



ROLDA continues to help Ukraine Animals

UPDATE 27th of December 2022:

Since the war started in Ukraine, thanks to our supporters and partners, ROLDA was actively involved in helping the animals and people affected.

Between March and May we helped refugees who fled Ukraine through the borders at Reni and Isaccea, offering them food, crates, and hygiene products as well as free emergency veterinary assistance for their pets.

As refugee numbers decreased and people began to receive assistance from larger organizations from Western Europe (very few wanted to remain in Romania, but just passing by to Germany, Italy etc), we continued to focus on helping people who decided to stay in Ukraine.



These people, exposed to bullets and bombs, stayed to help injured animals, to rescue abandoned or homeless animals and provide them food and shelter, often in their own basement, or in half destroyed rooms with no windows, electricity, running water or heating.

In July, after Global interest for Ukraine humanitarian crisis dropped significantly, many large charities stopped their fundraising campaigns but ROLDA continued to run campaigns on Facebook as well as asking for grants to support our network of dozen of rescuers which we refuse to let down.

Helping Ukraine should not be a trend, but a duty for all of us who don't want to live the same nightmare, or if we do, to know, we are not left alone

Thanks to your support, we didn't leave Ukrainian animals and their rescuers behind. With careful spending, ROLDA managed to maximize the impact of each donation, buying supplies, paying for convoys of humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and bringing dogs from Ukraine to Romania. This is easier said than done, given the restrictions imposed by the authorities who fear there is a rabies risk. ROLDA also managed to fund major repairs to dogs and cats shelters destroyed by bombs or fire, and even built an extension for a shelter in Zaporizhzhia region.

This is a list of rescuers from Ukraine where we recently send financially assistance:

- 27.12 – sending funds to Lida in Korosten for dogs transport, van repair and vet bills
- 25.12 – sending funds to Irina in Zaporozhye for power generator
- 25.12 – sending funds to Marinka in Kiev for her farm animals
- 25.12 – sending funds to Irina in Irpin
- 25.12 – sending funds to Inessa in Korosten for animal care and sterilizations
- 25.12 – sending funds to Irina in Kherson
- 25.12 – sending funds to Elena in Kherson
- 25.12 – sending funds to Anastasia in Genichesk
- 22.12 – 10 dogs from Korosten shelter arrived at ROLDA
- 19.12 – humanitarian aid (600 kg dry food, 400 kg wet food, medicines) sent to Lida in Korosten
- 28.11 help Tatiana from Vilniansk for power generator
- 28.11 help Inessa in Korosten for power generator
- 28.11 help Irina in Irpin for power generator
- 28.11 sending funds to Tania in Mykytyntsi donation for animals injured
- 24.11 sending funds to big animal shelter in Khmelnytskyi
- 24.11 sending funds to Olesia from Ukraine Animal Rescue group in Kamyanets-Podilsky
- 24.11 support for evacuation of 500 dogs in danger of being killed from Chance in Kherson
- 05.11 – sending funds to Tatiana in Vilniansk
- 05.11 – sending funds to Irina in Irpin
- 23.10 – sending funds to Irina in Zaporizhezhe
- 04.10 – sending funds to Anastasia in Kherson
- 04.10 – sending funds to Claire in Poltava
- 03.10 – sending funds to Lida from Hachiko shelter Korosten
- 06.09 – sending funds for 100 animals to be sterilized by Inessa in Korosten
- 05.09 – transport supplies (food, medicines, food for humans) to Zaporizhezhe
- 02.09 – transport supplies (food, medicines) to Mykolaiv

For the complete list of activities done for Ukraine animals since the war started, please visit <https://rolda.org/breaking-news-ukraine/> Milestones section.



War on Ukrainian map

2022 was a tough, emotional year which brought the war just 7 km away from where ROLDA is located.




Naturally this made us feel fragile, exposed to Russian invasion, or a nuclear incident, or even a bomb which can easily get “lost” in such a short distance of actual battle field.

The war in Ukraine initially affected the whole country but after the first months, Kiev and west region (on the Polish side) became completely free and the whole war focused on south east Ukraine, including the Kherson region, which remained under Russians occupation until early November, when they were pushed across the river.

Local people from Kherson continue to live a nightmare even after Russian forces left because they are under heavy shelling night after night from across the river. The infrastructure, including current water and electricity supplies, are all destroyed.

