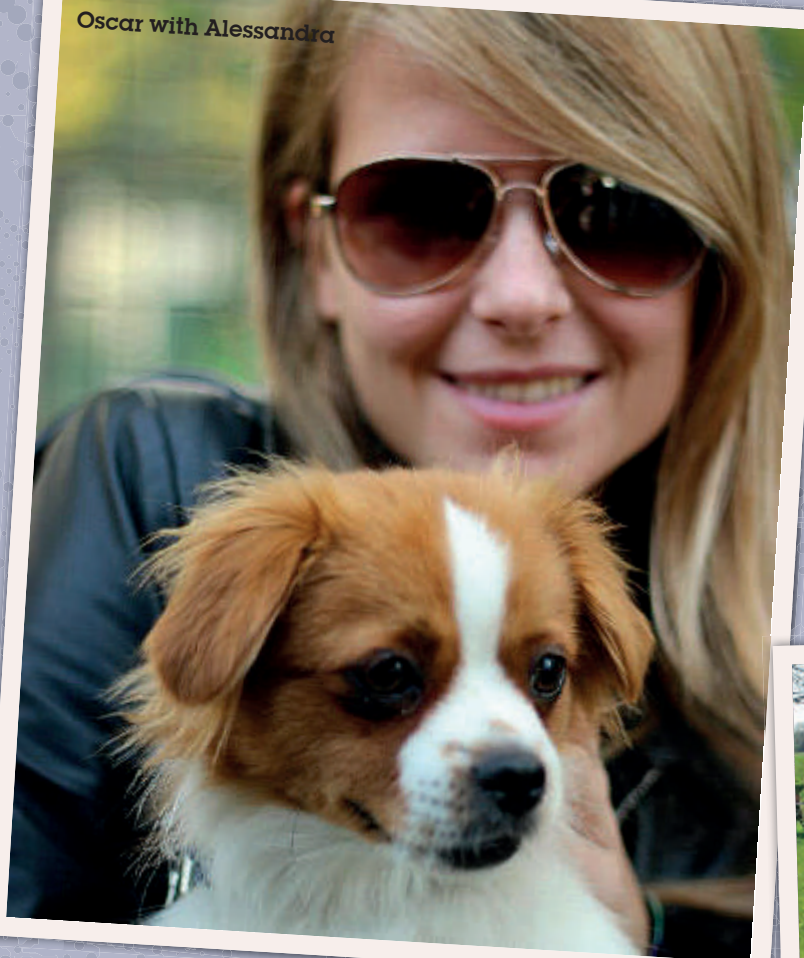


# SAVE Special

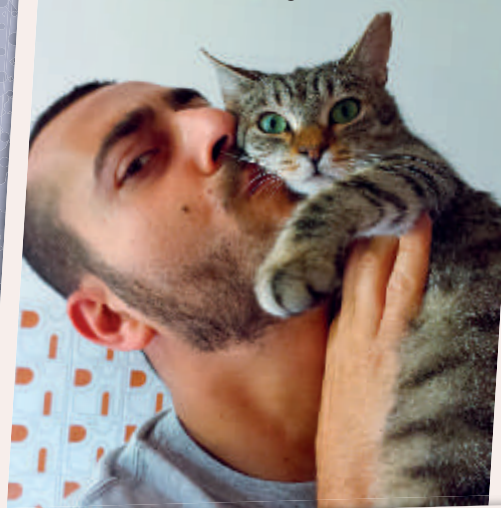
Oscar with Alessandra



Zoe with her family



Merlino with Antonio



Dalilah with Tiziana



**2005-2015:  
STD ITALIA TURNS 10!**

Find out more about our history, our projects, our future.



**Year 3 – Issue no. 4 – May 2015**  
**Periodical of Save the Dogs and other Animals**

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## about us

Sara Turetta founded *Save the Dogs and other Animals* in 2002 after moving to Romania, a country where stray dogs are endemic and the dogs are exterminated using extremely cruel methods. In 2005, Sara returned to Milan and opened the Italian office of *Save the Dogs Italy*.

Through its two centres in Cernavoda and Medgidia, STD promotes stray dog prevention activities using an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach, and provides continuous emergency veterinarian services. Our mobile clinic reaches rural areas that lack veterinary care. We also operate an intensive international adoption programme and organize educational projects in the schools of Constanța County.

Given the dramatic conditions experienced by the equine population in the regions where STD works, the association has set up a specific home assistance programme for donkeys and horses with the collaboration of its partners: The Donkey Sanctuary (United Kingdom), Friends of Homeless Dogs (Finland), and Austria Animal Care. Territorial projects include those aimed at owners, focusing on education and tackling abuse.

The *Save the Dogs* headquarters is *Footprints of Joy*, a model shelter for dogs, cats and horses with low environmental impact that has been designed to be a centre fostering volunteer programmes including pet therapy and education aimed at children and families. The onotherapy programmes established by *Save the Dogs* for autistic children are still in place and, in 2014, the project was launched in Bradet in the Transylvania region.

Would you like to read the latest issues of **SAVE**? Visit the section "*Our Magazine*" in *Save the Dogs*' website.

The year 2005 was a turning point for *Save the Dogs* and its projects, but also for me, Sara, personally.

