



Protection of Animal  
Welfare in school education

## R4- Handbook for parents



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the European Union

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# Partners

 <p><b>WYŻSZA SZKOŁA</b> Biznesu i Nauk o Zdrowiu w Łodzi</p>	<p>WYŻSZA SZKOŁA BIZNESU I NAUK O ZDROWIU (WSBINOZ) is the first non-public higher education institution in central Poland offering health and medical related studies, as well as business and pedagogical schools.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.wsbinoz.pl">www.wsbinoz.pl</a></p>
 <p><b>KEAN</b> CELL OF ALTERNATIVE YOUTH ACTIVITIES <a href="http://www.kean.gr">www.kean.gr</a></p>	<p>"KEAN" is a non-profit association, founded in 2004 in Athens with the aim of developing and implementing humanitarian programs for the protection of the social and natural environment.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.kean.gr">www.kean.gr</a></p>
 <p>VILNIUS JONO LAUZIKO ŠMUKŠTAVIMO KONSULTAVIMO CENTRAS</p>	<p>Vilnius J.Lauzikas Consulting Teaching Center is a hospital school operating in 6 different hospitals of local and national hospitals level. Students remain in hospital due to physical and mental problems.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.lauzikocentras.vilnius.lm.lt">www.lauzikocentras.vilnius.lm.lt</a></p>
 <p><b>KEAN</b> Actividades Alternativas</p>	<p>The Alternative Activities Association is a newly formed association, but with strength due to the previous experience of its members. It is a non-profit organization born out of the need to meet various demands of society in an alternative way.</p>	<p><a href="http://asociacionkean.com/">asociacionkean.com/</a></p>
 <p>Zw.E.S.</p>	<p>NGO ZWES has managed to visit more than 650 schools at all levels in Greece through approved educational programmes and has trained more than 450,000 pupils along with its three trained dogs participating in the educational programmes through an experiential approach for animal love.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.zwes.gr">www.zwes.gr</a></p>
 <p>Πανελλήνια Ομοσπονδία Φιλανθρωπικών και Περιβαλλοντικών Οργανισμών</p>	<p>The Panhellenic Animal and Environmental Federation) was founded in 2010. It is the largest animal welfare organization in Greece, bringing together 66 Member Organizations. Their mission is to protect animals and promote their welfare and rights through political pressure, legal actions, science-based research and campaigns.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.pfpo.gr">www.pfpo.gr</a></p>
 <p>ОУУ ДИМКАТА АНГЕЛОВ - ГАБЕРОТ ВАТАША</p>	<p>Angelov Gaberot s. Vatasha, located in Kavadarci, North Macedonia and operating since 1918. The school provides healthy, comfortable social environment for students and executes European projects for better progress of education.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.dagvatasa.edu.mk">www.dagvatasa.edu.mk</a></p>
 <p>5ο Δημοτικό Σχολείο Φλώρινας "Θεόδωρος Καστανός"</p>	<p>The 5th Primary School "Theodoros Kastanos" is located in the northern part of Florina and implements cultural and environmental educational programmes, promoting educational and cultural goods.</p>	<p><a href="http://kastanos.edu.gr/el">kastanos.edu.gr/el</a></p>



# INTRODUCTION



This guide is a handbook to provide parents with information on animal welfare, concerning legal framework on animal protection, listing animal welfare organisations/shelters or instructions in case of animal adoption. It was created in the framework of the European PAW project and aims to capture this useful information in each partner country.

PAW is the result of a joint effort by many different organisations from countries such as Poland, Greece, Spain, Lithuania, Greece and North Macedonia, who seek to create effective methodologies on animal welfare education and animal therapy.

In the beginning of PAW Project, a thorough research was conducted and a benchmarking report was created that summarized the legal framework about animal protection in each partner country. After this research in the countries mentioned above, we also concluded that most education systems do not include animal welfare in their curricula or even as an optional subject.

Because of the lack of curricula and material for animal welfare, an educational material for children (ages 6-12) was also created. In the material teaching-learning activities are included that can be used in educational environments, but also in different environments outside of classrooms.

Education experts believe that teaching children to care for and respect animals from an early age can bring about positive change for children and animals. Encouraging empathy and compassion for living beings is important for the personal development of young people and would result in the gradual improvement of some welfare issues that affect animal life today, such as neglect, litter and agricultural practices. These are important life skills that will also benefit society as a whole, because when children learn about animal welfare, they are more likely to enjoy healthy relationships with animals and people throughout their lives.

Taking the above into account, the PAW project is creating a joint cause that aims not only to create and implement new educational materials on animal welfare, but also encourages all stakeholders (institutions and individuals) to create these and other ideas on educational programmes.

The PAW project builds on these approaches and on the EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals, which focuses on key activities and serves as a guiding instrument for developing and promoting cooperation between EU institutions, Member States,



educational institutions and animal welfare stakeholders. The project is centred around the following main axes:

-To promote participation in animal protection and welfare activities.

-The promotion of mental health through therapy using animals.

-The skills and qualifications to be developed in the field of animal welfare and animal protection through the exchange of best practices.

The aim of this handbook is to present a summary of this framework, of available support and facilitate parents in developing young people's knowledge of animals, to inspire the next generation and create a more animal-friendly future.

## ABOUT ANIMAL THERAPY

Animal therapy, also known as animal-assisted therapy or AAT, involves the use of animals to provide therapeutic benefits to individuals with various physical, emotional, or psychological needs. There are several types of animal therapy, each tailored to different goals and populations, like pet therapy, hippotherapy, farm animal therapy, or even dolphin therapy. Animal therapy can be a valuable tool for promoting emotional and psychological growth in children, and here's how it can be used effectively:

- **Selecting the Right Animal:** The choice of animal is crucial. Dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and horses are commonly used in animal therapy. The temperament and nature of the animal should be compatible with the needs and comfort of the child.
- **Professional Guidance:** Animal therapy should always be conducted under the guidance of trained professionals. Licensed therapists, psychologists, or counselors who specialize in animal-assisted therapy can ensure that the therapy sessions are safe and effective.
- **Setting Goals:** Establish clear therapeutic goals for the child. These goals can vary widely, from improving social skills and empathy to reducing anxiety and stress.
- **Structured Sessions:** Each therapy session should be structured and tailored to the child's needs. Activities with the animal can include grooming, walking, playing, or simply sitting quietly. These interactions can help the child build a connection with the animal.
- **Sensory Stimulation:** Interacting with animals can provide sensory stimulation. Children can feel the soft fur of a dog or the gentle purring of a cat. This sensory input can be calming and help children manage their emotions.
- **Emotional Support:** Animals are non-judgmental and provide unconditional love and support. This can be especially helpful for children who have experienced trauma, are struggling with emotional issues, or have difficulty forming human relationships.



- **Enhancing Communication:** Animal therapy can help children learn to communicate more effectively. They may need to give commands to a dog or read the animal's body language. This can enhance their verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
- **Building Empathy and Responsibility:** Caring for an animal teaches children empathy and responsibility. Feeding, grooming, and looking after the well-being of an animal can help children understand the needs and feelings of others.
- **Stress Reduction:** Interacting with animals has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety. This can be particularly beneficial for children dealing with academic pressures, family issues, or other stressors.
- **Social Interaction:** Animal therapy can be a bridge to improve social interactions. Children can interact with the animal and, in the process, learn to engage with others more effectively.
- **Assessment and Progress Tracking:** Regular assessments should be conducted to measure the child's progress and adjust therapy as needed. This ensures that the therapy remains effective.
- **Parental Involvement:** In many cases, parental involvement can enhance the effectiveness of animal therapy. Parents can support and reinforce the lessons learned during therapy sessions.

It's important to note that animal therapy isn't a one-size-fits-all solution. Not all children may respond to it in the same way, and it may not be suitable for those with allergies or a fear of animals. Therefore, the assessment and selection of animal therapy should be done in consultation with a qualified therapist or counselor.

In summary, animal therapy can be a valuable and enjoyable way to help children develop emotionally, socially, and psychologically. When used with care and professional guidance, it can have a profound and positive impact on a child's overall well-being.

### **1.1. Pet therapy**

Research has shown that working with therapy dogs can motivate children, increase their concentration of attention and persistence in doing an activity, and improve their reading and writing.

An animal can provide a wide variety of sensory experiences, from the soft fur, the wet nose, the abundance of unusual sounds, smells. The therapist trained in animal-assisted therapy can use the animal as a motivator to attract the curiosity of the child or adult to willingly follow the therapy program, but also as a tool in the effort to improve the child's or adult's ability to process the abundance of sensory stimuli that the animal naturally provides.





The animals involved in a psychotherapy programme are trained and the aim of the session is to improve mental health. Of course, the role of the animal is always complementary and helpful and often acts as a catalyst in the course of therapy. Dog/pet therapy addresses a multitude of difficulties and can be applied to many age groups, from young children to adults and even older people. In any case, contact with animal therapy assistants gives us a unique joy, as well as an ear that can listen to you in any situation without judging what we say. Parents can examine the use of animal therapy for children with special needs or syndromes.

## 1.2. Farm Animal Therapy

Farm animal therapy is a therapeutic approach that involves interaction between individuals and various farm animals in order to promote emotional, psychological, and physical well-being. This type of therapy has gained popularity due to its positive effects on reducing stress, anxiety, and depression, as well as improving overall mood and quality of life.

Farm animal therapy should be conducted under the guidance of trained therapists or professionals. Not all individuals may respond positively to animals, and allergies or other health concerns should also be considered. It often takes place in controlled environments such as farms, ranches, or designated facilities. Some common farm animals that are often used in this type of therapy are horses, chickens, goats and sheep, pigs and cows. Ethical treatment of the animals involved is crucial to ensure their well-being.

