FORGOTTEN ANIMALS ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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



2021 marked the 10th anniversary of Forgotten Animals. It is impossible to talk about all the work done over the past decade, so in this short report we are attempting to look back at the major achievements and wins of just this past year. With the invaluable contribution of our donors and supporters and thanks to our amazing team, mostly consisting of selfless volunteers, we helped thousands of animals in an immediate tangible way in the countries of the former Soviet area and prevented millions from being born to suffer on the streets.

Despite the recent war and its consequences for the region, animals have benefitted and will continue to benefit from our work - this cannot be taken away. We will continue to relieve and prevent animal suffering where we can have the most effective lasting impact. Enjoy stories and photos below and thank you for being a crucial part of our work and success for a better future, for the animals!

Anna, the founder and all Forgotten Animals team.

2021 - A WILD YEAR FOR WILD ANIMALS: some of our achievements:

1. An independent science-backed Siberian tiger count and population health assessment

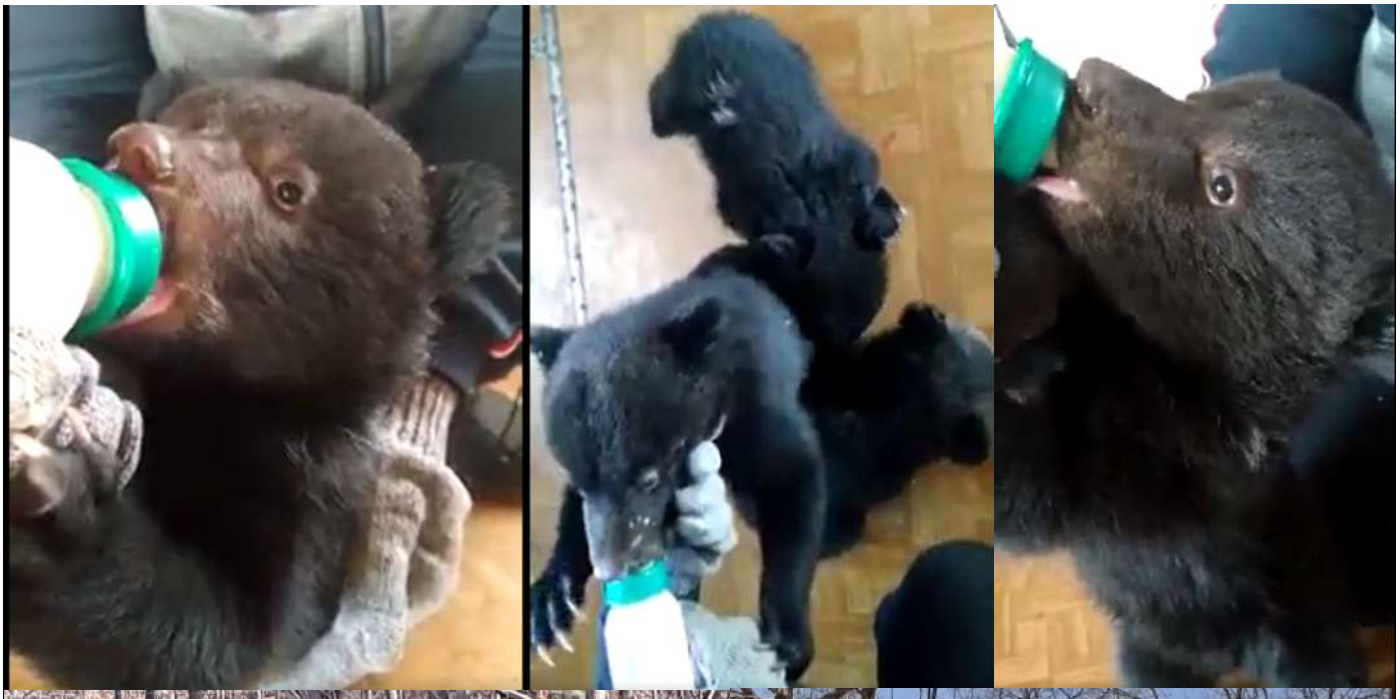
Over the years we have seen much evidence of a discrepancy between what official Russian sources are saying on the state of the Amur (Siberian) tiger population and what we hear from scientists and people on the ground. We decided to get to the bottom of things. A 6 months-long investigation was performed into money flows and connections, and included undercover work, resulting in an 80 page report uncovering horrible mismanagement and outright fraud in organisations that are supposed to be protecting the tiger.



