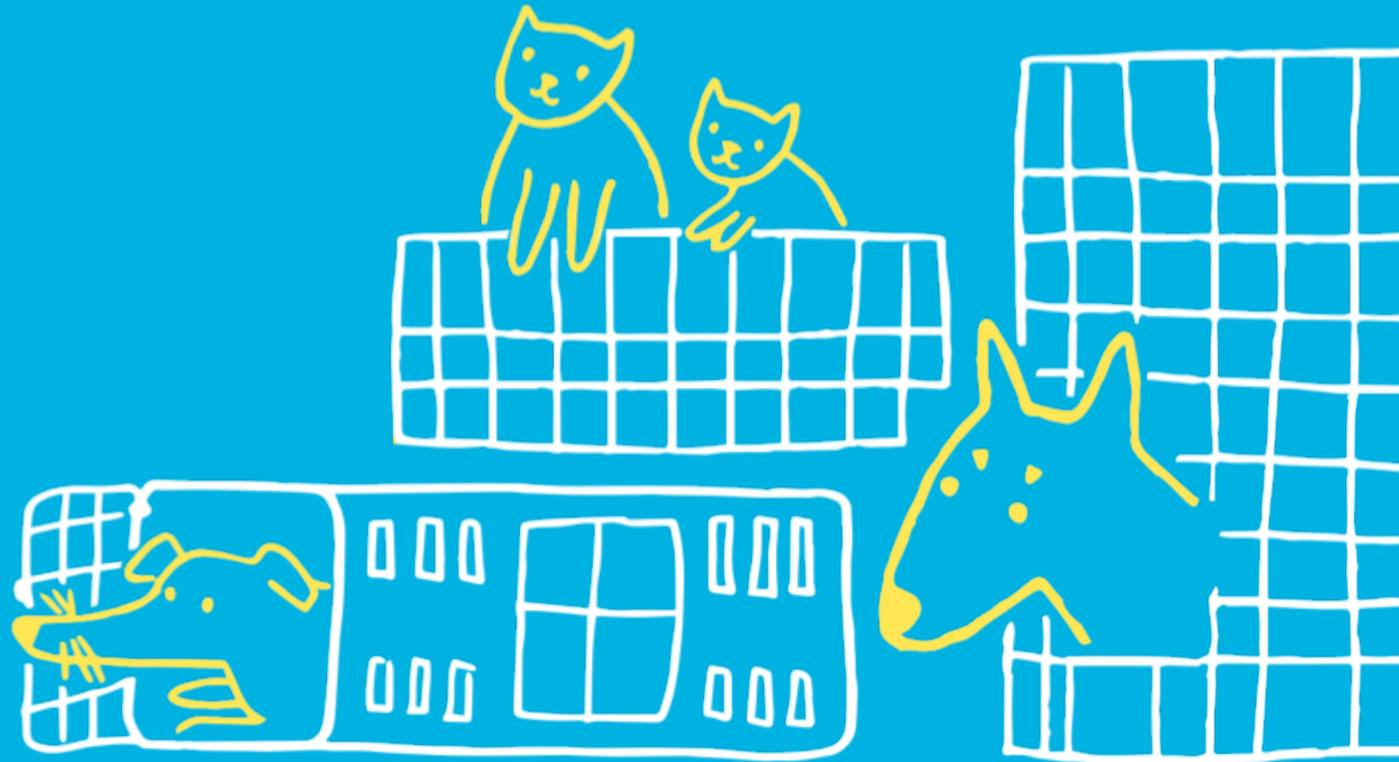


THE IMPACT OF THE WAR ON THE OPERATION OF ANIMAL SHELTERS IN UKRAINE



SAVE PETS
OF UKRAINE
powered by Kormotech



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- Achievements and challenges of Save Pets of Ukraine initiative





The study was conducted by Socioinform, National Center for Sociological Research, commissioned by Kormotech, the largest Ukrainian cat and dog food manufacturer, which has been saving animals from the war since 2014.

In 2022, Kormotech launched the national initiative Save Pets of Ukraine.

The study was initiated to quantify the scale of the disaster caused by the Russian war, to identify focal points and mobilize as much assistance as possible from international donors.



PROJECT DESIGN

Study objectives

- To analyse the key problems and needs of shelters and pet volunteers in wartime
- To look at ways of mobilizing resources by shelters and pet volunteers in wartime
- To identify specific needs for pet food

Method

In-depth interviews – 14 (interviews)

Structure:

- 2 interviews with sterilization centers
- 8 interviews with shelters
- 4 interviews with pet volunteers

Target audience

- 7 interviews in the frontline regions, 7 interviews in the rear
- 8 interviews in regional centers, 6 interviews in small towns and villages
- 9 interviews with the representatives of smaller shelters for 20-100 animals, 5 interviews with the representatives of bigger shelters for more than 100 animals
- 4 interviews with the representatives of cat shelters, 4 interviews with the representatives of dog shelters, 6 interviews with the representatives of cat and dog shelters