A very popular type of farm animal therapy is equine therapy. Also known as horse therapy or hippotherapy, equine therapy involves interactions with horses. Riding, grooming, and caring for horses can help individuals with physical disabilities, developmental disorders, and emotional challenges improve motor skills, coordination, and self-confidence. Through hippotherapy, patients can find it easier to overcome fears, build relationships, express their emotions and communicate with the world. Rehabilitation through hippotherapy not only helps children struggling with autism, Down's syndrome or cerebral palsy, but also with abnormal gait patterns or after amputations.

Hippotherapy involves a specially trained therapist who uses the horse as a "live" treatment tool. The movement of the horse is used to achieve long-term and short-term



treatment goals that are individualized to each patient. When used under the direction of a licensed and trained therapist, Hippotherapy can elicit positive changes in children with neurological disorders who present with a combination of cognitive, motor, and psychosocial disabilities. Positive impacts have also been demonstrated in a patient's strength, muscle coordination and tone, and sensory processing used in mobility, talking, and the use of fine motor skills for activities of daily living and general attention to tasks.

### 1.3 Good Practices of Animal Therapy around the world

One successful and well-established practice of animal therapy that has been implemented in various countries is equine therapy or horse-assisted therapy. This therapy addresses psychological issues. One notable example of this practice can be found in the United States:

Equine-Assisted Therapy in the United States:

In the United States, equine therapy has gained widespread recognition and has been integrated into many therapeutic programs and treatment facilities for a wide range of populations, including children, adolescents, and adults. Here's how this practice is typically implemented:

1. **Therapeutic Riding:** This form of equine therapy involves individuals with physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, or those recovering from injuries. The movement of the horse's gait provides physical benefits, such as improved balance, coordination, and muscle strength.
2. **Hippotherapy:** This is a form of equine therapy that uses the horse's movement as a treatment strategy for physical and occupational therapy. It can help individuals with sensory processing disorders, developmental delays, and motor skill challenges.
3. **Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP):** EFP involves mental health professionals working with clients alongside horses. The goal is to address emotional and psychological issues, including anxiety, depression, trauma, and behavioral problems. Horses are used as a mirror to reflect the client's emotions and behavior, helping them gain insight and develop coping strategies.
4. **Youth Programs:** Many equine therapy programs in the U.S. are designed specifically for children and adolescents. These programs often focus on improving self-esteem, emotional regulation, social skills, and academic performance. They can be especially beneficial for children with behavioral challenges, ADHD, and those who have experienced trauma.
5. **Veterans Programs:** Equine therapy is also used to support military veterans, particularly those dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other combat-related

challenges. Interacting with horses can help veterans build trust, reduce anxiety, and develop coping skills.

6. Professional Oversight: Equine therapy programs in the U.S. are typically supervised by licensed therapists or mental health professionals who have received specialized training in equine therapy techniques.

7. Holistic Approach: Equine therapy is often used as part of a holistic treatment approach, complementing traditional therapies and interventions.

The success of equine therapy in the United States and its continued expansion into different therapeutic contexts demonstrates its effectiveness in addressing a variety of physical and psychological challenges. It has also gained recognition for its ability to provide a unique and engaging environment for therapy, particularly for children and adolescents.

Equine therapy serves as a strong example of animal-assisted therapy, showcasing the benefits of the human-animal bond and the profound impact it can have on individuals seeking physical, emotional, and psychological support.

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

The protection of animals, endangered species and the natural environment is an important goal of many organisations worldwide. These organisations undertake actions to conserve biodiversity, raise awareness among the public and stakeholders, and protect endangered species.

All these organisations are working to protect endangered species, promote sustainable development and ensure a balanced environment for future generations. Their contribution is valuable in protecting nature, promoting sound animal welfare policies and conserving endangered species.



In this context, it is important to mention some global organisations that aim - among others - to protect animals.



The [World Wide Fund for Nature \(WWF\)](#) is an international non-governmental organisation based in Switzerland, founded in 1961 and active in the field of nature conservation, biodiversity and the reduction of human impact on the environment.



[PETA \(People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals\)](#) is an American non-profit animal rights organization founded in 1980 and based in Norfolk, Virginia. The organization fights against animal abuse and defends animal rights. PETA seeks to raise public awareness and prevent the use of animals for food, clothing, experimentation or entertainment.



[GREENPEACE](#) is an international organisation working on environmental and nature conservation issues. Its activities include campaigns to protect marine ecosystems, climate change, forest conservation and other natural areas.



## POLAND

### 1. Legal Framework concerning animals

In Poland there is a framework in place of laws and regulations to address animal welfare and protection from various forms of mistreatment. While animals are not



recognized as legal entities with rights in Poland, the Animal Protection Act of 1997 acknowledges that animals are living beings capable of feeling suffering, not mere objects. This recognition emphasizes that humans owe animals respect, protection, and care. Moreover, the Animal Welfare Act covers various aspects related to the treatment of animals. It addresses the treatment of domestic animals, farm animals, animals used for entertainment or special purposes, free-living (wild) animals, animal transport, veterinary medical treatment, and procedures for slaughtering and reducing animal populations.

Apart from the Animal Protection Act, there are several other laws and regulations related to animal protection and welfare, including laws concerning nature protection, environmental protection, hunting, fisheries, animal health, veterinary inspection, and more. Still in Poland, the Constitution of the Republic emphasizes environmental protection, and this includes the well-being of animals. Citizens are obliged to take care of the environment, which encompasses all natural elements, including animals. There are recent amendments to the Animal Protection Act according to which increased penalties for unlawful killing of animals and animal abuse, with potential imprisonment terms of up to three to five years exist. However, it's noted that practical application of these sentences varies.

Concluding, public awareness and concern for animal welfare seem to be growing in Poland, leading to legal changes and amendments aimed at strengthening animal protection laws and imposing stricter penalties for offenses against animals.

## **2. Local Animal Welfare Organizations/Shelters**

### **2.1. Animal Shelter Happy Dog**

It is a shelter that meets all the legal requirements. Stables with specially designed kennels for dogs are being built on the site. Each kennel has boxes that stand on special platforms, which additionally protect the animals from cold and moisture. It also facilitates the maintenance of cleanliness and periodic disinfection. Kennels also have wooden platforms for dogs. In winter, the kennels are lined with straw, which creates additional insulation. All cages are covered to protect against rain and heat. In the shelter, the animals have access to adequate food and drinking water. There are also cats in the shelter, for which there is a separate feeding area.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Marian Drewnik Nowa Krępa 28 08-460 Sobolew

Phone number: 600-041-920

E-mail: mdrewnik@o2.pl



## 2.2. Animal Shelter in Zawiercie



The shelter's mission is to rescue homeless and injured animals and is a temporary shelter for over 600 dogs and 100 cats a year. It makes every effort to ensure that animals damaged by fate have a roof over their heads, veterinary care and the best care possible. The shelter is active on

social media, thanks to which our homeless animals find homes even in the most remote corners of the country. Volunteerism thrives at the shelter, which has up to 50 people involved in the fate of the homeless. The objectives of the shelter are to prevent homelessness, raise public awareness, with a special focus on young people and children, promote humane treatment of animals, and improve the living conditions of the surrounding animals.

### Contact details:

Address: ul. Podmiejska 51b 42-400 Zawiercie

Phone number: 730505255 or 515131350

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 9:00-16:00, Saturday-Sunday 10:00-13:00

## 2.3. **Ekostraz**



It is a non-governmental organisation - a rehabilitation centre for small, protected animals. It has been operating continuously since 2009.

It helps domestic, wild and free-living animals. She takes in dogs, cats, domestic rodents, but also raccoon dogs, birds, wild small mammals. A special element of the site's activity is helping hedgehogs.

It intervenes in situations where the health and lives of animals are at risk, rescues, cares for, nurtures, finds homes for or releases them into the wild. Fights for justice for animals in court. Educates young and old and promotes the idea of helping.

### Contact details:

Address: Miłoszycka 67 51-502 Wrocław

Phone number: 782 240 846

E-mail: [info@ekostraz.pl](mailto:info@ekostraz.pl)

## 2.4. Fauna Animal Shelter





**TOZ  
FAUNA**

The Animal Care Society "FAUNA" was founded in 1994 as a charitable social organization. The aims of the society are the protection and care of animals as well as humanitarian and ecological education.

A priority in the activities of the association is the operation of the Social Animal Shelter of St. Francis of Assisi in Ruda Śląska, which has existed since 1996. The shelter is maintained mainly thanks to the help of sponsors, i.e. companies and individuals who materially support the activities of the shelter. Apart from its main function, which is to provide direct assistance to homeless animals, educational activities are also carried out in schools and educational institutions under the motto 'Responsible Friendship'.

**Contact details:**

Address: Bujoczka Ruda Slaska, 41-700

Phone number: 32 248 03 62

E-mail: shelter@fauna.rsl.pl

2.5. [Homeless Animal Shelter](#)

The construction of this installation started in March 2014. The idea and the dream were for this space to break away from the stereotypical image of a shelter. The owners wanted to create a clean and vibrant place where animals could start a better life from the moment they crossed the threshold of the facility.

This has become a priority and the reason to invest in modern solutions that provide our bills with comfortable living conditions. Current conditions allow for the adoption and care of 150 dogs and 60 cats.

The hostel is located on the outskirts of Chetmek away from the inhabitants, on the edge of the forest and creates a quiet and peaceful atmosphere for long walks with pets.

**Contact details:**

Address: Jaworznicka 67 32-660, Chetmek

Hours of operation: Monday - Friday 10:00-16:00, Saturday 10:00-13:00

2.6. **Hug the puppy**

The shelter accepts animals only at the request of the communities with which the contract has been signed and animals cannot be accepted from private individuals.

Every animal that comes to the shelter is quarantined for 14 days and then dewormed, vaccinated and sterilised.



