



FORGOTTEN ANIMALS ANNUAL REPORT 2022

UK Charity Commission Registration Number 1145269
USA non-profit 501(c)(3) charity EIN number 84-4544322





At of the beginning of 2022 we had many hopes and plans that came crashing down when Russia invaded Ukraine. As always, when forces outside of our control take over, our modus operandi is 1) not giving into the luxury of falling into depression and 2) acting in the most effective way possible in our area of expertise and in the locations where we believe we can make the most difference.

We refocused the vast majority of our efforts toward Ukraine from day 1 of the war and 90 percent of our available finances, except ongoing grants reserved for specific continuous projects, and all new donations were put into helping thousands of animals impacted by the war and the brave volunteers who stayed behind to care for them under the bombs.

Initially all funding went into providing the immediate help with evacuation, food, veterinary expenses, fuel to rescue, treat and rehome domestic, wild and farm animals. Further down the line we set up neutering programmes all over Ukraine, upon the availability of veterinary services, to humanely and efficiently tackle the disastrous amount of abandoned animals that descended on shelters and volunteers.

As a small nimble NGO we were able to act fast and in PR-wise non-attractive areas, such as those occupied by Russia or with active military action on the ground. We will continue to do this as long as our resources allow and until the country recovers after the war ends, hopefully in the nearest future.

All in all, as you will see further in this report, it turned out to be a very busy year for our team, despite the inevitable slowing down (not stopping!) of our work in Russia. We continued trying to made as much positive impact for the animals as we could, which would not be possible without your precious support.

We especially would like to thank our regular donors, for showing up every month, no matter what! With your help we can respond to the constantly evolving situation in the most effective and efficient way.

Thank you, everyone, who made our work possible this past year, please enjoy the stories and the pictures of animals and people we managed to help with your invaluable support.

*on behalf of all animals and people we helped,
Anna, the founder and all Forgotten Animals team.*





What about millions of animals in Russia who still need our help?

No matter how difficult the political situation makes it, no matter the optics, no matter the shrinking resources - we will never stop making marginal improvements for animals in the geographically largest country on the planet. It has one of the worst animal welfare legislations in the world along with low awareness and willingness to do something about it. Nevertheless, we have seen improvements in this area over the years of our work. It should go without saying, but apparently, it's not obvious to all: animals do not choose where to be born (or to be born, for that matter), they do not have any political affiliations or any fault. But they are first to be forgotten and suffer where priorities shift.

All of us at Forgotten Animals are naturally horrified by the atrocities that are being committed by the Russian state in Ukraine, just as any sane and informed being would be. Despite focusing on the post-Soviet area, we had not worked much in Ukraine in the past. Simply because there was no need: comparing to Russia or other former Soviet countries Ukraine had a better animal-related legislation and a more effective animal welfare movement, while in Russia animal advocacy was in its embryonic state when we started.

However, since Day 1 of this war the 100% of our incoming donations and efforts has been redirected to helping animals and people caring for them in Ukraine. Shortly after, most donors have withdrawn their support and grants for any work we have built over the years in Russia due to the optics and we were forced to drastically slow down our work in the country and try and preserve what took years to build until the situation is stabilizes.

Our hopes are that eventually rational and forward-looking thinking will prevail to reveal how effective it is to brush all Russians with the same brush. Not how fair, but how effective, for the animals, in the first place, who have no fault.

In the meantime our volunteers in Russia continue our advocacy work in the way we deem is the most effective. If they need to travel to expose abuse and corruption related to animals or cover veterinary expenses we pay for it from pre-war reserves.

We firmly consider it to be the right course of action with regards to the fragile Russian animal movement, that we have been working so hard on building for over 10 years in the country where even the human life has no value and which is mostly overlooked by large international organizations. And we wait and hope for the war to end. Further in the report we share some of our achievements for the animals in Russia in 2022.

Our work in Ukraine starting from February 24th, 2022

Since day one of the war in Ukraine, Forgotten Animals immediately focused the efforts on the area overall helping thousands of animals in what with time grew to be 30+ shelters across the war-torn country, providing food, veterinary treatment and supporting efforts to save as many animals as possible.

Our team has worked on providing and coordinating immediate help such as food, water and medication delivered to the war zone, as well as on facilitating the evacuation and rehoming of wild animals to safe sanctuaries abroad. 100% of donations we received since February 24th, 2022 were spent on helping animals and volunteers caring for them in Ukraine.

As soon as it was logistically feasible all while the number of abandoned companion animals and pets who lost their owners and their homes was growing exponentially, we directed the large portion of our focus on providing free neutering services across Ukraine in cities like Sumy, Belopolye, Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Dnipro, Kherson, some occupied Russian territory where almost no western charities work, and many others.

Neutering, being the only humane and sustainable stray population control method tremendously alleviates the workload for volunteers, as there is simply not enough food to feed all the animals and their offspring, and gives the animals a chance at a serene, happy and protected life.



Since the war began, we sterilized over **1600 cats and dogs and counting**, albeit we had to reduce the number of the cities we can work in due to the drastically reduced funding. Nonetheless, our campaign still remains active in multiple cities across Ukraine and we keep adding locations when the funding and the veterinarian services availability allow us to.

Enjoy these beautiful stories that warm our (and hopefully your) hearts and make us go on.



Mariia with one of many of her rescues

Every year, on December 5 the world celebrates the International Volunteer Day! We'd like to pay a special homage to Mariia Trunova, the head of the Ukrainian Association of Animal Advocates (UAAA), an animal welfare activist and a real-life superhero.

We've worked with Mariia in the past on some projects in Ukraine and she naturally became our first point of contact and reference on how to effectively help animals and volunteers since the war started. We love working with Mariia and want to take this opportunity to celebrate her passion, courage, and dedication to saving and helping animals in need!

Thanks to the close cooperation with UAAA and Mariia and thanks to our precious supporters, Forgotten Animals could help thousands of animals and selfless humans who care for them in many Ukrainian cities affected by the tragedy of war. Mariia has been doing tremendous work in the field by coordinating the distribution of food, supplies, veterinary help, and coordinating our crucial free neutering campaigns.