There is no way that Russia has 600 tigers left in the wild, like its being claimed by the government funded organisations there. The president's office has been fed lies about the state of the tiger population for years. The full realistic picture has been presented to the federal government before the start of the war and the team there started seriously working on the solutions to the problem. To aid this effort and make sure it doesn't get swiped under the rug we have passed the necessary information to the press, funded the purchase of vitally needed 35 photo-traps and sent the team of 4 scientists to taiga to conduct an independent tiger count over November -March (2021-2022) in a region close to 1000 hectares, from which a broader tiger health population estimate can be made. The results are being analysed now and the report will be published in the following months. The images above are two of many caught by the equipment during this mission as is the picture on the cover of this annual report.

2. 10 more orphaned bear cubs got a chance at being wild again.

In 2021 we continued supporting the Orphaned Bear Cub Rescue and Rehabilitation Programme at UTYOS - the unique wildlife rehabilitation centre, located in the wild Russian forest. Being an ideal place for its mission of properly rehabilitating wild animals and releasing them back into the wild, UTYOS continued having our support. In 2021 10 more bear cubs were rescued, started their rehabilitation and will hopefully be released in their wild habitat in May-June 2022, after the veterinarians declare them ready to be wild.



Follow us on social media not to miss the release!

3. 1 hectare of land for lynx rehabilitation

In 2021 we welcomed a new organization under our wild umbrella. Every year, in Russia, many weakened adult lynx who come into contact with humans need physical and behavioural rehabilitation, in order to return to their wild habitat. On top of this, dozens of cubs are found orphaned unable to survive on their own. Often emaciated lynx look for food near villages and need to be relocated, rehabilitated (if possible) and releases. The unique Lynx rehabilitation centre ABCR Lynx Rescue located in the Vladimir region is a new and the only place in Russia able to properly rehabilitate lynx. It was founded by a family of enthusiastic big cat scientists with necessary knowledge and experience to do this crucial work. They were lacking funding and space and often had to turn down lynx rescue requests. Forgotten Animals acquired 1 hectare of land, where species-appropriate wild-like enclosures are currently being built. Now ABCR Lynx has extra land to properly rehabilitate and make sure more of these beautiful rare cats survive in the wild.

Just look at the before and after photos of Koshka and Miass, adult female and male common lynx captured by a hunter and kept in small cages for over 3 years before being rescued and rehabilitated by the Centre!



4. Bigger home for rescued wolves

Last year Forgotten Animals financed the building of a new spacious enclosure for the only rescue and rehabilitation centre or wolves and wolf-dog hybrids in Russia, the amazing Chertog Volka. Now the experienced centre's team will be able to rescue even more of these majestic often misunderstood animals, rehabilitate those able to survive in the wild and provide the sanctuary to those, who cannot be released. Please enjoy these gorgeous pictures of just some of the wolves and wolf-dog hybrids Chertog Volka rescued and helped over the years.







3. New home for Jacob, the rescued moose calf



We are very happy and proud to share this heart-warming story with you. In November 2021 in the city of Novosibirsk, a local resident found a moose calf wandering around sick, hungry and lost.

Without their mothers, young calves like this are destined to die. The resident rescued the calf, and named him Jacob. He tried to get in touch with animal rights activists to send him to the only shelter in Moscow, but the plans fell through, they couldn't take him. So, he reached out to us!

We funded the cost of building a big cosy enclosure for Jacob and paid for the vet treatments he needed. Calves raised by humans instead of their mothers are unlikely to survive in the wild, so Jacob will not be released.

This is why we made sure Jacob has the appropriate space to have a nice life!

A lot of other work to help wild animals has been done in 2021 by Forgotten Animals team, including, but not limited to:

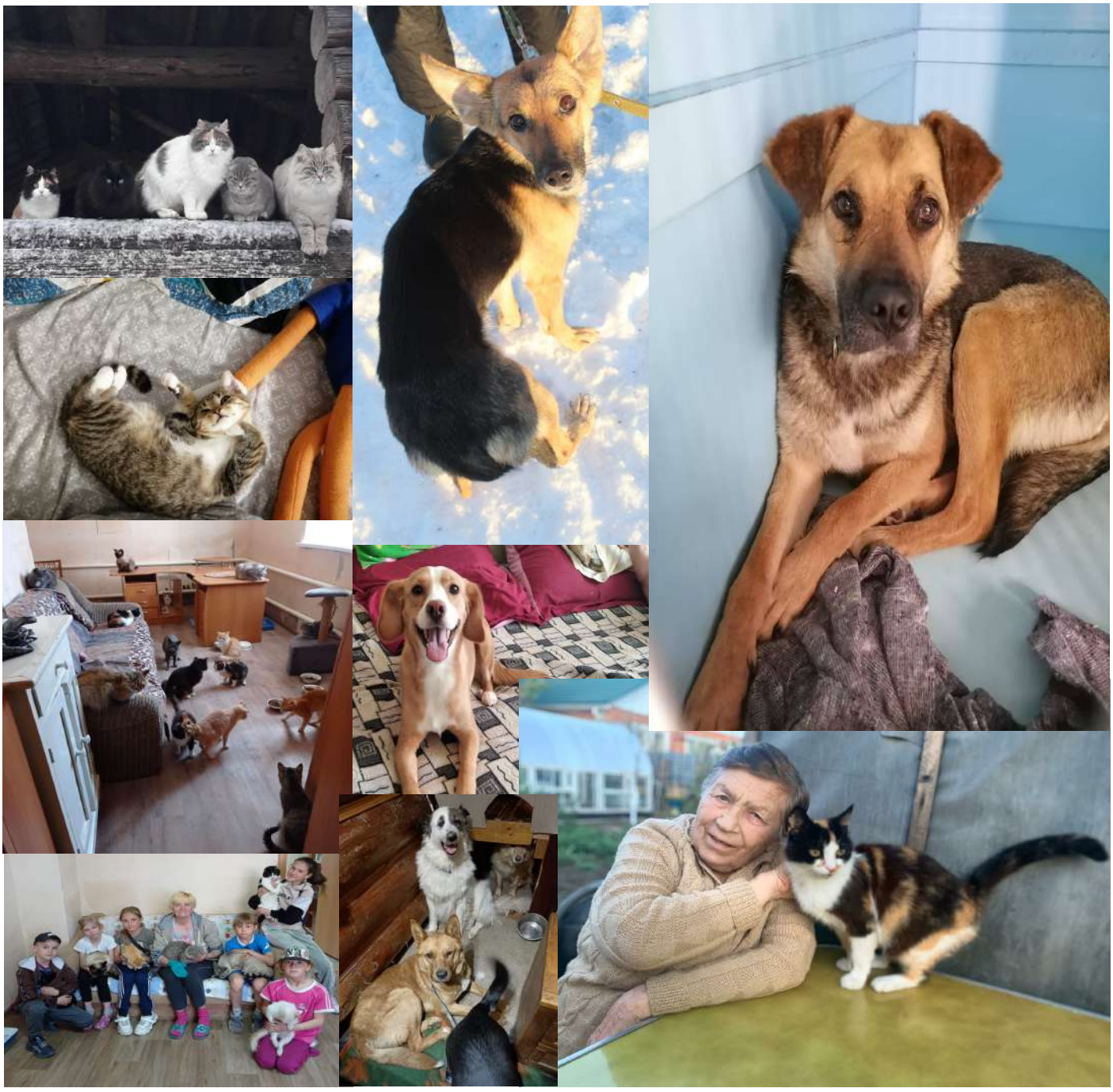
- ***funding necessary infrastructure for a racoon rescue shelter***
- ***initiating and coordinating the transfer of bears to a European sanctuary (ongoing)***
- ***continuing to navigate bureaucracy in order to finally start the construction of the first true wild animal sanctuary in the county***
- ***consulting shelters and zoos on improving the lives of the animals through enrichment***
- ***stealth undercover investigation work into corruption connected to wild animals and their habitats and so on...***