Anyone who is willing to accept an animal for adoption undertakes it after all the veterinary procedures, which brings significant financial benefits. The person who adopts the animal undertakes to keep it in good zootechnical conditions, to provide it with food and veterinary care in the future.

Volunteers at the shelter are welcome.

**Contact details:**

Address: 39-100 Ropczyce, ul. Ks.Zwierza 4

Phone number: 17 222 8888 or 605-888-248

E-mail: [Przytulpsiaka@interia.pl](mailto:Przytulpsiaka@interia.pl)

**2.7. [Kundelek](#)**



The Municipal Shelter for Homeless Animals "Kundelek" in Rzeszów was founded in 2005. Members of the Rzeszów Animal Welfare Association contributed to its creation - they have been continuously striving for many years to establish this facility, driven by love for disadvantaged animals, understanding their situation and the need for help.

The Kundelek shelter is owned by the Municipality of Rzeszów, which in this way fulfils its own obligatory duty in the field of caring for stray animals, which is imposed on the municipality by the Animal Protection Act.

The manager of the shelter is the Rzeszów Association for the Protection of Animals - Public Benefit Organisation, which, by operating an animal shelter, also pursues its statutory objectives.

The shelter's tasks include accepting and keeping homeless dogs and cats, finding new caretakers, providing the necessary living conditions, promoting the sterilization of animals and treating sick animals.

**Contact details:**

Address: Ciepłownicza 3, 35-322 Rzeszow, Poland

Phone number: 17 742 11 09

E-mail: [kundelek@rsoz.org](mailto:kundelek@rsoz.org)

**2.8. [OTOZ Animals](#)**







In 2006, as a result of a competition for non-governmental organizations, the management of the city's shelter was entrusted to the National Society for the Protection of Animals OTOZ "Animals", which to this day continuously organizes its work and takes care of its four-legged inhabitants.

All thanks to Gdynia's animal-loving residents who adopt willing animals from Ciapków, giving them a second home and often a second life.

Puppies and kittens, young dogs, as well as smaller sized and breed type dogs stay at the shelter. Older and sick animals wait much longer for adoption, but fortunately, they too find new caregivers. Anyone who goes to Ciapków for a friend, for better or worse, almost never leaves empty-handed.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Małokacka 3A, 81-654 Gdynia

Phone number: 58 622 25 52

E-mail: [shelter@ciapkowo.pl](mailto:shelter@ciapkowo.pl)

## **2.9. [PuK Schronisko DLA](#)**



The Shelter for Homeless Animals in Pawłowo was established in the 90s. Since then, the shelter has been providing care for homeless dogs in the town of Ciechanów. Currently, in addition to the town of Ciechanów, it also cooperates with the following communities:

- Biezuń, rural Ciechanów, Drobin, Głinojeck, Lubowidz, Lutocin, Ojrzeń, Opinogóra Górna, urban Płońsk, Pokrzywnica, Regimin, Rościszewo, Siemiątkowo, Sochocin, Sońgrómsk, and W.

The Homeless Animal Shelter is only a temporary shelter for dogs. Our goal is to find a permanent, loving, responsible home when caring for or treating an animal. In the last 3 years (2018-2020), approximately 680 dogs who lost their home or were unwanted for various reasons were brought to the shelter. Up to 30 dogs are transferred to the shelter each month.

Our goal, in addition to the daily care of the dogs, is primarily to reduce the number of dogs in the shelter through adoption and finding the owners of lost dogs.



### Contact details:

Address: 06-461 REGIMIN, PAWŁOWO

Telephone: +48 23 611 13 59

E-mail: shelter@pukciechanow.pl

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 10:00-14:00 Saturday: 11:00-14:00

## 2.10. Rehabilitation Centre of Protected Animals in Przemysl

Many rare and protected animals live in Poland. The forests of Subcarpathia and Bieszczady are areas with Poland's largest populations of bears, wolves, lynxes, deer and roe deer, and wild birds such as buzzards and white-tailed eagles. They are threatened by the expanding neighbourhood of people, namely the constantly extending network of roads and fencing covering large stretches of land. Therefore, shelters such as the Rehabilitation Centre of Protected Animals in Przemysl are becoming more necessary. It admits animals from various provinces. Around 600 wild animals pass through the shelter for veterinarian care its year.

### Contact details:

Address: Jana Zamoyskiego 15, 37-700 Przemyśl, Poland

Phone number: +48 500 052 573

## 2.11. [Schronisko Swidnica](#)



**Schronisko  
Świdnica**

The shelter meets technical requirements and standards. In addition to the warmth shared by the team, the dogs living in the shelter have access to heated boxes and the cats to spacious rooms, thanks to which none of them will be cold even in winter. There is also constant availability of medical and counselling assistance. The building is equipped with a working area for a veterinarian and other employees use the office and administration area. Conscious and responsible animal adoption is promoted. The shelter is visited by schools and kindergartens.

### Contact details:

Address: Pogoda 3, 58-100 Swidnica

Phone number: 733 093 663 or 531 496 442

E-mail: kontakt@schroniskoswidnica.pl

## 2.12. Specialist Rescue Service- SRS



The Specialist Rescue Service (SRS) is a non-governmental organization consisting of a dedicated team of experts in various fields who are ready to help injured animals 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The history of the creation of SRS dates back to 2022, when during the aid operation for Ukraine, Animal Rescue Poland decided to become a Specialist Rescue Service. The idea of creating a rescue team using tracking dogs had been present among the members of the organization for a long time and the action in Ukraine became an impetus for the realization of this idea.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Kościelna 9, 05-462 Wiązowna

Phone number: 792 112 222 or 22 308 66 91

E-mail: srs@ratowinictwoSpecialist.pl

#### **2.13. [Tarnowski](#)**



The main goal is to find new homes for as many animals as possible that are housed in the shelter. Until adoption, the shelter tries to make the pets' stay as pleasant as possible. This shelter accepts animals that are abandoned, unwanted, lost, wandering, injured, that may pose a threat and need veterinary care. These are animals from the town of Tarnów that were registered by municipal services such as the Municipal Guard, Fire Department, Police and from the area communities that have contracted to provide dog care services at the Sanctuary.

In addition to domestic animals such as dogs and cats, this shelter also helps injured wild animals in Tarnów, which it treats, breeds if necessary and releases them into the wild. The most frequent visitors who need our care are hawks, pigeons, crows, crows, squirrels, storks, swans, hedgehogs, etc.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Komunalna 31, 33-100 Tarnów

Phone number: 14 625 82 09

Hours of operation: Tuesday - Friday 09.00am - 3.00pm



**LITHUANIA**

## **1. Legal framework concerning animals.**



In 2021 there was an update in several key points in Lithuania's Law on the Protection of Animals welfare within the country. The updated law outlines the rights and responsibilities of animal owners, establishing a clear framework for their care and well-being. It recognizes animals as sentient beings acknowledging their ability to feel and experience emotions, emphasizing the importance of their welfare. Moreover, the law explicitly prohibits causing animals unnecessary suffering or harm, underlining the commitment to ensuring humane treatment.

It sets guidelines for the sale, breeding, and transportation of animals, promoting responsible practices and reducing the potential for exploitation and it establishes responsibilities for animal shelters and rescue organizations, which contributes to the overall well-being of animals in need. Regarding abandonment and abuse, while precise numbers are difficult to provide, reports from animal welfare organizations suggest a significant number of cases

involving abandoned and abused animals. This highlights the need for continued efforts to address these issues. On the other hand, there are positive trends with an increasing number of adoptions. Greater awareness of animal welfare and the benefits of adopting from shelters are contributing to this positive change.

## 2. Local animal welfare organizations/shelters

### 2.1. Katino Svajone



Katino Svajone shelter makes sure that unaccompanied kittens find a warm home with warm people where they will feel safe and loved.

Thus, it takes in kittens that are most often unwanted, provides them with veterinary assistance where needed, but also the necessary sterilization. When it comes to finding an owner, the kittens are photographed and published on the internet.

In addition, some educational activities are carried out to mobilise people's responsibility in the correct behaviour and treatment of animals.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: 15 Partizanų g. 15, Kaunas

Phone number: +370 655 15024

E-mail: [info@katinosvajone.lt](mailto:info@katinosvajone.lt)



## 2.2. [Kaunas Gyvūnu Gerovės namai](#)



Kaunas Gyvūnu Gerovės namai located in Garliava provides shelter and veterinary assistance to pets left without care and finds new owners for them. Its mission is to take care of homeless animals, providing them with the necessary veterinary care, finding responsible and loving owners and, if necessary, fostering the animal for as long as needed. There are three large dog walking areas. Although the animals have excellent living conditions and are cared for by a professional team, it still doesn't compare to living in the home of a real owner.

### **Contact details:**

Address: Vytis Kruzius st. 173, Jonučiai, Kaunas

Phone number: +370 687 508 85

E-mail: [uzzakymai@kggn.lt](mailto:uzzakymai@kggn.lt)

## 2.3. **Lese**

The animal care organization "Lesė" was founded in 2007, today there are two branches in Vilnius and Kaunas and its goal is to continue to actively improve the situation of homeless animals in Lithuania, to defend and fight for animal rights, developing a responsible attitude of society towards animals.

Contact details:

Address: Klinikau st.1, Buivydiskės 14010

Phone number: +370 67878207

E-mail: [info@lese.lt](mailto:info@lese.lt) Linksmosios Pedutes

## 2.4. **Linksmosios Pedutes**

VšĮ "Linksmosios pedutės" is a voluntary animal shelter that focuses on quality animal care. Its goal is to provide animals with an environment where they can develop both physically through motor activities (walking, training, etc.) and mentally (communication with people, play). A very important activity carried out by Linksmosios pedutės is the involvement in canine therapy (communication with a dog). Several specially selected and tested dogs go every Saturday to the Viliaus Gaigalaitis care home and brighten up the daily life of the elderly people living there. In addition, tested therapy dogs - work all week at the Pedagogical Psychological Service of Klaipėda and provide their therapeutic services to children with disabilities.