A big shout out to Mariia and all the amazing selfless volunteers for everything you do for animals in need!

Free Neutering all over Ukraine to save thousands of lives and prevent suffering

The stories of animals spayed and neutered during our campaigns are always deeply touching. One of these stories is about a dog living in the vineyards near in Kramatorsk, infamous for being the "traditional" place for locals to abandon their dogs or cats after having them on their countryside property for the summer, often pregnant as being non-sterilized and allowed to roam freely "to guard the territory", "hunt rodents" and hence breed uncontrollably.

Volunteers found this dog, they named her Maggie, with her 10 (!) puppies (one pictured with the mum), all of whom were successfully rehomed to the loving local families with the obligation to sterilize them when the time comes. After 5 days of being rescued and spayed, Maggie managed to escape her temporary foster home. Knowing where to look volunteers found her back in the vineyards, the only home she knew. Now, being spayed with no risk of having to give birth to unwanted puppies destined to be strays, volunteers decided to let Maggie live in her familiar environment, with a warm home, fed, supervised and cared for by her curators.



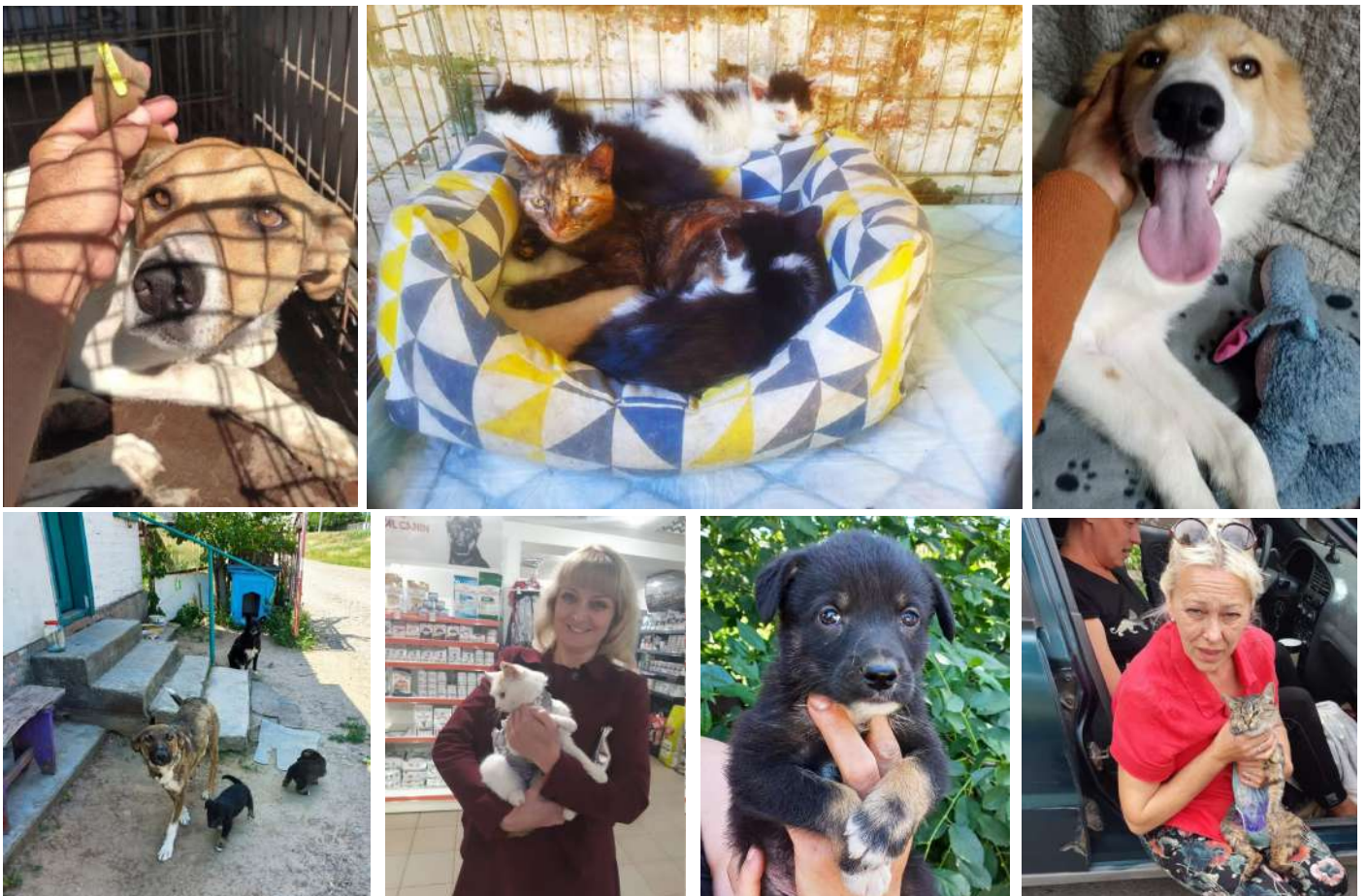


Just like Maggie, **over 1600 dogs and cats** we managed to provide free neutering for since the war started, all have their unique, often sad and touching story. Some of them were abandoned while their humans fled the war and couldn't take them along, some lost their humans killed by bombs, others were already strays and lost the volunteers who were taking care of them. But with your help and support and thanks to the selfless work of our volunteers we were able to make sure their sad stories have a happy ending. Thank you.



Our Free Neutering programmes would definitely not be possible without our **heroic veterinarian doctors**. These two doctors are a great example - a mother and a daughter, both veterinarians - tirelessly working to neuter cats and dogs in Belopolye, Sumy region of Ukraine, despite ongoing shelling of the city. In just 1 month, they are able to neuter over 60 animals on top of their routine furry (or not!) patients and treating wounded, distressed and malnourished rescued animals constantly found and brought in.

We thank our amazing doctors for their tireless work and infinite kindness and courage!





