

save



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THE LAW ON STRAY DOGS

Our commitment 4 months
after its approval

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Kids show us the road to change

OUR PARTNERS

A new space devoted to them

SOLIDARITY GADGETS

Many novelties by *Save the Dogs*

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about us

Save the Dogs and other Animals was created in 2002 in Romania, a country where stray dogs are an endemic phenomenon and the animals are exterminated by bloody methods.

Through its two centres based in Cernavoda and Medgidia, *Save the Dogs* develops activities aimed at preventing the problem of strays by applying the "neuter and release" approach, where allowed by authorities, as the method has become "illegal" according to the new law passed in September 2013. By means of its mobile clinic, *Save the Dogs* also reaches areas with no veterinary services. Furthermore, the organization manages an international adoption program and runs education projects in Romanian schools.

Given the tragic circumstances in which equines live in the region in which *Save the Dogs* operates, the organization has set up a specific program for the home care of horses and donkeys in collaboration with its partners – *Donkey Sanctuary* (United Kingdom), *Animal Care Austria and Friends of Homeless Dogs* (Finland). The interventions in the area include educational activities addressed to owners and aimed at preventing cruelty to animals.

Footprints of Joy is *Save the Dogs* headquarters, a model low environmental impact shelter for dogs, cats, and equines that is bound to become a centre for the promotion of voluntary work with pet therapy and education programs aimed at children and their families.

In collaboration with *Fondazione Paideia*, the organization has started the first donkey assisted therapy in Romania dedicated to the disabled children of the orphanage Don Orione in Bucharest.

Save the Dogs is a member of CIAO – Comitato Italiano Associazioni and ONG in Romania (Italian Committee for Organizations and NGOs in Romania).

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

International pressure produced the desired effect this time.

After months of letters and demonstrations, and through the good offices of some MEPs, things are finally moving. This is not an about-face by the Romanian Government on the “stray-killing” law. However, the National Veterinary Authority (ANSVSA) has acknowledged its own limitations with respect to know-how and operational capability and has decided to open a dialogue with the animal welfare organizations. Therefore, a working group was initiated to ensure that the “good” parts of the law are effectively implemented.

In mid-March our organization was invited to attend a closed-door meeting in Bucharest, where some foreign organizations had the chance to establish a dialogue with the senior managers of the Veterinary Authority. The discussion took place in the presence of observers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the country, a tangible sign that the pressure coming from Embassies and crowds has caused much embarrassment to Romanian authorities.

The meeting was characterized by an attitude of openness on the part of the ANSVSA, which introduced some new features: first of all, the establishment of an Animal Police Department, which will be chaired by Kuki Barbuceanu, for many years in charge of *Vier Pfoten* Romania. In theory, the Department will serve as supervisor through a network of local contacts, so that abuses to the detriment of animals may be prosecuted. Furthermore, a few days after this meeting, the first training courses for police forces have eventually kicked off, the aim being to make the articles of the law concerning animal rights and mistreatment well known to officers.

These initiatives have been met with skepticism by the more radical fringes of local and international animal rights activists, while we would rather be cautiously optimistic. The good intentions might not be followed by facts, but it is unquestionable that finally the highest body responsible for monitoring issues related to animals in Romania did ask the animal welfare organizations to collaborate in order to ensure that compulsory sterilization and identification of dogs become reality. On this front, as a matter of fact, things are at a standstill, paralyzed by bureaucracy and the laxity of many public officials. The National Dog Registry, which was launched in March, is still not up to speed, and it seems that free sterilizations will be available only in those areas where organizations like ours already exist, given that the Romanian Government has not provided any funding for these activities.

The working group will continue its activity in the coming months. Meanwhile *Save the Dogs* does not fail in reporting to ANSVSA the most egregious cases of abuse concerning public Romanian dog pounds (see pp. 4 and 5), noting that finally these facilities are being inspected. We hope to soon assist to the closedown of some of them, just as we were guaranteed during the meeting in Bucharest.