### **Contact details:**

Address: Minijas and Jūrininkų, Jūrininkų pr. 38, Klaipėda LT-95255



Phone number: +370 640 73 030

E-mail: [info@linksmosiospedutes.lt](mailto:info@linksmosiospedutes.lt)

## 2.5. **Naminukas**



"Naminukas" is a dog hotel just outside Vilnius. The knowledge and experience of the hotel staff makes your dog's stay at the hostel ideal. They are kept in separate, spacious cages with indoor and outdoor areas. In addition, the spacious fenced area of the guesthouse is suitable for active games and running. At Naminukas, the guest friends feel almost as safe as they do in their environment, they receive a lot of care and love, as all their necessary physiological and emotional needs are met by the staff.

### **Contact details:**

Address: Beržės st. 48, Rimučiai village, Širvinto, LT19130

Phone number: +37068724083

E-mail: [rutanaminukas@gmail.com](mailto:rutanaminukas@gmail.com)

## 2.6. **.Nuaras**



"Nuaras" provides the best possible conditions for every animal that is homeless, injured or lost, until they can find a new loving home or return to their old one. At "Nuaras" mainly dogs and cats are cared for, all of which are vaccinated and the majority are neutered, and in addition, care or veterinary treatment is provided to wild animals and birds in cooperation with the Animal Welfare Association. The organisation has made a remarkable contribution to reducing the number of stray pets throughout Lithuania. "Nuaras" has shelters in three Lithuanian cities; Kaunas, Klaipėda and Alytus.

Visitors are always welcome to volunteer or spend time with the pets.

### **Contact details:**

Address: 92282 Kalnunevai

Phone number: +370 (8-46) 314-040

E-mail: [klaipekda@nuaras.lt](mailto:klaipekda@nuaras.lt)

## 2.7. **Penkta Koja**





Penkta Kojas provides temporary care for stray animals until new owners are found. It wishes to contribute to reducing the number of stray animals through sterilization, to help in any way to reduce cases of animal abuse, to responsibly choose pets, to breed and care for them. In addition, it shall provide for their necessary vaccination, as well as their education through active activities with the public, both through responding to requests for assistance and through public education activities.

**Contact details:**

Address: 2 Liepų st., Linksmakalnis, Kaunas region.

Phone number: +370 685 20133

E-mail: [info@penktakojas.lt](mailto:info@penktakojas.lt)

**2.8. Tautmiles Globa**



The shelter was established in a small garage in the micro-region of Buivydiškiu. In the winter of 2015, after gathering the support of donors, the shelter was able to buy a plot of land near Medininkai and thus there was the possibility to care not only for cats and dogs, but also for other animals in need of help. The shelter provides rescue and care for homeless animals until a home is found. In addition, it takes care of spaying or neutering them, in order to reduce the number of homeless animals. Other basic tasks done at the shelter include combing, training, cleaning cages, washing and filling food containers, photographing animals, creating descriptions for advertisements, communicating with shelter visitors, people passing by to walk their dogs, disseminating information, transporting animals to veterinary clinics, participating in events, and seeking support.

**Contact details:**

Address: 39 Rasėu. 39, LT-11351 Vilnius

Phone number: +370 650 71786

E-mail: [tautmiles.prieglaudele@gmail.com](mailto:tautmiles.prieglaudele@gmail.com)

**2.9. VsJ Vysniu waras**



Vysniu sodas

VsJ "Vysniu sodas" is an organization that provides both physical and psychological care to injured animals, through necessary veterinary

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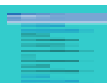
assistance and finding them new homes. In cooperation with municipalities and city representatives it helps to solve problems such as breeding of stray animals and provides support both humanitarian and technological support for the implementation of welfare programmes. Always keeping in mind the protection and rights of animals, our code of conduct is constantly changing as necessary, either adding or correcting certain points.

**Contact details:**

Address: Korespondencijai Žemynos g. 37-45, Vilnius

Phone number: +37060085514 or +37067557544

Email: info@vysniusodas.lt



## GREECE

### 1. Legal framework concerning animals

Greece has been taking significant steps to improve animal protection and welfare through recent laws and initiatives. Below some key aspects of these efforts are being presented:

1. **Law No 4039/2012 (Pet Ownership in Apartment Buildings):** This law outlines conditions under which tenants in buildings with two or more flats can keep pets. The conditions include having pets live in the same apartment with their owners, not keeping them permanently on balconies or open spaces, ensuring their welfare, health, and respecting quiet hours, and maintaining proper documentation such as microchipping, registration, and veterinary records.
2. **National Register of Companion Animals:** This initiative establishes a centralized platform where domesticated and stray animals, animals for adoption, animal





welfare associations, veterinarians, breeders, shelters, and the Public Administration can collaborate and coordinate efforts related to animal welfare.

3. **Incentives for Pet Owners:** Pet owners are provided with incentives, such as potential council tax reductions of up to 10% for responsible care of their pets.
4. **Law 4830/2021 (Project Argos):** This law introduces stricter measures against animal abuse, making it a felony with potential prison sentences of up to ten years. The public can also report cases of animal abuse electronically. This law aims to provide greater protection for companion animals and is a significant step forward.
5. **Supervision Framework:** The Supervision Framework involves representatives from various organizations, including KEDE, the Citizen's Ombudsman, and Animal Welfare Organizations, to ensure effective oversight and enforcement of animal protection laws.
6. **Education and Information Programs:** Efforts are being made to improve education and awareness about companion animal protection through educational programs and information campaigns in local communities and educational settings.
7. **National Complaint Line and Digital Application:** A National Complaint Line and a digital application with a 5-digit complaint number (10410) have been established to allow people to report incidents of animal abuse and violations of animal protection laws.

These measures collectively reflect Greece's commitment to enhancing animal welfare, preventing abuse, and promoting responsible pet ownership. The combination of legal reforms, incentives, education, and reporting mechanisms demonstrates a comprehensive approach to addressing the welfare of companion animals in the country.

## 2. Local animal welfare organizations/shelters

### 2.1. [ALKYONI](#)



Alkyoni was founded in 1995 with central facilities in Paros and collaborators all over Greece with the aim of treating and reintegrating all Wild Animals, which arrive injured, weakened or sick at its hospital.

The energy autonomous facilities of ALKYONI include medical clinics, an environmental education room, volunteer accommodation and outdoor animal shelters, in an area of 12.60 acres.



From the beginning, the operation of ALKYONI has been linked to environmental education, either through visits of schools to the facilities, or through visits of ALKYONI associates to schools, often with parallel bird releases.

**Contact details:**

Address: Paros

Phone number: +30 22840 22931

E-mail: [alkioniparos@yahoo.gr](mailto:alkioniparos@yahoo.gr)

2.2. [Anadrassi-Animal Therapy](#)

A unique place where you can combine therapy and learning. They offer group and individual psychotherapy for children, adolescents and adults, speech therapy, occupational therapy, special education and school classes for elementary and high school students. They also take children with pervasive developmental disorder (autism) for a full rehabilitation program.

Having received a special qualification in dog therapy, they offer you this unique and wonderful experience of therapy with the help of a dog therapist.

**Contact details:**

Address: Ave. Gr. 382 Lambrakis & Galileo 2, Keratsini

Phone number: +30 210 400 59 69

E-mail: [keratsini@anadrassi.gr](mailto:keratsini@anadrassi.gr)

2.3. [ANIMAL ACTION HELLAS](#)



Animal Action was founded in 1959 and since then has been providing help to stray animals, working animals, companion animals and any animal in need. It believes in finding sustainable solutions to animal welfare problems in Greece and develops actions to this end.

**Contact details:**

Address: 43 Dim. Falireos 43, Piraeus-Attica

Phone number: 210 3840010

2.4. [Animal Earth PHILOSOPHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB OF ERETRIA EVBONIA](#)



The Animal Earth-Animal and Environmental Association of Eretria Evia was founded in August 2022, to cover, in a

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very large municipality, the gap that exists in the protection of the environment and care of stray animals. It is a non-profit association, non-profit, non-profit, not subsidized by the Greek state or the EU and relies solely on the contributions of its members, donations, sponsorships and events to achieve its objectives.

- The protection of the fauna and flora of Eretria and Evia in general
- The protection of stray and captive animals, productive as well as wild animals.
- The protection of marine life and the protection of the natural environment of Eretria and Evia in general.
- The preservation of the local fauna and flora and the natural heritage of the region of Eretria and Evia in general.
- The clearing of forests from uncontrolled rubbish dumps.
- The organization of all kinds of voluntary action for the protection, life, health and welfare of animals and plants in general.
- The development of a spirit of solidarity, friendship and fraternity among all members.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Ai Giannakis

Phone number: 6983688251

E-mail: [animalearth.eretria@gmail.com](mailto:animalearth.eretria@gmail.com)

#### **2.5. ARCTUROS**



Arcturus is a civil, non-governmental and non-profit, environmental organization founded in 1992 and aims to protect wildlife and the natural environment in Greece and abroad.

The reason for its establishment was the need to find an immediate solution to the then ever-increasing problem of bear and wolf captivity. A reason that led to a comprehensive framework of actions and activities. Its activities also include the preparation of scientific studies, the provision of environmental education and public awareness of biodiversity and sustainability issues, while it tries to exert political pressure based on integrated programmes and solutions.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Aetos, Florina, 53075

Phone number: +30 23860 41500

E-mail: [arcturos@arcturos.gr](mailto:arcturos@arcturos.gr)



## 2.6. [Dog's voice](#)



Dogs' Voice is a non-profit organization that supports the work of 132 animal welfare organizations throughout Greece, has the largest network for promoting stray dogs in responsible adoptions, specializes in crisis management, implements an integrated urban wildlife protection program at the local government level and provides legal support to animal cruelty complaints.

