



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

Ukraine Response

March 2022

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Situational Overview

- Dire situation in Ukraine public and private animal shelters, zoos, wildlife sanctuaries and private keeping, farm animals and equine affected
- Supplies and pet food are running out in country and/or can't be accessed due to constant bombing
- As of 12 March:
 - Over 5,000 animals and volunteers in animal shelters are under blockade with no food supplies in the Kyiv region, Ukraine
 - Animal shelters across Kyiv, Kharkiv and Mykolaiv regions have been under attack and urgently need humanitarian aid.



“The situation with animals and shelters is just awful. We know about the shelling of at least 4 shelters in Ukraine, which were intentionally or accidentally hit by a bombshell. Many animals died. In Mykolaiv as a result of the selling by Russian occupiers 100 cats in the shelter were lost. Two employees of the Feldman Ecopark(Kharkiv) were shot by the Russians when they came just to feed the animals.”

-Oleksandr Todorchuk, Founder UAnimals



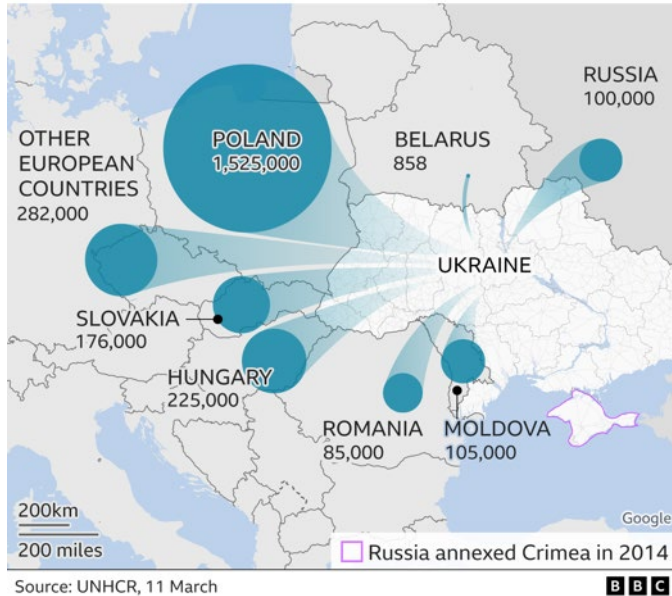
“Our shelter is bombed to the ground. But we didn’t abandon our pets. Two brave volunteers come to visit it each day our manager Kristina and her husband. Under heavy gunfire, they keep coming to feed the animals, who are now roaming in the nearby village and across the fields. We are waiting for a miracle to evacuate our animals. [Humanitarian aid] already tried to reach us but they weren’t allowed to pass.”

-Representative from ‘Best Friends’ shelter, located in
Makarivs'kyi district of Kyiv Oblast



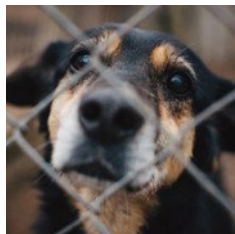
Situational Overview

Which countries are Ukrainians fleeing to?



- Mass evacuation of people to neighboring countries
- Reception centers
- Burden falling largely on local NGOs (vaccinating, microchipping, transporting, providing food etc)
- Some dogs are not accepted by transportation companies and/or abandoned at the border
- Reports of temporary accommodation for refugees not accepting animals
- Transport routes to get aid into Ukraine are quickly closing due to escalation of bombing

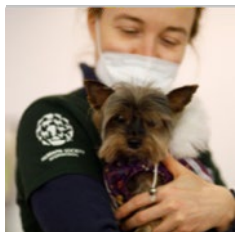
How is HSI helping?



Within Ukraine



At Reception Centers along the border (facilitating passage of animals)



Within border countries
(supporting local NGOs)



At final destinations for
refugees (veterinary and NGO
partnerships)

HSI – Mars partnerships

- Mars is generously supporting Ukraine response activities
- MARS has supported HSI and HSUS efforts throughout the COVID crisis by providing a generous grant enabling us to provide care and food for street animals around the globe and fund many struggling organizations.
- MARS is providing funding as well as facilities and resource help for the creation of the relief packs.
- MARS has also been providing funding allowing us to give grants to many groups on the ground.