First, I realized that while I was struggling and dealing with numerous problems at the shelter in Cernavoda, the funds that were being collected in Italy through another association were getting harder and harder to control, even as the financial needs of the project continued to grow. So it was that I decided to create *Save the Dogs and Other Animals Italy* together with a group of friends and trusted individuals. The stated aims of the association were fundraising and communication, two elements that were key to ensuring the means necessary for operations in Romania. In fact, **by creating the Italian association I was founding - without even actually realizing it - the place where I would really be able to put my talents** to good use, which have never been those of a veterinarian or kennel director. My over-emotional nature has, in fact, always been an obstacle to professions like that; a situation as extreme as that in Romania would devastate me and this is exactly what was happening to me after three years of living in Cernavoda.

I must confess that I was in a very fragile emotional state at the end of 2005. I had so much pain built up inside me after living and working with stray animals on a daily basis, that I developed a blind rage towards people that was becoming quite difficult to control. I held humans (and, unfortunately, not unjustly...) responsible for all that suffering and felt enormous frustration at not having the proper facilities and sufficient staff to help the animals as I wanted.

However, I did not like that Sara. She was losing her optimism and her desire to form relationships with people, characteristics that had been part of her since childhood. Even if I did not realize it at the time, I was running the risk of losing everything, because **without having faith in people, projects like the ones I had started in 2002 would have had no future.**

With my newfound serenity, I am now able to say that **animals can only be saved with the aid of people**, and that it is important to invest in and work together with them.

Thus, in the spring of 2006, I decided that my project needed to enter into a new phase: I would devote myself increasingly to fundraising, visiting Romania each month though returning to live in Milan. In the meantime, I hired the first person for an Italian staff, which is now made up of eight people, to assist me with the huge amount of work: our Ylenia.

Both of these changes - using Milan as a base and establishing my association in Italy as well - were assisted by a very

## editorial

by Sara Turetta,  
President of *Save the Dog*

 @sara\_turetta  [www.facebook.com/SaraTurettaSave](http://www.facebook.com/SaraTurettaSave)

important person in my life, who has always given me extremely wise advice. True, it was me who listened to him, but if he had not been there to direct some of my choices, I do not know if *Save the Dogs* would be what it has become today. Thanks Dad.

**This issue of STD News celebrates a decade of effort and achievements:** not only mine, but those of all who have been part of this adventure with me. And you, the readers who support my association, are definitely among these people.

Big challenges await us in the coming years. We wish to face them with the awareness that we have a rough road ahead of us on the one hand, and on the other, with the assurance that we will be able to overcome all the difficulties thanks to the experience we have gained in the past ten years.

**We are celebrating the first 10 years of *Save the Dogs Italy* together with you, because without you we would not be here to blow out the birthday candles!**

Heartfelt thanks to you all!



Alongside: Sara feeding one of the first puppies assisted by STD at the dump in Cernavoda.

© S. Businelli



# Romania: 15 years of a critical stray-dog situation

## THE REASON WHY STD OPERATES IN ROMANIA

After a trip to North Korea in the early 1980s, the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who held power from 1967 to 1989, decided to take inspiration from the residential construction in that country and radically transform the urban landscape of Bucharest and all medium-large Romanian cities. These were the years of the transition from an agricultural to an industrial economy, which saw peasant labourers become industrial workers.

**The mass exodus from the countryside to urban centres saw entire historic districts demolished to make way for huge condominium blocks.** Anyone who had had a guard dog before this time, no longer had either the need or the space to house their animals in the new flats. **Thus thousands of dogs were abandoned** on the streets of Romanian cities.

For 10 years following the end of the dictatorship the problem of stray dogs was systematically ignored by the authorities, until the day when Basescu, the mayor of Bucharest, decided to rid the capital of what had become a plague causing thousands of attacks each year by implementing a full-scale cleansing operation on the streets of the city without any rules. Only after shocking images were seen of the barbaric nature of the killings, was a legislative process initiated to govern the issue.

Alongside: The slaughter in Bucharest.

Below: A large pack of strays in Constanța.



### 2001

**The government issues an emergency decree** which provides for the euthanasia of stray dogs following a 14-day stay in a shelter. At this time there is no law on animal protection.

144,000 stray dogs killed in Bucharest alone from 2001 to 2008.



### 2002

**T61 is introduced** on the Romanian market: it is the first drug to allow for painless euthanasia. Prior to this magnesium sulphate (a drug banned in Western countries) was administered directly into the heart.

### 2002 2004

There are reports of **numerous cases of abuse in public shelters**, where barbaric and "economic" methods are preferred over the use of T61.

Dogs are kept in disastrous sanitary conditions in Romanian shelters.



### 2004

**Law 205 for the protection of animals** is approved. Despite its major limitations, it represents an early attempt to govern the issue. Finally, animal abandonment (a huge problem in Romania) is officially outlawed, but the law remains unenforced.

**2004  
2008**

**The systematic killing of dogs** continues throughout Romania and the authorities do not provide any data on the number of animals captured and eliminated.

**2008**

A **new framework law (Law 9/2008) for the protection of animals** is unexpectedly approved after some dramatic cases involving the mistreatment of work horses. It stipulates:

- a **prohibition on the killing** of healthy animals;
- the use of the **"capture/sterilize/release"** technique as the main instrument for the management of stray dogs;
- the **criminalization of acts of cruelty against animals**.