During a presentation I held in Brussels in early April (see page 14), during an event arranged by the Austrian organization *Vier Pfoten*, I brought the situation of public Romanian dog pounds to the knowledge of senior officials from the European Commission and representatives of the German Government.

Therefore, the work of lobbying and the pressure exerted by *Save the Dogs* together with other organizations carries on in order to obtain a Directive that regulates the management of pets and - consequently - of strays, too, uniformly throughout the EU. Only then will the international pressure result in financial penalties against those countries that do not comply with the directions of Brussels regarding the treatment of our beloved dogs.

editorial

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

 @sara_turetta  www.facebook.com/SaraTurettaSave





By courtesy of the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust

Four months after the “stray-killing” law

A PICTURE OF ROMANIA AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW LAW ON STRAY DOGS. THIS IS WHAT SAVE THE DOGS IS DOING.

The macabre count of the strays “officially” killed in Romanian dog pounds started in January. Figures are partial, as the overall data will be made public by the veterinary authority of the country in a year. However, announcements from the various cities that have already begun to eliminate strays have been following one another: Buzău, Bacău, Timișoara, Bucharest, Giurgiu...

For most of these dogs, death comes after days of hunger and suffering in overcrowded enclosures, where the cleaning is not done even once a day, and where disease and fights claim victims on a daily basis. There is no sign of individual kennels for dogs with health problems, there are no bowls available to prevent food from being contaminated with the animals’ excrement, neither is the minimum space per animal guaranteed - even though the law does provide directions concerning all these issues. Nevertheless the arrogance of those who manage these dog pounds - whether private companies or municipal employees, all strong in their conviction of being untouchable - seems to have no limits.

Away from prying eyes

While the conditions of detention of these poor animals are in full view of everybody - as volunteers and visitors often take pictures and videos of the hell the dogs live in - no one really knows how the dogs are being killed. After the video released by *Save the Dogs* in 2010, which showed the brutal killings in the courtyard of the dog pound of Constanța, most of these facilities avoid to destroy the dogs outdoors for fear of being filmed and prefer to drag the poor

animals into interior rooms, away from prying eyes. The dog pound in Constanța has even its own incinerator, so that no one can count the dead bodies sent to it. Even the investigative agencies that have crossed the country in search of evidence of the killing methods have failed in their attempt, at least so far. However, since the basic rules relating to space and the distribution of food are not met, it is very hard to believe that the eliminations of the dogs adhere to what is dictated by law. Under the legislation currently in force,



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Above: The dog pound with concentration camp conditions in Brăila

Beside: Stray puppies on the streets in Romania



By courtesy of the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust

euthanasia should be carried out by a veterinary surgeon, with minimal stress for the animal and after appropriate sedation. It is possible that this procedure is indeed respected in some big cities. But the dog pounds in the Romanian provinces are dismal and dilapidated facilities, run by an often illiterate and unqualified staff. In any case, transparency remains a big issue. As a matter of fact, the law allows animal welfare organizations to attend all activities but one - euthanasia. Is it just a coincidence?

In the forefront

Save the Dogs has certainly not been standing idle during all these months.

Firstly, we have become the point of reference for the British Association WSPA in Romania. Together with our British colleagues, we are working to develop a communication plan at the national level and targeted actions of lobbying as well as education programs in some cities.

We have sent statements to the Romanian veterinary authorities on two particularly egregious cases that occurred between January and February in Hârșova and Craiova. The first case was raised by the circulation of shocking photographs showing about twenty puppies, some alive, others dying, locked up in a very small cage. The second case went round the world by means of the photographs of two pens covered in blood, which officially was the result of a fight between animals. It just so happened that those pictures were taken in the same days

when "hundreds of dogs" (about 500, according to the local volunteers) had been eliminated, as confirmed by the facility manager to the press.

