



Introduction from the Founder

The saying "Change Starts with One" holds a special meaning for me, as it all began with one dog: Printz.

He was my first rescue, a beautiful German shepherd who I found abandoned and badly injured in a local park. Printz had been in a dog fight and desperately needed help. I carried him back to my parents' apartment, where, with love and care, he made a full recovery and became my loyal companion.

This experience opened my eyes to the harsh realities faced by countless animals in Romania. Despite only speaking Romanian and having no experience with computers, I felt compelled to do more, leading to the creation of ROLDA.

From the very beginning, I realized how crucial international support would be, and with time, ROLDA has grown. Today, we are registered in the US, Australia, the UK, and several European countries, including Romania. The support we've received has been truly inspiring people have donated, left legacies, volunteered, fostered, and adopted, enabling us to extend our help not just to dogs, but to cats and other animals as well, giving these innocent creatures a voice that resonates worldwide.

When we heard the devastating news that war had broken out just across the border in Ukraine, we knew many animals would suffer as a result. Leveraging our location and expertise, and with the invaluable support of our community, we have worked tirelessly to alleviate suffering in these challenging times.





History of ROLDA



1999

In 1999, Dana established ROLDA in Galati, a city with approximately 30,000 stray dogs freely roaming the streets and lacking any sterilization initiatives.

2003

In the year 2003, ROLDA acquired a plot of land in the neighbouring village of Smardan for the purpose of constructing a shelter to house rescued dogs. In addition, they have established a formal agreement with a local veterinarian to organize and implement sterilization campaigns.

2005

In the year 2005, Dana participated in a shelter management course at Dog's Trust in London. At this point, ROLDA had already established its initial kennels, taking cues from the UK model. These kennels were designed to provide insulated spaces, shielding the dogs from the severe Romanian winters.

2006

The ROLDA Foundation obtained official NGO registration in Romania in 2006 and established itself as an incorporated charity in the United States, operating as the Romanian League in Defense of Animals, Inc. In that very year, Dana introduced a dog named Bela to the United States, thus becoming the first ROLDA dog to be internationally adopted and initiating our global adoption endeavors.

2007

In the year 2007, we established a significant shelter with the aim of rescuing a portion of the 10,000 stray dogs inhabiting a vast steel plant, which was under the ownership of Lakshmi Mittal at that time. Prior to ROLDA's intervention, a considerable number of these dogs were subjected to poisoning.

2010

As of 2010, a total of four additional paddocks were constructed at the expansive sanctuary. This led to a total of 12 paddocks, resulting in 120 kennels. The facility has expanded its capacity to accommodate a maximum of 700 dogs.

2012

In the year 2012, our company embarked on an international expansion by establishing a new branch in Norway, which operates under the name ROLDA - Gatehunder fra Romania.

2014

Subsequently, branches were established in Switzerland (Association ROLDA Suisse), Sweden (Association ROLDA Sverige), and Australia (ROLDA Inc) in 2014.

2015

In 2015, our UK branch, ROLDA UK, was established, and in 2016, we commemorated the 10th anniversary of ROLDA.

2020

The year 2020 marked a significant achievement for ROLDA, as they saved a total of 20,000 animals.

2022

Following the onset of the war in Ukraine in 2022, ROLDA swiftly coordinated its response to aid animals adversely affected by the conflict. In that very year, we successfully finished the construction of our inaugural sanctuary, exclusively designed for senior and disabled felines.

2023

Our sanctuary for disabled and senior cats welcomed its first guests, offering them a safe and loving home. We transitioned small shelters to green energy by installing solar panels, which will help reduce electric bills for years to come. We enhanced our grounds by hiring a landscaping company to install a new lawn, eliminating dangerous foxtails. This new lawn includes an irrigation system and plants that help keep mosquitoes away from our dogs and cats. To improve the living conditions for our dogs, we installed new ventilation and heating systems in the small shelter. We purchased new land near the small shelter to minimise noise complaints from neighbours and to allow for future expansion. We continued providing emergency support for #UkraineAnimals.

