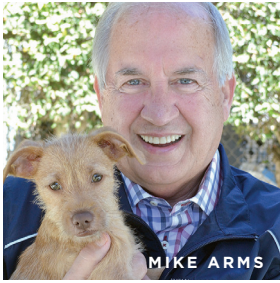


# THE COMPANION *Special Edition*

## *Ukrainian Pets in Crisis*

PEOPLE HELPING ANIMALS AND ANIMALS HELPING PEOPLE

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Dear Friend of the Animals,*

Like so many of you I watched in horror the atrocities being committed in Ukraine the last few weeks and wondered what I could do to help. I knew that many organizations would be coming to the aid of the people who were fleeing but what about the animals? We saw photos of people fleeing with their dogs over their shoulders and their cats in their coats... trying to protect their best friend and quite possibly their last connection to their family and their lives in Ukraine. It is heartbreaking and here at Helen Woodward Animal Center we felt a special allegiance to these amazing people because of our recent visits to both Poland and Estonia where we met with organizations from around the region and learned of their challenges and successes. Little did we know that these friendships would become vital as we reached out to see how we might be able to help those fighting for the health and safety of the animals in Ukraine.

The first thing I did was make the decision to pledge a match of \$50,000 from Helen Woodward Animal Center to help the animals of Ukraine and the next thing we did was create a fundraising campaign to ask the community to join us. We were immediately overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of our friends and supporters who were moved to donate so generously to help our friends in need. In fact, we quickly surpassed our goal of \$50,000 and raised an additional \$120,000! In total we have been able to send \$170,000 to our shelter partners in Estonia and Poland to aid in the care of both personal and shelter animals from Ukraine, including a gift to UAnimals who are working with groups throughout the country. There was no question that it was the right thing to do but I was shocked and thrilled by the response we received from our supporters from around the country.

Since making our donations we have received updates from the various shelters with details and photos of the lifesaving work they are doing. We are in awe of the dedication and bravery of the shelter workers and the pet owners and we are honored to play a small role in providing support to these amazing people and their pets. If we love animals, we must love them everywhere not just in San Diego, California or the United States.

Thank you for joining us in this vital effort.

For a more humane world,

Michael M. Arms  
President and CEO

### Stay Connected

FB.com/  
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Instagram: @hwac  
Pinterest: pinterest.com/hwac  
YouTube: animalcntr6461  
Snapchat: helenwoodwardac  
LinkedIn: Helen Woodward  
Animal Center



### Volunteer

Giving your time at any of our fundraising events, or donating your skills or experience to help on Center grounds are just some of the many ways you can help people and pets in need! Visit [animalcenter.org](http://animalcenter.org) to learn more.

### Be Informed

Be in the know of events and fundraisers happening in our community, and across the globe. Subscribe to our e-newsletters, visit [animalcenter.org](http://animalcenter.org) and enjoy this publication.

*SURRENDERED PETS will receive a complete medical examination for good health and temperament. A documented history is required for all owner-relinquished animals. Dogs under our care are exercised regularly and cats enjoy comfortable playrooms. Experienced staff screen potential adopters to help clarify needs and ensure a lifelong match. Once an adoption is complete, our staff is available for any assistance to make the transition a success.*



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Renée Resko

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Fernanda Lopez and Renée Resko

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Eric Rossicone

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# The Urgent Need for Help

In February, Russia began a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in an escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War that began in 2014. The largest conventional military attack on a sovereign state in Europe since World War II, more than 4.1 million Ukrainians were forced to flee their homes in a matter of days and in the weeks that followed.

In the race to leave the country, the vast majority of Ukrainians packed only their most precious possessions, leaving with only their families and beloved pets.

Images online and on our tv screens have shown us refugees rushing toward train stations carrying suitcases and a cat in their coat. A young woman carrying a large German Shepherd over her shoulder was said to

have walked for miles to escape the dangers of war. We have also seen sights of children being comforted by the familiar sight of their four-legged best friend while awaiting transportation out of their homeland. Even fish and birds were among the pets being taken to safety by their loving owners.

