FORGOTTEN ANIMALS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

Milana, one of the youngest and bravest animal heroes we support in Belopolye

Letter from our Founder

In 2011, when I founded the charity, we were mostly active in Russia and Armenia, later expanding to Ukraine. We were trailblazers in this space and quite effective and involved for a small charity. Since the war started in 2022, we had to inevitably scale down our activities. The plan for a wildlife sanctuary in Russia had to be shelved. Grant givers were being forced to pull back from Russia and were not being too eager to be doing things in Ukraine, given the situation. People sometimes ask me concerned, how am I doing since "my" charity is caught in this situation of Russia - Ukraine war? Am I not distraught? To that I say 2 things:

*1) It's not *my* charity, it's a collection of actions many people helped make a reality through a structure I have made available with my guidance. I realized in life the more you take ownership of results and accomplishments as 'mine' the more it will hurt.*

2) I experienced sadness obviously and am full of compassion for human and animal suffering in Ukraine and in Russia. But I don't like permitting myself the luxury of sadness, melancholy or any other emotions that don't benefit anyone but perhaps public perception. What is the point of being sucked into a vortex of doomsday headlines and analysis, you have no control over... when there is so much you can exercise agency in? Like my time, attention and the use of this life and the moment in time.

Some people told me from 2018 onward: Russia is doomed, nothing will work out there, no point wasting time there. Were they right? Was all effort wasted? I don't think so. And I will explain why. They were right about the the human issue not being resolved yet and this made animal issue progress difficult. But these complex factors don't all move in a linear fashion. Patches of animal welfare progress did and can still happen in a haphazard way, despite the country descending into a dictatorship.

From the time I went to the Duma in 2014 to lobby legislation when there was none, some laws for animals were passed. Yes they are not all properly implemented and that will take time, but history doesn't move on our preferred timeline. As an old Greek proverb goes: "A society grows great when men plant trees in whose shade they know they shall never sit". We funded many neutering programs, shelter builds, bear cub rehabilitation, cruelty investigations, built enclosures for rehabilitation of bears, wolves, lynx. We created social ads and humane education classes. We have a huge farm animal welfare lobbying project still ongoing on multiple stakeholder levels that's making significant progress. It's kept purposely unlinked from Forgotten Animals so it's not seen as a push from "animal protection people" from abroad.

I also learned that a lot of work we did thanks to our donors to help individual animals and through neutering projects, was still worthy, despite not having a system wide effect. It is direct kindness and compassion where it's most overlooked. There is enormous value in small local reduction of suffering for animals. And for people, when trying to help, just getting an answer sometimes is so empowering. It 's not always only about the system change.

With regards to Ukraine - there is so much that requires help there on a weekly basis. People working amidst the war have no human capacity to apply for grants, fill in forms that are required for huge organizations and create appealing content and footage. They are swamped in difficult conditions with animals needing help now. We provide them with the ability to do that swiftly and efficiently where we can, despite the significant drop in income.

What do I think about the future?

I learned that planning too far ahead is pointless in life. Nevertheless, when this war ends (every war eventually does), there will be a time of recovery and rebuilding. Clearly human-centered issues will take priority. Nevertheless there will always be people finding dignity, meaning and solace in helping animals constructively. If they did so in times of war, it would only accelerate after. We will be there to empower them to the best of our ability. I thank everyone who has ever been part of this charity's journey and helped out. Your contribution made needed positive waves in the fabric of reality.

With gratitude,
Anna, founder Forgotten Animals

Our work goes on, always where it is needed the most

In 2023, like the year before, we continued working to the best of our abilities despite the severely reduced income due to the unending war between Russia and Ukraine. We kept supporting volunteers in Ukraine, who stayed in the country to rescrue, treat, feed, neuter and rehome thousands of abandoned animals. We tried helping as many shelters as we could to survive and stay afloat, providing a little bit of relief to these amazing humans, often young adults and even kids, who didn't lose their humanity despite all the horrors they witness daily and kept the hope for a better future alive for us too. We managed to finance building a better safer housing for shelter dogs and purchasing a boat to save animals from drowning in a flooded town. Aside from continuing our work in Ukraine, largely consisting of providing free neutering to mitigate the increase of stray animals, we intervened in Turkey to help relieve the tragic consequenses of the earthquake. Just as in 2022, 100% of donations we received from individuals were spent on helping animals when it was needed the most. Thank you for being with us despite everything, we will keep working and waiting for better times.