The local administration delayed the PawzUp project because of plans to build a road where our shelter is located, which means we will have to relocate.

2024

We reached a heart-warming milestone: over 40,000 animals have been helped since ROLDA began.

We expanded our financial support to six small NGOs in Romania and over 40 rescuers in Ukraine. Thanks to a wonderfully generous gift left to us in a will by a supporter in Australia, ROLDA could purchase 8.9 hectares of land. We will construct nine buildings on the land within four phases to complete the PawzUp Center.



ROLDA's shelters have become an example to other Romanian animal rescue organisations and have attracted visitors from all around the world.

It started with Printz The rest, as they say, is history.

HOW WE WORK



- 🐾 ROLDA UK operates as a subsidiary of ROLDA, a non-profit organization committed to aiding mistreated and abandoned animals in Romania. The primary goals of our UK branch encompass the solicitation of donations, the raising of awareness regarding ROLDA's initiatives, and the management of international fostering and adoption efforts.
- 🐾 ROLDA provides care for hundreds of dogs and cats in Romania through three shelters located in the southeastern region of the country. Additionally, we provide aid to communities facing challenges in pet care, offer support to other rescues through provisions, medicines, and financial assistance, and conduct educational campaigns across Romania.
- 🐾 Given the proximity of our shelters to the Ukrainian border, we have leveraged our advantageous location and expertise to extend support to animals affected by the ongoing conflict. This support entails providing financial aid and distributing essential supplies to rescues across the war-torn country.



ACHIEVEMENTS

**The achievements of ROLDA fill us with great pride.
I am pleased to provide a brief overview of our successes.**

- 🐾 Our organization has constructed **three shelters for animals**, and we are proud to announce that our first shelter has been nominated for the prestigious 'Best Dog Shelter' award in Romania on three separate occasions.
- 🐾 We organize **educational initiatives** targeting individuals across various age groups.
- 🐾 Our organization offers complimentary **sterilization programs** aimed at assisting pets residing in underserved communities, particularly those in rural regions. These initiatives are conducted in collaboration with local veterinarians.
- 🐾 The #ForeverFriends Campaign was established to acknowledge the invaluable companionship that pets offer, particularly to the elderly. Its aim is to **assist seniors in caring for their beloved pets**.

- Our advocacy efforts focus on the **closure of public pounds in Romania** notorious for neglecting, mistreating, and euthanizing captured dogs, as well as taking proactive measures **against animal abuse** such as the practice of chaining dogs.
- Educational Tools: The **"Speak Toto's Language"** initiative has been established with the purpose of enabling children to interpret the body language of stray dogs and engage with them safely.
- Additionally, we distribute ROLDA **coloring books** to educate children on pet care, nurturing a future generation of animal advocates.



AGGRESSIVENESS

An aggressive dog stands firm with its head, tail, and hackles (the hair that runs along the spine, from head to tail) raised. Its eyes may be wide open, and its upper lip lifted to show its fangs.

AGITATION / PLAYFULNESS

A dog that wants to play will wag its tail in excitement, and may even move its whole behind while doing so. It will bark playfully to draw your attention and I may assume the "throw me a toy" position – with its front paws spread, head bowed, and backside raised, wagging its tail constantly.

CURIOSITY

A curious dog may appear restless. Its head constantly moving left to right, following the object of its interest. Also, curious dogs tend to excessively sniff a new item or even "try it out" by touching it with a paw.

FEAR

A scared dog will bow its head and a tuck its tail, its demeanor submissive. This is sometimes accompanied by intense shaking.

JOY

Happy dogs tend to be very "vocal" and expressive. They can bark loudly, hop, and take rapid breaths with open mouths. Dogs are easily excited and may do this if they receive treats or a new toy, if there is the possibility of taking a walk, or if their human returns home. Simply hearing their human's voice or catching their scent can make a dog euphoric.

DO YOU CARE ENOUGH

TO SPEAK TOTO'S LANGUAGE?

Stray dogs are more than just a subject debated by the press or politicians when unfortunate events occur.