SUMMARY



SUMMARY

- **As a result of the war in Ukraine, the number of pets in shelters and in the care of pet volunteers rocketed (from 20 to 100%).** And so did their needs.
- Equally, **shelters experienced a significant shortage of resources.** Their main source of aid - donations from ordinary people - has drained due to mass evacuation and drop in income standards.
- **TOP needs** include pet food, veterinary support, and medicine. In winter time, the cost of heating and frequent power outages (which disrupts the work of water supply, heating, and refrigerators) became yet another pressing issue.
- Other relevant issues include a drop in pet adoption rate and shelter staff shortage. In some cases there is a need to build an extension to existing shelters, to repair or build new pet enclosures. Among the most critical problems in the front-line areas are destruction, the potential need to evacuate the entire shelter, difficulties with procurement and delivery of pet food and/or medicine.

SUMMARY

- **Trying to solve these problems, shelters and pet volunteers turn to the public, animal protection organizations and charity foundations, volunteers and businesses.** This year, foreign organizations stepped in to support shelters by offering material support, supplies of pet food and help in accommodating the animals.
- However, it is **difficult for shelters to plan their resources, as assistance is oftentimes episodic or insufficient.** Therefore, they are forced to downsize, deal with mounting debts for medical care, attend to animals' medical needs on their own, change pets' dietary requirements (use hybrid diet: pet food + offal).

SUMMARY

OTHER NEEDS OF SHELTERS (in addition to providing pet food)

ACCOMODATION

- ✓ Construction materials for the repair, insulation and construction of enclosures/built enclosures (relevant to dog shelters in the rear)
- ✓ Kennels and cages
- ✓ Cages and carriers for transporting animals
- ✓ Construction of a clinic/sterilization center (rare cases)
- ✓ Enclosures for puppies younger than 3 months old
- ✓ Separate rooms/ enclosures for sick animals

VETERINARY SUPPORT

- ✓ Medical care
- ✓ Surgeries
- ✓ Sterilization
- ✓ Vaccination
- ✓ Veterinary hospital services/ supervision
- ✓ Medicine: vaccines, antiparasitic drugs, antibiotics, hemostatics
- ✓ Dressing materials, bed mats, syringes
- ✓ Equipment: sterilization, infusion machines
- ✓ Tests for leukemia

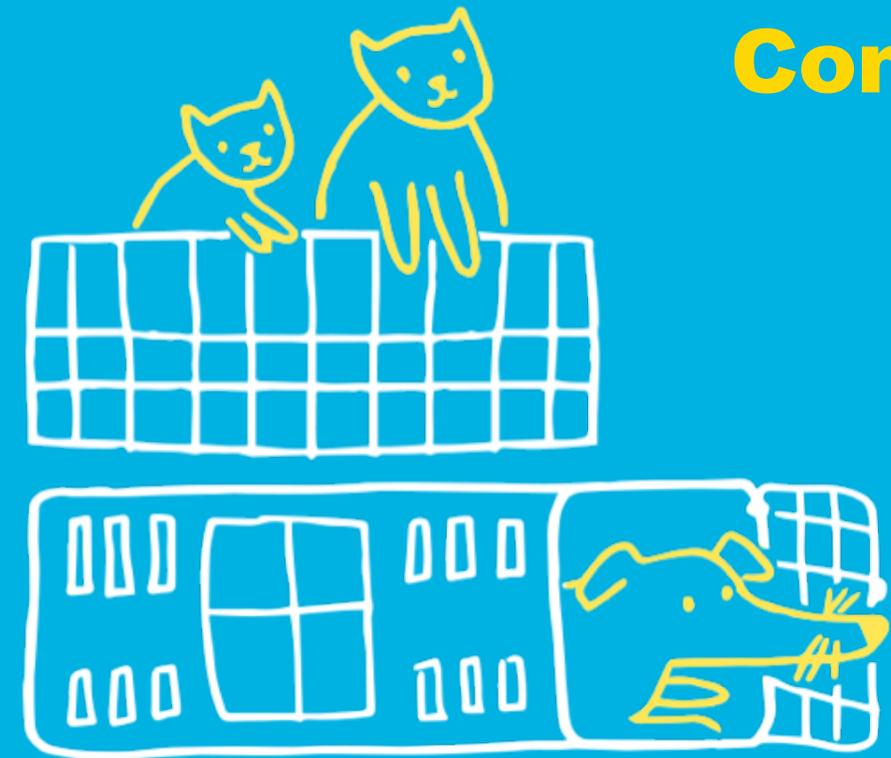
PEOPLE

- ✓ Carers who feed the animals, cleaning personnel
- ✓ Animal attendants or volunteers who walk the animals and are responsible for their socialization
- ✓ Carers who would be involved in finding homes for animals, including conducting photo shoots, posting announcements
- ✓ Veterinarians (only in sterilization centers)

