



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT REPORT

**SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS ASSOCIATION
ROMANIA**

2013



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

Index:

1. Vision and strategy
 - 1.1. The Association and its mission
 - 1.2. Brief Mission Report 2013

2. Activity 2013
 - 2.1. Projects and social indicators
 - 2.1.1. Sterilization and dog population management in Cernavodă and Medgidia
 - 2.1.2. Equine protection project
 - 2.1.3. Educational project
 - 2.2. Economic indicators

3. STD Romania's administration and management

4. STD partners and contacts



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

1. Vision and strategy

1.1. The Association and its mission

The Association was born in response to the **tragic urgency of stray dogs in Romania** – hundreds of thousands of animals are slaughtered each year because of the general indifference, as well as an endemic of stray dogs.

STD proposes promoting in Romania a culture to recognize a series of fundamental rights for animals (in particular for pets and equines), in view of the fact that society has the **responsibility to protect** these animals, regarding both the value of each animal, as sensitive beings, being able to feel and suffer, as well as the positive and unequalled role that animals have in human society.

STD proposes to approach the problem of stray animals through an integrated approach, which includes:

- Qualified medical - veterinary activities in the territory, for the benefit of the community, in collaboration with the city council and local businesses in the area;
- Develop plans for education, volunteering, awareness-raising campaigns and social projects that will encourage reflection on the correct relationship between humans and animals, in order to promote citizen's responsible attitude.

1.2. Brief mission report 2013

The year 2013 was marked by the modification of the law for stray dogs' management in Romania. In September last year, as a result of Ionuț's death, a 4 years old child who apparently was killed by so-called stray dogs, the possibility of euthanasia was reintroduced for dogs in public and private shelters, after 14 working days of staying in these establishments. This law – supported by the Romanian media – has sent a strong message to the population, presenting stray dogs as a dangerous threat to citizens, leading to real criminal acts against them: food poisoning, abuse, brutal captures, the same scenes we saw in 2001.

Among the highly negative aspects provided by **Law 258/2013** there is the impossibility of associations to reintroduce healthy and sociable dogs in the area after sterilization – suggested by the universal technique Trap Neuter and Release (TNR). In addition, the law provides harder conditions for people who may adopt a dog and new and restrictive norms regarding the activity of the associations for the protection of animals. Furthermore – a very serious fact – no national fund was created specifically to resolve the problem of stray dogs or to improve the precarious conditions in numerous government shelters in the country.

During this regression phase, STD has tried to adapt to the new external conditions **focusing on the positive things provided by the law**: mandatory sterilization and the registration of all dogs kept by the Romanians until January 1, 2015, by creating a National Register for Dog Tracking (REC) (supported and requested by STD for years), as well as a greater collaboration with the Government and local authorities.

A positive fact is that, by means of law, the adoption of dogs located in public shelters is free, as well as the introduction of minimum standards for managing public and private establishments, with the possibility of several inspections from the National Sanitary Veterinary Authority and non-profit organizations. Until now, these requests have obviously been ignored, and these are the aspects which we will try to improve, whenever possible.



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

Despite returning to the past and the difficulties imposed by the new law to the activity of STD – first of all the impossibility to release some of the dogs in the territory after sterilization, which is translated by diminishing the captures from the streets, considering the insufficient number of places in our shelters – 2013 has also been a year of **growth and consolidation** for *Save the dogs and other animals*.

The positive side is not just the **sterilizations** for dogs and cats carried out in our centres, but also the **outreach activities in support of the equines** in the area, with a net increase in the visits, even in difficult contexts such as those in the neighbourhoods of Roma population. We can point out an increase in **actions to save** the abused horses and donkeys (we all remember the terrible case of the mare Margherita), an intensification of **educational activities** with a program carried out in schools, with twice as many students than in 2012, as well as an extension of STD's international relations by attracting **new partners** such as WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals), *Animal Care Austria*, Susy Utzinger Foundation and the association from the United States *Horses on Death Row*. We also point out a new privileged relation development between STD and the National Sanitary Veterinary and Welfare of Animals Authority (ANSVSA), by signing a protocol of cooperation debated in the last few week.