However, there have been some small **triumphs** over the past months.

Looking back, some of the best moments (if such moments exist in a war) include:

-  - the moment when after 12hrs of driving, we could hold the first lot of dogs saved from the Ukraine war (the mission was not only dangerous but very difficult at Customs, from who we needed help to pass the dogs to Romania)
-  - the story of Frankie, an Ukrainian dog who run away from home, scared by bombing, end up at ROLDA in Romania, where he reunited with his real owner and now lives happy in Italy
-  - building a good relationship with different shelters from Ukraine, who continue to get grants from us for food, medicines, repairs, rebuilding animal facilities.

Basically, each animal we managed to help get better, or rescue and bring to Romania represents a happy moment!

Cat Belyash



Dog with mouth tumor in 4 Paws shelter in Kherson



Rescue Luke who lives now with Irina in Irpin



Bunny saved by Anna in Kherson



Dog with huge tumor in Chance shelter Kherson Tobika injured in Kharkiv



Some of the most incredible sad moments were when:

1 We heard some rescuers we knew were shot and killed

Some images which we received from Ukrainians will stick in our heads until the end:
The image of the barn which burned with horses inside was a tragedy;
Photos of people near houses destroyed, with tears in eyes, carrying their pets were also very powerful;



2

The terrible situation from Borodyanka shelter, where in the first weeks of war, hundreds of dogs were left to starve to death.

Trapped in closed kennels, they couldn't be even released into the wild to have a chance to survive and sadly many died, some even ate others. It was a heartbreaking tragedy;



3

The months when we couldn't bring new dogs from Ukraine into our own shelters made us extremely sad.



Donations received since the war started from around the World enabled us to:


🐾 Save dogs from Ukraine and bring them to ROLDA shelters

(Costs incurred were fuel for transport, drivers, costs related to keeping dogs in quarantine until adopted, or continue to pay for shelter related costs for dogs who are not yet adopted)

Buy and send supplies to Ukraine

(Costs incurred buying the products from Romanian stores, paying fuel and drivers to deliver them)



 **Send funds periodically** to a dozen of rescuers from Vilniansk, Irpin, Zaporizhezhe, Kherson, Korosten, Poltava, Dnepr, Kiev, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Borodyanka, Fedorivka, Mariupol, Khmelnytskyi, Kamyanets-Podilsky in Ukraine feed animals, buy medicines, pay vet bills, power generators, buy building materials and fuel, rebuild partially or entirely, or expand animal sheltering facilities.

Desperate words from Ukrainian rescuers

Vilniansk is a city in Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine heavily bombarded since Russians left Kherson.

Tatiana contacted ROLDA on 8 July and ever since, she receives constant support but she also provides constant updates.

Back home, she has mostly cats and just a few dogs but she is busy saving puppies and kittens and also treating injured animals.

She also constantly goes to feed packs of dogs and cats in the region where she lives. Tatiana also shares animal products and even money and food with humans who stay to look after pets despite having homes destroyed by shelling.

A huge support for these people would be to get some power generators which will make their winter easier. It would be life saving for them to have electricity and heating when the power is off all the time, when the gas is off, and where windows are missing as a result of being under attack.



Update from Tatiana on 26 November

"The situation here has become even more dire, shelling almost every day. People, children, animals die. We are afraid to go to bed every day because rockets fly at night. Yesterday, a rocket hit the hospital, the maternity ward, the baby died, the doctors are in serious condition. Very scary every day. There is also no light almost constantly, no water."

Our heart breaks for these people and of course, we can't stop the war.

We aim to raise money to send to Tatiana for a power generator that will make this Hell "easier" until spring.

Testimonials from Ukrainians supported by ROLDA



My dear. God bless you for your help! Now I get just a few donations coming, and the costs are high, because of the sick and the disabled on top of all other, about 200 of them in total to look after every day! Today I bought food for all from your donations: if it weren't for you and ROLDA, the dogs would have been hungry. Dana, thank you very much!

Claire from Poltava
(June 2022)



Thank you so much for your financial support for our animals! I was very touched, honestly I cried, because this amount was enough to buy the ordered hay. Now I can pay for it in full and I think it will be enough for delivery.

Ludmila from Borodyanka
(June 2022)



The dog food you sent is magical!
All the dogs and cats are very very happy. So many street animals are being fed thanks to you!

Ludmila from Mykolaiv

(May 2022)