This is why the people working day in and day out at the ROLDA Foundation have learned to understand our furry friends...

1 To read the signals dogs send us

2 To understand a dog's 'language'.

3 To prevent aggressive behavior and incidents.

RELAXATION

A relaxed dog will lay in a comfortable position: curled up, on its stomach, or on its back with its paws up. It may go into a deep sleep, snore loudly, or even move its paws while it dreams.

UNCERTAINTY/DISTRUST

You may notice distrustful behavior in animals recently rescued from the streets or after being removed from an unsuitable environment. These dogs may be happy to see you at first and may even accept some gestures of affection like a pat on the head or some treats, only to back away to a safe distance a few minutes later.

GUILT

When caught doing something they shouldn't a dog will often adopt a guilty expression: head bowed, giving the 'puppy dog' eyes, while wagging its tail timidly in an attempt to soften its human's heart.

SHYNESS

Shy dogs have a habit of keeping their heads lowered to avoid eye contact. In stressful situations they may hide, actively seek a place of comfort and they may even whine to express their unease. It would be best to approach such a dog slowly, using a soothing tone so as not to enhance their discomfort.

DEFENSIVE

The difference between this stance and the aggressive one is the lack of dominance as the tail is tucked – a clear sign of fear. In this situation, it is best to give the animal some space and the chance to escape the situation it perceives as threatening.



Helping #UkraineAnimals in the war:

- 🐾 As a result of the initiation of the war in Ukraine, our efforts have benefited approximately 25,000 animals;
- 🐾 We have issued small grants to a total of 40 rescuers;
- 🐾 Distributed over 60 tons of food and medicines nationwide;
- 🐾 Facilitated the reconstruction of five shelters that were damaged by bombings;
- 🐾 Sponsored six sterilization campaigns;
- 🐾 And financed the urgent relocation of animals from the flooded area in Kherson during the summer of 2023.



For updates please visit

[HTTPS://ROLA.ORG/BREAKING-NEWS-UKRAINE/](https://rola.org/breaking-news-ukraine/)





#60TONSOFFOOD



#REBUDSHELTERS

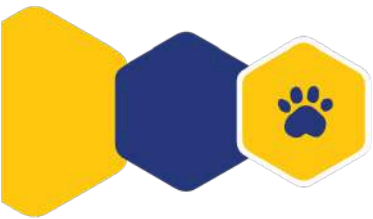


#STERILISATIONCAMPAIGNS



#EMERGENCY/EVACUATION





Shelters



ROLDA SMALL SHELTER FOR DOGS

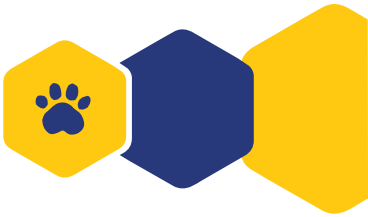
ROLDA Small Shelter for Dogs represents our inaugural shelter, where we have managed to rescue countless dogs who were abandoned, malnourished, exposed to harsh conditions, injured, and subjected to mistreatment.

The shelter has the capacity to house a maximum of 70 dogs and provides separate play areas, ICU recovery units, and a grooming area to ensure their well-being.

In the year 2023, the installation of solar panels transformed it into a Green Energy Shelter.



ROLDA LARGE SHELTER FOR DOGS



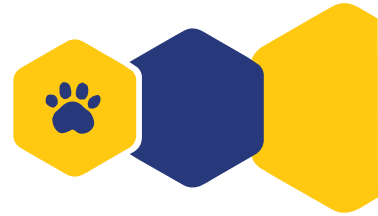
In response to the increasing demand, we have constructed the ROLDA Large Shelter, capable of accommodating up to 700 dogs.

Despite the hurdles, which encompassed a legal battle and technical complications, the shelter has served as a vital lifeline for a multitude of animals.

Our current situation necessitates immediate action as we are obligated to find new homes for a substantial number of dogs, owing to the construction of a new road.