POWER SOURCES

- ✓ Fuel for generators, firewood
- ✓ Generators (for power, heating; refrigerators, water pumps)
- ✓ Flashlights and torches
- ✓ Materials for insulation of pet enclosures
- ✓ Inverters - as an alternative method to provide heating (individual cases)

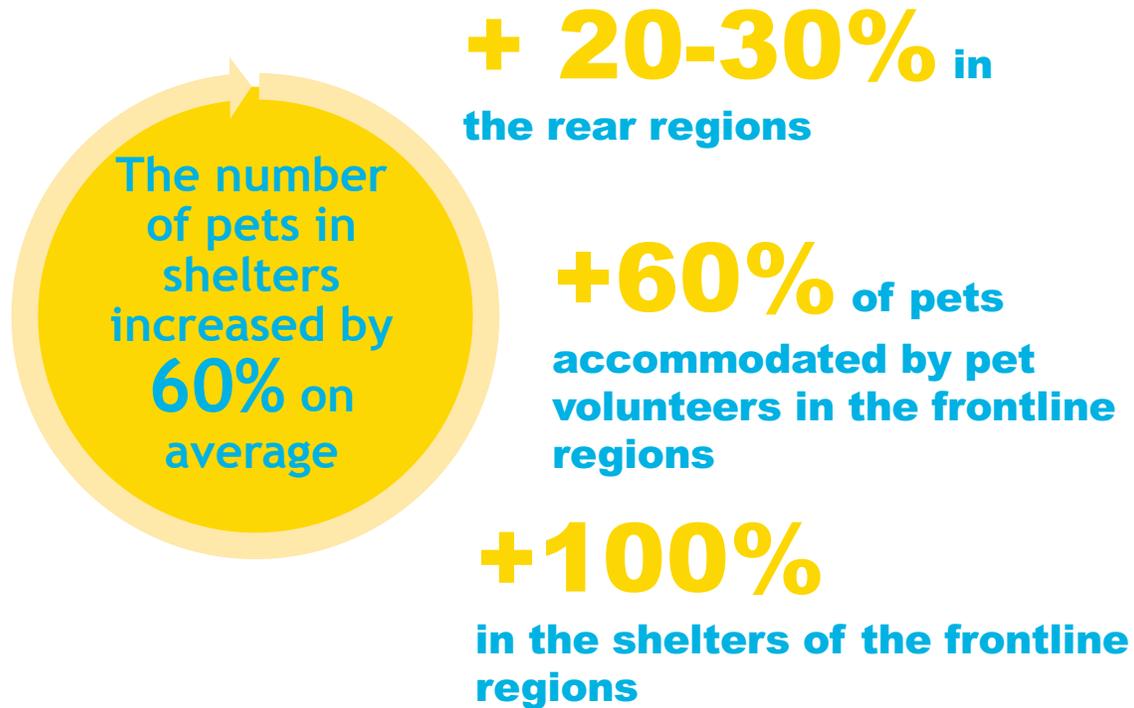
Consequences of the war



INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN SHELTERS

Due to the war, the number of residents in cat and dog shelters soared - on average **+60%** since the beginning of the year **2022**. These are animals kept in shelters or temporary homes.

Organizations and volunteers do not have enough resources to accommodate all animals that ended up on the street.



Nature of changes:

- Most of the pets who were offered shelter during the war are those abandoned by their owners. The number of pets in shelters today varies. New residents keep arriving, which became a regular trend. Some of them are put in new homes or sent to Europe
- Due to the limited shelter capacity, hybrid forms of care are being increasingly used: temporary homes, feeding animals on the street, etc.
- Some dog shelters began to offer care of cats
- During the war, sterilization programs scaled back, which will lead to the reproduction of homeless animals in the future.

"There are a lot of stray animals these days. People go abroad and leave their pets behind. They leave their offspring on the street and we have to pick them up" (pet volunteer in the rear)

IMPACT OF THE FULL-SCALE WAR

NEGATIVE CHANGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The war made a negative impact on shelters and pet volunteers who take care of dogs and cats. The negative trends of the year include:

- **An increase in the number of abandoned pets**
- **Staff and pet volunteers shortage** due to mobilization and migration
- **Rising prices** for pet food, medicine, and medical services
- **Shortage of goods** (especially medicines, pet food, etc.)
- **Increasing difficulty putting animals in homes** (due to fear of responsibility in time of war)
- **An increase in the number of animals that need treatment** (sick or injured). Higher mortality rate among animals
- **Increase in the number of abandoned pedigree animals** (requiring special care)
- **Destruction of shelters and related facilities** (in frontline areas)
- **Lack of information about diseases and vaccinations** of evacuated animals

“Unfortunately, many pets are very sick when we find them. Homeless animals somehow manage to survive, whereas pets get very sick. Sometimes we can't help them, it's too late” (pet volunteer in the rear)

The opportunities that emerged since the beginning of the war can be put down to the international community support:

- + **putting animals in homes abroad**
- + **larger amount of aid**

“Many foreign organizations turned their attention to the problem of animals, indeed, we met good volunteers from other countries. If there is a possibility, people from other countries offer help” (a story from the rear areas, > 100 animals)

PRESSING ISSUES OF STERILIZATION CENTERS

The problems of sterilization centers differ substantially depending on their location. Those located in the immediate vicinity of the front line face more problems. Such centers suffer from cutbacks to funding and less help extended by local communities. Centers from the rear areas managed to sustain financial stability, yet are unable to provide all the necessary assistance to animals brought from the front line.

near the frontline

- ✓ **Lack of funds:** for pet food, medicines, fuel, utility services
- ✓ **Lack of places / enclosures** for keeping animals
- ✓ **Lack of blankets, mats and other materials** to insulate enclosures
- ✓ **Staff shortage**

“We had to downsize. We do not have funding to pay salaries. Therefore, only about half of our employees continue working. Some left to go abroad. There is also a problem with pet food, fuel, and utility payments, the city cannot fully provide for our needs”

in the rear

- ✓ **Lack of equipment** for providing assistance to seriously injured animals

“At the moment we have problems with the equipment. Veterinarians, for example, cannot provide a full range of services to injured animals, because we do not have the appropriate funding, there is no money to upgrade the equipment, or to buy additional equipment.”

PRESSING ISSUES OF SHELTERS AND PET VOLUNTEERS

Since the beginning of the war, shelters have faced many challenges. The key challenge was the lack of resources, in conditions of rapid demand for their services. As a result, most of them ended up with mounting debts. Another major issue is hindered access to vaccines and medicines (in the front-line territories also to pet food and water).

Issues relevant to all territories

- Lack of pet food (including due to cost increase)
- Lack of funds for medicines and veterinary clinics services
- Difficulty in putting animals in homes or temporary shelters
- Drop in revenues/donations (relevant to small shelters)
- Lack of capacity to evacuate animals (especially relevant to large shelters)

Issues relevant to frontline territories

- Lack of electricity, water, gas
- Lack of animal sterilization programs
- It is difficult to buy pet food (due to destroyed production facilities, closed shops)
- Spread of infectious diseases due to lack of/improper storage of vaccines
- Impeded food delivery

“Putting pets in homes is becoming increasingly difficult, there are a lot of abandoned animals. It is difficult to raise money in Ukraine. People who had been helping us for years are now donating to military needs. We have debts for food bills and unpaid clinics bills...”

(Rear area >100 animals)

“Large shelters are not mobile. During the occupation, they don’t have food all those days... The roads are destroyed, it is impossible to bring supplies to the shelter”

(Frontline area >100 animals)

PRESSING ISSUES OF PET VOLUNTEERS

Pet volunteers face same issues as shelters. Yet, they are in even more challenging situation, since they do not have access to budget funding at all, and are less likely to be noticed by charitable organizations. Moreover, oftentimes they do not have well-established relations with clinics, for example, so they cannot receive services on trust and thus experience difficulties

Issues relevant to all territories

- Lack of income and stable funding
- The lack of 'on trust' service opportunities in clinics, which means that oftentimes people are forced to turn to not creditable doctors
- Getting doctor's appointment given frequent power outages takes longer time.

"In the beginning, everything here was closed, there was no pet food at all. I didn't know what to do, where to buy food. ... There was no medicine, the doctors left." (Frontline area, 20-100 dogs)

Issues relevant to occupied territories

- Complicated crossing of checkpoints (no documents confirming the need to cross the demarcation line)
- Lack of sufficient amount of pet food in stores

"A force majeure factor added up, when you have to go to the clinic after work, but there is no electricity, the appointment was canceled. Time management became quite a problem given power outage challenges" (Rear areas, 20-100 dogs)

Ways to solve problems



Ways to solve problems

Shelter managers and pet volunteers channel their efforts to resource retrieval and right-sizing. After the war broke out, individual pet volunteers had to formalize the papers for a shelter to expand aid possibilities. Smaller shelters had to introduce new hires who committed themselves to finding donors/ charity givers.



Search for resources / donors

- ✓ Appeals to charitable funds in Ukraine. Search for donors abroad (shelters, CF). Fundraising initiative
- ✓ Posting information in social networks to draw attention to the needs of a particular pet
- ✓ Arrangements for the supply of goods and services on credit
- ✓ Organization of public awareness events and community outreach



Forced resource right-sizing

- ✓ Discontinuing the use of some industrially produced goods (fillers, kennels)
- ✓ Staff reduction
- ✓ Trying to treat animals using own resources
- ✓ Changing the dietary structure (switching from pet food to by-products, or vice versa, depending on their cost)

“We constantly post information in the “Chance” group with the membership of 26,000 people. We write about wounded animals and their whereabouts and raise money for their treatment.” (Frontline area, >100 animals)

“Regarding pet food, we approach volunteers hat in hand who distribute humanitarian aid that comes from various funds. Both charitable funds and foreign funds donate money.” (Rear areas, 20-100 cats)

AGENTS OF HELP

To a large extent, the needs of shelters and pet volunteers are met today thanks to the help of animal protection organizations (Ukrainian and foreign); volunteers; the public and businesses that produce pet products. Aid comes both from Ukraine and other countries.