Following approval of Law 9, there were no decrees enacted for its implementation. The lack of legislation between 2008 and 2013 led some mayors to continue with the killings, while others decided to suspend all actions as a precaution.

**2011**

Parliament attempts to reverse Law 9 of 2008 in a single stroke and **return to the indiscriminate elimination of strays** but is stopped by animal rights organizations.



Alongside: 2011: 230 dogs are beaten to death on one night in the public shelter of the city of Botosani.

On the right: Animal rights organizations demonstrated against the Romanian government measures.



**2013**

**Ionut, a four-year old child, is mauled near a park in Bucharest** in early September. Parliament hastily votes and approves **Law 258**, a sharp about face that reverts back to 2001, erasing all the positive innovations introduced by Law 9/2008.

**2014**

In September, a **ruling is issued in the case involving little Ionut**. The judges note that the **dogs responsible for the attack are not strays**, but rather some owned dogs in the private courtyard which the child entered. Despite this, the Government does not call for a review of the anti-stray laws and killings continue across the country.

**2015**

The agency for the management of stray dogs in Bucharest announces at a press conference that it suppressed 30.000 strays between December 2013 and December 2014. Nationwide data is still pending from the National Veterinary Agency.

## Meanwhile in Cernavoda

**2002:** Mayor Hansa approves a moratorium on the national legislation for the killing of stray dogs, thanks to the intervention of STD.

**2009:** the newly elected mayor of Cernavoda, Mariana Mircea, decides to lift the moratorium in 2002 and to ignore Law 9/2008. At least 500 dogs sterilized by STD are brutally killed in the Constanța shelter.

**2010:** STD manages to film the exterminations in the Constanța shelter. A complaint is filed, which will be shelved two years later by the court handling the case. The dogs are determined to have all been "terminally ill".

**2012:** animal lover George Hansa is re-elected as mayor of Cernavoda. Save the Dogs renews its sterilization activities.



Alongside: Sara along with one of the first dogs treated in Cernavoda

Below: An STD operator at work



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# STD Italy: a decade-long commitment

## OUR PROJECTS FROM 2005 TILL TODAY

In 2001, the killing of stray dogs in Bucharest made headlines in all international newspapers. At the time Sara Turetta was working at an advertising agency and, together with other volunteers, decided to bring aid to associations in the Romanian capital. That dramatic journey marked the beginning of a commitment that led her to leave her job in Milan in October 2002 and move to Cernavoda, where authorities had expressed their willingness to stop the

killings. Thus, *Save the Dogs and other Animals Romania* was created. It was a small association comprising only Sara, one assistant and a part-time veterinarian. After three years of hard work in the field the need for a steady supply of resources to ensure veterinary services and give continuity to the project was clear. So Sara returned to Italy to found *Save the Dogs and other Animals Italy*. The activities of the Italian division were aimed at fundraising and



Above: This is how our shelter in Cernavoda looked in 2002.

communication on an international level. The following is a brief history of events that illustrates how the activities of STD Italy are intrinsically linked to those of STD Romania and vice versa.

## HOW IT ALL HAPPENED

18 January  
2005

### Founding of Save the Dogs and other Animals ONLUS Italia.

Founding members included Ettore Degli Esposti, former coordinator of the ENPA division in Milan, and the Milanese journalist Marina Di Leo.

2006

Successful fundraising permits the **sterilization of stray dogs project in Medgidia** to begin, after STD obtained a moratorium on killings from the city council.

The veterinary clinic in Medgidia today.



© A.Pavan

2007

The **mobile clinic** project is launched with the aim of reaching rural areas around Cernavoda and Medgidia.

Alina, a former STD veterinarian, in our mobile clinic.



© A.Pavan

2008

Property is purchased in the hills near Cernavoda. A partnership with the British organization *The Donkey Sanctuary* allows us to open the first shelter in Romania and Eastern Europe for abandoned and abused donkeys, with a maximum capacity of 65 animals.

Our donkeys in their sanctuary.



© A. Mesiano

2009

Spaces are refurbished and **structural improvements** made to the shelters in Cernavoda and Medgidia.

2010

The **Swiss team** led by Claudia De Palma is established. Its task is to promote international adoptions in Switzerland.

2012

The model animal shelter **Footprints of Joy** is inaugurated with the ambassadors of Italy and the United Kingdom in attendance. All of the Romanian national TV stations broadcast the event. The **free home service for horses and donkeys** begins.



© A. Pavan

Footprints of Joy, our flagship shelter.

2013

Save the Dogs Italy begins fundraising for the **new veterinary clinic** to be built next to the Footprints of Joy shelter for dogs and horses. The micro-chipping project for owned dogs begins.