We are in contact with the Romanian National Veterinary Authority, who has expressed its willingness and commitment to combat abuses perpetrated by the various municipalities and local health authorities, and we have signed - along with 200 other European organizations - a letter to the EU Commission asking the latter to freeze all funding granted to Romania to prevent rabies.

The road is still long, but yet *Save the Dogs* is fighting to make sure that this massacre stops as soon as possible and that the oasis of happiness created in Cernavoda and Medgidia can be extended one day to the whole country.

On our Facebook page you will find daily updates on what is happening in Romania and about our activities to oppose the new law.



The law allows animal welfare organizations to attend all activities but one - euthanasia. Is it just a coincidence?



Above: An enclosure inside the dog pound in Brăila

At the bottom: The dump in Hârșova a month after the events mentioned in these pages. There are about 300 dogs living among mountains of waste. Five of them were taken by *Save the Dogs* operators and are now safe in our shelter in Cernavoda. At the time of writing (March 2014), the City of Hârșova does not appear to have arranged any routine killing of strays.



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School is the road to animal salvation

IN CERNAVODA AND MEDGIDIA 2,500 CHILDREN ATTEND OUR CLASSES TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS.

When in 2002 Sara Turetta moved to Cernavoda, the streets of the little town teemed with sick dogs and hungry puppies. Naturally her first concern was to accommodate and sterilize the 2,000 strays that roamed the streets, with the few funds and the limited human resources available at that time. Those were the days when our president did whatever was necessary, assisting the veterinarian during surgery, cleaning the pens, catching the dogs with a blowgun, and discussing with the authorities. Ten years and 24,000 sterilizations later, *Save the Dogs* has put the population of strays of Cernavoda and Medgidia under control, and although there is still much work to be done the two towns have finally exited the emergency. Eventually this has created the possibility of starting a project that *Save the Dogs'* founder had deemed necessary for quite some time, but which by force of circumstances had remained in the background: the education of children.

A school of respect

Until now, that of our organization has been, in some sense, a "top-down" intervention. That is because, as a matter of fact, while employing local staff, the values expressed by *Save the Dogs* are "imported" from Italy. To ensure that one day Romanians will take care of their own animals, it is essential to address the generations that will have the chance - in the medium or long term - to bring about profound changes in society. It is in this spirit that our educational program saw the light of day in 2012 in the schools of Medgidia and that the same program was extended to Cernavoda the following year. 1,500 children in 2012 and 2,500 in 2013 attended a 3-hour lesson directly managed by *Save the Dogs*, in which a Romanian educator trained for us by the British organization *Dogs Trust* taught them how to become "responsible dog owners". Using a series of objects, drawings and images to make

The education Project

Save the Dogs education project costs around 3,000 Euros per year. This amount includes the educator's pay, her travel expenses and the printing of educational materials, in addition to the transportation of the children to *Footprints of Joy* for the guided tours. Those who wish may contribute to our educational activities by making a payment and specifying the reason of it as follows: "Education". In addition, our gadgets for the summer 2014 are dedicated just to this project. Choose the one you prefer from those presented on page 12 and make a donation!

the class more engaging, we explained to the children that to burn a dog on the muzzle does not mean to vaccinate it, but it is animal abuse, and that chains should not exist in the yard of a family who loves



© A. Mesiano

its pet.

As expected, the children almost always showed a huge enthusiasm and instinctive empathy towards the dogs, feelings that are often frustrated by the negative attitude of their parents.

An outing to visit Footprints of Joy!

To counter the messages from Romanian families and media that portray stray dogs mostly as dangerous wild beasts, we brought 500 children to visit *Footprints of Joy*, giving them the chance to meet our staff and animals. Local television stations interviewed the pupils during the visit and the surprise of having such a modern and cozy center for animal welfare in their own region was clear in the words of everyone, including teachers.

This year our educational program has resumed in the schools of both towns, and we believe that it should become a per-



manent activity of *Save the Dogs*, alongside all the others.

That is the only way we can really change the fate of the thousands of animals that

one day will meet these children, tomorrow's adults.