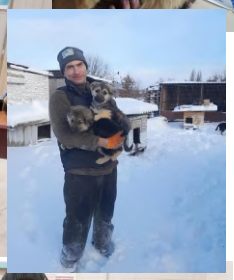
Read further to warm your heart with the stories of the incredible humans and animals they save, which made us going this past year..

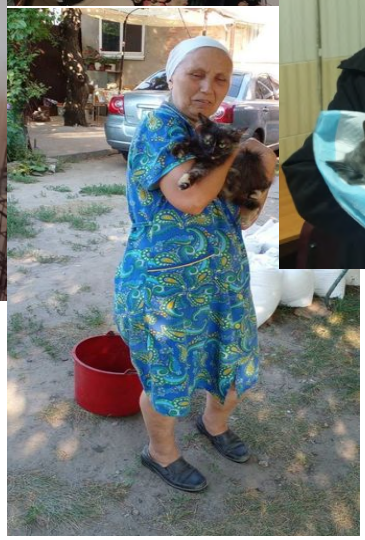
In 2023, like the year before, our work in Ukraine would not be possible without Mariia Trunova, the head of the Ukrainian Association of Animal Advocates (UAAA), who coordinates all our efforts in the country.

Hundreds of cats and dogs were neutered, thanks to Mariia's work, including the beautiful Betty here. Betty's story is as common as it is sad. She was found by volunteers in Mariia's town wondering the streets alone, clearly a former house pet, hungry, scared and disoriented. Betty's owners likely had a very tough decision to make by leaving her behind while fleeing the country. Mariia took Betty in, spaying her through our free neutering programme, and welcomed her into her family already blessed by many cats and dogs, rescued by Mariia over the years. We couldn't be happier for Betty for finding the best human to spend her life with!

Now meet some of our youngest fearless animal heroes from Belopolye in Ukraine. Milana, whose photo we are proud to have on the cover page of the report, with the help of her mother, saves and looks after countless cats and dogs, rescuing, treating, fostering and rehoming them. Our partner vets in the region check, treat and sterilize their rescues for free to help them find new homes. We are truly amazed by the amount of courage and love these young humans demonstrate, giving us all hope in these dark times.

As you certainly know, if you have been with us for a while now, accessible (free or subsidized) spaying and neutering for cats and dogs has always been one of our number one priorities when it comes to working with companion animals. Without access to these services, the streets are flooded by unwanted puppies and kittens every year and their fate often remains tragic. Reducing the amoung of little ones being born direcly alleviates suffering, on top of helping fight the pressuring stray issue. Our neutering campaigns, which would not be possible without our donors and supporters, provide this service to the people and the animals they care for, who otherwise would have no way of accessing or affording it. In 2023 1094 cats and dogs have been spayed and neutered through our campaigns. Here are some of them with their grateful humans.





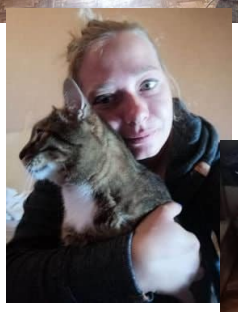
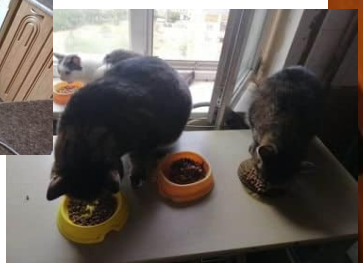
This little dog's story, when we first heard it, simply broke our hearts, just like many other stories of animals and humans affected by this ongoing war. This dog's little master, a young boy named Bogdan, was tragically killed during the bombing of a hospital in Belopolye, Ukraine.