Being located in the Sumy region, where active fire and shelling are not a rare sight, the bell of their vet clinic in the past year has been often rang by the Ukrainian soldiers. It is clearly possible to be fighting in the war while remaining humane and HUMAN. We're cutting their faces out for obvious reasons, but these are just some of the Ukrainian soldiers who risked their lives to save animals under the bombs.



This lucky kitten Martha was born on the streets during the war and her mum was nowhere to be found, probably dead. Martha was very sick when her saviours picked her off the streets and brought her to the clinic, where she was treated and nourished back to life, spayed and later rehomed to a loving home by the volunteers.

Soldier named Alex spotted a tightly sealed plastic bag, looking like trash, and almost went by when the bag started to move. After opening it, Alex discovered three tiny terrified puppies and immediately took them to our vets. The day after he came back with a very sick cat whose kittens died in her belly and she was about to die of sepsis.



All animals Alex and many of his kind-hearted fellow soldiers rescued during the war get help from our vets, are fed, treated, sterilized and rehomed. None of this would be possible without the support we receive from our donors.

Thank you, on behalf of thousands of animals whose lives were saved and turned around.



Lana (the dog in the photo) is a survivor of ongoing shelling in the Sumy region. Lana and her puppy, Mavka, were saved by Ukrainian soldiers after the house of Victor, Lana's and Mavka's owner, was destroyed by bombings and Victor was tragically killed.

Heartbreakingly, Mavka was injured during the bombing too and a few days later succumbed to the injuries provoked by a shell fragment...

The story of Lana is tragic and excruciatingly sad, but it has some kind of a happy ending and we'll take anything positive in this horrible situation.

Not only Lana survived the bombing, but was timely rescued by the soldiers, treated, sterilized and placed in a new loving home.

But it's not only the soldiers who save animals, it also happens the other way around.

Since the beginning of the war there have been many stories of animals, rescued and kept by the soldiers, like Pulya here ('ironically' translated as Bullet) waking soldiers up and dragging them away from where a shell would hit mere minutes later.

Pulya lived in the military camp and was cared for by soldiers in the constantly bombed Sumy region for a half a year. At some point, to safeguard their beloved dog from danger and stress while moving from one place to another, the soldiers decided to bring Pulya to an animal shelter in Sumy, housing hundreds of rescue animals we helped to feed, treat and sterilize. Once Pulya was spayed, the volunteers found her a new safe home. We are extremely grateful to everyone involved in saving and helping animals at war.



Oleg and his own humble battle to save animals of Ukraine

We want to tell you the story of Oleg - a volunteer caring for dogs and cats abandoned during the war. Oleg, an animal hero already long before the war started, had to stay in the country because he couldn't leave dozens of animals who had no one to count on. He built a make-shift tent camp in the woods where he was living, hiding from the fire, and continued to rescue and feed as many animals as he could.

Needless to say, the place was not fit for proper housing of dozens of animals. By chance, Oleg had an opportunity to move to an unfinished house abandoned by its owner in Zaporizhia, Ukraine, who fled the war and allowed Oleg to stay in and use the house as a shelter for his animals.

Now, he has a more spacious, comfortable, and warm place to accommodate and foster more dogs and cats.

Thanks to the support of our donors, he were able to keep the new residents neutered and fed.





We are amazed by what Oleg could achieve with just a little help and support. People like Oleg inspire us to move forward. Rescued, cared for, neutered, loved: Here are some of the dogs we helped Oleg with in Zaporizhzhia: Maia was thrown to the streets by the breeders after they didn't need her as a puppy making machine any longer, she was rescued and spayed and found a new home. Dina was a stray puppy who came to a business territory, the custodian fell in love with her and took her in.

With the facilitation from Oleg, we covered the neutering costs and now she has a good life free of stress, loneliness and hunger. Alisa's humans had to leave her to their neighbors, while trying to escape the war. She is now loved and cared for and has a kitty brother she loves. Belka also became a custodian's dog with a few other rescues, she loves to eat, run around and play with her tribe!

All these and many other dogs and cats are now safe, healthy, fed, loved and protected thanks to the contribution of our amazing supporters and Oleg's unceasing energy and willingness to help.



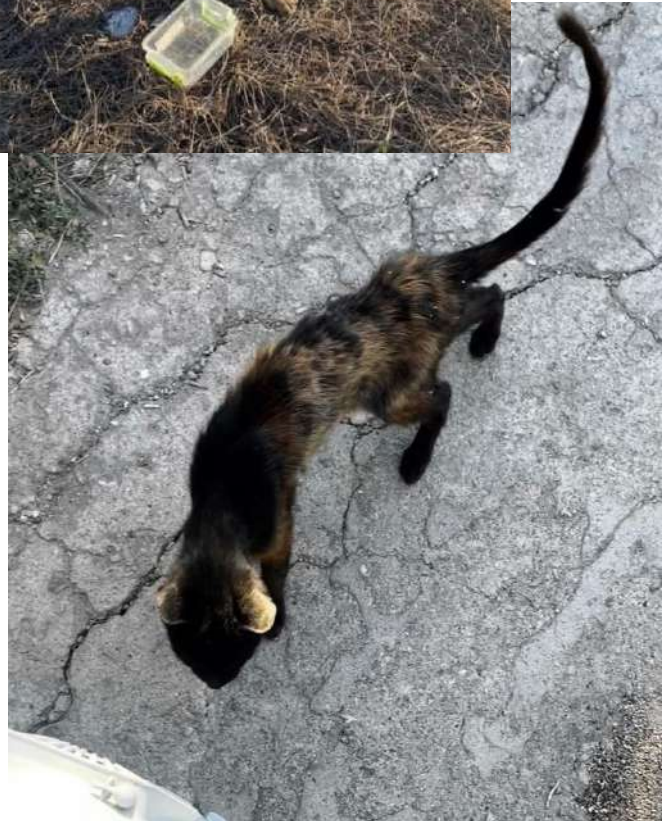


Aside from our focus on Free Neutering, over the course of 2022, thanks to your support, we managed to provide emergency food, vet care, supplies and funding to pay for vital utilities such as car fuel, water, heating, gas, electricity to 30+ shelters and volunteer groups all over Ukraine, some housing and caring for dozens, others - hundreds or even thousands of rescue cats and dogs. We also supported volunteers who went to abandoned houses to look for animals locked inside and rescued them. All of this made sure that shelters and volunteers survived and continued helping animals affected by the war...