BUSINESS



- Pet food was provided free of charge (by producers)
- Medicines and pet food were provided on trust (by retailers)
- Medical care was rendered on trust (by private clinics)
- Covered all costs (for individual animals)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



- Offered money, pet food and medicine. Less often, they donated cages/kennels, cars, bed mats, syringes
- Overseas shelters accommodated animals and provided financial assistance

VOLUNTEERS



- Offered animals temporary homes
- Helped put animals in homes or temporary shelters
- Helped clean the shelters and walk the dogs
- Helped in the search and distribution of resources and pet food

COMMUNITY



- Made monetary donations
- Donated accessories and other pet products
- Offered home to animals (less often than before the war)
- Walked the animals
- Brought food

INITIATORS AND METHODS OF ATTRACTING HELP

In most cases, shelters initiate/seek help themselves: create posts in social networks, send requests to charitable organizations, reach out to volunteers. Less frequently, donors themselves offer help, usually to large and well-known shelters.

Independent search

- **Pet volunteers** do not appear to be very recognizable to donors and the public, due to the lack of official registration
- **Sterilization centers** rarely receive offers of assistance, as they are considered to be budget-funded

Independent search and offers to help

- **Small shelters** rarely get noticed by big donors, but still visible, thanks to official registration
- **New shelters** are not very known to donors, therefore they try to declare their existence
- **Well-known shelters, which have demonstrated rapid growth during the war**, generally receive offers of help, but it is not enough, given the increase in the number of animals in care

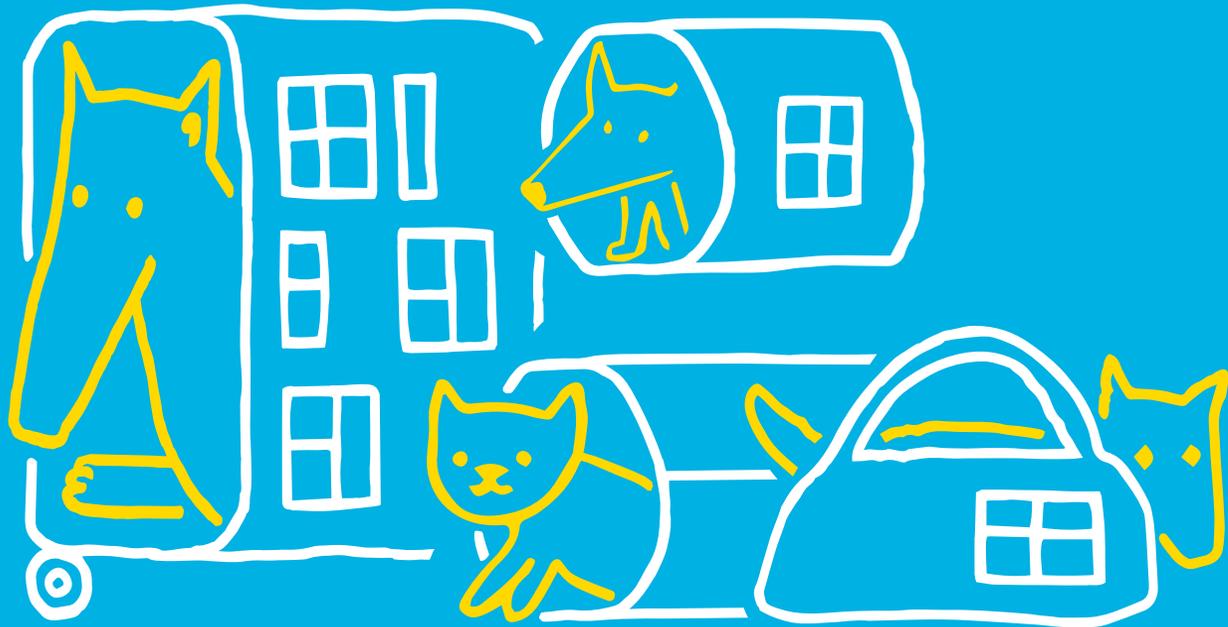
Get help from donors

- **High-profile shelters** have dominant names recognized by donors, thanks to their activity in social networks and on the Internet
- **Large shelters** are well known in professional circles
- **Shelters with a long history** are included in most donor databases

“As a rule, we didn't look for anyone and we didn't approach anyone. We have a long history. We have been in business since 2009. There is a lot of information about us on the Internet. That's how they were looking for us.” (Rear areas, 20-100 dogs)

“Most often, they find us through Instagram or Facebook. I know different foundations, I reached them out by email, but unfortunately, I did not receive help from any of them.” (Rear area, >100 animals)