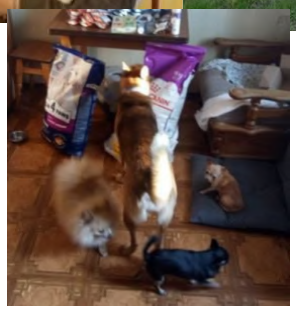
The volunteer Olga rescued her and brought her to the clinic to get checked and spayed, through our free neutering campaign. After the dog was ready, the volunteers found her a loving home with a kind lady, who refused to leave her hometown during the war. We hope for a long and serene life for them both and we thank our supporters for making it possible for us to help in cases like this.

Anzhelika from Mariupol is one of the many unsung heroes we have the privelege to be supporting on their mission to save animals suffering during the war. Today alone Anzhelika takes care of over 30 cats and this number keeps growing. Most of her cats were rescued since the war started. While the city of Mariupol was already under seige, Anzhelika would risk her life to go around looking for food for herself and her animals. Whenever she found an abandoned cat, she would take them home. Anzhelika told us that she would have already left the city, but couln't abandon her cats. We provide free sterilization for Anzhelika's rescues and are very proud to be able to support such incredible selfless humans!

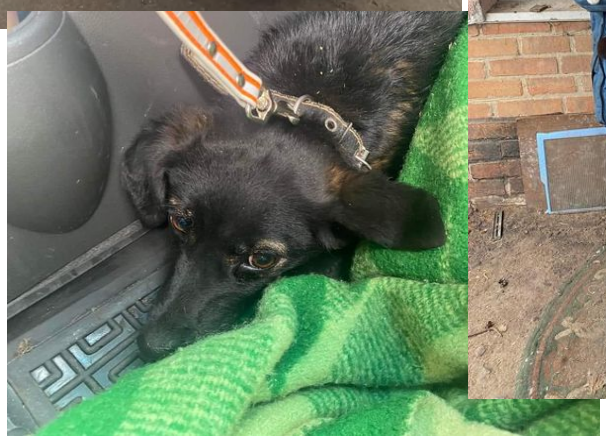
These 5 tiny puppy sisters were rescued from the Bazelev village and evacuated from under the Kupianska by a Ukrainian soldier. Mom, sadly, was nowhere to be found, likely killed by a strike. Fostered and sterilized through our free campaign, once old enough, they were rehomed by the volunteers to new homes.

This lovely family are refugees from the occupied territory. They were forced to move to Kyiv with their fostered 10 cats, 8 dogs and 1 bunny, most of whom lost their humans because of the war, some requiring special medical diet. We receive counltless requests like this, from people who keep helping animals despite their own precarious conditions, most of the time we have to say no due to the very limited resources we currently have, unless we raise donations intended specifically to help in cases like this. We launched an appeal and our amazing supporters made it possible for us to help this family and their special animals.

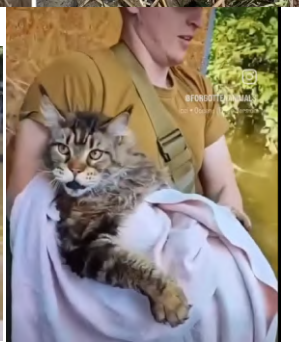





We keep seeing lives of both humans and animals being devastated by the war. And we keep being in awe of so many people, often just kids, whose humanity only got stronger, against all odds and despite all the horrors they are put through daily. This is another family, from Poltava region village, who opened their home to a dog and two kittens from a local shelter amid the war. Later, they rescued another dog they saw and fell in love with at a local market. By neutering their animals through our free program they have one thing less to worry about in these hard times.