RESCUING THEM...

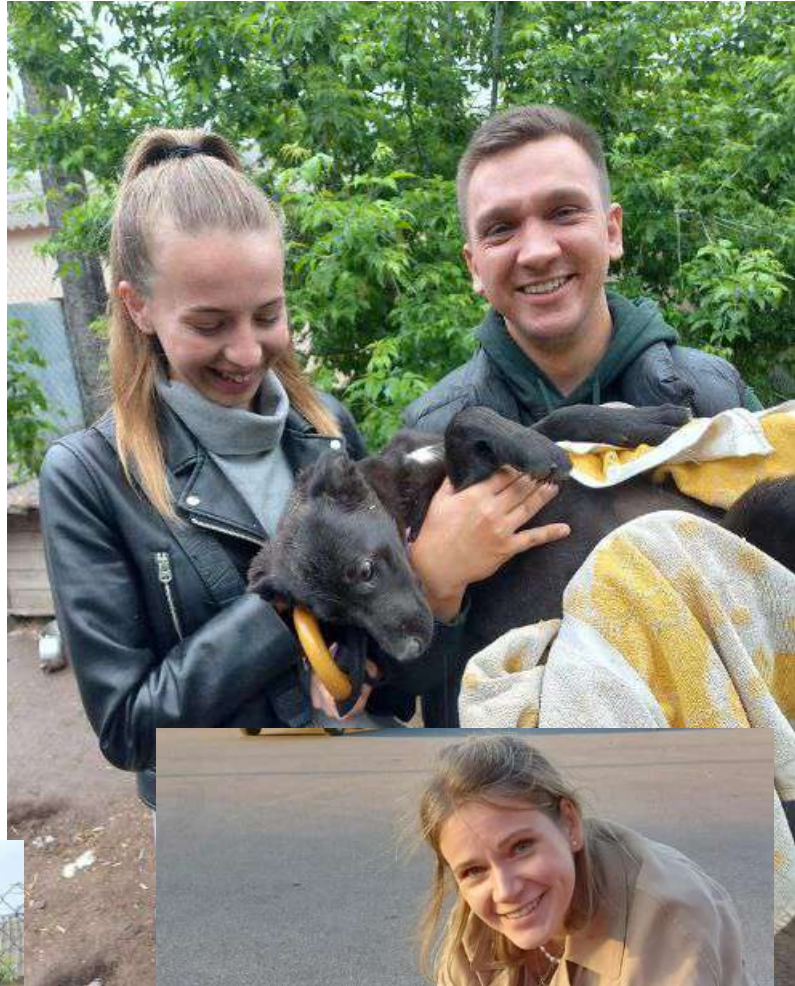


FEEDING THEM...



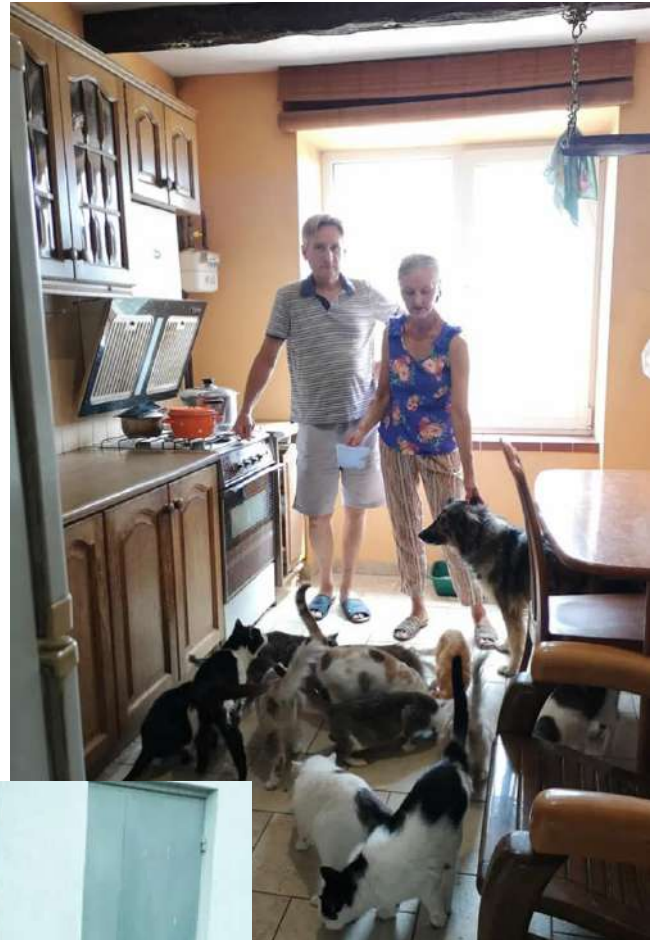


AND FINDING HUMANS TO LOVE THEM.





The stories of people from the territories of Ukraine, occupied by Russia, where virtually no western help arrives, people who, despite the extremely challenging living conditions, still find it in them to help abandoned animals leave us speechless, and we got to get to know many people like this this past year. Meet Lyuba and Sasha, who both lost their jobs because of war and who can hardly make the ends meet. Nevertheless, they continue to care for cats and dogs they have been rescuing off the streets before the war and rescue even more. Thanks to the support of our donors, we were able to provide a 3-month food supply for their 20 cats and 5 dogs and help this mini shelter survive to continue to rescue animals no one else cares about.