The mission of Dogs' Voice is a Greece without strays, with citizens who respect animals and their rights.

### **Contact details:**

Address Klathmonos Square, Athens 105 62

E-mail: [info@dogsvoice.gr](mailto:info@dogsvoice.gr)

## 2.7. [Hellenic Society for the Protection of Animals](#)



The Hellenic Animal Welfare Society was founded in 1975 with the aim of protecting mainly stray animals in emergency situations. It is a non-profit, non-profit association, not subsidized by the Greek state or the EU and relies on the contributions of its members, donations, sponsorships and events for the success of its objectives.

It provides veterinary services for stray and ex-stray animals, helps to suppress health problems and prevent abuse. It has an excellent infrastructure, complete shelter facilities and employs permanent staff.

### **Contact details:**

Address: 34 Ag. Anargyron 34, Nea Chalkidona 143 43

Phone number: 210 2531977 or 210 2581391

E-mail: [info@filozoiki.gr](mailto:info@filozoiki.gr)

## 2.8. [Noiazomai Animal Rescue](#)



The Non-Governmental Organization "Noiazomai" started its operation in Thessaloniki in August 2011, with a pro-animal and environmental purpose. Its aim is to ensure that no sick animal is left helpless, but also to raise awareness, improve legislation, legal advice in cases of abuse and abandonment. It works with the city's top veterinarians to offer the best

to animals in need.

The animals are being temporarily housed, as required by law, in a space granted for temporary use by the Greek State and all restoration and maintenance work was funded by the volunteers themselves.

It is not subsidised by any public or private body, company, organisation etc. it has no membership fees and the volunteers all work for free. To do this they need your help.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Transport of animals to the collaborating veterinarians
- Dog-cat hospitality
- Informing citizens-students.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Thessaloniki City Centre-Thessaloniki

Phone: 6994952384

E-mail: [strayanimalssalonica@gmail.com](mailto:strayanimalssalonica@gmail.com)

#### **2.9. Panhellenic Animal and Environmental Federation**



The Panhellenic Animal and Environmental Federation was founded in 2010. It is the largest animal welfare organization in Greece and its ranks include 66 Associations.

Their mission is to protect animals and promote animal welfare and rights through political lobbying, legal action, science-based positions and campaigns. The Federation teaches various educational programs to elementary and high school students throughout the Territory. The programs are approved by the Ministry of Education and taught by accredited representatives of the federation.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: 7 Lyktou, Heraklion, Crete,

E-mail: [info@pfpo.gr](mailto:info@pfpo.gr)

#### **2.10. PANHELLENIC ANIMAL WELFARE FEDERATION**



The Panhellenic Federation for the Protection of Animals (PFO) is a secondary animal welfare organisation. It was established in 2007 to unite Greek animal welfare organisations into a single body capable of delivering tangible results on all animal protection and rights issues. It is made up of animal welfare organisations that are active in animal rescue, share the same values and purpose, and follow a common strategy. It is supported by animal loving citizens who share its vision and donate their time and expertise to animal advocacy.



**Contact details:**

Address: 9 Herodou Attikoou Street, Athens - Kolonaki, 10674, Attica

E-mail: info@hellenicanimalwelfare.org

**2.11. [Shelter for Stray Animals of the Municipality of Athens - The Shelter of "Socrates"](#)**

A hospitable shelter and a true "family" that takes care of the stray animals of Athens with all its love, has been created by the Municipality of Athens at the beginning of 2021 in Votanicos.

It was not named after the famous ancient philosopher, but after the most famous stray dog in Athens.

The temporary shelter for stray animals of the Municipality of Athens is the most modern, functional and warm. It has a comfortable space for the stray animals and is fully equipped for the stray animals to be safe and live in decent conditions. It is guarded 24 hours a day, while five people are employed every day both for cleaning and for the socialization of the dogs, an effort made in cooperation with volunteer trainers and ordinary citizens who love animals. A swimming pool has been installed just for the dogs, where they swim, play and cool off during the summer months.

**Contact details:**

Address: 80 Agios Polykarpou, 118 55, Athens, Greece

Phone number: 2103239201-2

E-mail: t.astikis.panidas@athens.gr

**2.12. [Urban Fauna Service Municipality of Athens](#)**

The Department of Urban Fauna is responsible for the care of animals in the Municipality of Attica. More specifically, it takes care of the collection of stray pets. The dogs are initially taken to the Intermunicipal Center for the Care of Stray Animals (DIKEPAZ) where they undergo a veterinary examination, are sterilized, electronically marked as strays and registered in the online database. They are then housed in the temporary shelter maintained by the Municipality in Votanikos or in the homes of volunteers. It also promotes stray pets for adoption in accordance with the procedure provided by law.

**Contact details:**

Address: 47 Aeolou Street, Athens

Phone number: 2103239201-2 and public line 1595

E-mail: t.astikis.panidas@athens.gr

**2.13. [ZO.E.S.](#)**



ZO.E.S. was founded in 2015, after 17 years of struggle in and out of schools for the defense of animal rights and environmental protection through the development of experiential animal welfare, environmental seminars and educational programs of therapeutic contact with specially trained dogs. ZO.E.S., which has more than 20 groups nationwide and 100 volunteers, develops interactive and multi-thematic educational programs all approved by the Ministry of Education and Culture, as well as the specially trained dogs that participate in them, all of them formerly abused strays. They have been awarded four times in volunteer awards, and have so far, voluntarily, visited more than 650 schools throughout Greece and have educated more than 450,000 students, aiming for a more humane tomorrow for all, two-legged and four-legged, and a world of equality and justice. Where animal rights will no longer be something to be taken for granted and not something to be fought for.

**Contact details:**

Phone: +30 6973339533

E-mail: info@zwes.gr



## SPAIN

### 1. Legal framework concerning animals

2020 was the year that Spain made a positive development towards the rights and the treatment of animals. The LOMLOE Law (Organic Law for the Modification of the Organic Law on Education) enacted in 2020, includes a special mention of 'empathy towards animals,' indicating a significant step forward in acknowledging the importance of treating animals with care and respect. But despite the new law, some organizations, such as the APDDA, have reported that certain schools are not fully adhering to the dictates of the law. This underscores the need for ongoing efforts to ensure proper implementation and enforcement of animal welfare education.

Another positive step made by the Spanish government is that it passed a new 'law for animal protection' which redefines the legal status of pets. Previously considered as "things" or goods, pets are now recognized as sentient beings under the law. This change reflects a more humane perspective on the treatment of pets. Even more, according to the new law it is compulsory for individuals to complete a training course before adopting or buying a pet. This requirement aims to educate prospective pet



owners about responsible pet care, welfare, and their legal obligations. The legal changes are accompanied by a reform of the Penal Code to impose stricter penalties for animal abuse. Prison sentences ranging from 18 to 24 months are established in cases of animal death due to abuse. For cases involving multiple aggravating circumstances, the sentence can be extended to up to 36 months. Additionally, individuals convicted of animal abuse may face disqualification from living or working with animals for a period of five to ten years.

## 2. Local animal welfare organizations/shelters

### 2.1. [ADANA](#)



**adana**

ADANA (Association for the Rights of Abandoned Animals) is a charity on the Costa del Sol run by volunteers. Its aims are to promote love and affection for dogs, to provide facilities for housing and caring for abandoned, sick and injured dogs, while seeking new homes for them and to help local authorities with such animals.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: C/Pandora, N°1, 1°G, CP 29692 Sabinillas - Manilva, Málaga

Phone number: +34 952 80 80 17

E-mail: [abogadolawyer@legal-service.es](mailto:abogadolawyer@legal-service.es)

### 2.2. [Adoption Dog From Spain](#)

Adoption Dog From Spain aims to rescue animals and give them a temporary home until they find new families. Each year many animals in the area are rescued and the goal is to provide a quick adoption process. Adoption Dog From Spain advocates that no companion animal should be treated cruelly and no companion animal should be euthanized for lack of a home.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Guillem de Castro

Email: [a pea46180@gmail.com](mailto:a pea46180@gmail.com)

### 2.3. [Aprop-Pego.Org \(Pego, ALICANTE\)](#)

APROP's mission is to rehabilitate and return home as many abandoned, sick, hungry or abused cats and dogs in the area as it can.





All animals are treated with respect and compassion and, if necessary, will be supported and cared for to the full extent of their natural lives.

Aprop-Pego's facilities can accommodate 30-40 cats and dogs. Some people act as volunteers and offer short and long-term fostering for some cats and dogs, kittens and puppies. Aprop's support is also to dogs and cats in need of conception and offers them shelter at Protectora for evaluation and, hopefully, eventual rehoming.

All animals entering Protectora are checked by a vet and treated where necessary. All dogs and cats are dewormed, blood tested, vaccinated and neutered (except for kittens and puppies who are too young for this treatment).

Education is important to us and we also work with local schools to teach the next generation about respect and care for animals.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: Aprop Protectora de Animales Pego Partida Burjo 303780, Pego (Alicante), Spain

Email: [apropego@gmail.com](mailto:apropego@gmail.com)

#### **2.4. [Axarquia Animal Rescue \(MÁLAGA\)](#)**



Axarquia Animal Rescue is a shelter set up and fully supported by unpaid volunteers. Because of this, it is a shelter that really needs help from other volunteers who can fund and help run the many daily activities.

#### **Contact details:**

Address: 147 Avda De Andalucía, 29740, Torre Del Mar, Malaga

Email: [info@axarquianimalrescue.com](mailto:info@axarquianimalrescue.com)

#### **2.5. [Finca La Castellana \(San Miguel de salinas, ALICANTE\)](#)**



In 2009 Finca La Castellana became a registered non-profit charity. With the help of volunteers, the daily care of the animals is carried out, which has to do with feeding and other veterinary needs. During this time over 3000 animals have been housed at the Finca and most have found a new home. Some of these animals that were rescued due to poor health

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have been given the opportunity to live their lives at the finca as members of the family. The charity works closely with local police and has an ongoing project, The Green Mile; helping to release dogs from municipal euthanasia stations around the country.