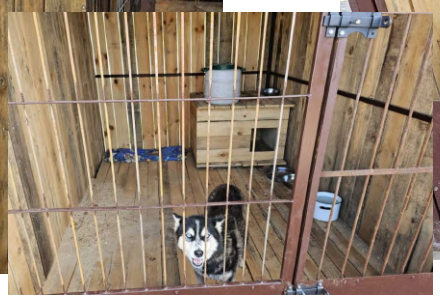


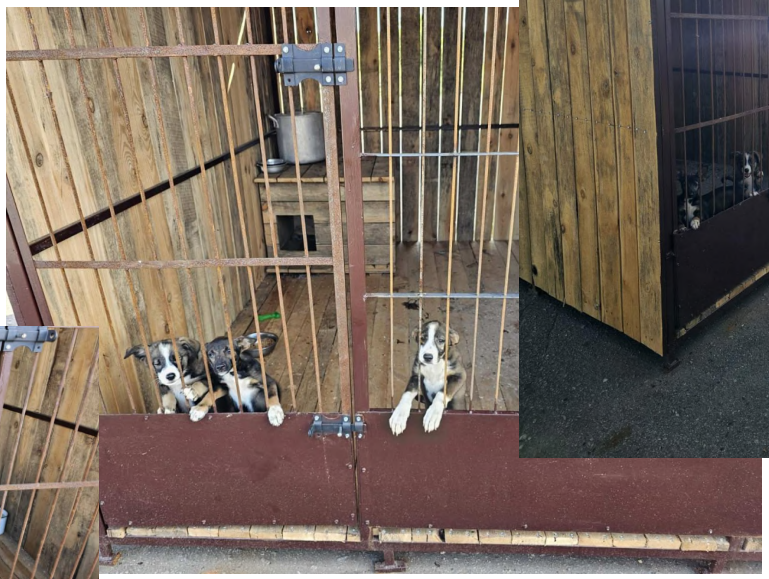
The destruction of the Nova Kakhovka hydroplant - Ukraine's largest dam on the Dnipro River in Kherson - left thousands of people and animals trapped in flooded towns and villages. To help rescue and evacuation we bought a boat for volunteers to be able to reach trapped ones and move them to safety.



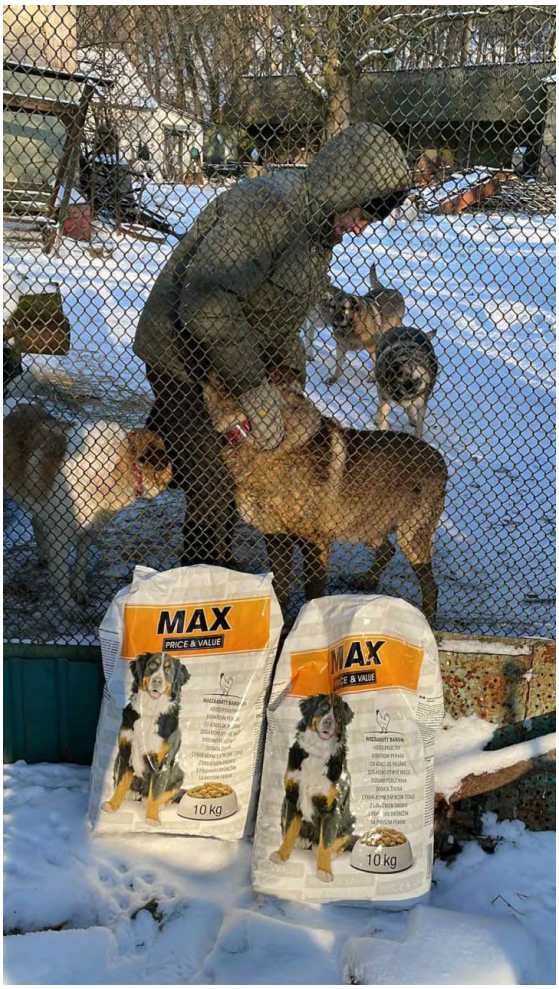
Little Varya was pulled out of the water by our volunteer Rimma. Varia is old and only has 2 teeth. Her owner likely drowned, but first managed to let Varya off the chain, there is a deep scar from the chain on Varya's neck.When rescued, Varia was shell-shocked and could barely see or hear anything. Now Varya lives at the shelter, fed special liquid food, she has begun to see and hear a little better and will spend the rest of her years loved and cared for.

We also financed the construction of new enclosures at a nearby Sumy shelter to provide safe housing to dogs evacuated from the flooded area and other animals the shelter is able to rescue and take in.





We also had a chance to help improve dog enclosures at another shelter to make them warmer and safer and provide a better outdoors area for the dogs to play and socialize while waiting for their humans to come and adopt them. Thanks to our supporters we were also able to help them buy food and vet supplies for their hundreds of rescue animals to survive the harsh winter.