The year 2013 has also been the year of **consolidation** of STD with significant changes in the association's operational and administrative management as a result of **more rigorous financial inspections**, more efficient **reporting system** (between centres, the STD Directorate and the Board of Directors) and through the use of **new instruments**, such as the balance sheet and detailed monthly and annual financial plans. We introduced assessment questionnaires for our interlocutors (all positive), we strengthened the collection of funds process at the local level and we improved the exploitation of **Footprints of Joy** shelter by building washing facilities, a new stable for horses, as well as an ample room for socialization for dogs and new shelters for donkeys. We also created here a fire prevention system and we installed a new indicators in the park. One year after its birth, the shelter *Footprints of Joy* has become **a modern centre recognized** on national and European level, with stories at the national TV stations in Italy (RAI), Germany (ARD) and Romania (Realitatea TV) and important visits. Today FOJ is open to the public every day from 10.00 to 17:00.



Finally, it was the year of confirmation for **solid relations**, marked by specific agreements, not only with the city councils of Cernavodă and Medgidia, but also with the two main local companies – Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant (CNE) and the concrete factory La Farge in Medgidia (in progress) – with the airport in Constanța and with the local prison Poarta Albă, confirming the fact that STD became the privileged interlocutor in activities for animal care in the region.

The Italian ambassador Brasioli and Mayor Hansa during a visit at Footprints of Joy



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2. Activity 2013

2.1. Projects and social indicators

2.1.1. Sterilization and dog management in Cernavodă and Medgidia

The **sterilizations** carried out in our Cernavodă and Medgidia centres – despite the changes in management and the two veterinarians in Cernavodă in 2013 and hiring a second veterinarian in Cernavodă – since May 2013 have increased compared to the previous year, from 2,553 to **2,599** (1851 females).

Centre	Typology	Sterilizations
Cernavodă	DOGS	690
	CATS	330
	Subtotal	1020
Medgidia	DOGS	1082
	CATS	497
	Subtotal	1579
TOTAL STERILIZATIONS		2599

Being constrained by limited funds in spring/summer 2013, the **Mobile Clinic** activity was limited.

We worked mainly in the towns Peștera (in the vicinity of Medgidia) and Rasova (near Cernavodă), places we haven't visited before. Here we sterilized 160 dogs, bringing the total sterilizations number in 2013 from 2599 to 2,759, compared to the 861 animals sterilized by the Mobile Clinic in 2012, when the activity in the territory was greater.

In 2014, by means of specific financing from our partner WSPA it will be possible to restart this valuable activity, strategic for our projects.





SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

Dogs entered in the shelters	639
Cats entered in the shelters	173
Dogs in the shelters at present	578
Cats in the shelters at present	64

The **adoptions** – supported by our European partners and the shelters contacted by STD Italy – have fortunately continued to be in a large number, even if there were fewer adoptions than in 2012. The decline is mainly attributed to the fact that in September 2013 we ended our collaboration with the Swedish partner *Dog Rescue*, because of the questionable work and non-transparent financial management. STD is currently looking for a new partner for European adoptions of dogs and cats, considering the increased pressure on our establishments after the approval of the new law.

Type	Destination	Adoptions 2013	Adoptions 2012
Dogs	ITALY	237	231
	SWEDEN Hundhjälpen	128	121
	SWEDEN Dog Rescue	38	133
	SWITZERLAND	44	57
	FINLAND	38	42
	GERMANY	1	0
	MONTE CARLO	1	0
	ROMANIA	31	6
	Total dogs	518	590
Cats	ITALY	58	46
	SWITZERLAND	6	16
	ROMANIA	6	1
	Total cats	70	64
Total adoptions		588	654¹

¹ In the report for 2012 the total number of adoptions did not take into account the adoptions from Romania.



