits	€ 22.284	€ 19.216
Detergents and supplies	€ 33.373	€ 2.886
Utilities	€ 12.814	€ 11.886
Dog and cat food	€ 51.073	€ 27.762
Transport of staff	€ 33.584	€ 20.132

Transport of material from Italy	€ 5.048	€ 2.672
Apartment rental	€ -	€ 6.952
Inventory	€ -	€ 8.518
Consumables	€ -	€ 13.796
Maintenance	€ 1.784	€ -
Equipment	€ 3.162	€ -
Miscellaneous	€ 38.593	€ 12.126
Investment	€ 4.843	€ -
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>	<b>€ 547.703</b>	<b>€ 440.305</b>

<b>CAT AND DOG SHELTER</b>		
Staff	€ 68.385	€ 63.026
Consultants	€ 1.502	€ 643
Medications, tests, consumable health supplies	€ 21.220	€ 30.996
Detergents and supplies	€ 6.614	€ 571
Utilities	€ 7.020	€ 10.092
Dog and cat food	€ 21.882	€ 26.129
Transport of staff	€ 10.867	€ 6.833
Transport of material from Italy	€ 644	€ 2.673
Inventory	€ -	€ 929
Consumables	€ -	€ 9.946
Maintenance	€ 1.522	€ -
Equipment	€ 585	€ -
Miscellaneous	€ 3.071	€ 5.614
Investment	€ 18.927	€ 5.648
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>	<b>€ 162.239</b>	<b>€ 163.100</b>

<b>EQUINES</b>		
Staff	€ 51.960	€ 43.993
External veterinary services	€ 11.605	
Consultants	€ -	€ 9.866
Horses (food, medicine)	€ 29.831	€ 13.885
Donkeys (food, medicine)	€ 31.009	€ 24.586
Detergents and supplies	€ 3.779	€ -
Equipment	€ 463	
Utilities	€ 3.282	€ 3.311
Transport	€ 8.547	€ 5.654
Maintenance	€ 2.178	€ 1.602
Inventory	€ -	€ 555
Miscellaneous	€ 936	€ 4.958
Investment	€ -	€ 26.549
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>	<b>€ 143.590</b>	<b>€ 134.959</b>



<b>INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS</b>		
Staff	€ 106.383	€ 75.912
Volunteers	€ 4.569	€ 2.307
Consultants	€ 185	
Transport of animals (by plane and van)	€ 43.956	€ 52.312
Transport of staff	€ 8.450	€ 4.730
Apartment rental	€ 14.402	€ 8.057
Detergents and supplies	€ 469	
Equipment	€ 1.172	
Utilities	€ 465	€ 1.296
Inventory	€ -	€ 477
Miscellaneous	€ 1.169	€ 2.238
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>	<b>€ 181.220</b>	<b>€ 147.329</b>
<b>UKRAINE EMERGENCY</b>		
Transport	€ 89.762	€ -
Pet food	€ 391.379	€ -
Medications, tests, consumable health supplies	€ 12.693	€ -
Consumables	€ 122.734	€ -
Equipment	€ 1.616	€ -
Donations and subsidies provided	€ 12.392	€ -
Building materials	€ 1.449	€ -
Investment	€ 82.131	€ -
Miscellaneous	€ 16.828	€ -
	<b>€ 730.984</b>	
Other expenditures	€ 73.507	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>€ 1.957.331</b>	<b>€ 961.464</b>
<b>FINANCIAL RESULT</b>	<b>€ 187.210</b>	<b>-€ 7.999</b>





# Balance sheet USA

## → *Save the Dogs* and other animals USA

The bank account of the American branch of the Foundation was activated in early August 2022, five months after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, to facilitate donors and foundations in the United States wishing to support Save the Dogs' emergency response. US citizens enjoy significant tax benefits if they donate to an entity within their own country, while many philanthropic foundations are restricted by statute from disbursing funds to foreign organizations.

Between August and December, the funds raised approached \$100,000, thanks to the many personal contacts established by the Treasurer (and Executive Director in Romania), Gregg Tully.