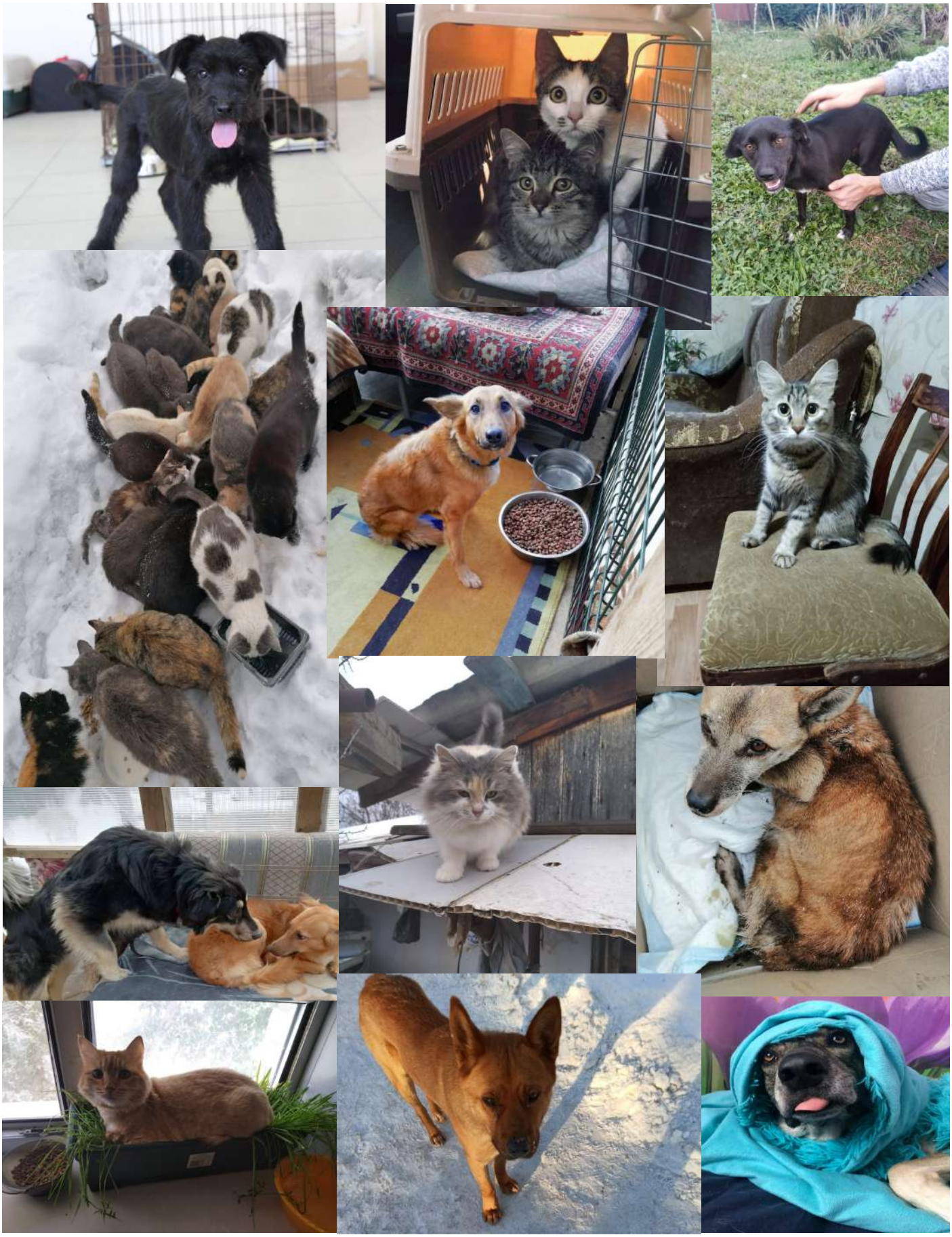
Please continue following our work to always be up-to-date on what we do for the animals and supporting our team to be an active part of the change!

COMPANION ANIMALS: THOUSANDS OF CATS AND DOGS SAVED AND HELPED

1. Emergency Covid-19 Shelter Relief Programme - 19 more shelters helped survive

In addition to **16 shelters we helped stay afloat in 2020**, thanks to our **Emergency Relief Programme**, **many thousands of animals of 19 more shelters** and volunteers groups were fed, kept warm, treated, many rehomed and many more were rescued. We helped pay the bills for veterinary care and neutering and shelters were able to avoid shutting down and denying a warm home to unwanted animals during these hard times with donations nearly at zero. Our gratitude goes to all our supporters for keeping the Covid Relief Programme running and helping us save many lives and prevent suffering! Here are just a few of those lucky thousands we managed to help with your support. Thank you, many thousand times!





2. New roof over the heads of hundreds of cats in Rubcovsk!

We have been supporting the wonderful shelter in Rubcovsk, Altay region, founded and run by a cancer survivor retired medical doctor Roza and her husband for a long time now. Our long-term supporters are familiar with the great work they do to raise awareness of homeless animals in their town, spay and neuter efforts, adoption and rescue work. In 2021 we received a desperate cry for help from Roza and her small team of volunteers - the roof of the building their shelter is located at had fallen into disrepair jeopardizing the health of their animals and reducing the space and the amount of new animals they were able to rescue. Forgotten Animals funded the reparations of the roof which now allows the shelter rescue and accommodate many more animals while repairing the rest of the building. Here are some of the cats out of hundreds the Roza and her great team rescue, nurse back to health, socialize and rehome every year.