TODAY'S MOST PRESSING NEEDS



CURRENT NEEDS

Basic needs

SHELTERS

- ✓ Pet food and milk powder
- ✓ Staff
- ✓ Funds for veterinary support
- ✓ Medicines, vaccines, anti-parasite treatment, bed mats, syringes
- ✓ Fillers (for cats)
- ✓ Firewood/ fuel and generators
- ✓ Cages/boxes for transportation
- ✓ Temporary home or shelter
- ✓ Repair of enclosures
- ✓ Additional territory

PET VOLUNTEERS

- ✓ Pet food
- ✓ Funds for veterinary support, vaccines, sanitary treatment and processing
- ✓ Funds for utility bills (heating)
- ✓ Temporary home or shelter
- ✓ Volunteer support

STERILIZATION CENTERS

- ✓ Medicine
- ✓ Equipment
- ✓ Fuel for generators

“We need steady income in the form of donations that we will be receiving on a permanent basis so that we can plan accordingly. Example: That much we spend on pet food, that much on vaccinations, and medical examinations, and this covers our personnel needs. Because, for example, at least one employee is needed for a shelter with more than 50 animals.” (Rear areas, 20-100 cats)

CURRENT NEEDS HOUSING

Accommodation needs are mentioned by almost all shelters that keep dogs. It is mainly about the construction or repair of enclosures, less often - about auxiliary buildings.

- Construction materials for the repair, insulation and construction of enclosures/built enclosures (only dog shelters in the rear)
- Kennels and cages
- Cages and carriers for transporting animals
- Premises for carers
- Territory for the construction of a shelter/ territory expansion (rare cases)
- Construction of a clinic/sterilization center (rare cases)
- Enclosures for puppies under 3 months of age and sick animals (individual cases)



CURRENT NEEDS VETERINARY SUPPORT AND MEDICINES

Veterinary support is the second most important (after pet food) need of shelters. About half of them don't have enough money to pay for clinic services and buy medicines. Shelters from the frontline regions and rural areas faced staff shortage issues. In addition, since the beginning of the war, there has been a shortage of vaccines and tests on the market (due to decline in their production).

Veterinary services

- Medical care
- Surgeries
- Sterilization
- Vaccination
- Veterinary hospital services/ supervision

Medicines and equipment

- Complex vaccines
- Anti-parasite treatment (worms, fleas, ticks)
- Medicines (including antibiotics, hemostatic drugs)
- Dressing materials, bed mats, syringes (rare cases)
- Tables and sterilization equipment (rare cases)
- Infusion pumps for IV (few cases)
- Tests for leukemia (few cases)

“In general, the medicines we need badly include antibiotics, sanitizing agents and dressings. We treat fleas/ticks at least 4 times a year, we treat worms twice a year, therefore we need one package per dog.” (Rear area, >100 animals)

CURRENT NEEDS PUTTING PETS IN HOMES

Most shelters report a decreasing trend in putting animals in homes. Considering the growing number of abandoned animals, this creates significant burden on shelters.

- ▶ **The problem is especially acute** in the frontline areas and in shelters outside the big cities
- ▶ **The biggest challenge** is to find home for large dogs (knee-high or above), the sick, old and those with poor socializing skills. **The main reasons for low success rate in finding homes for pets** is mass migration of the population (fewer people who can afford to take a pet), as well as a drop in income standard of Ukrainians
- ▶ **What helps in this dire situation** is the possibility to find homes for pets abroad; some charitable organizations and foundations help address this issue. However, it was much easier at the beginning of the full-scale war, when the procedure for traveling with animals abroad was simplified. Now the process has become both more complicated and more expensive

CURRENT NEEDS OF EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

HOT VACANCIES INCLUDE

- ▶ Caretakers to feed animals, cleaning staff.
- ▶ Animal attendants who would walk the animals and take care of their socialization
- ▶ Carers who would be involved in accommodating animals, including conducting photo shoots, posting announcements
- ▶ Veterinarians (only in sterilization centers)



CURRENT NEEDS FOR THE WINTER SEASON

The main problem of the winter season is the heating (given the rising prices for firewood and fuel). This year, following the attacks on the energy infrastructure, the need for energy generation became even more pressing.

- ▶ Fuel for generators, firewood
- ▶ Generators (for power, heating; refrigerators, water pumps)
- ▶ Flashlights and torches
- ▶ Materials for insulation of pet enclosures
- ▶ Inverters as an alternative method to provide heating