© A. Mesiano

Give Romanian children a cuddly toy

Do you want to give Romanian kids an animal-shaped plush toy? Send it to our premises in Milan and we will bring it to class! Our lessons will be even more effective and the children will take home a keepsake that will remind them of their time spent with *Save the Dogs*!

In the picture: A pupil from Medgidia with one of the cuddly toys donated by our supporters

We explained to the children that to burn a dog on the muzzle does not mean to vaccinate it, but it is animal abuse, and that chains should not exist in the yard of a family who loves its pet.

At the top: A moment of a lesson organized by *Save the Dogs* at the elementary school of Medgidia

Above: An elementary class from Cernavoda visiting *Footprints of Joy*

www.savethedogs.eu



Footprints of Joy will have its own clinic

THE BEGINNING OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT SUMMER.

The fundraising campaign was launched in 2012. Then the Italian economic crisis kicked in, which was a bitter blow to the project. After that, the approval of the "stray-killing" law in Romania absorbed a large part of our energy. But we have not given up, neither have you, our supporters. This is why we can now say with pride that we did achieve the goal of 250 thousand Euros and that therefore *Save the Dogs'* new clinic will soon be a reality! It will be built exactly how and where we had dreamed: a cutting-edge facility on the land adjacent to *Footprints of Joy* shelter, where we will be able to provide our guests with even a higher quality veterinary care, in line with Western standards. Now, the first step will be to get to the heart of the planning stage by addressing the many bureaucratic aspects. We will then have to identify the amount of ancillary costs, apply for permits, level the ground, connect to the power and water mains and build a septic tank. These, as of today, will be our priorities in the hope of being able to start the construction works in the summer of 2014. You will be kept constantly informed on the progress of the project through our website and Facebook page, but we would like to thank you and our partners (Susy Utzinger, Hundhjälpen, Friends of Homeless Dogs) here and now for another great and ambitious dream come true. Thanks for your support and the trust that you continue to place in our organization. The credit is all yours!

Our new "international" vans

Another milestone we reached in late 2013 was the purchase of two vans. The new trucks have replaced the previous ones, used for the transportation of the dogs to the airport, during the most important journey of their existence - a journey towards a new life. They are a comfortable Renault Traffic and a Renault Kangoo equipped with air conditioning and ventilation grills. The inside is entirely coated for maximum hygiene, as provided by the law in force in Romania. A special thanks to the donors who generously participated in the purchase and, in particular, to the Swiss Foundation *Susy Utzinger* for both vans, the British organization *Dogs Trust* and the Italian ENPA.



At the Top: The land on which the new clinic will be built. The structure will consist of a central building of 326 square meters for the medical and administrative activities and a post-operation area of 300 square meters.

Above: *Save the Dogs'* new vans came into operation in March 2014



© A. Mesiano

It's hard to say goodbye, yet the joy is so great...

ADRIAN ION, 28, IS IN CHARGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIONS AT SAVE THE DOGS CENTER IN MEDGIDIA. THIS IS HIS INTERVIEW.

Two years ago I came across the ad for a very special job - he says - I sent my application and now here I am!

Adrian, what is your role within the organization?

I'm in charge of the international adoptions and socialization process of our four-legged guests.

More specifically, what are your daily tasks?

My day starts with the socialization activities for our guests. It is a moment in which the animals learn to live with their own kind and the humans, they play and have fun. On completion of this significant part of my workday, I'm in charge of the international adoptions, that is to say that I put the dogs and cats that have passed all the veterinary and behavioral tests, and are ready to meet their owners abroad, up for adoption.

What did you do before working for Save the Dogs?

I have worked for the Romanian railways for many years, as a person in charge of train handling. I had the responsibility of managing 140 people. Then I got tired of that work and left for England, where I stayed for only two months. After that, I returned to my family, which I was missing a lot.

Are you married?