3. Over 70 cats and dogs saved from going back to the streets in Armenia

Apart from our regular Spay and Neuter campaigns in Armenia, where an organized and efficient animal welfare community is just being established now, in 2021 we have contributed to building one and repairing another shelter for homeless and unwanted cats and dogs, significantly improving the plight of stray animals in the region. Over 70 current resident cats and dogs were safe from homeliness and many more got a chance at being rescued, taken in, socialized and re-homed (always after being spayed and neutered) to their new loving families! Here are pictures of animals while being rescued, at the shelter or just adopted.



4. Spay and Neuter: 1510 cats and dogs sterilized, while creating a much larger impact

A large portion of our efforts and available resources have always been dedicated to promoting and funding neutering. Not only it helps animals being rescued and re-homed, but it also educates communities and raises awareness of the problems related to stray animals and overpopulation and contributes to reducing the number of unwanted cats and dogs on the streets and in struggling shelters.

Veterinary services in often are quite expensive compared to the low average income and many owners and guardians struggle to afford to neuter their rescued cats and dogs.

Apart from that, the benefits of neutering are still not understood and appreciated by the majority of the public. Because of our continuous efforts to promote neutering, its benefits for animals (and people) and the direct link to reducing the amount of stray animals on the streets, the demand for our subsidized neutering projects keeps growing. In 2021, despite the hardship brought by the pandemic, 1510 cats and dogs were spayed and neutered through our campaigns.

Currently, regular monthly neutering programmes are being run by our volunteers in 10 cities. We aim at maintaining and increasing this number as much as our resources allow us in the future.

Here are just some of the photos of the animals we helped and their very grateful guardians and new loving families!



FARM ANIMALS, a unique effective long-term approach

We have a large stealth farm animal welfare project going on for the past couple of years. It is an organization founded under a different name that is guided and funded through us. This is done after careful consultation with experts, to separate it from other animal welfare work, in order to give it more credibility and impact when interacting with various stakeholders, including governments, farmers, industry leaders etc. Nevertheless, this work is ongoing to positively impact the welfare of farm animals in a country where this work has never been done and we had to start it from scratch. Educating consumers and producers on farm animal welfare, drafting and promoting better legislation, gathering data and opening up debates on pressing issues for farm animals amongst stakeholders - these are only some of the activities within this project, which we hope to continue for years to come, if the funding allows us.



LEGAL WORK, AWARENESS, OUTREACH and other work behind the scenes

In 2021, we gave 18 interviews and were cited in many publications related to issues concerning animals in Russia, not only sharing our expert opinion on various pressing matters, but also offering solutions. In over 20 cases, formal complaints were written, charges pressed and law enforcement investigation initiated regarding the inappropriate or unlawful keeping of wild exotic animals, inadequate conditions in which companion animals were kept or animal abuse cases.

After nearly 10 (!!) years, the campaign to reinstate the legal use of a veterinary drug Etorphine we took active part in brought victory! It has been legally established that Etrophine, previously prohibited, can be now used for veterinary medicine (surgery) in Russia. This is a huge win for wild animals, especially those kept in zoos, circuses and shelters (e.g. gentle giants aka as elephants, sadly still widely kept in captivity) as it allows a more humane and painless veterinary treatments. We are very happy and proud to be part of this important win!



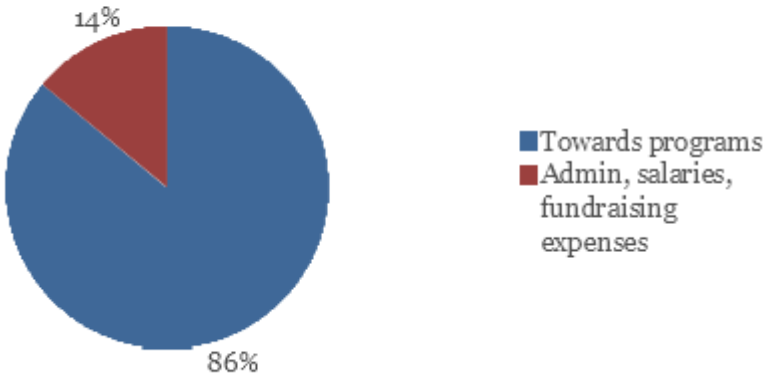
We are incredibly grateful to our regular volunteers and contributors, and especially proud of our amazing lawyer and the president of Forgotten Animals Russia Anastasia Komagina, for these impressive results! It would not have been possible without you all!