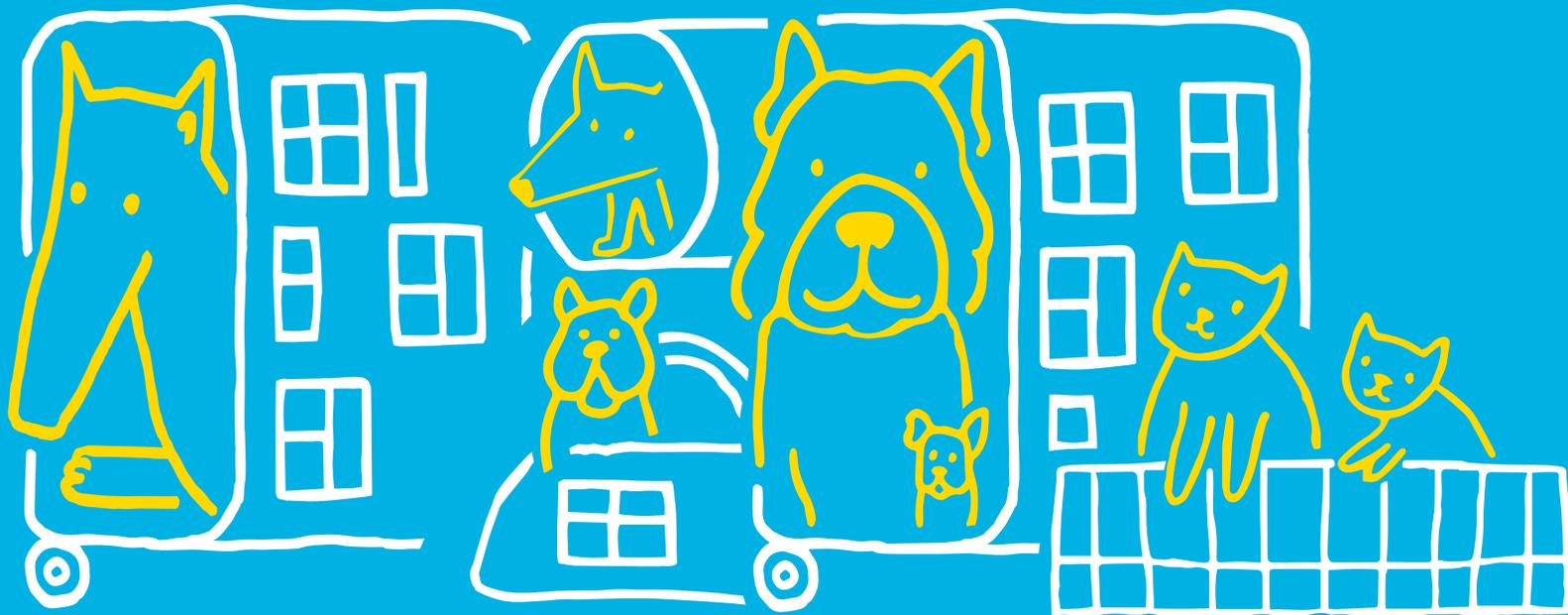
Additionally, shelters need more pet food for the winter season
(since animals eat more in winter time)

“We will need 30 cubic meters of firewood for the winter... and this costs about 90 thousand hryvnias.” (Rear areas, 20-100 cats)

“Fuel and a generator. We have 3 big areas, so we need one more generator. At the moment we use one generator to heat three areas in turn. Now people are increasingly discussing inverters as an alternative solution (we need an alternative means of heating). When it comes to fuel we spend about 100 hryvnias an hour for heating of one area.” (Rear area, >100 animals)

“The Russians are threatening us with the collapse of the energy sector. One of our substations was hit in an attack and there was no electricity. We have refrigerators and freezers where we keep meat. Therefore, we need a generator. It will power water pumps, charge cell phones, provide access to the Internet, and help keep the food refrigerated.” (Frontline area, >100 animals)

PET FOOD SUPPLY



PET FOOD SUPPLY DIETARY HABITS

The type of animal nutrition largely depends on the financial capacity of the shelters/ pet volunteers. Basically, there are two types of nutrition: mixed diet and pet food.

Mixed type

- ▶ Preferred by pet volunteers who take care of 50 or more animals and private/municipal shelters with insecure funding.
- ▶ The core ingredient is porridge (wheat or barley) mixed with meat offal, minced meat, fish, animal fat, meat broth. In some places, animals are given food leftovers from canteens and supermarkets (meat waste, porridge, soups).
- ▶ The proportion of dry and wet pet food ranges from **30 to 50%**.
- ▶ The diet of animals can sometimes be changed in favor of a cooked meal for medical reasons.

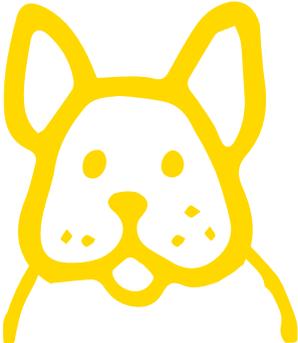
Pet food

- ▶ Makes up the lion's share of the diet of animals in sterilization centers and shelters that receive continuous support.
- ▶ Pet food is also preferred by pet volunteers who take care of less than 50 animals.
- ▶ Animals with health conditions are offered special nutrition.