Yes, and I have a 14 months old daughter. We live together with my parents, who, luckily enough, can devote a lot of their time to our child and Sasha, our dog.

So you've got a dog...

Yes! It is about two years old and was a guest at our shelter.

Has your experience with Save the Dogs changed anything in your relationship with animals?

I have always loved dogs and lived with them. What has changed is my outlook towards the condition of the animals. Once I looked past all the strays that have always populated my hometown. It was normal for me to see them there and even though their condition did make me very sad, I thought it was unavoidable. Now things are different. Thanks to the knowledge I have gained with regards to the management of stray dogs, I have developed a stronger awareness. Today I know that things can be changed.

Do you think that the work of Save the Dogs has led to changes in Medgidia?

Without a doubt. Prior to the beginning of the activities by the organization, the number of dogs on the streets was very

high and their condition was truly awful. Now the situation is very different and the activities that we carry out play a crucial role in the improvement of the social fabric, which includes both humans and animals. *Save the Dogs* is now a reference point for my town.

Your job brings you to say goodbye to many four-legged friends that are lucky enough to start a new life abroad. What are your feelings when you see the pictures of the dogs that once you cared for happily in the company of their adoptive families?

I feel like a parent whose children leave home. It is always difficult to say goodbye, but to know that they are safe, loved, and protected, fills my heart with joy. It's very gratifying to know that I have helped to make the future of my friends much brighter!

Above: Adrian with Renzo during our socialization activities. Renzo has now been happily rehomed in Sweden.

www.savethedogs.eu





Dogs, horses and donkeys: Friends of Homeless Dogs' fullest commitment

OUR FINNISH PARTNER DESCRIBES ITS INVOLVEMENT IN FAVOUR OF ROMANIAN ANIMALS.

Save the Dogs is an organization of international scope: Italian headquarters, projects in Romania and an increasingly crucial role in European working tables. But those who really allow our organization to broaden its reach beyond its borders are our partners abroad, now more and more numerous, from the Old World to the United States.

In the last issue of *SAVE*, we decided to devote the back cover, a privileged space within the magazine, to our partners. But we would like to do even more. From now on, each issue will include a few pages through which we would like to allow our readers to get to know *Save the Dogs*' "network".

First of all, we are going to talk about *Friends of Homeless Dogs*, long-standing partner of our organization, with which we have been collaborating since 2007. Thanks to it and the Swedish organization *Hundhjälpen*, we can enjoy an outpost in Scandinavia for the benefit of hundreds of former strays that got adopted through the work of the many volunteers involved. FHD has an inclusive commitment. During all these years our Finnish friends have not only allowed the adoption of dozens of dogs, but they have also provided financial support for our projects in Romania, with a particular care to those dedicated to horses and donkeys. Also important is the presence of FHD

volunteers in our centers in Romania: a constant and valuable human support that provides a significant contribution to our activities.

We asked Jenny and Pia, Founder and President, and the person in charge of the adoptions respectively, to tell us about their work. Here is what they said.

Above: Pia Levonen in Medgidia with Roby, a rescued dog

At the bottom: Some FHD's volunteers during fundraising events



Friends of Homeless Dogs (Kodittomien Koirien Ystävät) was founded as an organization in October 2007 by Jenny Vestlund, who is currently also the chairwoman of the board.