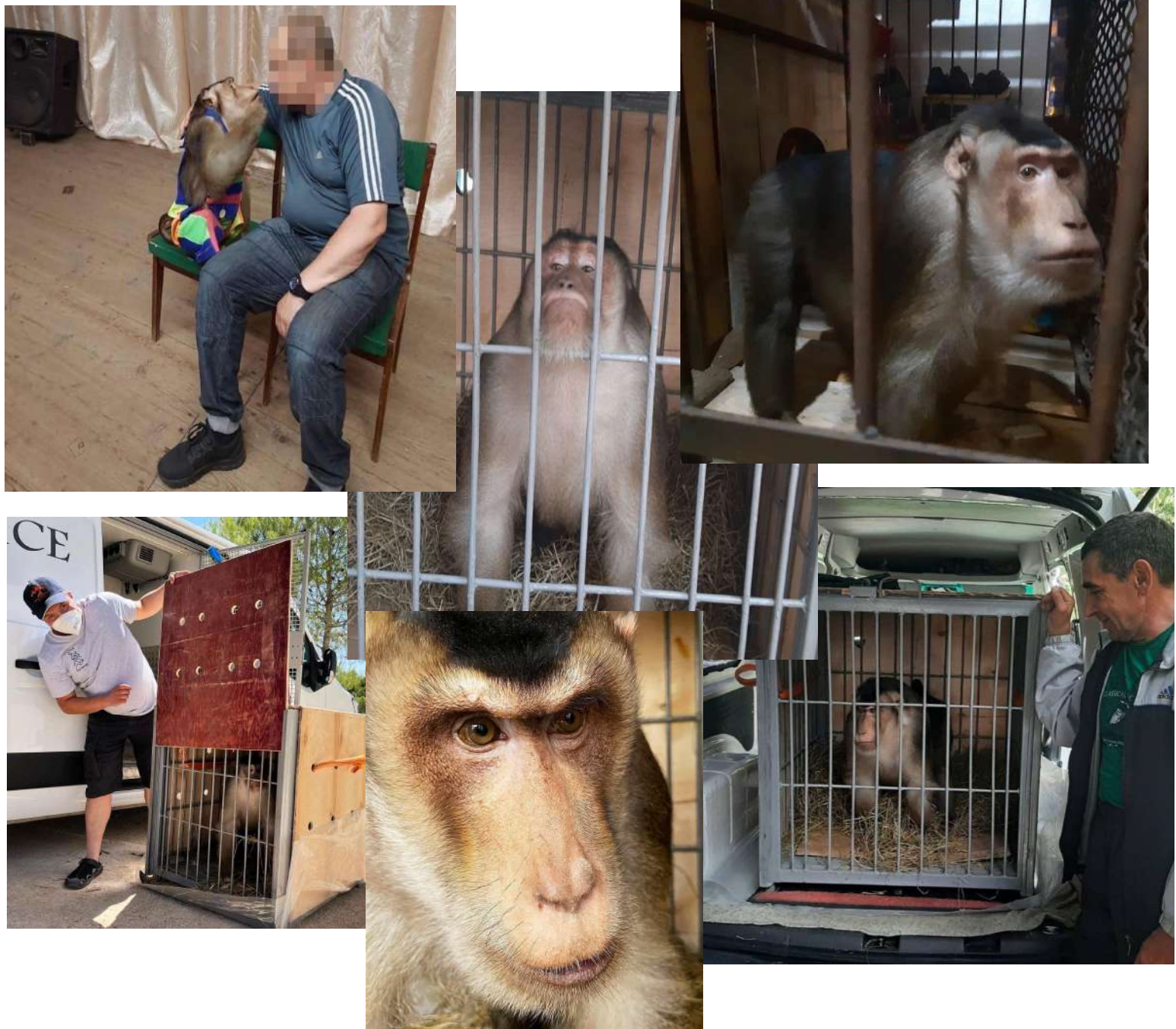
Aside from helping cats and dogs (and people caring for them), with our donors' support we provided food and basic necessities for many **wild and farm animals, including a pigtailed monkey, bears, a lion and a dozen horses**, who survived after their stables were shelled and burnt. Some of the horses were, sadly, killed by the bombs or ran away and were nowhere to be found. Wounded, dehydrated, malnourished and very traumatised the survivors were rescued by Natalia, a horse carer from Chernihiv, who stayed with them despite the bombings and whom we have already supported in the early days of war.



Tomac, the 20 year old pigtailed macaque performed in circus for many years and was left alone when his owner died during the war. In the first weeks of war, Tomac was rescued by one of the dog shelters we support in Sumy, Ukraine. The shelter didn't have the capacity or knowledge to care for Tomac and they reached out to us.