The shelters we support do not only save companion animals, when there's a creature in need they don't turn away, no matter the species. In the past we assisted these shelters in saving monkeys, big cats, birds and other kinds of animals, this time it was a buzzard - a bird from the hawk family - found by Ukrainian soldiers next to a constantly bombed road.

The buzzard had an open wing fracture from the shell fragment and was immediately delivered to a local vet clinic to then be transferred to Kiyv, for an urgent surgery to try and save the wing. After the succesfull surgery our volunteers arranged for a transfer to a specialized bird shelter nearby, where he'll live for the rest of his life, sadly unable to be released, but safe and cared for by the appropriately trained specialists.

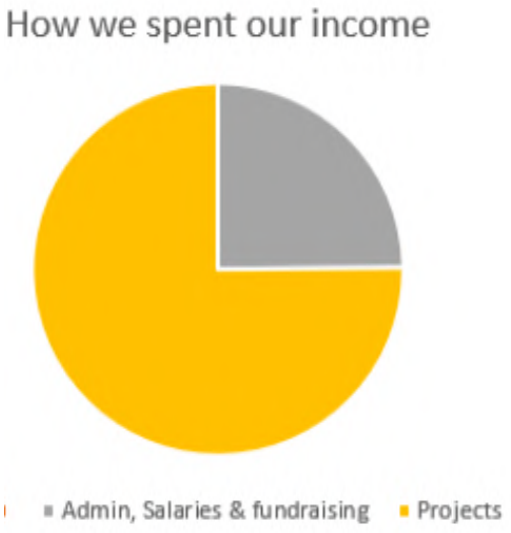
It is true that our work in 2023 was largely focused on helping animals and humans caring for them in Ukraine, but we couldn't look the other way when in February Turkey and Syria were devastated by a massive earthquake. Hundreds of buildings were destroyed, over 50000 dead and even more injured, meaning thousands of animals losing theis homes and humans, all while being the least priority for most rescue operations. We immediately supported local volunteers in Turkey who were providing the immediate response to remote villages in the Kahramanmaraş province, where the aid didn't reach as quickly as it was needed. They delivered food and vet supplies as well as the transportation to evacuate animals to safety.

For 3 years now we have been working on a Farm Animal Welfare Advocacy Programme that is achieving incredible progress. We are doing it through a separate organisation we had to establish in order to protect its efforts from being labeled as "purely animal" charity to achieve bigger impact and efficacy when working with various players involved in animal agricultural industry. This stealth operation mode is necessary as the new organisation works with farmers and government officials who are mistrustful of 'animal activists' and are more cooperative when working with an expert advocacy centre that merges farm animal welfare together with concerns for human health, benefits for the economy and healthy social development. We have found this approach to be far more effective than any other, thus we continue to publically avoid any links of this project with Forgotten Animals.

We keep doing our best in the time of a major war, spending our very limited resources where it is absolutely vital and where it provides the biggest impact and relief. The grants from abroad are halted, the donations have dropped to the minimum, as the attention shifted, all this impacts our ability to help more animals. However, we still do what we can and provide assistance where no other organisations are able or willing to. Future plans are difficult to make as scaling up and development of our work is directly linked to the war ending first. We remain prepared to do what is required, whichever way the situation unfolds.

2023 FUNDING AND EXPENSES

Our total income in 2023 was of 6282 £, the rest of our spending in 2023 came from a reserve of restricted funds from 2022 for the aforementioned farm project. All funds were spent as shown on the chart: 13392 £ - on admin, salaries & fundraising and 40471,92 £ directly on projects.



The main source of our direct active income in 2023 were individual donations. We are extremely grateful to our donors for this support. Just as every year, a huge special 'thank you' goes to our recurring supporters, withouth whom we would simply not be able to do any of this.

GOVERNANCE IN PLACE

Our board of Trustees oversees all financial activities and plays an active role in management decisions. All projects are verified through receipts, photos/videos from the project leads and volunteers. All projects provide regular expense reports.

Thank you for supporting our mission!