Within Ukraine

HSI is supporting local NGOs Animals

Umbrella organization supporting a variety of animal welfare activities

- Providing support for shelters
- Zoos/livestock
- Evacuation of a shelter to Lviv
- Ongoing rescue efforts

Through the Romania Red Cross, HSI is delivering aid into Ukraine



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Outside of Ukraine, animals are following people

- At least 13 EU member states have temporarily lifted or modified their import restrictions, including rabies requirements, on the non-commercial movement of animals pursuant to Article 32 of Regulation 576/2013, due to the “exceptional situation” in Ukraine.
- Poland—estimates are one pet entering for every 1,000 refugees
- Ireland- 10 pets per 1,000 refugees

(Polish figure most likely is an underestimate)



No standardized policy across EU member states

Romania Allowing entry without animal health certificate, microchip, rabies vaccine, or passport. A form is filled out after entering Romania.

Poland- Polish officials are now facilitating Ukrainian border crossing for families fleeing with their animals. The whole animal health dossier is now NOT mandatory. Animals will be vaccinated AFTER CROSSING Polish side of the border.

Czech Republic Animals entering without a valid rabies vaccine/rabies test, will be placed under 1-day quarantine (constant supervision by the owner). Within three days of entry, pet needs to be checked by a veterinarian. Between 4 and 5 days of entry, rabies vaccine needs to be given if not up to date.

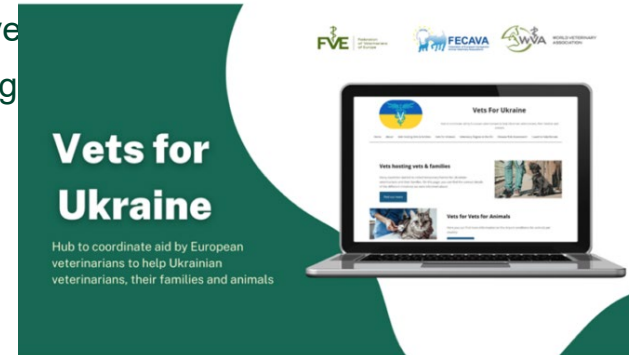


Veterinary Community Response

- FVE is working with statutory bodies to see if more flexibility is possible re. veterinary licensure

<https://vetsforukraine.com/veterinary-degree-in-the-eu/>

- Czech Rep. and Slovakia considering offering vets one year to practice vet medicine, other countries require full application process before practicing
- Placement for Ukrainian veterinary students (Zagreb)
- Laboratories offering free antibody titer tests (e.g. Belgium) for Ukrainian pets
- Ongoing need to consult governments that require mandatory antibody test



Rabies concern

- Although Ukraine cannot yet be considered rabies-free, the disease has only very rarely occurred in recent years, even in unvaccinated dogs.
- According to calculations by the National Reference Laboratory for Lyssaviruses at the Friedrich-Loeffler Institute, the probability that a dog is in the incubation phase at the time of the border crossing is 1: 300,000.
- There is a need for the development of standardized protocols and for transporting and handling unvaccinated and vaccinated dogs



Current CDC Situation

What about Ukrainian refugees wanting to make their way to the US?

Ukraine is high risk rabies country

CDC Statement on Ukrainian Refugees with pets

What this means

- CDC allows exemption for personal dogs with titer testing and lengthy permit process
- CDC is working to expedite import permit requests for dogs that originate in Ukraine and surrounding countries for persons wishing to import their personally owned pet dogs. Dogs are still required to meet all of CDC's entry requirements during the suspension.
- CDC has asked people apply for permit or contact animalimports@cdc.gov for special consideration



Germany



- HSI rolled out aid program with NGO *Berliner Tiertafel* to ensure pets of refugees receive veterinary care and medication.
- More partnerships with *Tiertafel* in other German cities to follow
- A van with pet food, dog beds and kennels, but also blankets, food and other supplies for people is already on its way to the Polish/Ukrainian border





Romania

- Collaboration with the *Romanian Red Cross* to transport 1,000 kilos of pet food into Ukraine.
- More transports will follow as corridors allow



Romania partnerships

- *Susnima*- providing housing and with corporate pet friendly housing options and HSI will support care of those pets.
- *Red Panda* organizing infrastructure to help refugees with pets (foster homes, supplies, vet care)
- *Casa lui Patrocle*- been permanently at the border supplying pets with food, crates, deworming vaccinations and passports so that they can travel on



