



Press Release

THE UKRAINE-RUSSIA WAR: SAVE THE DOGS PROVIDES EMERGENCY AID FOR REFUGEES WITH ANIMALS AT THE BORDER OF ISACCEA ON THE DANUBE RIVER

"The situation in Ukraine is very serious, and the reports we are receiving are extremely worrying. This is a conflict in which animals are also directly involved, and we are fully committed to offering all the concrete assistance we can at Romania's front line. A group of seven of us have already set off from our headquarters in Cernavoda headed in the direction of Isaccea, a border crossing on the Danube river where many refugees are arriving by boat, taking emergency supplies with us that include medicine, food, pet carriers, blankets and dog coats for animals and pets traveling with Ukrainian citizens who are fleeing the country", reports Sara Turetta, President of Save the Dogs and Other Animals, who recently flew from Milan to Romania in order to help the staff at Save the Dogs organize relief aid for the animal crisis in Ukraine.

Save the Dogs' primary objectives, in addition to supplying necessary emergency supplies, are: to offer shelter for the cats and dogs that are not able to continue their onward journey on a temporary or permanent basis, as required; to assist people traveling with their pets with their required documentation and offer support for individuals who are authorized to enter the European Union with their dogs and cats, even if they are not traveling with documents and intend to validate them at a later date; to provide veterinary care for animals with diseases or special needs.

"First and foremost, we need to look after those who have fled the bombardments and have left home, taking their pets with them. Many thousands have abandoned their houses and are seeking refuge wherever they can find it. Over 70 thousand people have reached Romania in search of safety, many of them traveling with their animals. Here in Isaccea, we are collaborating with local NGOs, civil rights and other humanitarian associations in order to understand how we can also get the necessary supplies into Ukraine. For the time being, confusion reigns and we have not yet figured out how to get aid across the border. Things are constantly changing and we hope to be able to report back on the situation very soon", Sara explains.

The state of affairs regarding animals remaining in Ukraine is also critical: food and medicine are scarce, and there are increased difficulties in running shelters and kennels.

"We are getting organized at our center so that we will be able to welcome animals that may be evacuated from shelters in southern Ukraine or other areas. In addition, we are identifying kennels we may be able to assist, firstly by sending them emergency supplies as soon as this becomes logistically feasible, and secondly by activating an emergency fund which can be deployed for this terrible tragedy", Sara Turetta concludes.



Save the Dogs and other Animals

The primary objective of the association, founded by Sara Turetta in 2002, was to change the destiny of animals destined to be put down in Romania's public kennels, and involved the creation of alternative programs to manage the phenomenon of stray animals.

The Italian office, based in Milan, was inaugurated in 2005. All of Save The Dogs and other Animals' projects aim at improving the wellbeing of the animals and of the communities in which the non-profit organization operates. The association focuses on these concrete areas of intervention: sterilization programs and veterinary care, the registration of stray dogs, raising awareness and organizing adoptions. To date, more than 8,000 dogs have been adopted in Europe, over 800 animals have been sterilized in Italy in the Campania and Calabria regions, 2,000 animals have been treated every year in the modern veterinary clinic built in Romania and 40,000 cats and dogs have been sterilized, free of charge.

For further information, please consult the website: www.savethedogs.eu.

Press contacts

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