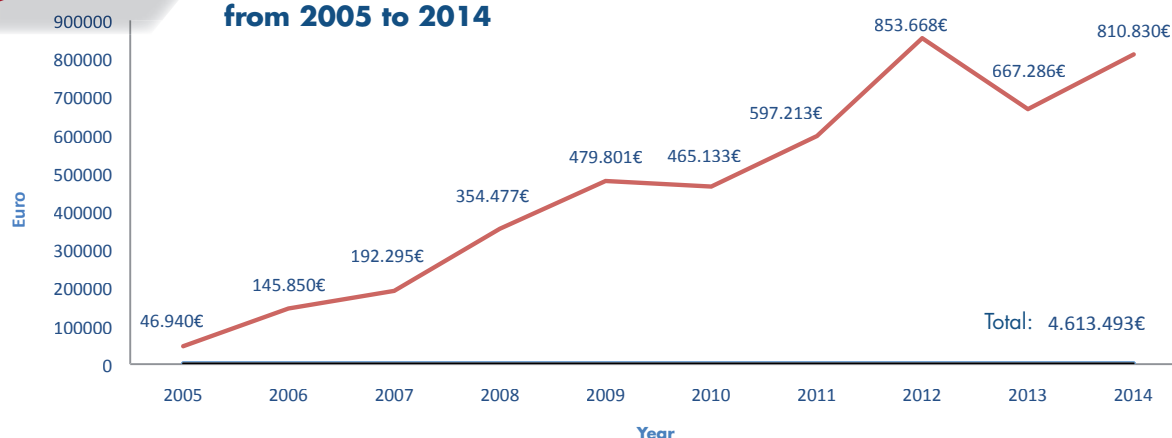
2014

The **new cat shelter in Medgidia** is built in record time, thanks to an extraordinary, and mainly online, fundraising campaign.

2015

**Save the Dogs and other Animals Italy celebrates its first 10 years!**

**Funds sent by Save the Dogs Italy to the Romanian division from 2005 to 2014**



## Awards received by the association

**2012:** Wangari Maathai Women's Peace and Environment Award (Rome). The association's president, Sara Turetta, is appointed a **Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy** by President Napolitano, for her commitment to the animals in Romania (Bucharest).

**2013:** The association is awarded the *Marsh Christian Award* (London).

**2014:** Save the Dogs receives the Jeanne Marchig Award (Edinburgh).

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Alongside: Our president: a new Knight of the Order of the Star of Italy.



# International adoptions

HOW THE PROGRAMME WORKS AND WHY IT IS A CORNERSTONE OF STD

## WHY INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS?

- Because without this important instrument **the impact** of our projects on the cities in which we operate would be much less.
- Because weekly departures to the rest of Europe allow us **to free up spaces that are immediately occupied by strays** picked up off the street or by the many owned animals abandoned by their masters.
- Because **animal adoption is completely unknown in Romania**. Here, in addition to a still largely peasant mentality, the media pressure exerted on public opinion has turned our four-footed friends into dangerous animals and carriers of disease.
- Because each year **STD finds a family for about 600 dogs**, 200 of which go to an Italian home. It may be a drop of water in the sea, but in 10 years it has alleviated the suffering of about 5000 dogs!
- Because **we meet a need of Italian shelters**, where medium and large dogs abound but puppies and small companion dogs are scarce. This is why our dogs are not competing with those already present in other facilities.

This is why international adoptions are critical and they would be impossible without the support of our many Italian and foreign partners.

## HOW ADOPTIONS IN ITALY WORK

- The first step in the process is to identify a list of dogs in our shelters in Romania that are suitable for adoption in Italy. Adrian and Alexandra, who are in charge of international adoptions in Medgidia and Cernavoda, send Ylenia at STD Italy an initial list of animals that may be suitable for the programme. Each dog is associated with a detailed profile that provides a complete picture of the animal: from its state of mental and physical health to its appearance, as well as any known past history.
- Ylenia tries to find the match for our four-legged friends and requests from shelters in Italy. Once a match is found, the meticulous - organisational work between Romania and Italy begins: our



© G. Barbiani

colleagues in Romania prepare a medical-health report and travel documents for the selected dogs. After this is complete, the quadrupeds are prepared for air transport.

- Volunteers are then sought to welcome the dogs at the airport and transport them to their shelter. We publish photos of the lucky arrivals on Facebook, along with the contact information of the shelters hosting them.
- Finally, we collect data on foster families in order to stay in touch with the adopters. We often get to see our little friends at different association events.

**There is, in fact, nothing more satisfying for us than to see a dog whose life has been changed thanks to the work of STD!**

## Specifications for adoption

- puppies from 3.5 months and upwards in age or small dogs;
- vaccinated against major diseases (3 polyvalent vaccines for puppies, 2 for adults) and rabies (at least 21 days prior to departure);
- tested for the five major diseases transmitted by parasites (ticks and mosquitoes);
- neutered;
- microchipped and with European passport;
- accompanied by a Traces message, a program that allows the movements of the animals within the EC to be tracked.

## International adoption figures for Italy

- 1.816 dogs adopted since 2005
- 200 dogs adopted each year on average
- 99% of dogs find a family within the first two weeks from their arrival

Above: A glimpse of the affection with which the staff of STD prepares the dogs for their departure to a new life.

Alongside: Our four-legged friends waiting to leave, being pampered by our colleagues in Romania.



© A. Mesiano



# Sweet Cali and “grouchy” Michele

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A ROMANIAN DOG MEETS AN ITALIAN FAMILY

In June 2014, on her annual visit to Romania, our colleague Ylenia had a very special meeting. For several days during her visit in Cernavoda, she had been seeing a hungry dog with a black coat and a gentle look. The little dog had swollen breasts, indicating a possible pregnancy, and looking for food on the streets of Cernavoda put her in serious danger. So Ylenia, accompanied by some volunteers, followed her to what had become her home. There they found three beautiful puppies.

The friendly nature of Nausicaa, the name chosen for the dog, made her a perfect candidate for STD's international adoption programme. She arrived in Italy in September 2014, and the dog now has a real home with Michele, Lucia and Daniele.