Poland

Partnership with Association for Animals Tomaszow Lubelski

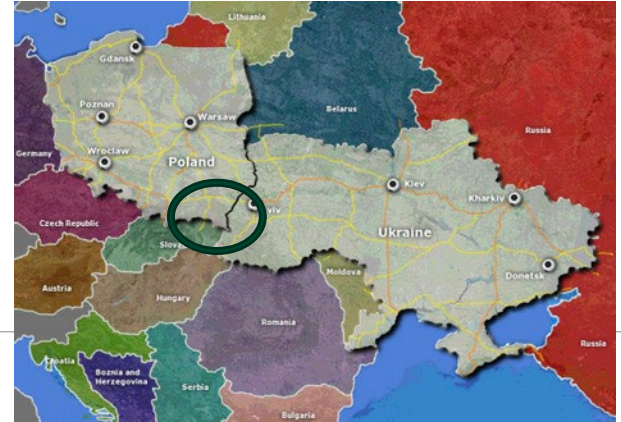
- NGO working with local authorities at reception points on the border
- Provide support though
 - Finding new families for animals left behind at the border
 - Provide refugees with supplies and food



Poland

Partnership with BOOZ (Fundacja Biezczańska Organizacja Ochrony Zwierząt)

- Focused on companion animal and wildlife in Biezczański district. Working with authorities at reception points
- Providing a helpline for refugees, transport into Poland for people with their animals, securing shelter for abandoned animals near the border



Poland

Krakovskie Towarzystwo Opieki nad Zwierzętami (KTOZ)

Krakov based organization

- Currently, KTOZ provides assistance and supplies to the refugees and their pets in Krakow, provide place in the city shelter and finds foster homes for abandoned and left-behind animals. Volunteers of KTOZ are also present on the border, providing animal refugees with pet food, pet carriers, medicines.

Stowarzyszenie Leśne Przytulisko

Runs wild animal rehab facility normally

- Currently, the association is engaging in emergency response, providing food and supplies for animal refugees in Poland and the animals in Ukraine. The association provides free of charge veterinary care, transport and shelter for companion and wild animals impacted by the war.



Italy

- Trieste region– main entry point for refugees
- Working with Friulian-Ukrainian Cultural Association to get pet supplies into Ukraine



Moldova

- Moldova is one of Europe's poorest countries
- Street dog overpopulation / overcrowded shelters
- Veterinary supplies and pet food typically comes from Ukraine
- Skyrocketing pet food costs
- Currently investigating possible collaborations with local stakeholders and long term plan for getting pet supplies into Moldova as the current inventory is expected to run out.



Mars Relief Pack

Relief packs with small amount of supplies

- Sample sized food packs
- Slip Leads
- Collapsible bowls
- Waterproof document holders
- Temporary ID tags
- Toys, treats, poop bags and pads
- Will have dog/cat varieties
- For distribution at reception points and other centers for refugees in border countries and throughout Europe.



A European medical safety net for pets

- HSI wants to provide a safety net for refugees and their animals, providing necessary medical care at no cost, with no red tape
- Together with Mars Petcare, FECAVA, and FVE, a partnership is in the making with two veterinary hospital chains with >1000 clinics across Europe
- Refugees will be able to seek veterinary care for their pets at no cost



Corporate engagement - transportation

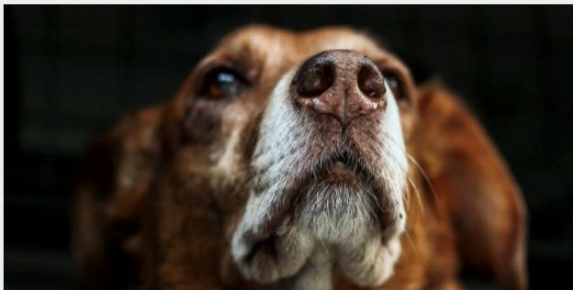
- Airlines, trains, buses
- Encouraging them to allow animals whenever possible
- Corporate outreach is ongoing through HSI country offices
- We want to keep people and their animals together

How you can help

- Supplies to border countries- Not feasible to send from the US but potentially as refugees make their way to the US there may be ways to support them
- Receiving animals- currently dogs cannot come to the US from Ukraine and the goal is to place any animals in need of home within Europe but again this could change if animals are evacuated en masse.
- Financial donations- several INGO's assisting- HSI, IFAW, Four Paws are providing grants to local orgs helping. In addition locally for Ukraine Uanimals is providing assistance to anyone needing it. They can still access funds but unknown for how long.
- Animals in need of rescue. Uanimals rescue FB page [Ukraine Animal Rescue Information](#)


Additional resources

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How you can support animal protection organisations in Ukraine

25 February 2022  Four Paws [News](#)

With tensions involving Ukraine having descended into war, we find ourselves in deeply troubling times and stand in solidarity with everyone affected.







Thank you

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