Unfortunately, the safe-passage of furry friends is only one of many challenges Ukrainian animals and those working to save them are battling. Some pets have been lost in the scramble to escape the war-torn country. Others have been left behind in the hasty exit of their owners with their futures uncertain. Shelter volunteers have also been killed or injured in their attempts to care for the remaining shelter pets; food, money and warmth are in desperate short supply; and Ukrainian shelters are facing destruction and violence.

## Who We're Helping



### Polish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The Center's connection with the Polish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals began in 2018 when Mike Arms traveled to Poland for a speaking and teaching engagement with animal welfare workers in the region.



As the oldest and one of the largest animal welfare organizations in Poland, The Polish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TOZ in Polish) oversees 13 municipal shelters throughout the country as well as one of their own. Additionally, this established organization boasts 79 branches. Their work includes community education programs, lost pet reunification, adoptions and pet population control efforts.

### Estonian Society for Animal Welfare

Stemming from Mike Arms' 2018 Poland visit, a new connection was formed with leaders in the Estonia animal welfare community. In 2019, our team traveled to Tallinn, where animal advocates from Eastern Europe were congregated for the International Animal Welfare Conference. That visit solidified a connection with the Estonian Society for Animal Welfare and Heliika Landsmann, the City of Tallinn's Chief Specialist who works closely with the organization.

The Estonian Society for Animal Welfare was founded in 2000 to ensure and improve the welfare of animals in need and to prevent animal abuse in Estonia. The mission is carried out through direct assistance to animals, public education and legislation.

When the Center initiated its efforts to support the animals of Ukraine, Landsmann was able to provide deep insight on the local needs.

### UAnimals

Recognized by Landsmann as the organization currently on the ground in Ukraine working to assist pets, zoo and farm animals was UAnimals.

Since 2016, UAnimals has promoted the humane treatment of animals. The organization has advocated and successfully helped implement laws to protect the wellbeing of animals throughout Ukraine.

However, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, the organization's main focus has been on rescuing animals from danger.





# Ukrainian Pets in Crisis

## *Lifesaving help arrives*

Within days of Helen Woodward Animal Center announcing its \$50,000 pledge and asking the community to match our contribution for Ukrainian Pets in Crisis, our supporters had answered the call in an impactful way. In less than a week, the Center's initial pledge was met and surpassed. The first transfer of funds to the recipient organizations included \$120,000 with another \$50,000 distributed soon after.

*These lifesaving contributions began to quickly make an impact.*



## *Within Ukraine:*

Amid the Russian invasion in Ukraine the work on the ground for UAnimals has included efforts to transport supplies to shelters, zoos and animal sanctuaries within the country as well as the rescue of abandoned pets and shelter animals. Providing aid to pet owners who remain in Ukraine has also been a priority.

The organization has been working non-stop, organizing volunteers and staff and orchestrating the logistics of their lifesaving work. The Center's donation helps accomplish all of this.

Much of their efforts have included coordinating volunteers to execute dangerous missions to hard-to-reach animal shelters and sanctuaries within the country. They have been trying to deliver water, pet food, supplies, medical equipment and large animal feed to animal groups big and small.

Some shelters have experienced shellings and destruction. Unfortunately, injuries among volunteers have also been reported. The organization is also utilizing donated funds to cover the cost of hiring transporters to take the supplies to shelters in need.

Reports from the organization say that thanks to funding they have been able to help shelters housing hundreds of animals who have gone for weeks with close to no pet food. They have also been able to take generators to shelters in areas that have been cut off from electricity and gas.

Donations to UAnimals have also helped with the purchase of food and supplies as well as the distribution of funds to smaller animal organizations within the country still working to care for their pets.

Among UAnimals' most important efforts are the evacuations of pets from Ukraine. Members of the organization have risked entering occupied regions to remove pets from danger. In one instance, UAnimals was able to pull 50 cats from

a shelter who will make their way to Berlin. In another, 50 dogs were saved from a shelter under attack experiencing critically low food and water.