We are the Finnish partner of *Save the Dogs* and we collaborate also with the Swedish organization *Hundhjälpen* by sharing dogs in the adoption program from Cernavoda and Medgidia. However, our program also includes some dogs from STAAD shelter (near Mangalia). We are a small organization with a bunch of volunteers who wholeheartedly desire to help Romanian animals, despite the fact that each of us has their own daily responsibilities – their own job, studies, family and animals. Over the past 6 years FHD has found its place among other rescue organizations in Finland and it is now a highly respected, trusted, and active partner with its own fundraising activity, an adoption program and other support channels for the benefit of Romanian animals. FHD's main activities in Finland deal with the adoptions of dogs, managed by Pia Levonen, as well as sponsorships and fundraising for *Save the Dogs'* dogs, donkeys, horses, and other projects. Everything happens mainly through online campaigns and various events aimed to draw the public's attention to the animals' condition in Romania, for example by collaborating with other Finnish rescue organizations and EU-contacts to raise awareness. FHD arranges various meet-ups with adoptive families by having entertaining meetings in dog parks and, once a year, a summer happening for members, dog owners, and visitors from STD. FHD's adoption rates are not as high as those of other organizations in Finland, but our motto is "quality before quantity". In 2013, 38 Romanian dogs travelled to Finland to new, loving homes. Even though the Finnish economic situation is depressed, FHD's fundraising has been very successful: as a matter of fact, in 2013 the total amount of donations raised by FHD for *Save The Dogs* almost reached € 70,000. FHD's small team carries on its work for Romanian animals and we are proud and thankful for our collaboration with *Save The Dogs*.



In these pictures: Juno (the honey-colored dog) with Titi and their family. The two doggies come from our shelter in Medgidia and have been rehomed in Finland thanks to our partner FHD. Juno (renamed Jonas) has been the "cover-dog" of the last issue of our magazine. Titi's new name is Lucas. They live happily together with other rescued cats.

Photographs courtesy of Juno and Titi's family



We are grateful to FHD for...

- raising (to date) more than €200,000 for *Save the Dogs* projects since the partnership started;
- making Finland a welcoming country for Romanian dogs;
- intervening in the construction of a third stable for our horses;
- supporting our "outreach" project, devoted to owned horses;
- supporting four donkeys therapists for the project *It's Donkey Time* running at Don Orione Centre in Bucharest;
- promoting fundraising events in Finland that contributed to the construction of *Footprints of Joy* first and the new clinic now.

Thanks to FHD and the Swedish organization *Hundhjälpen*, we can enjoy an outpost in Scandinavia for the benefit of hundreds of former strays that got adopted through the work of the many volunteers involved.

www.savethedogs.eu



Many gadgets to support children education

FOR THE FIRST TIME, STARTING WITH THIS ISSUE OF "SAVE" OUR GADGETS FLY ABROAD! SAVE THE DOGS' NEW GADGETS, WHICH WILL FUND OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOLS OF CERNAVODA AND MEDGIDIA, MAY BE SENT ALSO TO OUR FOREIGN FRIENDS!



Minimum donation **5 EURO**

MAGNET

You can choose between 2 different subjects (donkeys and cat). Measures 8,5 x 5,5 cm.



Minimum donation

20 EURO

WOMEN'S T-SHIRT

Long sleeved, navy blue with logo printed in light gray. 100% cotton jersey, sizes from S to XL.

Minimum donation **10 EURO**

COTTON CAP

Forest green with logo embroidered in beige. One size fits most, with fabric and velcro strap.



Minimum donation **13 EURO**

WOMEN'S TANK TOP

Red and fitted, with logo printed in silver, 95% cotton and 5% spandex. Sizes from XS to XXL.



Minimum donation **13 EURO**

TOILETRY BAG

Small and compact travel kit with metal back hook, main compartment with elastic gusset pockets. Polyester, measures 17 x 12,50 x 7,30 cm.

Many more proposals are available on our website 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 or send an e-mail to 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 from the 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.





By courtesy of Dogs Trust

ICAWC: not to be missed!

ORGANIZED BY DOGS TRUST FOR 15 YEAR NOW, IT'S A VITAL TIME FOR THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH THE WELFARE OF PETS.

It is the most important European event dedicated to those who are concerned with the protection of companion animals, in which activists and experts participate from all over the world. It is the *International Companion Animal Welfare Conference (ICAWC)*, a three-day non-stop event with insights into the well-being of cats and dogs, with special attention to the problem of stray animals. Organizations, institutions' representatives and veterinarians are among the speakers, with subjects ranging from medical matters and canine education to fundraising and communication techniques, namely skills that are essential for every organization.