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

2.1.2. Equine protection project

In 2013, the project for **equine protection** in Constanța region **has considerably grown**. With the outreach activity (home care), initiated at the beginning of April and completed in mid-November (support for owners of horses and donkeys in the region and control over cases of neglect) we reached a number of **74 donkeys** (44 more than in 2012) and **115 horses** (in 2012 there were approximately one hundred).

13 new donkeys, abused or abandoned, entered our shelter during the year and **a mare, Margherita** (see photo), was taken from its owner, being victim of severe abuse. A new project for working horses assistance in the Roma neighbourhood from Medgidia (the poorest neighbourhood) was launched in 2013 to provide specific assistance periodically (3 visits per year), materials (e.g. brushes, bridles) and food for equines that live in the shacks from the area. A number of 10 horses have already benefited from this project, which is financed entirely by the association *Animal Care Austria*, with its headquarters in Vienna.



Horses in our shelters	11
Donkeys in our shelters	62
Donkeys visited in Constanța region	74
Horses visited in Constanța region	115
Donkeys used for therapy in Bucharest	4
Children who benefited from the donkey therapy	94

2012 was the year we launched the project ***It is Donkey time!*** in the Centre for children with disabilities and autism Don Orione in Bucharest. Since then, four of our donkeys are available there to accompany children with motor problems, autism and disabilities, to increase – using a specialized instructor – sensory and motor skills. In **2013 94 children** have benefited from a specific program of donkey therapy, participating each at an 8 hours donkey therapy, divided into several sessions. The project continues in Bucharest and we want to develop it in 2014 in Cernavodă and Bradet (Brașov), where a centre similar to Don Orione, administered by the Brașov County Council, specifically requested us to bring donkey therapy to the 100 children they have in their care.



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

2.1.3. Educational project

STD Romania's **educational project** reached from January until June 2013 a number of **2,635 children** 6-11 years old (compared to 1,650 children in 2012). The lessons consisted in two hours of training per month; the project has been carried out in 10 schools (6 in Medgidia and 4 in Cernavodă), amounting to a number of 125 classes and teachers. A nice way to advertise STD's daily work of and to approach children with the key concepts of being a "responsible owner". For the first time, the educational project was also developed in Cernavodă and 400 children have visited FOJ during the "Different Week". In addition, the project involved pupils from "Nicolae Bălcescu" High School in Medgidia and from the Power Systems High School in Cernavodă, which gathered funds and donated food for dogs and have dedicated a few hours of voluntary service to FOJ. The project continues at present with a new program and a new teacher, intending to reach a number of 2,500 students.



The educational project has not been limited to lessons in the classroom. In 2013 we've organised three **thematic plays** in Medgidia and Cernavodă to advertise STD's activity and to provide, free of charge, an opportunity of leisure for the poor children in the area, unlike other paid events organized by private parties, among which – unfortunately – there were circuses with animals.

Finally, a specific path started with **Poarta Albă prison**. For three months, one day a week, a number of 5 inmates have participated in a **training and voluntary service program** within our centre in Medgidia, being awarded at the end a symbolic diploma of dog trainer (which is not valid for professional activity). At present, the project continues with other inmates.



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

2.2. Economic indicators

This section describes the association's data as a whole, to provide a quantitative perspective of STD's activity and structure in Romania.

PERSONNEL (03/2014)	51
Director	1
Employees for external relations	1
Administrative personnel	2
Employees for international adoptions	2
Logistics	1
Educators	1
Veterinarians	5
Assistant veterinarians	4
Drivers	3
Specialized dog catchers	2
Qualified workers	27
Guards	2

Save the dogs has grown substantially in the last year with respect to staff, external consultants, minimum wages, hours of training for veterinarians and personnel work safety. This led to an increase in current expenditure for personnel, but also meant the creation of a solidier, safer and more efficient structure than before. A lot of work was done in 2013 to solve many errors in accounting records and personnel contracts, in order to correctly complete some missing (but necessary) documents for the control and work safety authorities, as well as to change all the duties of the workers in such a way that they correspond to their real roles. Finally, we revised the Rules of Procedure and established an internal committee for work safety, which meets on a regular basis, in accordance with the legislation.