UAnimals has also been able to organize food distributions to pet owners who remain in Ukraine. With limited access to money and stores to buy the food, the help is incredibly important.

Lifesaving efforts continue daily within Ukraine with assistance also reaching refugees in way of pet food and supplies.

*Follow their efforts on social media at UAnimals on Facebook.*

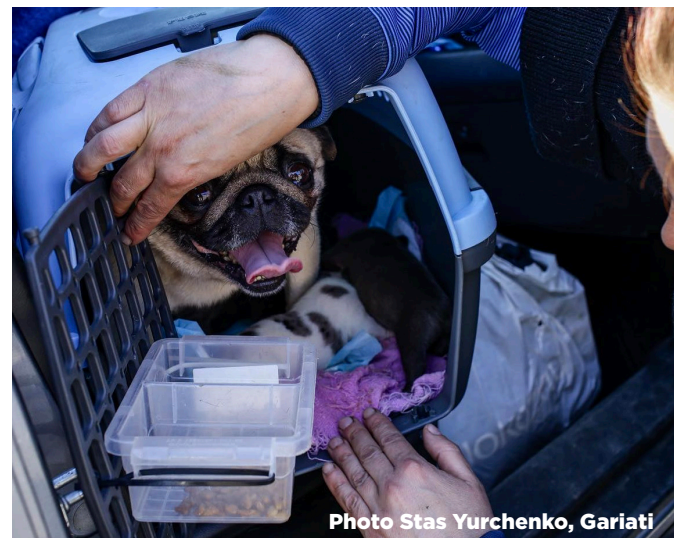


Photo Stas Yurchenko, Gariati





### On the Polish border...

While families and organizations like UAnimals scrambled at the onset of the war to get animals to safety and out of Ukraine, the rescue work continues on the Ukrainian-Polish border.

There, the Polish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TOZ) has several missions supporting pets and their families as well as shelter animals.

One of the first things TOZ worked to establish was a coordination center near Warsaw, Poland. This location is used for logistics, where aid supplies are stored, prepared for transport and distribution. The group has been and continues to source pet food and coordinate shipments to shelters in Ukraine.

TOZ is also receiving orphan animals into their shelters in Poland by the hundreds. There, the pets are receiving veterinary care and vaccinations.



Staff from the organization have also executed rescue missions to help pull animals to safety. In early March, TOZ staff crossed the border in Zosin into Ukraine where a small rescue run by two women had become overrun with pets who had been abandoned by their owners who fled in a hurry. The day-long mission secured the safety of 11 cats, some sick, a dog with an injured paw, four other dogs and one mom with 1-week-old puppies.

Just days later, more TOZ volunteers joined a convoy of 11 cars and drove to Lviv. Despite bomb alarms, the group saved 90 cats.

Among other priorities for TOZ has been establishing reception points at train stations near the Polish border where millions of people, many with pets, have been arriving from Ukrainian hubs like Lviv. TOZ has set up aid distribution stations at train terminals like in Prezemys, Poland where



volunteers are there round-the-clock handing out pet food, leashes, collars, pet carriers and blankets. On hand are also veterinary professionals to assist with any medical concerns.

Many refugees have been seen carrying pets tucked into their jackets or simply wrapped in blankets. The supplies provided have helped with safer animal transports as they continue their journeys to safety.

More recently, TOZ has worked to establish a vaccination system for animals rescued from Ukraine in an effort to minimize the spread of disease. They anticipate using some of the funds to purchase and administer de-wormer.

Additionally, the group has continued to receive shelter animals. In late March, they welcomed 30 dogs from Ukraine after their shelter was bombed. Fortunately, workers were able to escape with the dogs but TOZ says the dogs have a long road to recovery ahead.

In the weeks to come, volunteers will continue to assemble aid packages and distribute them throughout Ukraine and Poland. TOZ is working non-stop to ensure beloved pets and their people have the support they need and shelter animals are able to have the chance to find a safe and loving home of their own.