ROLDA SANCTUARY FOR DISABLED OR SENIOR CATS



The ROLDA Sanctuary provides a safe haven for disabled or senior cats in Romania, where they frequently encounter challenging circumstances.

Our cattery places particular emphasis on providing care for senior and disabled felines, accommodating a maximum capacity of 40 cats.

The establishment consists of segregated spaces for isolation and socialization, alongside an outdoor area for the purpose of ventilation and physical exercise.



Campaigns

In Romania

#FRIENDS FOREVER

The elderly greatly rely on companionship for their well-being.

Numerous ROLDA dogs are placed in the care of elderly individuals, establishing a bond of solace and aid.

These dogs play a role in ensuring their owners remain physically active, socially connected, and mentally stimulated.



BREAKING THE CHAINS THAT RESTRICT THE DOGS

ROLDA is fully committed to eradicating the act of chaining dogs, a practice known to cause severe physical and psychological distress.

We have witnessed the immense amount of suffering it inflicts and are resolute in our commitment to bring about change. #UnChainDogs



FREE STERILISATIONS

The process of sterilization plays a vital role in managing the population of stray dogs and cats.

Our organization conducts complimentary sterilization campaigns in underprivileged communities and endeavors to raise awareness about the advantages of spaying and neutering.



EDUCATION COLOURING BOOKS

To ensure a brighter future for animals, we believe in teaching children how to care for them. Our coloring books educate kids on responsible pet ownership, laying the foundation for a more compassionate future.





In Ukraine

Supporting Ukraine's Animal Rescues

Our organization has been actively involved in supporting over 40 shelters in Ukraine since the commencement of the war, offering crucial aid and financial backing.

Furthermore, we have provided aid to shelters impacted by bombings, supporting their efforts to reconstruct and sustain their vital operations.





FOSTERING

Within the UK, we have multiple foster families available to offer a safe and nurturing environment to dogs from our shelters in Romania, ensuring their well-being until they are adopted into permanent homes.

[HTTPS://UK.ROLA.ORG/FOSTERING/](https://uk.rola.org.uk/fostering/)

ADOPTION

In Romania, we currently have numerous dogs available for adoption in the UK. We make sure every dog goes to a loving family that's just right for them.

[HTTPS://SPONSORADOG.ROLA.ORG/ADOPTED-DOGS/](https://sponsoradog.rola.org.uk/adopted-dogs/)

HELPING HOMELESS PEOPLE WITH THEIR PETS

We're expanding our work to help homeless people with pets in the UK.

We recognize the significance of pets as a valuable source of comfort and companionship, and our aim is to ensure their proper care.

Our campaign, titled "**Help a #Lifechanger**", aims to provide assistance and guidance to individuals who are homeless and own pets throughout the United Kingdom.



Happy Ending Tails

A significant number of ROLDA dogs have successfully found new and welcoming homes in the United Kingdom, allowing them to flourish.

Here are just a few of their heartwarming stories:

In light of the unsuccessful first adoption, Molly discovered a new family who rapidly embraced her as their adored companion, relishing in pleasant walks along the beach.

Here is what her new family have said:



... since we got her she has made amazing progress and has brought such joy into our lives. She makes me laugh everyday and is sooo loving. She has become best mates with tilly (her new sister) and they totally love each other.

They have totally different personalities but compliment each other.

We are soo lucky to have them both."



Kandia, now known as Mia, was adopted by Hannah and seamlessly integrated into her new household, quickly becoming a beloved addition to the family.