Michele told us about their meeting:

*“Our family has always had dogs and cats, but after the death of our beloved little dog Nana, I took a radical step and decided not to have any more dogs.*

*Lucia, my wife, and Daniele, the young-*

*est of my children, didn't agree and immediately started looking for a new dog to adopt. The search ended when they saw the picture of a little dog with a black face and clever air about her on the Squadra a 4 Zampe website. We were intrigued and went to the shelter to meet her and when she came over to us and rubbed against our legs we immediately fell in love. We decided to take Nausicaa home with us and to officialise the beginning of our new life together we renamed her Cali.*

*Cali has only been with us a short while, but it seems like we have known her forever. The house is her kingdom, even if she is not unhappy to take walks in the large park nearby. I'm the one who takes care of her most of the time, but that's not why I am so fond of this sweet little thing who always wants to be petted! Besides, you know, it takes a lot of work to make two cats, a dog and three people get along!*



© Daniele, Cali, Lucia e Michele

© Y. Bitetti



© Y. Bitetti

*Needless to say, in the end my wife and my son were right: Cali has filled my days with joy and in return she has found a second chance with our family.*

*Adopting an animal, especially when one knows the difficult situation from which it came, means fighting for the rights of the less fortunate along with organizations like Save the Dogs and Squadra a 4 Zampe. It is something that makes your life better along with that of the animal. But above all it is an action that contains an important message: **a living being cannot be bought and sold, a living being can only be cared for and loved.***

*Ah, for the record, do you want to know where Cali is right now? She is lying on the couch next to me, enjoying all the pats that I love giving her. But, you know ... it takes hard work....!”*

P.S. in case anyone was wondering what happened to Nausicaa/Cali's puppies, don't worry! They were all adopted in Europe and are now living happily in the warmth of their families!

Above: Nausicaa on the day she met STD in Cernavoda.

Alongside: Cali enjoys a peaceful moment with her family.

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09

INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS/2







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# Long-distance sponsorship

ANSWERS TO THE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHY THE LONG-DISTANCE SPONSORSHIP?

- Because, despite one of our goals being to allow the dogs housed in our shelters to be **placed with a loving family, unfortunately this is not possible for all** of the animals that we help.
- Because long-distance sponsorship is a **regular support that is renewed over time**. This allows us to pre-plan activities relating to the maintenance of our guests in the medium term.
- Because **long-distance sponsorships are a tried and tested method** used by non-profit organizations around the world to support their projects. An animal may in fact have more than one long-distant sponsor at a time, which allows all the other guests in our shelters to benefit from the programme.

## WHO CAN BE ADOPTED LONG DISTANCE?

- **Some of the dogs or cats** that we pick up off the streets that have health or behavioural problems that prevent them from being included in the international adoptions programme.
- **Horses are difficult to be rehomed** in a loving family. This is why they are part of the programme too. In fact the area in which we operate makes widespread use of donkeys and horses as work animals, which - due to poor economic conditions and the ignorance of their owners - receive neither adequate veterinary care nor proper nutrition.
- It is also possible to **sponsor a family or individual** who takes care of abandoned dogs or cats in the area. These people share our love for animals and have our great esteem, because they

Above: Scooby relaxes in Medgidia thinking about caresses from his long-distance sponsors.

Alongside above: Gucci, in the long-distance sponsorship programme since October 2013.

Alongside below: Dogs and operators play together at Footprints of Joy!

## MANY NUMBERS, ONE BIG PROJECT

2012:	EUR 110.124	675 sponsors
2013:	EUR 109.197	609 sponsors
2014:	EUR 121.939	650 sponsors

represent small outposts for us in places where we would not otherwise be present. We regularly provide food and veterinary care for the animals in their care.

## WHEN DOES A SPONSOR RECEIVE THE UPDATES?

- After the first payment is made, we send an **adoption certificate for the family or the animal** sponsored, along with his/her story and some photos.
- Then, every six months we send an e-mail or letter **update on the sponsored animal(s) along with some new pictures**. This is a two-step process, with our Romanian colleagues taking pictures and gathering information on the sponsored animals and, the Italian STD office sending out everything to those who have decided to support our four-legged friends from afar.

**This complex communication system comes from our conviction that the warmth of a caress or the joy of a wagging tail can be felt even many miles away**, as anyone who sponsors one of our animals knows!



© A. Ballaratti



© A. Mesiano

## HOW TO BECOME A LONG-DISTANCE SPONSOR

- You can become a sponsor by making a bank transfer to IBAN no.: IT48A0760101600000062998497, BIC/SWIFT CODE: BPCVIT2S  
Credit card from the website [www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu).
- You may opt to donate monthly, semi-annually or annually.
- Please indicate either "Long-distance Sponsorship" or "Stray Adoption" to allow us to make the payment to the right project.
- How much does it cost? EUR 10 per month for dogs and cats, EUR 25 per month for a family and EUR 30 per month for a horse.
- For further information or details, please write at [adozionia-distanza@savethedogs.eu](mailto:adozionia-distanza@savethedogs.eu) or call us at the phone number +39 02 3944 5900.