**Contact details:**

Address: San Miguel de Salinas

Phone number: +34610451133

**2.6. KAAN**

KAAN Association is formed by a multidisciplinary team of experts and technicians in "Animal Assisted Interventions" (AAI), which seeks to demonstrate the benefits that animals bring to our society on a physical, cognitive, emotional, social and environmental level. The team is made up of professionals from the fields of health, education, social work and the animal world".

Human projects

Animal-assisted therapeutic interventions: activities that are carried out individually or in groups by professionals who are experts in animal-assisted therapy and have university training in the social field.

Animal Project

They collaborate with animal shelters: They carry out specific programmes with animal shelters in the Community of Madrid, helping in the collection of donations, carrying out specific campaigns to promote the adoption of animals.

**Contact details:**

Email: [proyectos@asociacionkaan.org](mailto:proyectos@asociacionkaan.org)

Phone number: +34 656 25 36 23

**2.7. [Paws-Patas.Org](http://Paws-Patas.Org) (Los Gallardos, ALMERÍA)**



The shelter is located between Los Gallardos and Turre. The shelter's activities were started by volunteers who really loved pets and the shelter was registered as a charity in Spain in 1996. It operates



exclusively in the Levante Comarca area (Vera, Antas, Bedar, Lubrin, Sorbas, Los Gallardos, Turre and Garrucha ).

**Contact details:**

Address: Partido del Marguizo s/n, Rambla de los Hornicos, A-370, 04280 Los Gallardos, Almería

Email: [dogs@paws-patas.org](mailto:dogs@paws-patas.org), [cats@paws-patas.org](mailto:cats@paws-patas.org)

## **2.8. Podenco Rescue Centre (ALBACETE)**



The Podenco Rescue Center based in Albacete, Spain is an organization whose mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and re-home dogs of all types. From tiny puppies to old, injured and sick puppies, all are treated with the same love and care.

Our dogs have been adopted in Spain and throughout Europe, including the UK, France, Germany, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, the USA, Canada and Australia.

**Contact details:**

Telephone: + 34 634 06 55 40/07840 299175

Email: [hopeforpodencos@gmail.com](mailto:hopeforpodencos@gmail.com)

## **2.9. Puppy Rescue in Spain (Albox, ALMERIA)**

Puppy Rescue in Spain is currently only working in Spain. It is in operation, but at the moment there are only 2 foster homes in Spain. Due to this reduction in foster homes, we have had to significantly reduce our stray animal sheltering. Its aim is to provide a safe and effective means of caring for and resettling abandoned, abused and/or neglected puppies. Most puppies come from the Spanish region and we personally transport adopted puppies to ensure their safety and the shortest possible transport experience.

**Contact details:**

Address: Lepanto, 26, 04800 Albox, Almería, Spain

Telephone: +34 690 14 31 40

Email: [info@puppyrescueinspain.org](mailto:info@puppyrescueinspain.org)



## 2.10. [SOS Animal \(Calvia, MALLORCA\)](#)



SOS Animal is a non-profit association founded in 1995 to help animals in need in Mallorca.

In 2004, the association, together with a sponsor, created the SOS Animal Foundation, which signed an agreement with the Calvià Town Hall in 2008, resulting in the latter granting the adjacent land to the municipal kennel. In the same year, the SOS Animal de Andraitx group was created. In recent years, around 700 cats are sterilized every year due to the great financial efforts and dedication of our volunteers. The results are obvious: fewer cats on the streets, less cat litter and healthier animals. Since 2008, all animals at our center have been neutered or given a neutering voucher to prevent breeding.

### **Contact details:**

Address: Camí de Sa Canera, 11A 07181 Calvià, Mallorca

Phone number: +3471606467

Email: [info@sos-animal-mallorca.org](mailto:info@sos-animal-mallorca.org)

## 2.11. [Sociedad Protectora de Animales \(GRANADA\)](#)



The aim of the Society for the Protection of Animals and Plants of Granada is for the welfare of the animals and the environment of the region and their protection. It is everyone's choice to have or not to have a pet but this decision should be a responsible and careful one.

Other objectives are to prevent and prosecute abuse, to promote the protection of animals, to combat abandonment and promote adoption, to carry out campaigns for microchip implantation, sterilisation, etc. Adoptions locally and nationally and abroad, where many of the animals that no one cares about here find a home.

### **Contact details:**

Address: Carretera de las Islas s/n, Fuente Vaqueros 18340, Granada

Phone number: 605 26 78 37

## 2.12. [SVPAP \(Valencia\)](#)

They are a non-profit organisation founded in the 70s. The association is governed by statutes and is managed by a Board of Directors which performs its functions on a



voluntary basis and without any type of financial remuneration, without forgetting the great team of volunteers who, together with the members and staff, ensure that the work of the shelter can continue.

In addition, SVPAP has qualified staff who are responsible for cleaning the animal areas, with a veterinary team that is responsible for medication, cures and taking appointments with hospitals, if required by the animal. The animals are never alone. And that is special. 24 hours a day, the dogs and cats are accompanied by our animal welfare staff.

SVPAP Valencia has a multitude of options for those who want to collaborate with the cause; from volunteers who can transport the animals for veterinary visits, through volunteers for events at fairs and flea markets where money is raised for the association, maintenance and cleaning of the areas where the animals live, volunteers to go to schools to instill values of animal respect among students, walkers and people who accompany and give affection to the animals. You can find out more here: <https://svpap.org/s27-que-pueden-hacer-los-voluntarios>

**Contact details:**

Address: Pista de, P.º de Valencia, km 13, 5, 46184 San Antonio de Benagéber, Valencia, Spain  
Phone number: 963 84 41 82

**2.13. WWF Spain**

In WWF Spain you can collaborate as a short-term volunteer in tasks of observation, care and conservation of fauna and flora, some of the activities can be done with the family. Another alternative for children to learn more about animals and the natural world are summer camps.

Contact details:

Address: Gran Vía de San Francisco, 8-D. (28005 Madrid)

Phone number: (+34) 91 354 0578

E-mail: [info@wwf.es](mailto:info@wwf.es)





## NORTH MACEDONIA

### 1. Legal framework concerning animals

The Law for Protection and Welfare of Animals in the Republic of North Macedonia was enacted on September 6, 2007, by the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia. This law establishes the minimum requirements for the protection and welfare of animals across various aspects such as breeding, keeping, care, accommodation, farm posture, transportation, slaughter, killing, pets, homeless animals, animals in zoological gardens, and those used for experimental or educational purposes. The law's main goals are to ensure that animals are treated in ways that meet their needs and are consistent with the provisions of the law and related regulations, to provide responsibility for the protection and welfare of animals preventing hunger, thirst, discomfort, and exposure to pain, injury, or disease, to create an environment suitable for the species, enabling normal behavior and preventing fear and anxiety and to promote the replacement and reduction of animal use in procedures, improve conditions for their accommodation, care, and use, and encourage effective cooperation among stakeholders involved in animal protection and welfare.

The law has been amended over the years to further enhance the protection and welfare of animals. Amendments were made in subsequent sessions of the Assembly on September 28, 2011; October 9, 2014; August 26, 2015; and March 15, 2016. Additionally, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management has issued several regulations to supplement the law and provide specific guidelines for various aspects of animal protection and welfare.



These regulations include provisions for the protection and welfare of experimental animals, technical conditions for shelters, conditions for keeping animals in shelters, procedures for euthanasia, record-keeping methods, supervision, and handling of animals during killing. Furthermore, the ministry has issued regulations specific to animals kept for farming purposes and regulations for the protection and welfare of animals during transport.

## 2. Local animal welfare organizations/shelters

### 2.1. [AMOS](#)



Amos is a registered animal rescue organisation based in the UK and North Macedonia, dedicated to rescuing homeless animals and finding them loving, permanent homes.

Amos prevents and relieves suffering animals in emergency situations by mobilizing the power of volunteers and donors. Amos fights every minute of every day to save as many animals as possible and achieve its mission of making the lives of homeless animals better through public awareness.

There are extensive opportunities for those looking for volunteer work to help homeless and suffering animals in North Macedonia. Amos' success is a result of the strong network Amos has built up over the years of volunteers, fosters and adopters.

#### **Contact details:**

E-mail: [amospetuk@gmail.com](mailto:amospetuk@gmail.com)

### 2.2. [ARC Animalis - Looking for their forever homes](#)

As a non-profit organization, ARC is a small group of volunteers who help stray and homeless pets from the streets of North Macedonia. They rescue to give strays a second chance at life and create happiness for both the animals and the adopters. While they wait for their forever homes, the rescued animals live safely in kennel-free shelters or in foster homes. They also help and care for animals who are still homeless, providing them with food, medical care and spay/neuter.

They rely solely on donations and receive no support or assistance from any government or local authority. They promote the adoption of animals and provide detailed guidelines towards this end. Visitors are always welcome!

#### **Contact details:**



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1043940716369987>

### 2.3. Happy Shelter

Happy Shelter is a non-profit dog rescue organization based in Skopje, North Macedonia. In Macedonia, neither the state nor the population wants to help abandoned dogs. Many animals are left to die outside, there is no care for them.

This shelter cares for many stray dogs by providing food, taking care of their vaccinations, their medical needs and promoting responsible adoption.

#### Contact details:

Address: Bulevar Slovenija 3, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, 1000

E-mail: [happyshelterskopje@gmail.com](mailto:happyshelterskopje@gmail.com)

### 2.4. [MEOW PAWS NORTH MACEDONIA](#)



Meow Paws started 11 years ago with two people, Iva and Misko, in North Macedonia. They are now a registered Scottish charity that helps raise money to support their work.