### In Estonia:

While the vast majority of Ukrainian refugees have entered Poland, as the weeks go on, many are finding refuge in other European nations like Estonia. So far, the country has received nearly 30,000 Ukrainians, some arriving with pets.

Our partners at the Estonian Society for Animal Welfare are preparing to assist those arriving by allocating funds to be made available to refugee pet owners at veterinary clinics so that pets can receive updated vaccinations and veterinary exams.





# Our Animal-Loving Community Responds!

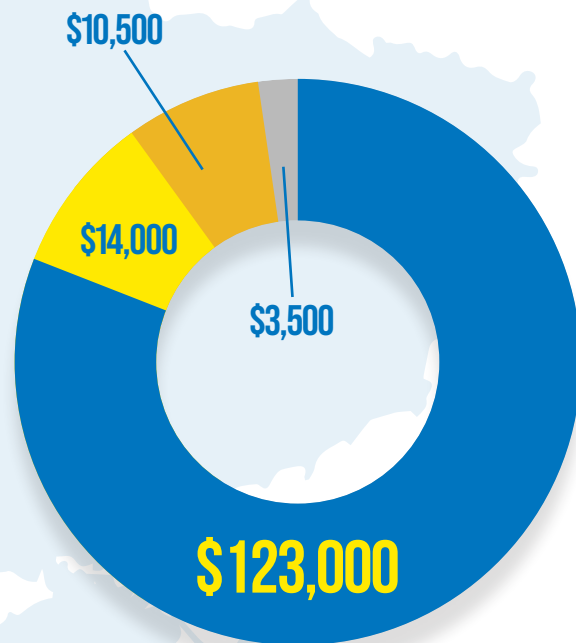
When Helen Woodward Animal Center decided to pledge \$50,000 to help animals in Ukraine, we anticipated our amazing animal-loving community would lovingly match our contribution but the response we received went above and beyond.

As of early April...

# 1,100

people have donated

- Raised via our fundraising campaign
- Check donations
- Donated via our weekend sale at Orphaned Objects Resale Shop
- Donated via social media followers



## We Were Saved



### Lorax:

At just 1 year old, Lorax was rescued from Ukraine smelling intensely of smoke. Rescuers believe he was situated near dangerous and boisterous bombings. He's incredibly scared and is only calmed by a gentle touch. He still shows signs of stress to loud noises but every day is improving with walks and lots of snuggles and pets.



### Pepsi:

Pepsi was found in great distress and was uninterested in human interaction. Since her rescue she has calmed down and now purrs and nuzzles with volunteers. She feels safe at last.



### Irina:

Volunteers say Irina is among the pets most in stress after her rescue. She's withdrawn and still scared of people. Slowly she is making progress.



### Tanja:

3-year-old Tanja was rescued among 100 other animals from Ukraine. In tow Tanja carried 4 puppies about 4 weeks old. She's an affectionate mom to her tiny babies who were rescued just in time.



### Ruzik:

Arriving with a high fever and sinus issues, Ruzik was frightened and timid upon rescue. The soothing touch from volunteers though has helped him recover health-wise. While improving in temperament, Ruzik still needs time to decompress.



**100% OFF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS DONATED INTO OUR UKRAINIAN PETS IN CRISIS FUND ARE BEING SENT TO OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS IN POLAND, UKRAINE AND ESTONIA.** Our community and donors were glad to know that their contributions were going directly to the groups making an impact to help pets in need. These are just some of the messages we have received.

## *A Thank You Letter From the Polish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals:*

We would like to express our deepest gratitude and warm thanks to your organization, volunteers and supporters for your financial donation and efforts to help animals from Ukraine. We are touched especially by the fact that in the animal welfare world, the help comes from so far on the earth.

The financial donation in the amount of \$60,000 USD which was received by our organization is a huge aid to our activities so far. This money helps and will help in saving the lives of animals that are fleeing from Ukraine.

The war in Ukraine is an enormous crime and injustice. However, in the face of this tragedy, we see how many people engage in opening their hearts and trying to find the way to give assistance. The received donation will be used to cover expenses related to the ongoing help and care of animals, for both those who cross the border with their owners and those homeless coming into our shelters.