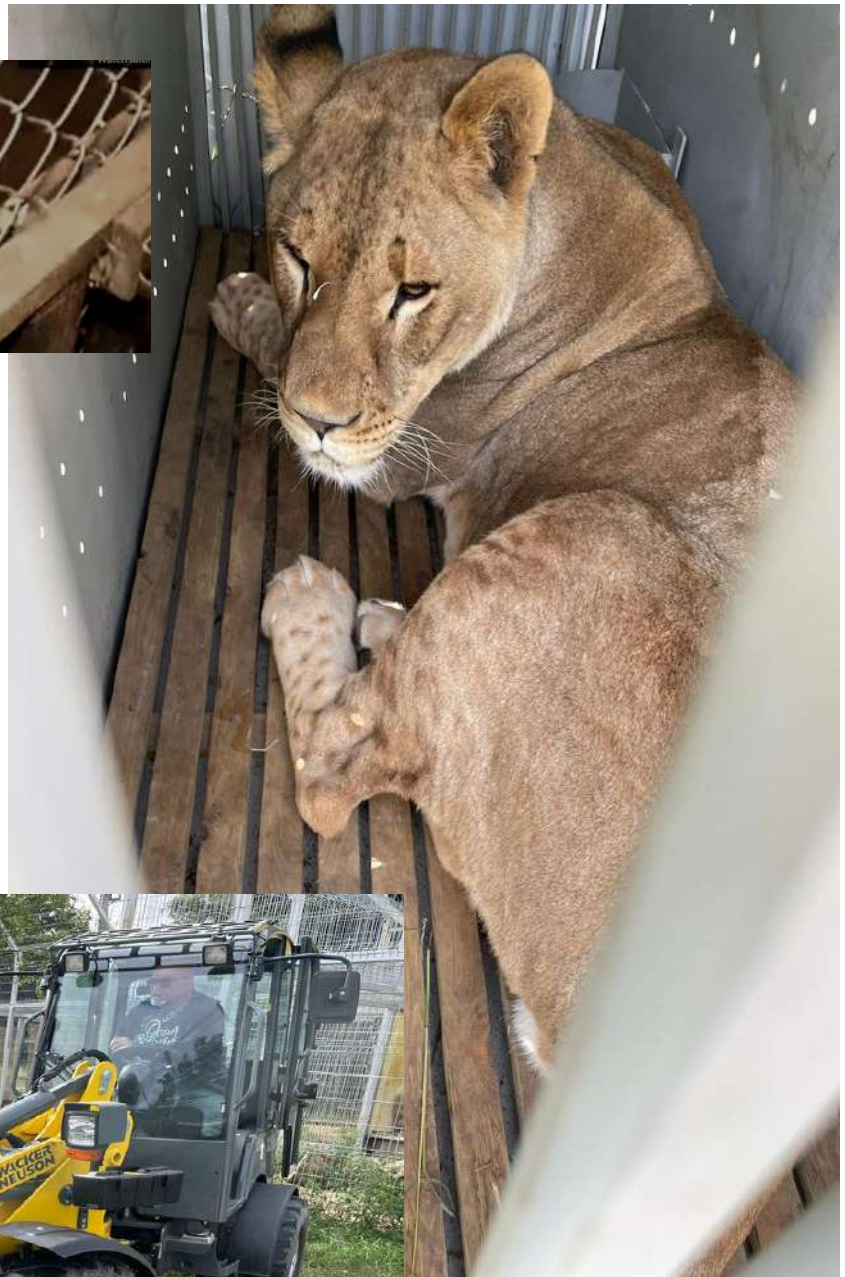
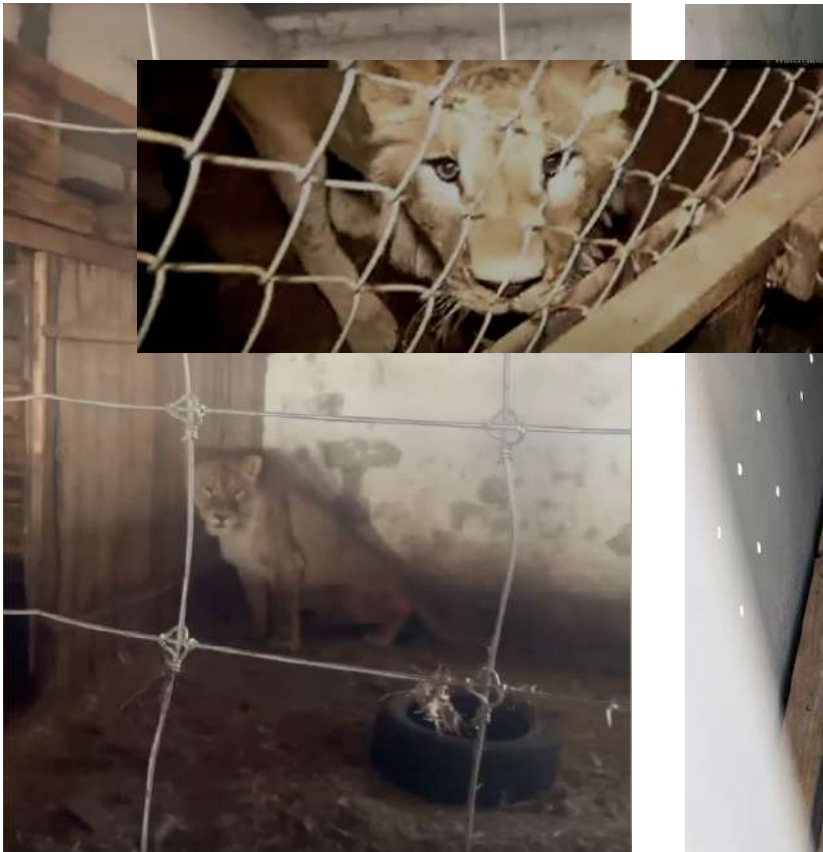
Together we decided to look for a species-appropriate sanctuary, where Tomac can spend the rest of his years in peace and safety. Through the network of our friends and partners all over Europe we found an amazing sanctuary in Spain, that agreed to take Tomac in and where he will spend the rest of his years surrounded by his primate companions and by the love and care of competent and experienced people.

The long and tedious work to prepare all the documents, build a transportation crate and get Tomac ready to go to his new home took our volunteers months! We are extremely happy and proud to report that, after spending nearly 4 days on the road and crossing various borders, Tomac is now home enjoying his new life! We thank everyone involved in rescuing and relocating Tomac and wish him a long amazing life!





This is Ruru, the lion who was abandoned in a tiny filthy cage with no food or water near a dog shelter we supported in the first days of war. Naturally we wanted to help care for and feed Ruru as well. The elderly shelter founder, the extremely brave Asya, made sure Ruru survived all that time, sneaking in to bring him food and water risking her life as the Russian army has booby-trapped the shed compound Ruru was in and the entry was forbidden. Helping Ruru survive until he was rescued and relocated to a safe sanctuary gave him a second chance and he is already adjusted to his great new life. Just look at the before and after pictures, they say it all. This magnificent beast is now enjoying his life to the fullest! We thank you everyone involved in saving Ruru!