Cat Shelter - MEOW PAWS provides feral and stray cats and dogs with the care they need & the love they deserve. Over the past 11 years, they have rescued many stray cats and dogs, given them lots of love and care at the shelter, and found them forever homes all over the world. Meow Paws is run by just two staff members, Mishko Stojnic and Iva Stojanovic. Their vision is to help as much as possible and here's what they do for them: rescue, heal any open wounds, vaccinate, spay and neuter, help animals get adopted and advocate for injured and abused cats and dogs.

They are always looking for volunteers with fresh ideas and new ways to help their cause. Even if someone is not able to adopt or foster an animal, they can still help.

#### Contact details:

E-mail: [meowpawsmk@gmail.com](mailto:meowpawsmk@gmail.com)

### 2.5. [PAWPERS IN THE RUFF](#)



Pawpers in the Ruff helps abandoned and abused dogs in North Macedonia. Many of the dogs they care for have only known life on the city streets or in a dump. This organization helps to show them a happy and loving life, with the help of the public. She started





working in the Balkans three years ago. Since then, it has rescued over 1000 dogs and has spayed and neutered and released hundreds more.

You can contribute by donating, but you can also adopt one of the hundreds of stray dogs that have been rescued.

**Contact details:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pawpersintheruff/>

## INSTRUCTIONS ON ANIMAL ADOPTION

### 2. Is your family ready for adoption?



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Adopting a pet is a significant decision that requires careful consideration and preparation. Just like with adopting a child, ensuring that your family is ready for animal adoption involves several important factors:

- **Financial Considerations:** Pets come with costs such as food, veterinary care, grooming, supplies, and potential emergency expenses. Ensure that your family budget can accommodate these costs.

- **Type of Pet:** Research and select a type of pet that suits your family's preferences, living situation, and capabilities. Dogs, cats, small mammals, birds, reptiles, and fish all have distinct requirements.

- **Allergies and Health Concerns:** Be aware of any allergies or health conditions within the family that might affect your choice of pet.

Some family members might be allergic to certain animals.

- **Living Arrangements:** If you're renting, check with your landlord or housing regulations to confirm that pets are allowed. Also, consider the space available in your home and whether it's suitable for the pet you're considering. Take into account that a pet can damage furniture or various surfaces in the flat/house.
- **Lifestyle:** Consider your family's lifestyle and daily routines. Different pets have different needs and activity levels. Choose a pet that matches your family's lifestyle and the amount of time you can dedicate to care and companionship. Consider what you are going to do with your pet when you are in holidays.
- **Training and Socialization:** Understand that pets, especially puppies and kittens, require training and socialization. Be prepared to invest time and effort into teaching them manners and helping them adapt to their new environment. If your pet is a dog, consider going to dog obedience classes (group or one-to-one training).

Remember that adopting a pet is a joyful experience, but it comes with responsibilities. By thoroughly considering these factors and preparing your family for the adoption, you'll be better equipped to provide a loving and supportive home for your new furry or feathered family member.

### 3. What kind of animal suits my family the best?

Choosing an animal that suits your family involves considering factors such as your family members' lifestyles, personalities, living situation, and preferences. Each animal has its own unique characteristics and care requirements. Here are a few animals that can be adopted, so you get to know their characteristics and needs in case you adopt one.

- **Dog:** Dogs are known for their loyalty and companionship. They come in various sizes and temperaments, so you can choose one that matches your family's energy level. Dogs require regular exercise, training, and social interaction. They are great for active families who enjoy outdoor activities and can provide the time and attention that a dog needs.
- **Cat:** Cats are independent animals that can be well-suited for families with busy schedules. They are generally lower-maintenance than dogs and are well-suited for indoor living. Cats provide companionship and can be playful or more reserved, depending on the individual cat's personality.
- **Rabbit:** Rabbits can make wonderful pets for families who are willing to put in the effort to provide proper care and socialization. They can be litter-trained and enjoy being handled gently. Rabbits are great for families with indoor living spaces and can be a good choice for children who are mature enough to handle them responsibly.
- **Fish:** Fish can be a great option for families with limited space or allergies. They come in a wide variety of species, each with its own care requirements. Aquariums can be both visually appealing and educational for children.
- **Birds:** Birds like budgies, cockatiels, or parrots can be suitable for families with the time and commitment to provide social interaction and mental stimulation. Birds are known for their intelligence and ability to mimic sounds.
- **Hamster or Gerbil:** These small rodents are relatively low-maintenance and can be suitable for families with limited space. They can be fascinating to watch and interact with, but they do require proper handling and care.



- **Reptiles or Amphibians:** Animals like turtles, geckos, or frogs can be a good choice for families with an interest in herpetology. However, they have specialized care requirements, so extensive research is needed before bringing them into your home.
- **Small Farm Animals:** If you have a larger outdoor space and are interested in more unique pets, animals like chickens or ducks could be considered. They can provide eggs and a hands-on learning experience for children.

Ultimately, the right choice depends on your family's preferences, lifestyle, and the amount of time and effort you're willing to dedicate to caring for the animal. It's crucial to thoroughly research the specific needs and characteristics of any animal you're considering and to be prepared for the long-term commitment involved in pet ownership.

#### 4. Educating children about adoption

The process of adopting an animal is an important and sensitive decision that can involve many issues. Below there are some ways parents can talk to their children about the process of adopting an animal.

- Firstly, you need to explain to your children the importance of adopting a pet. Explain to them that adoption means providing a home and a second chance of leaving to an animal that is in need. Talk to your kids about the responsibility that comes with adopting an animal.
- Explain how caring for an animal takes time, attention, and love. Numerate the different needs that each animal has and that these needs have to be covered by your family.
- Encourage them to participate in the adoption procedure, like choosing the pet or to assist with the house preparation before its arrival.
- Talk to your children about the changes that will occur in the daily schedule with the arrival of a new animal. Explain how they will need to adapt and work together to care for the animal successfully.



- Talk openly with your children about the cost and time involved in caring for an animal. Explain the financial needs and the time they will need to invest.

## 5. Adopting a pet with behavior issues

Pet behavior issues can be frustrating, but they aren't uncommon. We reached out some organizations and trainers to get answers to top questions about pet adoption problems related to behavior.

### What are some common pet behavioral issues?

Common adopted dog behavior issues include:

- Vocalizing, such as barking, howling, or whining
- Destructive chewing
- Mouthing/nipping
- Aggression
- Inappropriate urination or marking
- Noise phobias
- Separation anxiety

Some typical rescue cat behavior issues are going outside of the litter box, urine marking, destructive scratching, nocturnal activity, fear of unfamiliar people, and excessive vocalizing, such as meowing or yowling.

Behavioral issues in adopted pets can arise at any time. They may come up right after your pet's "gotcha" date as they adjust to their new home. Or they may occur later in response to changes in their health or environment.

### What causes behavioral issues?

If your pet has a behavioral issue, the first step you should take is to visit your veterinarian to rule out any underlying medical conditions. For instance, a normally house-trained pet who starts having accidents could have an infection or kidney disease. A typically quiet pet who suddenly becomes very vocal could be trying to tell you that they're in pain.



If a medical condition is not causing the issue, it could be due to fear, anxiety, or stress. One example of this is separation anxiety where a pet is afraid to be left alone or away from their primary person. Other common reasons include boredom, excess energy, or frustration. Pets

who don't get enough physical or mental stimulation may feel "cooped up" and engage in unwanted behaviors.

To understand the cause of a behavioral issue, consider your pet's age and individual needs. If you have a puppy, you can expect them to chew on everything in sight. It's their way of exploring the world and soothing sore gums as their adult teeth come in. Luckily, they'll grow out of this phase. In the meantime, you should put valued objects out of mouth's reach.

Destructive chewing in adult dogs can be caused by a change in routine. Maybe your work schedule has shifted, and your dog is alone for longer periods of time. Or it could be that your dog isn't getting enough exercise to burn off excess energy.

Keep in mind that some seemingly problematic behaviors are quite natural. Cats scratch to mark their scent, stretch their muscles, and keep their nails healthy. If they don't have appropriate outlets for this behavior, they may start scratching at the furniture. By providing your cat with various scratching posts, you can help avoid the cost and aggravation of a ruined couch.

### **Are behavioral issues more common in rescue pets?**

There's little evidence to support the common misperception that rescue pets are more likely to have behavioral issues than pets who are bred on purpose. It's true that some animals are relinquished to shelters because of unwanted behaviors. However, these cases are often the result of a mismatch between the pet and the adopting family's lifestyle or expectations.

You also can't assume that all rescue pets have experienced the kind of trauma that can lead to behavioral issues while purpose-bred pets have not. In fact, studies show that dogs from puppy mills can have life-long behavioral effects from an inadequate early environment.

There are many factors that contribute to a pet's behavior that may be more important than whether or not they are a rescue animal. For instance, early experiences, training, socialization, nutrition, exercise, and living environment all play a role in how a pet behaves.

### **Are certain breeds more likely to have behavioral issues than others?**

Breeds were developed for a wide range of jobs, including protecting property, retrieving game during a hunt, helping with livestock, or simply sitting on people's laps. Sometimes the behavioral traits that were useful for those jobs are less desirable in a companion pet.