# Long-distance love

RAFFAELLA TELLS US ABOUT HER LASTING BOND WITH TRILBY, IN SPITE OF BEING 2000 KM APART

Anytime I am asked the question "What is your biggest dream?", I immediately reply: to have a shelter of my own, where I can give a home and loving care to all dogs in need. So when I became familiar with Save the Dogs, it seemed the most natural thing in the world to me to join in with their initiatives and actually do something instead of just dreaming about it. When I learned about everything that they had done, I immediately felt like I was part of a big family: **I had finally found others who shared my dreams and goals and had had the strength to take action!**

So the first thing I wanted to do was to adopt a dog, my sweet Merlina, who has filled my life with love. But I knew that was not enough: I could do more for the animals and for STD. So, in 2013 I decided to go on the Members' Trip. I was prepared for what I might see but also aware that "hands on" has a completely different meaning.

On the trip I met Selena, the person in charge of long-distance adoptions, who spoke to me in detail about the project for those unfortunate animals that could not be

adopted abroad. During our visit to Footprints of Joy, I got to meet some of these animals and one of them made a particular impression on me with her deep dark eyes: Trilby.

When she was found under a roof of the Cernavoda train station, Trilby was together with her four newborn puppies, all in a state of severe malnutrition. Today the young dogs are all well and live happily abroad but their mother was too frightened of humans to be able to go with them. Thus **it was decided to let her feel the affection she deserves in another way: long-distance adoption. Naturally, I could not resist** and decided that I would care for her from Italy, by making contributions for her maintenance and veterinary care.

I returned to Romania again the next year and the trip was even more emotional than the previous one. The tragic reality of life in Romania and the living conditions of the people and animals left me speechless. But the STD shelters are like a warm fire on a cold winter day, an oasis of absolute peace

that exudes serenity and devotion. And thanks to the socialization programme, my own dear Trilby seemed like a new dog and she even let herself come close and be cuddled!

Knowing that my contributions have made this progress possible is truly a priceless feeling.

**Long-distance sponsoring is a great opportunity to redeem an animal to which life has been unfair and that probably will never know the love of a real family.** The long-distance adoption programme lets me feel that I can give these special four-legged creatures a bit of that love and hope that every living being deserves. This small but steady gesture lets me embrace each dog, cat or horse waiting for a better future, even if I am miles away.

Above: Raffaella and Trilby after a year of long-distance love.

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# The MAGNIFICENT 8 of the staff in Milan

## BENEDETTA MARCHESIN:

The kid of the group! Benedetta is the newest addition to the *Save the Dogs* staff and is an impeccable substitute for Selena, who will be absent for a few months. Always smiling and energetic, she has already become the contact person for all long-distance sponsors.

## RENATA BURASCHI:

The studded soul of STD! Passionate about rock, Renata takes care of the administration and, together with Francesca, is the person who answers the phone calls and e-mails of people who wish to get more information about our association. She also handles all the accounting and sending thank you notes to people who decide to make a donation to STD.

## SARA TURETTA:

The President of *Save the Dogs* needs no introduction! In 2002, she quit her job and moved to Romania driven by a relentless need to do something for the stray dogs on the streets of Bucharest and many other cities, like those of Cernavoda and Medgidia in Constanța County. In 2005, she returned to Milan and founded *Save the Dogs Italy*. She is the brain and beating heart of the association and, despite her important organizational responsibilities, she is definitely an out of the ordinary boss!

## SELENA DELFINO:

The soft face of *Save the Dogs*! Selena takes care of the press office and long-distance adoptions. She is the one who, through constant communication with our colleagues in Romania, sends updates and pictures of our guests adopted with the love of many sponsors.

## FRANCESCA CISLAGHI:

The mole... digitally speaking! Our office would literally be on its head without her! She handles IT, logistics, shipments to Romania, gadgets, programming of the website and newsletter, and has a very particular understanding of our database!

## YLENIA BITETTI:

The living memory of STD! She began visiting the offices of STD Italy as a volunteer and then became a permanent collaborator in 2006. Today, Ylenia is in charge of international adoptions: the whole process is in her hands and it is thanks to her work, along with that of all our colleagues in Romania, that some 200 animals find a welcoming home in Italy each year.

## RALUCA LUNGU:

The like collector! As you may be aware, Raluca is the person who creates the beautiful STD Italy posts that we and the public on Facebook enjoy so much. She is also our wild card because she speaks an unknown number of languages: legend has it at least 7, but Romanian, Italian and English are definitely part of her daily fare. She is the person who writes most of the texts found on the website, Facebook or in our hard copy material.

## SILVIA ROMEO:

She has the face and spirit of a young girl, but is well within the average age of STD! She joined the staff of *Save the Dogs* a few months ago and is responsible for fundraising, event organization and overseeing the publication of *Save*, the magazine you are reading that provides you with updates on our activities every six months.





# By choosing our tenth anniversary special gadgets you make 3 gifts at once:

one to the person that receives them, one to the Romanian stray dogs and one to Save the Dogs for our birthday!



Minimum donation **13 EUROS**

A SPECIAL VEST LIKE YOU AND US!

"Keep calm and Save the Dogs" blue women's vest with screened graphic in navy blue. 95% cotton jersey and 5% spandex. Sizes: S - XXL.



Minimum donation **18 EUROS**

A PORTABLE BATTERY CHARGER FOR SMARTPHONES TO STAY ALWAYS CONNECTED!

Universal portable battery charger, blue color. Capacity 2.600 mAh, USB plug included.