In addition to being an extraordinary occasion for training, the conference offers a unique opportunity to network by meeting people that, in every part of the world, deal every day with problems related to such a complex undertaking. *Save the Dogs* has been attending the conference since its first editions and president Sara Turetta was twice among the speakers. In her 2010 speech, she

presented *Save the Dogs'* "case history" to explain how to build an organization from scratch and make it grow. In 2011, she addressed the issue of international adoptions in collaboration with Friends of Homeless Dogs, the Finnish partner of our organization (see pp. 10 and 11).

The services offered each year by *Dogs Trust* through ICAWC are essential for anyone involved in the protection of companion animals. Information and experiences are shared during the conference to allow the worldwide animal rights movement to make concrete progress. This is how the organizations are provided with the necessary skills for them to rationally and effectively manage their work.

In Romania, as in many European countries, there is an obvious need to raise the level of preparedness of those who care for our four-legged friends. They need to acquire the skills that will allow them to act with reason rather than pure emotion. It is amazing that a large organization such as *Dogs Trust* provides this opportunity at a very contained price and we

hope that many organizations will seize it by choosing to register for the next edition of ICAWC.

ICAWC 2014

ICAWC sixteenth edition will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 6th to 8th of October 2014 at the Grand Cevahir Hotel, located in the Taksim district. Full details will be published shortly on the following website:

<https://dogstrustinternational.com>.

In the meantime, you can get more information by writing to international@dogstrust.org.uk. Participants must speak English.

Dogs Trust

Founded in 1891, *Dogs Trust* is the UK's largest dog welfare charity, and now has 18 Rehoming Centres networked throughout the UK and 1 in Ireland. *Dogs Trust* believes that no healthy dog should be destroyed and last year looked after in excess of 16,000 Dogs. Their mission is "to work towards the day when all dogs can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction". *Dogs Trust* works with like-minded European animal welfare charities offering support, advice, education, health and welfare programmes as well as grants. www.dogstrust.org.uk



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Towards a pet-friendly Europe

DURING A CONFERENCE, SAVE THE DOGS BROUGHT THE ROMANIAN ISSUE TO THE ATTENTION OF EU OFFICIALS.

Over the last years, *Save the Dogs*' action has not been limited to field work in Romania. As a matter of fact, it has been lobbying both at a political and a diplomatic level, often in collaboration with other international organizations.

Our participation in the conference *Stray Animals - our fellow sentient creatures*, held on 10th of April in Brussels and organized by the Ministry of Rural Affairs and Consumer Protection of the State of Baden-Württemberg (one of the German Länder) in collaboration with the Austrian organization *Vier Pfoten*, falls exactly in this type of activity. The central theme of the workshop was the EU's involvement on the issue of pets and that of stray dog population management in the EU, with particular reference to the critical situation of Romania, Bulgaria and Greece.

With her speech, our president brought the serious shortcomings in the application of the new Romanian law on stray dogs, which came into force in September, to the attention of the MEPs and the many members of the German Government who were attending the conference. As a matter of fact, the legislation, besides the obligations that were harshly criticized by animal welfare organizations – dog's euthanasia after 14 days in public facilities, prohibition to release sterilized animals into the areas where they were trapped, etc ... - does contain some provisions that the same organizations would like to see applied, such as the sterilization of owned dogs, the definition of proper management of the animals kept in dog pounds, and the regulation of the dog catching procedures.

In her presentation, Sara Turetta has therefore emphasized the almost total failure to comply with what provided by the law for the protection of animals, denouncing abuses against them and the rampant corruption among DSV (Local Veterinary Departments) officials. One of the videos shown during

the conference contained the brutal catches carried out by ASPA operators on 21st of March, when a dozen employees of the municipality of Bucharest broke in two private shelters forcefully removing nearly 80 dogs, some of which died during the operations.