We could write a much more lengthy report about all the work we have been and are currently doing, but due to the massive drop in income and our mostly volunteer-based admin work, we instead opt for focusing our remaining time on organising the much needed help for the animals in Ukraine.

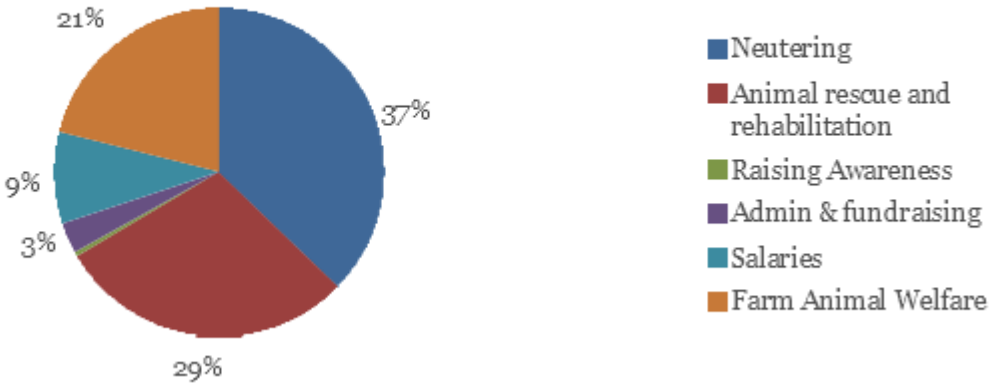
2021 FUNDING AND EXPENSES

Main source of our income in 2021 was funding provided by grants reserved for specific projects. We are very grateful to the grant-giving organizations and foundations for this support. After the invasion of Ukraine, nearly all of these grants have been halted as organisations are understandably looking to review any donations to Russia due to the image issues it involves and till there is clarity on the political situation. Individual donations and *GiftAid* are also incredibly important for our work, even more so now. A special thank you goes to our recurring donors and supporters: no gift is too small, and is greatly appreciated!

Funding received (Grants and Donations) 182,013 GBP
Funding spent 169,722 GBP



How we spend 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



Given that the majority of our grant funding, except for the farm project, has been halted upon the start of the war in Ukraine, we will have to rely on individual donations to continue our work. This will reduce the impact, but we believe this is a temporary setback and are not planning to stop.

As mentioned on our social media, from day 1 of the start of the war, we deemed it appropriate to direct any new donations to helping animals in the war-torn Ukraine.

Our small and agile charity size and connections allowed us to act fast where it was most needed. So far we have helped over 15 companion animal shelters and volunteer groups to feed and treat their 3000+ cats and dogs combined, plus provided some wildlife shelters with big cats, bears, horses and other wild animals with emergency supplies and evacuation support.

With regards to Russia, our position is the following: despite the abject disaster that the government policy has unleashed on the country, there are many people who have been building impactful small scale local animal welfare initiatives over the years: shelters, neutering projects, wildlife rescues, legislation improvement. It is impossible to kill these people's spirit with anything – they have responsibilities and they will continue to operate in the hardest of circumstances, no matter what.

Yes, they will likely be able to do less as the support reduces, but they will still be around as Russia goes through the necessary readjustment, depression and changes. They will still be around when it's a free country, ready to shed its past and build on new foundations, just as it has been happening over the past 20 years.

After the war ends and the Russian government undergoes the necessary changes, it is vital to ensure that the key progress built over the past decades, the infrastructure and the people caring for the animals, are still around. Even during the tough economic situation that Russia is going to inevitably go through, there are still small local initiatives that work on reducing the numbers of strays and unwanted animals and need our support to continue this crucial work.

Aside from maintaining the results achieved as much as possible, the work to ensure Russia develops its own supply of anaesthesia for veterinary medicine (versus the limited availability of the imported drugs). and the legislative work benefiting the animals continues. There is still a lot for us to do in these isolated times to ensure there is as little suffering as possible and we will not be stopping, no matter what.

Thank you for supporting our mission!

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