



## WELCOME

June has been an incredible month here at PPTF. We have been eagerly awaiting the outcome of our charity application; we are delighted to let you know our charity status was approved on 10th June. This will allow us to do even more than ever before. We're so grateful to all of our supporters and this opens the door to making your donations go even further using the Gift Aid scheme.



## NEWS

### First Trip back to Romania since lockdown!

It's been a long time since we were last able to conduct our regular visits to Romania. Our team set off in the early hours on Thursday 17th June to go and meet our fantastic rescuers, dogs and public shelter team. The trip proved to be an emotional roller coaster

As soon as we cleared the airport and collected our car, we made our way straight to the public shelter at Mihailesti. The manager there was very keen to meet with us to discuss how things could be improved. It was so heartbreaking to see all the dogs desperately in need of loving homes, some of whom had been there for years.

On the way back from the shelter, we spotted a tiny kitten wandering into a busy main road during rush hour. We stopped immediately and jumped out to save him from the car traffic. There was no mother or sibling in sight and at approximately 4 weeks old without food his chances of survival were slim. He is now safe at the vets and being well cared for.



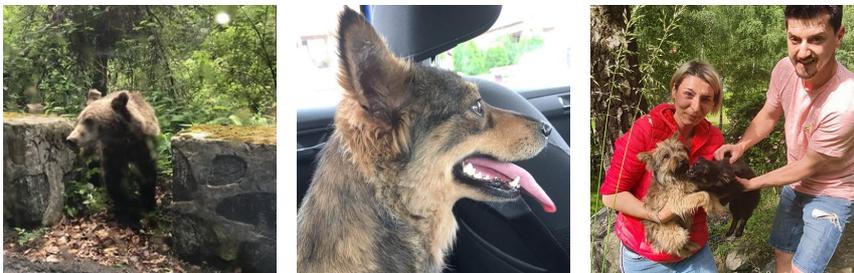
We met rescuer Georgiana Mihai and vet Ramona for a late dinner, still in shelter clothes before a very late check in to our hotel. We were very happy to hear our kitten was doing well! On Friday we visited Bragadiru public shelter. We were very pleased to see how living conditions have improved there - but again, so many scared dogs and some who were overjoyed to receive affection and be petted; all in need of love and stimulation, desperate for a home.

Later that night, we drove to Curtea de Arges, to be ready for the weekend activities. On Saturday, we were at the public shelter, which we have taken over and which we run like an adoption centre. We were immediately struck by the huge contrast to other public shelters we've visited in the past. The dogs are taken out of their pens throughout the day, exercised and get to play. Everything was spotless and there was a lovely atmosphere. Saturday was our Spay Day - locals had been invited to bring along their dogs and cats for free neutering. It was a great success, and those who couldn't be accommodated on Saturday, can bring their animals next time. With your generous support, we hope to repeat the spay day every 3 weeks or so. This will have a huge impact on the stray population of Curtea de Arges.



Just as the Spay Day ended, we received word about 2 puppies, trapped in the mountains just outside Curtea de Arges. They had been seen by a lovely lady, being chased by a bear. She had been trying to save them and asking for help for the

previous week, to no avail. Of course as soon as we heard, we were off up the mountain to see if we could help! Unfortunately we couldn't get to them that first day and eventually had to give up for the day. They must have been so scared and hungry. Their remains of their poor mum lay close by, having fallen victim to the bears. Plans were made to return the next day with a trap as we just couldn't leave those puppies to the same fate. Sunday brought the official launch of the public shelter, celebrated with an Open Day. We were honoured to meet the Mayor and blown away by the wonderful welcome we received from the local people. Local children sang and danced for us; we had arranged various fun activities for the children, and we were able to educate them on how to behave around dogs. The children painted a wonderful mural within the grounds. Meanwhile, Lynsey and Mihai returned to bear mountain with the trap - and by some miracle they were able to catch the puppies by hand. Seeing them brought into the shelter as the Open Day was in full swing, was truly an incredible moment, and one which won't be forgotten in a hurry!



After the weekend events our team travelled to Piatra Neamt public shelter. Piatra Neamt holds approximately 200 dogs. We did reserve quite a few adults including a shut down older dog that was taken into the public shelter by her owners as they went to collect a new puppy instead.



On the following Tuesday, our team visited the Barlad public shelter. What we saw was overwhelming: dogs with missing legs, missing eyes, wounds. Most of them extremely skinny, the only food they receive is what is raised by the volunteers. They currently get fed one bowl a day between 3 medium sized dogs. Our heartbroken team took as many as space and funds allowed and we are hoping to save many more with the help of our amazing supporters.



The trip ended as exciting as it started. On the way to the airport our team pulled into the petrol station. As they got out of the car, three dogs ran up to greet them, including a mama who clearly had puppies, but those were nowhere to be seen. All of them were very skinny but so friendly. As we were checking how they could all be lifted into the car, the concerned staff from the petrol station came over to ask what we were planning to do with these dogs. Huge smiles came over their faces when they realised we wanted to help "their" dogs. They told us the number had a litter of 4 very small puppies and took us straight to them.

They also told them mama had a much older puppy from a litter a year ago. Together we spent the next 40 mins trying to catch this older puppy but couldn't, so finally had to make the difficult decision to only take the mum and the 4 small pups, and get them safely to a clinic. The team were pushed for time due to their flight, but luckily one of our rescuers was spending a few additional days in Romania. She vowed to try her best to find the remainder of the dogs including the older pup.



It was good to be back in Romania, but the hardship is often overwhelming and we can only help as many as our funds and shelters allow. We know we keep asking, but please consider helping our many worthy causes. We are now a registered charity and hope this will make giving even easier.

As ever, we cannot thank our supporters enough, you make this rescue happen!  
Have a lovely summer, stay safe,

Pawprints to Freedom

To Donate



THANK YOU!

Thanks to your constant support we've been able to achieve so much and are truly grateful.

Without you all, we really couldn't keep going.

We want to make sure that everyone is staying safe mentally as well as physically. If you need someone to talk to please do reach out to us, we are here to support you and your dog.

Please do not struggle or suffer alone.

You can email us at [enquiries@pawprints2freedom.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@pawprints2freedom.co.uk).



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