The local and foreign volunteers are very important for STD, spending at least a few days every year in our structures, both to facilitate dogs' socialisation, as well as to provide a helping hand for the events organized by STD with local residents and schools.

In May 2013 over **80 volunteers** from all over Europe, with an increase in the number of Romanian volunteers from the previous year (from 5 to 21, including volunteers from Poarta Albă and excluding local high schools students), have spent at least a few days working for STD: an important aid to the association and to dogs socialisation!

VOLUNTEERS	80
Romania	21
Italy	7
Sweden DR	12
Sweden HH	22
Switzerland	7
UK	2
Monaco	1
Finland	8



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

Regarding STD Romania's income and expenditure in 2013, the statement of income for the mentioned year is shown below, followed by a brief economic analysis².

INCOME for 2013 in Euro	2013	2012	%
Income for specific activities			
Income from 2%	2.206	2.304	-4%
Income from local donations	13.169	12.104	+9%
Income from services for Cernavodă Mayor's Office	6.684	0	-
Income from services for CNE Cernavodă	2.371	0	-
Income from Romanian companies	227	679	-75%
Income from STD Italy and STD's partners	660.110	847.957	-33%
Income from other foreign donations	15.257	17.238	-11%
Income from sale of goods	3.086	0	-
Income from activities of collecting funds			
Income from specific funds collection	231	0	-
Financial and extraordinary income			
Interest and reimbursements	484	735	-
TOTAL	704.005	881.017	-20%

First we need to emphasize that in 2013 STD Romania's income has increased from 15,822 Euros in 2012 to 28,458 Euros (**+80 %**); with this income we covered the association's current expenses in a proportion of 4% in 2013 compared to 2.5% in 2012.

A higher local financial coverage (in Romania) was possible because of the increase in local donations (+9%) and because of the specific agreements with the Cernavodă Nuclear Power Plant and Cernavodă Mayor's Office for the management of canine population. Also, for the first time, we had two small local funds collections, one at the *British School* in Bucharest and the other one at the *Civic Hall* in Cernavodă, collecting the necessary funds to finance a play for children.

It should also be noted that unfortunately, the 2% campaign has not provided substantial funds for the association. Although it is still difficult for us to find sponsorships from Romanian companies, the sponsorships consisting in goods from our trusted suppliers have been consistent.

² An indication referring to the fact that the payments and the income calculated here in Euro with an arbitrary annual exchange rate were derived from the data received from the central administration of STD, and from the expenses and income in Lei, Euro, Dollars and Pounds. Therefore the figures are considered to be as accurate as possible, but do not correspond to official calculations carried out in lei and these tables are simply a management report for the STD Romania associates.



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

Expenses incurred in 2013:

EXPENSES for 2013 in Euro	2013	2012	%
General expenses of support			
Administrative management of STD Romania	36.354	36.608	-1%
Miscellaneous	-	1.841	-
Expenses for specific activities			
Local personnel, taxes and consultants	300.455	241.916	+24%
Communication - Internet and telephone	5.185	5.187	0%
Dog project in Cernavodă ³	125.655	124.563	+1%
Horse project in Cernavodă	13.583	12.681	+7%
Donkey project in Cernavodă	28.943	33.245	-13%
Dog project in Medgidia	86.085	96.814	-11%
Educational project ⁴	449	173	-
Donkey therapy project in Bucharest	434	1.093	-
International adoptions project ⁵	65.549	74.214	-12%
STD donations to others parties	421	0	-
Expenses for investments and constructions			
Investments and new acquisitions	61.083	252.313	-76%
TOTAL	724.196	880.649	-18%

After a year with record expenses – 2012 – for investments and to complete Footprints of Joy, 2013 was a year of consolidation, the expenses being mainly intended for specific veterinary activities and also by reducing costs in Medgidia as a result of the limited use of the Mobile Clinic. Instead, we've assisted to an increase in personnel expenses and other associated costs due to hiring (a new director, three workers and a full time accountant) as well as the increase in wages for the entire staff in January and July 2013⁶, in addition to a series of costs for training and work safety/health. The expenses were higher because of the increasing number and activities of consultancy (specifically a professional photographer, an expert consultant in employment and work safety, an expert veterinary, supervisor of our activities and responsible for our relationship with the local Veterinary Authority).