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A USEFUL WATER BOTTLE TO FEEL FREE TO ENJOY STAYING OUTDOORS

Water Bottle with snap-hook and screw top, maximum capacity 770 ml. Dimension: 7,3x25 cm.



Minimum donation **7 EUROS**

A TRAVEL WALLET TO KEEP CLOSE TO YOU BOTH YOUR DOCUMENTS AND SAVE THE DOGS, ALSO ON HOLIDAY!

While travelling keep your documents safe in our nice travel wallet. Dimension: 21,7x10,2x0,7 cm.



Find out all our proposals available on our website [www.gadget-donazioni.eu](http://www.gadget-donazioni.eu)

**Please, note!** In order to receive the gadgets, you need to place your order directly on the website [www.gadget-donazioni.eu/en](http://www.gadget-donazioni.eu/en) or send an e-mail to [gadget@savethedogs.eu](mailto:gadget@savethedogs.eu) specifying the name of the chosen item/items, any size/color/model and an address for the shipment, together with a telephone number. Without this information, the delivery cannot be guaranteed. Save the Dogs reserves the right to ship the item/items within 1 month of receipt of the donation through any way it deems most appropriate (courier, registered mail, regular mail, etc.). **The shipping cost shall be borne by the donor, and varies according to the type and the total weight of the shipment.**

For more information or urgent requests, please write to [gadget@savethedogs.eu](mailto:gadget@savethedogs.eu)  
**Our partners' volunteers are welcomed to pick up the gadgets in Save the Dogs' Romanian office.**

[www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu)



SAVE  
Special

13

TENTH ANNIVERSARY GADGETS



Above: Sara Turetta (on the left) with Jill Robinson, founder of Animals Asia Foundation.

# Save the Dogs goes to America

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES:  
IN-DEPTH MEETINGS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

For the second year in a row STD President had the chance to take part to the **Animal Care Expo**, the most important **international conference on companion animals**. Sara Turetta took part to the Animal Care Expo thanks to one of the 90 scholarships offered by the Humane Society International. About **2.300 animal care professionals and volunteers from around the globe have flown** to New Orleans during those days to discuss about companion animal issues aiming at helping always more charities to impact at best in their communities. From the 30th of March to the 2nd of April STD President was involved in debates at the end of each focus session and attended the international track, where the speakers shared experiences about their projects on stray dogs and their achievements.

The Expo also celebrated the 10th anniversary of Katrina, the tragic hurricane

that killed about 1.800 people and an unknown number of animals only in the United States. Some of those who survived refusing to leave their houses and pets took the stage at the conference to share with the participants their moving stories. Due to the huge entity of the catastrophe caused by Katrina, the United States Government changed the rules on disaster management including animal rescue during evacuation procedures.

Among the guest of honor invited at the Animal Care Expo that Sara Turetta had the privilege to meet we mention **Jill Robinson**, founder of **Animals Asia Foundation**, the international organization devoted to put an end to the barbaric practice of bear bile farming and improve the welfare of animals in China and Vietnam. The team of Animals Asia managed to rescue 500 moon bears since 1994, being the only

organization with a bear sanctuary in China. Because of her fearless and firm commitment to the rescue of the Asian black bears during the last twenty years, Jill Robinson received an award during the New Orleans conference.

In October Sara Turetta will fly to Portugal to attend another important European meeting: the **International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC)**, an event organized by the British charity Dogs Trust and opened to everyone interested in companion animals. To learn more about it check out the box below.

## Interesting links:

- Animals Asia Foundation: <http://www.animalsasia.org/>
- ICAWC: [www.icawc.org](http://www.icawc.org)

## October at the ICAWC



Dogs Trust has just announced that this year's **International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC)** will take place in **Porto, Portugal from the 6th - 8th October 2015**.

This year's venue will be the **Sheraton Porto Hotel**, located in the business and cultural district of Porto, only a short walk away from the city's rich heritage where the attendees can connect with 800 years of history and experience Port Wine directly from its birthplace.

A full programme and details of how to register will be available soon on the conference website ([www.icawc.org](http://www.icawc.org)) along with details of how to benefit from a special room rate at the Sheraton Porto Hotel during the conference.

Dogs Trust hopes to see many of you at this year's conference and looks forward to sharing more animal welfare experiences, whilst soaking up the fabulous atmosphere of Porto.



# In our projects and in our dreams

THE ANNIVERSARY OF *SAVE THE DOGS ITALY* IS A MOMENT FOR US TO TAKE A LOOK BACK AT THE PAST IN ORDER TO TAKE STOCK AND VENTURE TO MAKE SOME PREDICTIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

When our somewhat pioneering efforts began in Romania in 2002, the *Save the Dogs* horizon began and ended in Cernavoda, a town which we wanted to turn into a reference point for the management of stray dogs, without any plans to extend our range of action.

Over time, however, we realized the frightening number of animals suffering in Romania and, more than this, the total absence of an association able to cope with the endemic issue of stray dogs. What is more, we came to understand that many people in several European countries were aware of our cause and willing to help us alleviate that suffering. And thus a little thing, started without any big ambitions, began to **grow and become what it is today, a cornerstone of animal protection in Romania.**

The fame of *Save the Dogs* grew outside of Romania to become a major player among European animal rights associations. This was unthinkable just a few years ago.