Donations primarily came from other philanthropic foundations (75%), followed by non-profit organizations (25%), and then 5% from private donors.

By early December, \$46,000 was transferred to the foundation's Italian headquarters, fully utilized for emergency relief in Ukraine.





## → Statement of Financial Position

as of December 31, 2022

31.12.2022

ASSETS	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
Bank of America bank acct	\$ 51.863,39
PayPal	\$ 598,79
Investment account	-
Cash	-
<b>TOTAL BANK ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$ 52.462,18</b>
Total Current Assets	\$ 52.462,18
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 52.462,18</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	-
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Retained Earnings	-
Net Revenue	\$ 52.462,18
Total Equity	\$ 52.462,18
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 52.462,18</b>

## → Profit and Loss Statement

January - December 2022

31.12.2022

REVENUE	
<b>Donations</b>	
Individual donors	\$ 4.274,24
Foundations	\$ 75.000,00
Other NGOs	\$ 20.000,00
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 99.274,24</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 99.274,24</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
<b>Programs</b>	
Grants Given	\$ 46.000,00
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMS</b>	<b>\$ 46.000,00</b>
<b>Administration</b>	
Bank fees	\$ 100,07
Insurance	\$ 637,00
Mailbox service	\$ 74,99
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$ 812,06</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 46.812,06</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 52.462,18</b>



# Final reflections



2022 was a year of great new opportunities for *Save the Dogs*, which now translate into challenges for the future.

There is no doubt that our strong involvement in what has been happening in Ukraine has given a decisive boost to the **organization's internationalization process** and its even greater **professionalization**, both crucial aspects for our becoming an increasingly important reference point in Europe with regards to the fight against stray overpopulation and the protection of dogs and cats.

On the other hand, it is easy to predict that **2023** will be a **year of transition** and we predict that we will see a significant drop in revenue, while needing to maintain the current organizational structure of the teams in Italy and Romania, as the staff have been **constantly under pressure** due to their enormous workload. It is imperative for us to understand how best to sustain this investment in personnel and **how to boost fundraising**, both in Italy and Romania, so that the increase in fixed costs can be sustainable and our ongoing projects can be expanded as soon as possible. **Finding regular donors will be an absolute priority.** This is an area of individual fundraising on which systematic work has not been done so far, because it requires targeted investments that we have not previously had the resources to put into effect.

The **hypothesis** of continuing to be present in Ukraine in the future with one or more free sterilization projects **will need to be evaluated based on the numbers:** we will undoubtedly continue to help dogs and cats there in 2023 thanks to the funds set aside in 2022 and other pledged donations, but there are **many unknowns related to the growing fixed costs in Italy and Romania**, which may hinder a permanent operational expansion in Ukraine. A comprehensive assessment on this matter will only be possible at the end of 2023.

Another key issue that affects growth prospects is the **transversal difficulty in both countries**

**(Italy and Romania) of finding qualified personnel**, as well as offering competitive compensation compared to the for-profit sector, an aspect that, inevitably, limits the possibility of developing certain activities. In Italy, the problem concerns the Fundraising sector, which does not seem to produce a sufficient number of professional profiles compared with demand in the non-profit sector; in Romania, the challenges lie in the medical personnel and project management, due to an increasingly competitive internal professional market and the **emigration of young people from the regions where we operate**, where a significant "brain drain" sees them migrating to larger Romanian cities and abroad.

Lastly, there is the uncertainty of not knowing how much support the **Italian and Romanian corporate world** will decide to provide to organizations like *Save the Dogs*. While CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) is becoming increasingly integrated into the Italian corporate culture, it is much less prevalent in Romania, where this process is only just beginning. Both countries, however, are united by a general **prejudice regarding animal issues**, still seen as a "minor cause", lacking full dignity. We are beginning to see **encouraging signs** of a change in this mindset, but the road ahead is long, and we will have to work very hard to ensure this less than inclusive view is overcome. Our ability to engage companies will have a direct and significant impact on the future growth of *Save the Dogs*.









# Our work with the animals that need us most



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