³ Daily management for the shelters: transport, medicines, vaccines, food for animals, supplies, and cleaning products.

⁴ The expenses for a dedicated teacher are taken into consideration in the expenses for local staff.

⁵ Mainly transport costs for dogs and cats to the countries of adoption, plus the costs for passports and tests necessary for the dogs and cats' departure.

⁶ An increase in wages was granted in order to adapt STD wages to the policy of minimum wage increase set by the Romanian government, which in the last year and a half has increased several times the minimum wage granted by law. The basic STD salary remains 15% greater than the minimum wage set by the Government.



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

We can also observe an increase in expenses for horses, as a result of the increase in activity in this area, the decrease in expenses for donkeys, as a result of a better management of visits to provide information (better targeted travel, fewer materials acquired as a result of the distributions in previous years) and finally a decrease in the costs for international adoptions caused by the decrease in international adoptions carried out during the year.

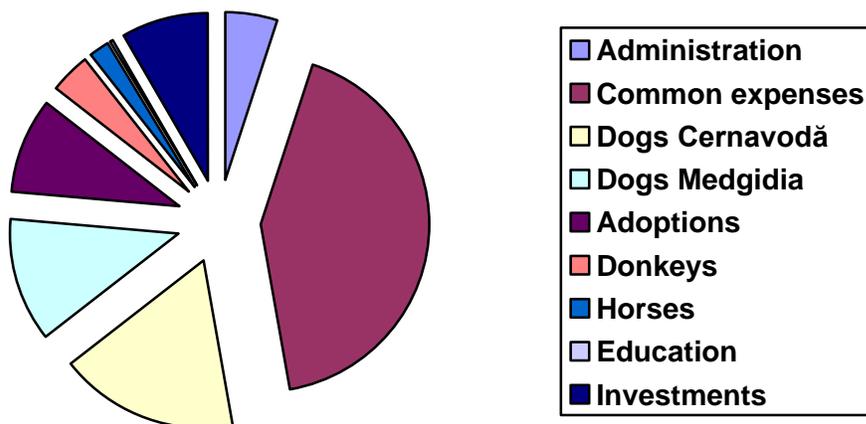
The educational and donkey therapy projects remain at a low cost, even though they are an increasing important and strategic part of our operation.

However, the investments targeted:

- I. Improvement in safety (creation of a fire protection system at *Footprints of Joy* – FOJ – and changing the heating system in Cernavodă);
- II. Purchasing of a new motor vehicle for transporting dogs to and from the airport and a trailer for the transport of horses and donkeys;
- III. Reconstructing the socialization site for dogs at FOJ;
- IV. Building a new stable for horses at FOJ, dedicated to the mare Margherita;
- V. Purchasing state of the art veterinary technical material for our centres (a unit for haematology in Medgidia, a teeth cleaning device for dogs and a new surgical table in Cernavodă), new washing facilities at FOJ, completed in 2013, equipped and installed by the Italian company Astaldi.

95% of the costs were incurred in carrying out the association's specific activities for the animals and the education in schools and only 5% have been used to cover administrative costs.

The negative difference between income (lower) and taxes (higher) is due to the large number of funds available in the bank on January 1, 2013, used during the year.