On my behalf and on behalf of the main board and members of our organization, we thank you for supporting us in this greatest humanitarian and animal crisis in modern European history.

Your support means the world.

Yours Sincerely,

Danuta Mikusz-Oslislo

*"Rescue isn't just a verb, it isn't just something we do. Rescue is a promise. A responsibility. An obligation we have to every single animal who needs us."*

- Valerie V.



“

*"It was through a recent news story Dave and I saw talking about the efforts of the HWAC supporting the animal refugees in Ukraine that inspired us to donate. It is truly horrific to see the thousands of animals which also have been impacted by this war. It is an all-hands effort to get the aid to the animals who also have lost their homes, been injured, are hungry and have been separated from their owners. We praise the HWAC for their work and we are proud to support their efforts."*

-Brenda R.

”



Helen Woodward Animal Center will continue to receive updates and inform our supporters of the work your contributions are doing to help the animals of Ukraine.

More transfers of funds are scheduled as donations are received.

It's not too late to lend your support and help the beloved animals of Ukrainian refugees and assist the rescue work to bring shelter pets to safety. Follow us at [animalcenter.org/ukraine](https://animalcenter.org/ukraine) for updates and to send your gift to Ukrainian Pets in Crisis. Thank you! Together, we can make a difference for those most in need.



# HELEN WOODWARD ANIMAL CENTER

6461 El Apajo Road • P.O. Box 64 • Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067  
Phone (858) 756-4117 • Fax (858) 756-1466 • [animalcenter.org](http://animalcenter.org)

CREATING A HUMANE WORLD  
FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE



## event calendar

*april*

**9** Volunteer Orientation

**23** Pet Day on the Bay

*april 1-30*

Spring Critter Camp (mon-fri only)

*april 22-24*

Orphaned Objects Earth Day Sale

*may*

**9** Spring Tails Family Day

**11** Paws and Pages

**14** Animal Care Camp

**15** You can be a  
Veterinarian Camp

*may*

**21** Snake Smart

**29** Padres & Puppies  
Calendar Giveaway  
at Petco Park

*may 1-31*

Spring Tails by appointment

*june*

**1-3** The Business of Saving  
Lives Workshop

**11** Spring Fling Gala

**25** Therapeutic Riding Show

*june 24-26*

Orphaned Objects Mid-Summer Sale

*june 7-august 28*

Summer Critter Camp

COSE0422

*shop • donate • volunteer*



*reduce • reuse • recycle*



Benefiting Helen Woodward Animal Center  
**ORPHANED  
objects**  
designer resale

*Spring is the perfect  
time to donate to  
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Resale Shop. When you  
do, you are directly  
supporting the pets  
and programs at Helen  
Woodward Animal  
Center.*

**Open All Week  
10 am - 5 pm**

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**858-756-4117 x383**

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Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067  
enter off San Dieguito Rd.  
& follow signs to shop



## ONCE IN A LIFETIME NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Our new building is open but you can still purchase commemorative plaques and pavers. These opportunities allow you to make a gift in memory of, or in honor of a beloved pet or family member, and give you a chance to leave your legacy.

Visit [animalcenter.org/future](http://animalcenter.org/future) TODAY to customize your gift for our Adoptions building and help us continue to give orphan pets the new facility they deserve!

### Renew or upgrade your GIFT CLUB MEMBERSHIP:

The Best Friends.....	\$150 - \$249
The Faithful Friends.....	\$250 - \$499
The Loyal Companions.....	\$500 - \$999
The Helen Woodward Society, Bronze Circle.....	\$1,000 - \$2,499
The Helen Woodward Society, Silver Circle.....	\$2,500 - \$4,999
The Helen Woodward Society, Gold Circle.....	\$5,000 +

Make a one-time gift club membership donation  
OR divide your gift into 12 monthly payments by  
joining Paw Pals monthly supporters.

If you have any questions, call the Development  
Office at 858-756-4117 x350