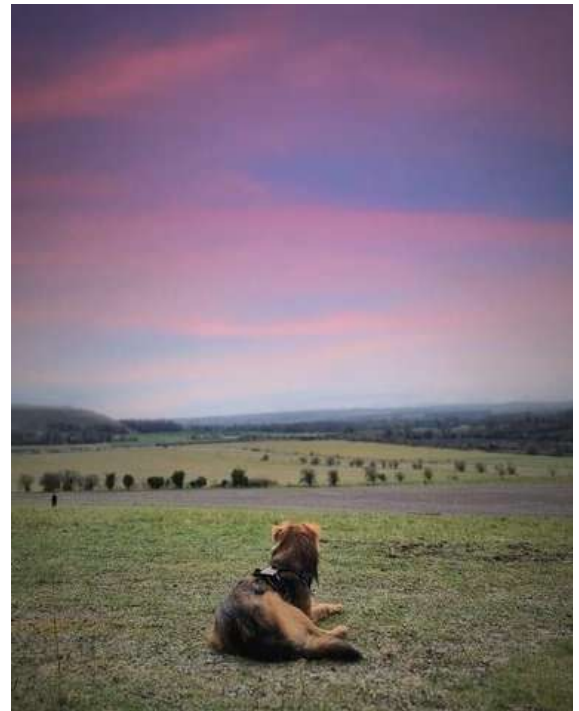
... I genuinely couldn't be happier, she is doing absolutely amazing! She is a dream, she is walking on lead without pulling, she's been off lead in the woods and always stays superclose, she loves her food, sleeps on our bed all night with us and is just so bloody incredible. I am so so happy and just obsessed with her, I couldn't have wished for more!

We have been so lucky, it's like she's been with us for years! I can't thank Rolda and especially you enough honestly!



At first she hated to be left alone and would howl a lot whenever her new family went out of the house, probably worried that she was going to be abandoned again, but now she feels safe and only howls when playing!

I am just so happy, she has made this house a home for sure! She uses to howl when we would leave the house but now she only does it when we do.



Hecktor has completely transformed in his new home, evolving into an incredibly sociable and trusting dog who eagerly embarks on lengthy strolls and eagerly befriends new companions.

Hecktor is doing so well! He is a completely different dog! He is so loving and trusting. He greets us every morning with such a happy tail wag and seems excited! We are so happy and glad we waited for him.

He seems to get on well with other dogs so we introduced him to a friend's lab and they play well together!

In our last pup-date his family told us how cuddly he is...

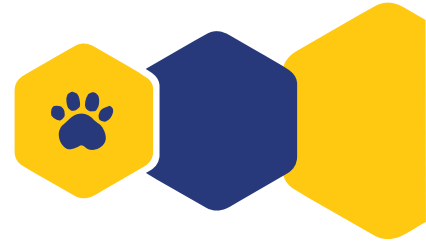
Hecktor is doing really well and loving long walks.

We have started recall training with him and he seems to be picking it up like a champ. We took him to his first national trust last weekend and he seemed to love it!

He now sleeps in bed with us and is a little cuddle monster!