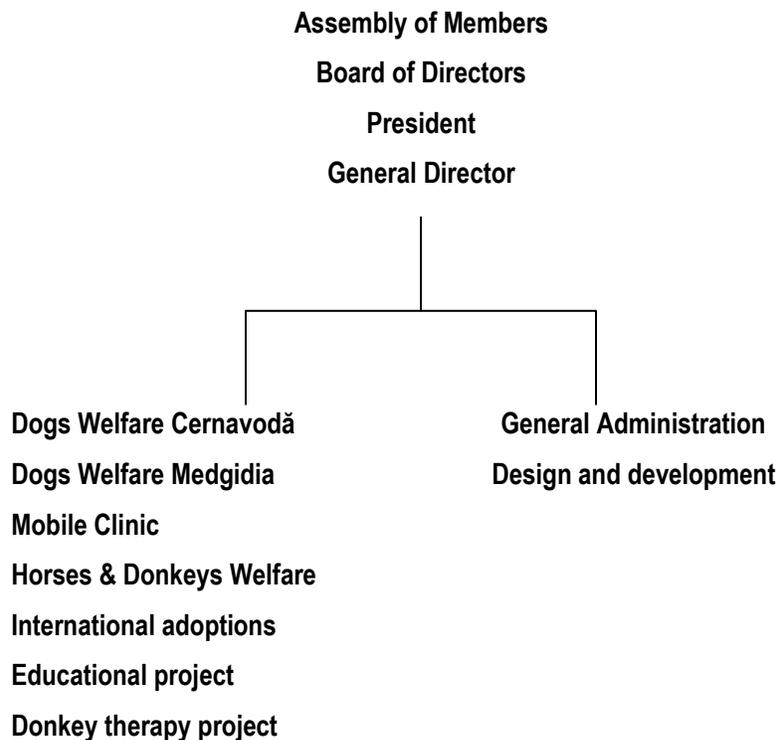
SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

3. STD Romania's administration and management

STD Romania is an association governed by Romanian law, the sovereign body of which is the Assembly of Members. The General Assembly shall appoint a Board of Directors and within the Board of Directors a president, a vice president and a treasurer.

The Assembly annually verifies the elections executed by the Board of Directors, which shall meet several times a year, as well as by the President (or his delegate), who is the legal representative of the association.

The professional structure is defined in accordance with the following organizational chart:



The members have a political role in STD Romania, while the professional structure has a technical and operational role. Members are responsible, through the Board of Directors, of strategic planning and setting the economic and social objectives and obligations, which must be complied with. The professional structure seeks to achieve these objectives and at the same time to verify social obligations.

All the members of the Board of Directors are elected by the members and none of them is paid for the work performed. Within the professional structure, the general directorate is responsible for the economic balance of the association, for the assessment of the objectives' achievement and for the obligations imposed by the Board of Directors, as well as for the design, in collaboration with the Board of Directors.

The administration is responsible for certifying the balance, while the managers in the area are responsible for achieving the objectives set for the proper accomplishment of the association's mission.



SAVE THE DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS

4. STD partners and contacts

STD Romania's official partners and donors are:

- Save the Dogs and other Animals – Italy (since 2005)
- The Donkey Sanctuary – UK (since 2008)
- Friends of Homeless Dogs – Finland (since 2007)
- Hundhjalpen – Sweden (since 2005)
- Animal Care – Austria (since 2013)
- Horses on Death Row – USA (since 2013)
- Susy Utzinger Foundation – Switzerland (since 2013)
- CNE Cernavodă – Romania (since 2013)
- Mayor's Office Cernavodă – Romania (since 2002)
- Mayor's Office Medgidia – Romania (since 2005)

The association's **registered office and offices:**

Cernavodă - 905200 Medgidiei street

H4 entrance C, 3rd floor, Ap.52

Other **operative sites** are:

Footprints of Joy Shelter: str. Hinog, 1 – 905200 Cernavodă

Cernavodă Shelter: Str. Canalului, 1 - 905200 Cernavodă

Medgidia Shelter: str. Republicii, 121 – 905600 Medgidia

For further information you can contact us by email: romania@savethedogs.ro

STD's activities were summarized in 2013 in a corporate video in Italian with English and Romanian subtitles, available at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gq2oslm-rXc&feature=youtu.be> .