To end on a sweet note and to once more emphasize why our Neutering efforts are so important: here's one more story from Ukraine to warm your hearts, These two babies, abandoned with their mom in Sumy, were rescued just in time by our volunteers. On the photo below you can see their mum being very protective of her babies during the rescue mission. We sterilised their mom and all already found a new home, the little ones were also sterilised when the age was right. The brown girl was even adopted by those who were supposed to only foster them (we've all been there, right?). Sadly, thousands of animals get abandoned in Ukraine now by people unable to keep them or take them with, by providing sterilisation we make sure more unwanted puppies and kittens don't end up on the already crowded streets, destined to suffer. Thank you, everyone, for supporting our work in Ukraine, we would not be able to do it without you by our side.



The war in Ukraine isn't only hard on Ukrainians, the nearby counties are also taking a hit having to spread their already limited resources to try and help millions of refugees running for their lives. Natalia from Moldova, one of the Europe's most disadvantaged countries, cannot be defined anything but a superhero. She rescued, sterilized and rehomed over 900 cats and many dogs, using only her own very strained resources, often depriving herself in favour of animals, who are simply lucky to have Natalia in their corner. Their before and after pictures speak for themselves. We helped Natalia with sterilization of her animals, so that she could find them a new home and take in more abandoned animals from the streets. Thank you, Natalia and all the amazing volunteers all over the world for their kind hearts, bravery, selflessness and for not being indifferent to the suffering of those, who cannot help themselves.







Some of the most significant work we did in Russia in 2022

Over 30 complaints to law enforcement were written by our lawyer about inappropriate housing of wild animals, keeping of companion animals and cases of animal cruelty and abuse along with issuing official comments in the press at significant personal risk given the current political climate.

One of our most **cherished victories** last year was for **Aurora, the malnourished tigress** kept in private captivity. Aurora became blind when she was just a cub and was kept in a tiny cage in Saratov, along with other animals and no access to fresh air, light, appropriate food or veterinary care.

As soon as we learnt about Aurora's case we started petitioning authorities to immediately investigate it. The petition collected nearly **80 thousand signatures in just a few days** and reached the ears of the head of Rosprirodnadzor, Svetlana Radionova, who initiated an inspection of Aurora's conditions.

As a result, **Aurora was rehomed** to the House of the Tiger Hospice, operated by some of the best veterinarians in the country, and the former owner received a **well-deserved punishment**, after he lost an administrative lawsuit in court and was found guilty of illegally transporting and keeping of exotic red book-listed animals without the necessary documentation.

Our petition did not only **save Aurora (and her fellow imprisoned animals)** but also **uncovered the criminal business** of an exotic animal and bird dealer. Just look at Aurora before, during and after her rescue.





We continued supporting the crucial work of a unique **Lynx Rehabilitation and Reintroduction Centre** in Vladimir region. Every year, in Russia, many weakened adult lynx come in contact with humans, and need physical and behavioural rehabilitation, in order to **return to their wild habitat**.

On top of this, many lynx cubs are found orphaned every year unable to survive in the wild on their own. **ABCR is the only place to properly rehabilitate and release lynx in Russia.**

It was started by a family of enthusiastic scientists with experience in rehabilitating big cats. Forgotten Animals helped ABCR Lynx **purchase additional land and build forest enclosures** to allow them **rescue and rehabilitate** even more lynx in need. Enjoy these beautiful photos of some of the animals whose lives were saved by the centre and the story of Blaga, a young orphaned lynx kitten that was rescued and is currently undergoing rehabilitation in the forest enclosure we helped to build.





Orphaned lynx kitten Blaga and her journey back to the wild.

Blaga was just a kitten when she wandered into a village in the Far East, distressed and scared, left without her mother, unable to hunt and very hungry. She was rescued by local people who contacted the Lynx centre and asked them to help Blaga.

On the right you can see a screenshot of the video of Blaga being released into a forest rehabilitation enclosure, you can watch the [full of her release video here](#). Now Blaga is about 2 years old and is successfully undergoing her rehabilitation to be released into her natural wild habitat, hopefully already in summer 2023.

Here are some beautiful photos of Blaga in her temporary home. We wish Blaga all the best for her imminent release and thank the centre's team for the amazing work they do to help these beautiful wild cats. We are very happy and proud to support their work!



We also continued running our **Humane Education** programmes to **12 schools, kindergartens and summer camps** during the war to give **over 260 children and teenagers** a chance to refocus their attention and energy from continuous propaganda to animal welfare and kindness.



Over December-February 2022 we funded a research team doing an independent realistic estimate of the Siberian (Amur) tiger population in the Far East of Russia. The beautiful photo below is from one of the photo traps used during the project. This vital expose of tiger protection fraud has been completed and handed over to the Russian government. Had the war not started shifting the focus it would have had more impact, for now we have been told that all our information checks out, but as long as the war continues, the lower rank government officials don't have access to the head of state to discuss the Tiger agenda. The independent research team has conducted a tiger count testing out a new method in a region of nearly 1000 sq km in the natural Siberian tiger habitat. Results have been published and can be seen [here](#) and will undoubtedly help the global tiger science community and hopefully it will not be too late for the tiger. You can read more about our programmes and projects to save the population of this endangered big cat [here](#).



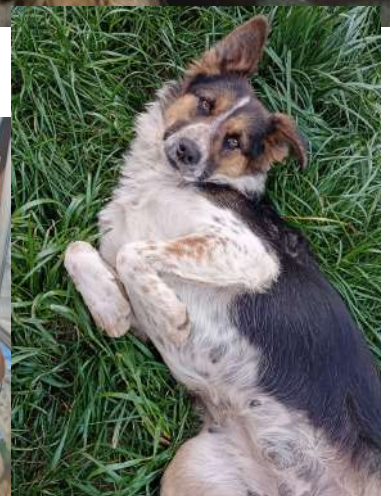


Our **farm animal welfare work** continues, and the progress is there as farmers and organisations are now becoming more responsive to talk about humane animal treatment.

We can't publicly link this massive project to Forgotten Animals because in the current political and legislative climate having connections to a foreign organisation in Russia will jeopardise the advocacy effectiveness and the project overall.