One of the factors responsible for this relatively quick success is without a doubt the professionalism that distinguishes the association and operates in tandem with the sincere passion of the people involved. If, indeed, *Save the Dogs* was established and started from scratch in the wake of our foundress' enthusiasm, it is also true that **love for animals and the desire to save them can never overlook the knowledge needed to develop projects in**

## a strategic and structured manner.

Another secret to the success of *Save the Dogs* is humility, which prompted us to look at what other organizations working in this field have done in the past to achieve important results.

It was with this spirit of emulation that we approached a UK charity to which *Save the Dogs* is strongly connected and whose values and style we greatly admire: *Dogs Trust*.

In the 1980's - when it was still called the *National Canine Defence League* - the organisation experienced a series of issues. Thanks to the arrival of the then Chief Executive - Clarissa Baldwin, and an exceptional staff (carefully chosen by her), *Dogs Trust* transformed its fortunes to become the UK's leading dog welfare charity with 21 ground-breaking rehoming centres throughout Great Britain and Ireland. As well as caring for around 17.000 stray or abandoned dogs at its kennels; developing innovative responsible dog programmes; lobbying at a national and European level for legislation protecting dog welfare, the charity is also now supporting projects in foreign countries such as Romania. Of course, some would argue that the sensitivity of the British towards animals is special and that the money which the organization has been able to raise would not be possible in other contexts. But in the 1980s there were no social networks and the EU member countries were far more di-

stant from each other than they are today. The supporters of *Save the Dogs* are not only from Italy, but range from Milan to Stockholm, from Lugano to Helsinki, from Bucharest to the United States, and the echoes of our work is heard in countries that just a few years ago would have been impossible to reach.

If we can carry on along this path in our own way, keeping the same positive spirit and optimism that characterize the staff of *Dogs Trust*, then, we too, in a few decades may have a network of shelters and veterinary clinics built on the model of *Footprints of Joy* in the more devastated and remote areas of Romania, a network that would allow us to save many more animals than those who already owe their lives to *Save the Dogs*.

**The brightness of our future depends without any doubt on how good we will be at developing projects,** but much also depends on the resources that we are able to collect in the coming years in order to fuel the work essential to helping the animals.

**In a nutshell: our future depends on you.**

Above: Two of Dogs Trust shelters in Ilfracombe and Kenilworth. Dogs Trust is the most important British organization dealing with stray dogs and it is an international reference point on companion animals protection.

[www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu)



# OUR PARTNERS

Animal Care Austria  
(Austria)



Save the Dogs and Animal Care Austria have been partners since 2013. The organization supports our home care program dedicated to owned home care program dedicated to owned horses.

To support Animal Care Austria:

**IBAN:** AT82 3200 0000 1148 6123

**BIC:** RLNWATWW

**Contacts:**

[www.animalcare-austria.at](http://www.animalcare-austria.at) [office@animalcare-austria.at](mailto:office@animalcare-austria.at)

The Donkey Sanctuary  
(UK)



**THE DONKEY SANCTUARY**

Save the Dogs and The Donkey Sanctuary have been partners since 2008. Each year, the organization supports the **Footprints of Joy** shelter dedicated to abused donkeys, for which it financed the construction of three stables and the connection to the water network.

**To support The Donkey Sanctuary and contact the organization:**

[www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk](http://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk)  
[enquiries@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk)

Friends of Homeless Dogs  
(Finland)



Save the Dogs and Friends of Homeless Dogs have been partners since 2007. The organization provides for the adoption of Romanian homeless dogs in Finland and supports the home care program dedicated to owned donkeys and horses. It organizes several fundraisers for Save the Dogs.

To support Friends of Homeless Dogs:

**IBAN:** FI96 4970 0010 0480 05 **BIC:** HELSFIHH

**Contacts:**

[info@koirienystavat.com](mailto:info@koirienystavat.com) [www.koirienystavat.com](http://www.koirienystavat.com)

Horses on Death Row  
(USA)



Save the Dogs and Horses on Death Row have been partners since 2012. The organization supports the shelter Footprints of Joy dedicated to abused horses.

**To support Horses on Death Row and contact the organization:**

[www.horsesondeathrow.org](http://www.horsesondeathrow.org)

Hundhjälpen  
(Sweden)



Save the Dogs and Hundhjälpen have been partners since 2005. The organization provides for the adoption of Romanian homeless dogs in Sweden and organizes several fundraisers for Save the Dogs.

To support Hundhjälpen:

Bank account 355425-0  
or PayPal directly from their website

**Contacts:**

[www.hundhjalpen.se](http://www.hundhjalpen.se) [info@hundhjalpen.se](mailto:info@hundhjalpen.se)

Susy Utzinger  
(Switzerland)



Susy Utzinger and Save the Dogs became Partners in 2014. The organization funds some of our sterilization activities and other specific projects in addition to providing a large amount of material to our shelters in Romania.

To donate to the Susy Utzinger Foundation:

**Donation account number:** PC 84-666 666-9.

**IBAN** CH87 0900 0000 8466 6666 9 **BIC** POFICHBEXX

**Contacts:**

[www.susyutzing.ch](http://www.susyutzing.ch) [info@susyutzing.ch](mailto:info@susyutzing.ch)



## YOU ARE OUR STRENGTH! Support Save the Dogs!

Visit our website [www.savethedogs.eu](http://www.savethedogs.eu)

or write to [info@savethedogs.eu](mailto:info@savethedogs.eu)

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