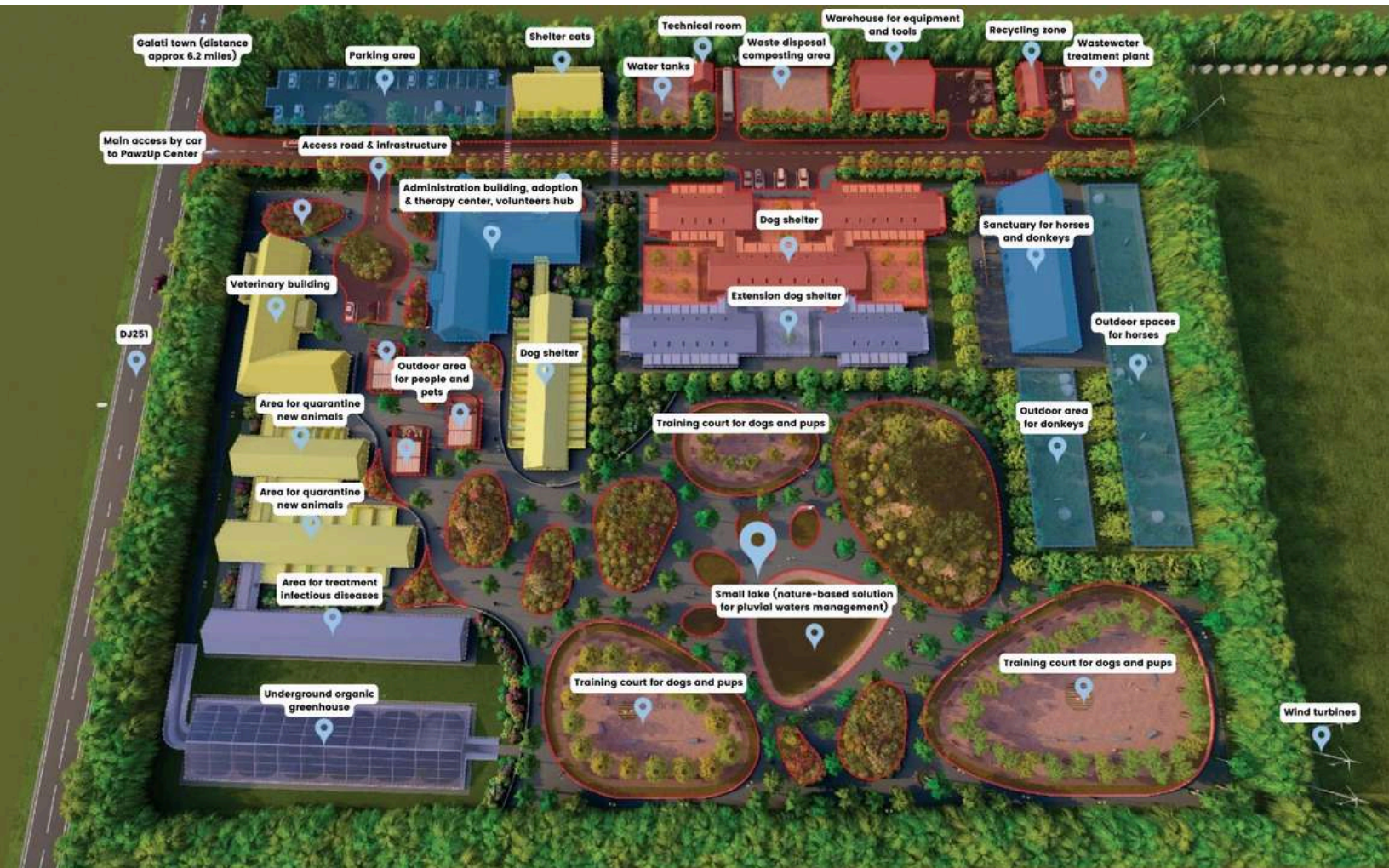
Future Goals



FINISH THE FIRST BUILDING OF PAWZUP:

We're thrilled to share that we will be extending our collaboration with the PawzUp project, an advanced shelter that prioritizes fostering meaningful interactions between humans and animals.

We are focused on completing the initial building, which will provide a home for shelter dogs, a technical room, an adoption center, a volunteer hub, and additional amenities.



[HTTPS://PAWZUP.ORG/](https://pawzup.org/)