Operating in this manner allows the local team to get much more access and willingness to get involved from farming conglomerates, various stakeholders and government officials involved in the decision-making process. We hope to be able to share more details and achievements with our supporters in the near future.

Neutering, obviously, remains our priority programme, for the first quarter of 2022 we were still finishing our grants and commitments for neutering in Russia - **890 cats and dogs** were spayed and neutered in Russia in 2022 through our regular Neutering projects in 5 cities.





Unavoidably, our plan to create the first real wildlife sanctuary in Russia has been put on hold due to the current geopolitical situation and the lack of funding. The land is allocated and we will get back to this project as soon as the circumstances allow us to.

Nevertheless, we also have progress and good news regarding wild animals in Russia! We helped secure funding within Russia for auxiliary feeding of wild deer and roe deer to help dozens of animals survive the harsh winter! This is also crucial for the Siberian tiger, as these species are among the big cat's most common natural prey.

More good news! 6 orphaned bear cubs rescued by UTYOS got out of their winter beauty sleep feeling great, healthy and super curious! 4 of them immediately climbed the trees of their large forest enclosure (first photo), to check the surroundings, while the other two decided to take their time and stay in the warmth just a little longer (you can spot the entrance to their winter den aka 'the bedroom' on the second photo below). Now the team has an important task to fatten them up good over the coming weeks and give them the proper health check before the release in summer! Follow us on social media (all links are at the end of this report) to keep up with the news!

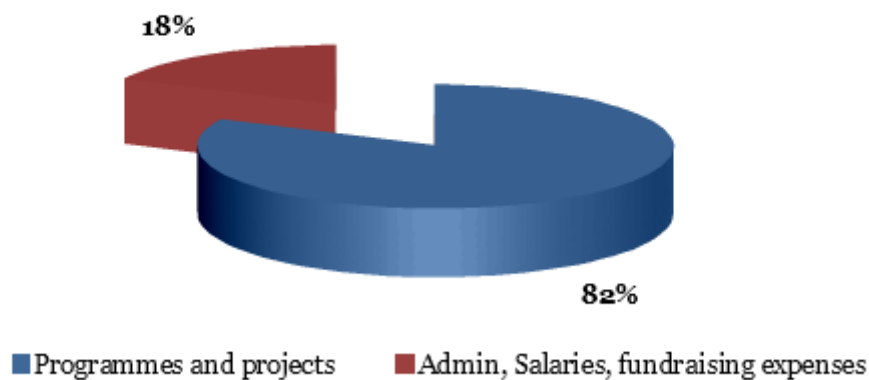




2021 FUNDING AND EXPENSES

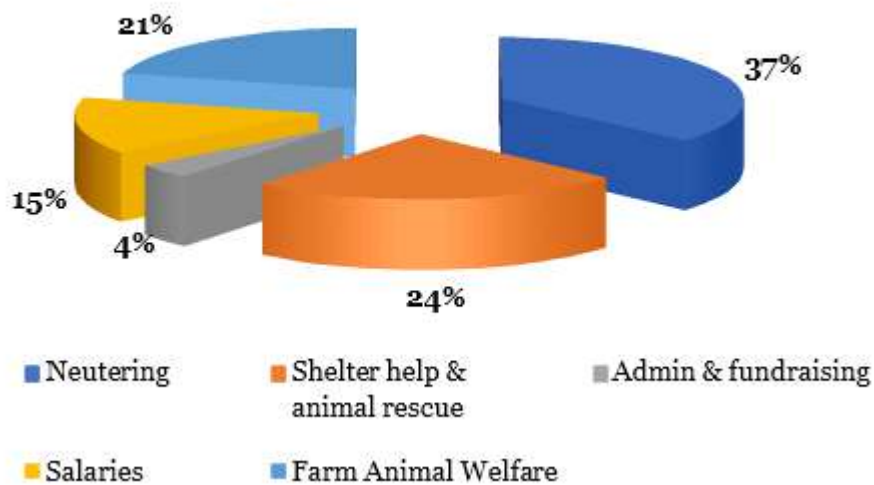
Main sources of our income in 2022 were the grants restricted for specific projects* and individual donations. We are very grateful to our donors for this support. After the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, most of our grants have been halted as organisations were looking to review any donations to Russia due to the image issues it involves and till there is clarity on the political situation. That is why we are especially grateful to those who kept funding our crucial ongoing work in Russia despite appearances. A special thank you goes to our recurring donors and supporters, we would simply not be able to do our work without you.

Funding received (grants and donations): 174,211 GBP
Funding spent: 112,756 GBP



** the amount that constitutes the difference between funding received and funding spent is a restricted grant reserved for our ongoing farm animal welfare advocacy project, exceeding 1 year duration*

How we spent our income



All funding we received allowed us to relieve, stop or prevent suffering of thousands of animals.

Thank you, our donors and supporters, for making our work possible.



GOVERNANCE IN PLACE

Our board of Trustees oversees all our financial activities and play an active role in management decisions. All projects are verified by means of receipts, photos, videos from the project leads and local volunteers and through visits by our team, when necessary. Some of the projects are run exclusively by our staff or volunteers, while other projects we are involved in, are regularly visited by Forgotten Animals team members to assess progress. All projects provide regular expense reports.

GOING FORWARD

Needless to say we are neither able nor willing to make any big plans for the next year just yet. First of all we hope and wait for the attack on Ukraine to stop. Looking back at history, aggressor has never won a war, we are confident it will not be different this time.

We hope to be able to continue neutering projects in the Ukrainian cities which were hit especially hard with massive refugee outflux and therefore, sadly, a huge amount of abandoned animals.

We empower our Russian volunteers to keep applying the law at their best abilities to help animals in abusive situations and will support them in any way possible.

We are looking at ways to potentially start a project in Moldova - one of the most disadvantaged countries in Europe, now hit hard by the influx of Ukrainian refugees, with animal welfare there taking a hit as well.

There is always plenty for us to do to ensure there is as little animal suffering as possible and we are not going to stop improving the plight of animals where its most needed.



Thank you for supporting our mission!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

