

Welcome to our Animal Rescue and Veterinary Center “City Dog” Fundraising

*At the beginning of our story, we would like to share with you our mission to create and build **the first and only 24/7 available animal rescue and veterinary center. With your help, we want to create “City Dog” and provide animals, both stray and pets, with professional medical care, equipment and emergency vehicles, in Skopje, North Macedonia, and potentially expand in the future, across Europe. Animals from any country and region are welcomed, especially the ones having no home or someone to rescue, aid and nourish them.***

The video of our story will explain how we will benefit from your help, to achieve our goals and dreams.

Facts about the well-being of dogs and cats, for both stray and pets

The situation of stray and street animals in each country is different. In some places, they are treated well and taken care of, even considered as a part of the family, while others still wander the streets and stay outdoors. Sometimes they serve as a protection of property or intrusion control, but they are unlikely to receive veterinary care or any other type of care for their well-being in return.

In other communities, they dislike them and are even frightened by them, resulting in kicking, hitting, shouting or throwing stones if the animal approaches too close. Although street cats tend to take better care of themselves than dogs, the lives of both species are filled with misery and endangerment.

Millions of dogs and cats wander the streets around the world, suffering from hunger, dehydration, exposure to bad weather and influences, injuries and illnesses, and non-human treatment by the community and circumstances.

Apart from the lack of rights, legal compliances and their own voice to defend themselves, we found additional barriers. Most coming from governments and communities, which make it very difficult to deal with these street animals, to the extent of having intense inhumane treatments, such as poisoning or euthanizing them as a first-hand solution.

In cooperation with your help and local authorities, we will develop humane and sustainable programs, education, training, 24/7 emergency services, vehicles and professional veterinary care - to improve the well-being of ours and the city's dogs and cats. Hopefully, one day, other animals too.

Human solutions include: mass sterilization, vaccination, community engagement and education, legislation, tailored programs and temporary accommodation until street animals are permanently housed.

The increase in the animal population in our country, North Macedonia, is also a matter of animal welfare and public health and safety – but let us leave this for another chapter.

Challenges we face daily

Animals on the streets may face starvation, abuse, or even death. Dogs are responsible for most cases of rabies transmission to humans, while also to other animals, and numerous other diseases are simultaneously spread. Wherever animals and humans coexist, especially unsupervised and

uncontrolled in crowded urban areas, there is a risk of bites and traffic accidents caused by walking animals.

Governments, whose responsibility is to protect the public health and safety, often lack the resources and/or knowledge to develop and implement ethical and effective street-animal management programs and to address public health issues, that may arise from the existence of street dogs and cats in the community. Lack of information and resources has led many governments to turn to harsh and inefficient means of controlling street animals, such as mass shelter, poisoning, and euthanizing.

In addition to not having access to affordable and medically certified veterinary services, families and individuals may not fully understand the well-being of pets and animals in their community. Adopting homeless dogs and cats is still a relatively new concept in many Eastern European countries. Unfortunately, even in places where housing is common, there are not enough homes and families who want to adopt a pet. As a result of the various political, cultural, economic and geographical factors that affect the welfare of animals in a country, there is no single solution to the conflict between humans and animals and the suffering of animals, that can be applied universally.

The goals of our animal welfare program

- Improve the well-being of dogs and cats by providing first aid and care, access to professional veterinary services, 24/7 available emergency transportation, temporary accommodation, and consultancy on permanent housing and adoption
- Promoting education on ethical animal treatment in the environment and community, awareness and extinction of the inhumane, deadly techniques - currently used to remove them from the streets
- Encourage positive human-animal interactions by fostering community engagement efforts to change behaviour and attitudes towards all animals
- Establish sustainable training programs and empower authorities to make it easier for local institutions to adopt and run them as their own
- Creating solutions that include monitoring, sterilization, vaccination, community engagement, education, and well-run facilities for temporary accommodation, and permanent housing/adoption

Together, these components provide the only scientific, effective and philanthropical approach to improve the well-being of dogs and cats in the long run.

Our next steps

The general overview of our approach, after completing the initial needs assessment, includes:

- Building and maintaining a special facility center with professional doctors, equipment and vehicles to accomplish the above
- Carrying out field activities and establishing partnerships with municipalities, national authorities, local communities and animal protection organizations

- Initiate or expand existing sterilization programs
- Initiate or expand existing rabies extinction programs
- Strengthening communities, to be more engaged in understanding and caring for well-being of dogs and cats in their neighborhoods
- Encouraging a culture of binoculars and education
- Intervention when governments take inhumane acts against animals
- Significantly reducing homelessness among animals

Our goal is to be there for all animals, spread knowledge and prosperity on how we can help each other grow as a society. We will act in such a way as to take calculated and meaningful steps, supported by your foundations and your donations, with a project that will be implemented under the appropriate laws, and in cooperation with the municipalities, which and by whom **you are also affected.**

“City Dog” long-term goals:

- Organize and participate in counselling where the main topic is “care of homeless animals”
- Proposal of measures and activities to be implemented by the authorities, governmental institutions and expert services, to improve the regulation in the field of law on protection and well-being of animals
- Participation in the maintenance and monitoring of the above-mentioned programs
- Organizing and conducting training programs for the animals and their housing
- Collaboration and partnering with domestic and international organizations in similar fields
- Providing suitable working and financial conditions for our association and team members