The conference of April 10th is one of those crucial - and fortunately more and more frequent - occasions in which the most considerate international organizations and MEPs bring the issue of the management of pets to the attention of the European Union. The aim is to have a European legislation that gives clear guidance with respect to the management of the problem of stray dogs through the drafting of a Community policy directly relating to cats and dogs. As a matter of fact, only in the light of a specific Directive, countries such as Romania will be forced to pay heavy penalties in case of violations, while organizations will theoretically have access to specific funds, which do not exist today.

A discussion on the regulation of the trafficking of puppies from Eastern Europe is on the Commission's agenda for the month of

April, as a targeted survey is being carried out on the matter. This is an important first step towards the establishment of a composite measure for which *Save the Dogs* is spending resources and energy, but we are confident that such measure will see the light of the day within two or three years, also thanks to our efforts.

More protests against the "stray-killing" law

After the many demonstrations that followed the approval of the law on stray dogs in Romania, activists demonstrated again across all Europe on March 8th and May 17th. The protests were concentrated in a few cities in Romania (Bucharest, Timișoara, Constanța) and extended into the continent with a special participation of German organizations, always in the forefront of animal rights. Italian activists rallied for Romanian strays too, as well as our Finnish partners, who organized a demonstration in the city of Tampere. *Save the Dogs* would like to thank all the participants and organizers of these important events, which successfully sent a strong message to Europe and the Romanian Government, now obviously worried about the reputational damage caused by its strategy as far as stray dogs are concerned.

Above: A demonstration in Constanța, Romania, last March



5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT REQUESTS IN FAVOUR OF A NONPROFIT ENTITY:

- Leaving a bequest to a nonprofit organization is not a practice exclusive to those who own large estates. A few thousand Euros, in fact, can make a difference even in the long term for the projects of a nonprofit organization.
- You may decide to allocate only a portion of your assets to the organization.
- Not only money but also estates, investments, or valuables can be bequeathed.
- You can change your will at any time. We suggest that you check which the legal requirements are in your country with your legal advisor.
- It is not necessary to inform the nonprofit organization of your decision, even though such disclosure may be helpful. Contacting the person of reference for bequests inside the organization can help you understand how your donation will be used.

With the help of these points, we hope we managed to deal with such a sensitive issue without hurting your feelings. In the event that you decide to name a nonprofit organization in your will, we recommend you to investigate the matter with the organization itself, or with the help of a lawyer.



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Charitable bequests: an opportunity for the future

DECIDING TO NAME A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN OUR WILL IS A FINE GESTURE BY WHICH WE CAN LEAVE A MARK. LET'S FIND OUT WHY.

It is one of the most important decisions of our life and we can have two different attitudes about it: the first consigns it to the category of the "dark thoughts" and considers it a hassle, which sooner or later we will have to deal with. The second one regards it as an opportunity. We are talking about drawing up a will, that is the decision to name those who will benefit from our assets after our departure from this world.

Why have we decided to talk about wills and bequests in our organization's magazine? Because we consider it an extraordinary opportunity for our supporters, as the animals can become, through *Save the Dogs*, the beneficiaries of your will. Yes, because leaving a bequest to a trusted nonprofit organization enables a con-

crete project to live far beyond our material existence, giving us, in a sense, a bit of immortality.

Although the legislation varies from country to country, we decided to provide a

number of insights that will hopefully help to dispel some myths. As from this issue, we would like to lay the groundwork for an in-depth consideration that we hope you will want to start with us.



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Dogs, cats, horses, and donkeys of Romania. If you decide to name *Save the Dogs and other Animals* in your will, you will continue to take care of them for a long time through our organization. Please, contact us to learn how to leave your mark on the path of animal rights!

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 donkeys and horses.

To support *Animal Care Austria*:

IBAN: AT82 3200 0000 1148 6123

BIC: RLNWATWW

Contacts:

www.animalcare-austria.at
office@animalcare-austria.at

The Donkey Sanctuary (UK)



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
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
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

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
info@hundhjalpen.se



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