PET FOOD SUPPLY PET FOOD CONSUMPTION

DAILY CONSUMPTION OF MIXED TYPE OF FOOD PER ANIMAL*:

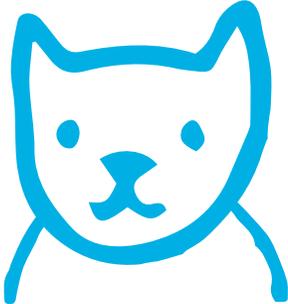
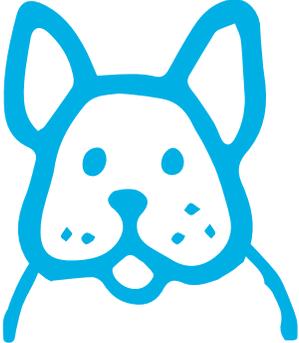
180-250 grams



100-150 grams

DAILY CONSUMPTION OF PET FOOD PER ANIMAL*:

250-300 grams

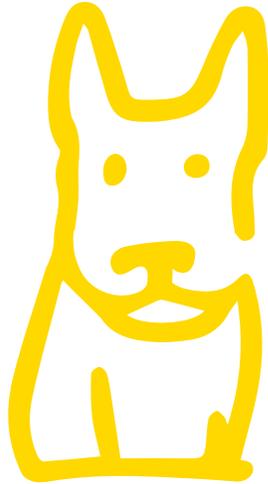


180-250 grams

*average value

PET FOOD SUPPLY SOUGHT AFTER CATEGORIES

The supply of shelters with dry food for adult animals is relatively good, but there is also a need for the following categories:



MOST SOUGHT AFTER CATEGORIES OF PET FOOD

- Food for puppies/kittens
- Milk powder for newborn animals
- Special food for chronically ailing animals
- Wet food for all animals (50-120 g per animal)

Most shelters and pet volunteers cannot stock up on pet food due to financial constraints. This especially applies to pet volunteers who feed animals at their own expense.

The preferable period of creating stocks is 1 month.



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In 2022, 27
coordination centers
were created across
Ukraine

Save Pets of Ukraine

From March 2022 to January 2023

976 tons of pet food were provided

	shelters/ pet volunteers	dogs	cats		shelters/ pet volunteers	dogs	cats
Vinnytsia	13	845	393	Odesa	33	1493	1850
Volyn	10	352	208	Poltava	37	1194	1638
Dnipro	26	2655	1382	Rivne	19	706	576
Donetsk	25	799	730	Sumy	9	521	157
Zhytomyr	11	268	408	Ternopil	6	273	159
Zakarpattia	5	635	150	Kharkiv	47	632	1525
Zaporizhzhia	19	1305	1052	Kherson	4	517	181
Ivano-Frankivsk	12	1246	234	Khmelnysk	20	1514	613
Kyiv	87	7080	4522	Cherkasy	23	709	819
Kirovohrad	27	1556	741	Chernivtsi	10	477	183
Lviv	42	899	1166	Chernihiv	13	484	508
Mykolayiv	12	484	671				
				TOTAL	510	25799	19473

*The number of animals changes, some are put in shelters, others are lucky to find new homes.

The needs for pet food per day

(based on the average daily intake of 300 g for dogs and 250 g for cats):

7,740 kg for dogs

4,868 kg for cats

The needs for pet food per year:

2,825 tons for dogs

1,777 tons for cats

THERE WAS A LOT OF KINDNESS IN 2022 AMIDST THE GRIEF AND SORROW



Giving out evacuation backpacks, adopting pets, sending 40 cats to Berlin, buying a car for Sirius shelter

KEY ANIMAL RESCUE OPERATORS

- **Kormotech**, a global manufacturer of animal nutrition, founder, supervisor and donor of the initiative
- **Element of Life, NGO**, a non-profit organization that implemented the initiative
- **U-Hearts**, a charitable foundation and a partner in mobilizing assistance from the global community



Global Aid Chain - community for the rescue of four paws



- Save Pets of Ukraine has united dozens of non-profit and business organizations and private donors in the USA, England, Europe and Ukraine



PRIORITIES OF THE INITIATIVE:

- OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO SHELTERS AND PET VOLUNTEERS WITH PET FOOD, HARNESSSES, COLLARS, LEADS, ACCESSORIES, TOYS, ETC.
- SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE TO SHELTERS THROUGH PATRONAGE
- ADOPTION



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Shelter patronage program



In January 2023, the Save Pets of Ukraine initiative launched a pilot program of shelter patronage.

The ultimate goal of the program is to place animals in a family, and after 2 months of patronage, they will be looking for a new home for the animals together with the Adopt Pets of Ukraine initiative. Residents include 57 animals from 4 shelters (Okhtyrka, Truskavets, Kyiv, Horishni Plavni).

Four-legged patrons receive

- pet food
- carriers/cages for transportation
- leashes and collars for dogs
- vaccine for immunization
- chip
- passport
- drugs for external/internal treatment against parasites
- sterilization services at a partner clinic



After the successful completion of the pilot project, Save Pets of Ukraine plans to scale the patronage program to **50 shelters**.



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THANK YOU

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