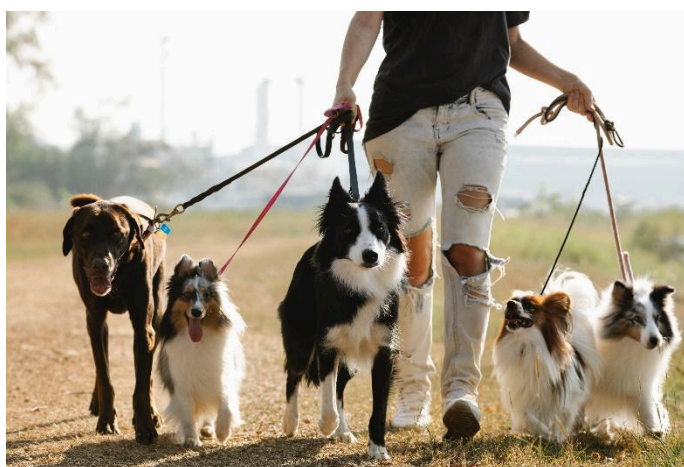


For example, Shetland Sheepdogs were bred to help keep birds and sheep out of gardens, so they tend to bark a lot. If you live in a small apartment, you and your neighbors may find their constant yapping problematic. Similarly, Border Collies were developed to herd sheep. Families with young children may not enjoy it when their Collie circles around and herds up the kids.

There are also some behavioral issues that are more common in certain breeds. One example is canine compulsive disorder. Border Collies are prone to fixating on shadows, and German Shepherds are famous for chasing their tails.

### **Should you consider breed when adopting a pet?**

It's helpful to understand the general characteristics of a breed before you adopt a pet. For instance, working breeds tend to be high energy and mentally busy. They'll likely flourish in a home with avid runners, but they may go stir crazy with a family who can only take them out for a couple of short walks a day.



Think realistically about how much time and energy you'll be able to devote to a pet. This can help avoid disappointment and frustration later on. Also, keep in mind that breed is only one factor that can impact a pet's behavior and personality.

### **Is there any way to know if a pet has a behavioral issue before adoption?**

You can get plenty of information about a pet by talking with the staff at the shelter. Ask questions about how the pet has behaved since they arrived. Do they seem to bond well with people? Are they friendly with other pets? Do they enjoy being touched? Are they playful? Are they afraid when handled by medical staff?

If the pet was relinquished to the shelter by another family, find out why. Perhaps the previous pet parents weren't able to spend enough time with the pet. Or maybe they had other animals in the home that weren't happy with the new addition. The shelter should have a report about the pet's behavior, which can tell you a lot about them.



And, of course, spend some time with your prospective adoptee before taking them home. Hang out with them at the shelter. Bring along a tasty treat or fun toy. Take them for a walk. See how you connect. That's the best way to get to know a pet.

### **What are possible treatments for behavioral issues?**

After you rule out an underlying health condition, you'll want to figure out what's at the root of the problem. Is your pet getting enough exercise for their age and size? Has something changed in your household, like a visiting family member or a shift in schedule? If you identify the reason, you may be able to address the behavioral issue with some simple adjustments.

For instance, if your pet has a new routine, you may need to give them time to get used to it. If your dog likes to bark by the window, you can close the blinds so they can't see the squirrels scampering around. If your cat is going outside the litter box, you should make sure it's clean and in a semi-private location they can access easily. Enriching your cat or dog's environment with music, toys, and games can also be helpful.

If the behavior issue is more severe, you should ask your veterinarian for a recommendation. They may refer you to a trained professional, such as a Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist (CAAB or ACAAB), a Veterinary Behaviorist (ACVB), or a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT) who can design an effective behavior modification plan. Typically, treatment plans consist of a combination of environmental management, reward-based training, systematic desensitization, and counterconditioning.

## **6. Steps in Adopting**



**STEP 1 - Before the adoption** (any adoption, wherever it comes from)





Adoption means the addition of a lovely new member to your family and life.

It is a big responsibility and all members of the household need to agree with the decision and understand the commitment of time, money and care that comes with owning a pet.

If not, there is a risk that a pet may have to be returned to the shelter from which you adopted it, which is a difficult decision and affects the emotional state of the animal.

If you are not sure or ready, take time to reconsider or consider fostering instead of adoption.

## **STEP 2 - Find your match & submit an application**

Look for animal welfare organisations and shelters in your country/region that promote responsible animal adoption. Visit these shelters to meet those looking for their forever family and learn about the shelter's adoption process. Visit social media for more information about animal rescues and their stories.

## **STEP 3- Interview & screening**

The adoption coordinators will discuss with you the motivation behind your adoption of a stray animal to ensure that the animal is safe, cared for and carefree!

Some organisations/shelters carry out checks on the premises to ensure that the animal's living conditions are suitable.

## **STEP 4 - Everything is ready...**

In general, adoptions of stray animals are not approved on the spot. It takes time for the people in charge to talk to each other and make sure that the people interested in adopting and the stray animal they choose are a good match.

Once the adoption is approved, you will sign the adoption agreement and be notified of the day the pet will travel to your home (until then you will receive regular updates).

The pet will undergo the necessary medical examinations and you will receive it vaccinated, dewormed and chipped, with the necessary medical and travel documents. Depending on the organisation and the country, you may have to pay a fee for these costs.

## **STEP 5- The arrival of the pet**

Upon arrival, your pet may be in a state of stress, loss and confusion after their long journey enclosed in a cage.



They don't know that they have been adopted. From their perspective, the pets have been taken from the place they knew to a place they know nothing about, surrounded by people they don't recognize and without any of the familiar faces and smells they knew at the shelter or in foster care.

Unlike us, cats and dogs see the world around them through their nose and sense of smell.

When meeting your pet for the first time, let them smell your hands/clothes and take in your scent first, before engaging in direct eye contact or talking.

Every pet is different and will react differently. Some may like to be touched, kissed or groomed immediately upon arrival, while others may be frightened. You'll have a lifetime of hugs and kisses, so if you see that the animal you're adopting seems uncomfortable, give them space during those first moments together.

Let them come to you first instead of you going to them (which will happen sooner than expected if they are given the space they need first).

What to expect in the early days:

3 DAYS for the pet to decompress

3 WEEKS to adjust and start acclimatising

3 MONTHS for them to fully bond with you/family and feel comfortable in their home.

Just like people, every pet is different and has its own character. His/her nature and abilities to cope with what life has thrown at him/her and experiences such as trauma and abandonment can have an impact, and while some will adjust to their new life quickly, others may take time.



## 7. Educating children about training and care of a pet



Educating children about pets is an important process that can teach children responsibility, love for animals and respect for other beings. Here are some ways parents can educate their children about pets:

- Let the children participate in the care of the pets. Invite them to feed, help clean and care for the animals. This will help them understand the animals' needs and the time and attention they require.
- Teach children to respect pets as independent beings with their own needs and feelings. Explain to them that animals are not toys and should be treated with love and care.
- Read books, watch movies or search for information with your children about the nature and needs of pets. This will enhance their education and

help them understand the importance of animal care.

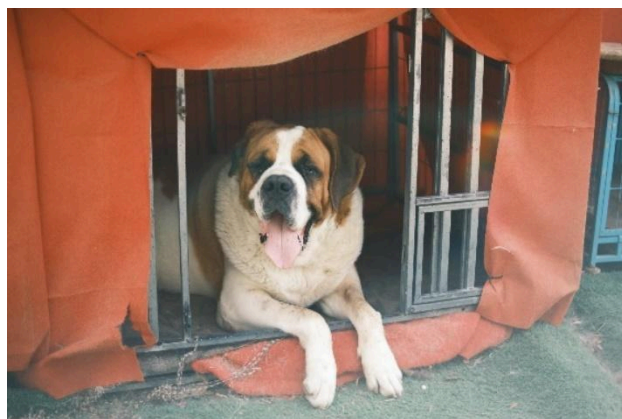
- Teach them to take responsibility for tasks related to pets, such as feeding, grooming, cleaning, and walks. This will help them develop responsibility and organization.
- Encouraging them to show their love and care to the pet, including hugs, toys and caresses.
- Educate children to respect the natural behaviors of animals. Explain to them the concepts of normal animal behavior, such as cats' tail slapping or dogs' need to smell.

The education of children about pets is a long-term and ongoing process. With the support, guidance and love of parents, children can learn to treat animals with respect and love and that includes all kind of animals and not just pets. **PAW educational material** is going to be very helpful for parents towards that direction. The simple and child-friendly learning activities can be used by parents in order to get their children acquainted with different kind of animals, their characteristics and how they should behave to them.



## 8. In case you cannot adopt an animal

There are several reasons why someone might not be able to adopt a pet, even if they or their children want it too much. Firstly, adopting a pet comes with various expenses, while adoption fees can vary widely depending on the type of animal, the shelter or rescue organization, and the country/region you're in. Other reasons may have to do with living situations, such as not a spacy house or due to rental agreement. There may be allergies, time management issues, family commitments, existing pets.



Still, there are several ways you can save a life of an animal, have a positive impact on it and raise awareness in our children.

- Firstly, you may provide a foster care. Many animal shelters and rescue organizations rely on foster caregivers to provide temporary homes for animals in need. Fostering helps animals get out of shelters and into more comfortable environments while they wait for their forever homes. You may check with the local shelters mentioned above or rescue groups to see if they need foster homes. Not all information about the shelters is available online in their websites.
- You may offer a volunteer work at animal shelters or rescue organizations. You can assist with cleaning, feeding, socializing animals, and helping with events or adoption days. A lot of the above-mentioned shelters need volunteer help and have a lot of needs. Visiting these shelters with your children and be informed about their needs can be really insightful.
- Another way of helping is by offering financial support to animal shelters and rescue groups in order to cover veterinary bills, food and other expenses, or you may supply them with pet food, bedding, toys, and other supplies to shelters and rescues.
- Organizing financial support activities for animal shelters can also be helpful. For example, raising money at the school level of your children and donating them to a shelter.
- Transport: Some animals may need to be transported to shelters or foster homes. If you have a vehicle, you could help with this aspect. Moreover, you may work with local schools, community centers, or organizations to provide educational programs about animal welfare, responsible pet ownership, and the importance of spaying/neutering.





We just need to keep in mind that every small effort can add up to make a significant impact on the lives of abandoned animals, while at the same time educate our children about animal welfare and

protection.



## Authors

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