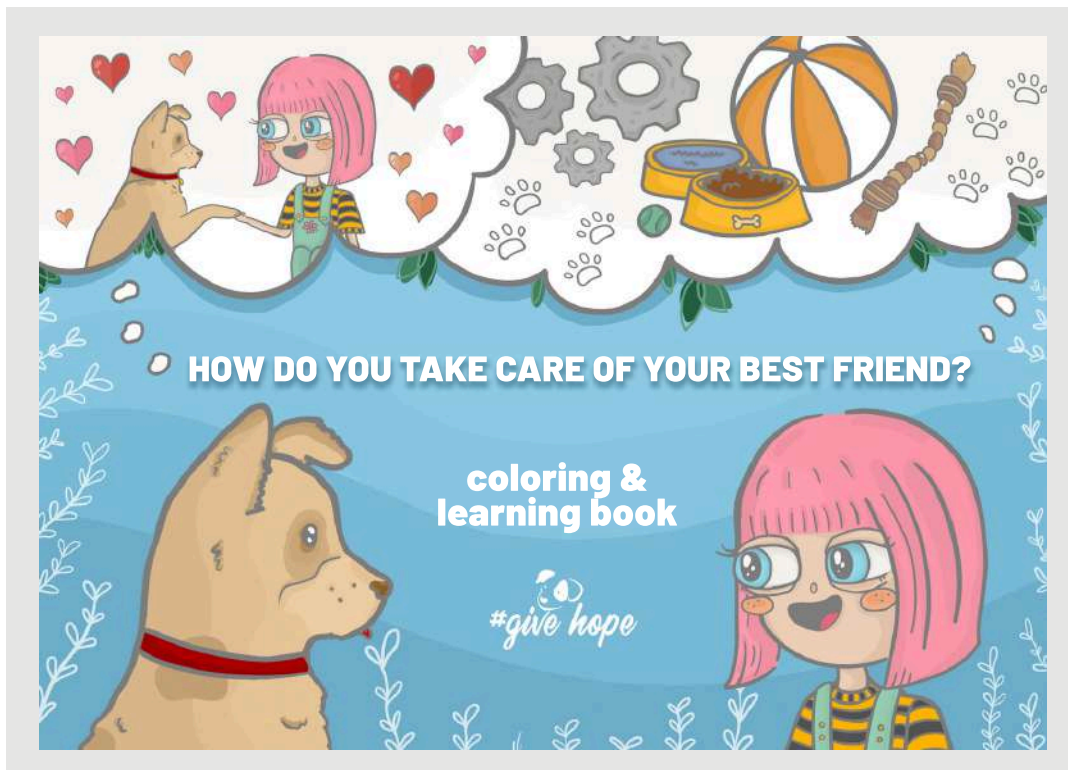
EXPAND OUR SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Our goal is to expand our social programs so that we can provide assistance to a greater number of seniors with pets who are struggling with the increasing cost of living.



EDUCATION INITIATIVES

In addition to expanding our children's coloring book project across borders, we're also considering the launch of an engaging educational comic book series.





Ways to help

DONATIONS:

Donations are gratefully accepted, tax-exempt and GiftAid can be claimed.

Every donation helps us to continue our work.

Please make a gift online using our website:

 [HTTPS://UK.ROLDA.ORG/DONATE/](https://uk.rolda.org/donate/) 

VOLUNTEER FOR ROLDA UK

No matter how much we describe the situation in Romania, words can never fully capture the reality. Coming to visit us is a rewarding experience, that will really allow you to see the work we do.

 [HTTPS://ROLDA.TEAM/](https://rolda.team/) 

 **PayPal**

 ROLDA@ROLDA.ORG.UK 

WRITE A CHEQUE

ROLDA UK, Suite 9273, PO Box 4336,
Manchester, M61 0BW

BANK TRANSFER

Name: **ROLDA UK**

Bank account: **23689565**

Sort code **20-09-72**

Bank name: **BARCLAYS BANK**

SPONSOR A DOG THAT ISN'T ADOPTABLE...

Sadly, after years on the streets or awful cases of abuse, some dogs are just not able to be adopted out safely. In these cases we give them a loving forever home with us, but we rely on donations to do this.

 [HTTPS://SPONSORADOG.ROLDA.ORG/ROLDA-GLOBAL-PARENTS/](https://sponsoradog.rolda.org/rolda-global-parents/) 

GIFT AID

Gift aiding your donation is simple, please complete and return our Gift Aid Declaration Form:

 [HTTPS://UK.ROLDA.ORG/GIFT-AID/](https://uk.rolda.org/gift-aid/) 

ADOPTION

Adopt a dog and gain a furry friend for life

 [HTTPS://UK.ROLDA.ORG/ADOPT-A-DOG/](https://uk.rolda.org/adopt-a-dog/) 

CONTACT DETAILS

WEB FORM - [HTTPS://UK.ROLDA.ORG/CONTACT/](https://uk.rolda.org/contact/)

PHONE - 01615317797

EMAIL - [SUPPORT@ROLDA.ORG.UK](mailto:support@rolda.org.uk)

WRITE TO US - SUITE 9273, PO BOX 4336, MANCHESTER, M61 0BW

