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## **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

Animal Friends Foundation-Burgas was founded on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in the city of Burgas.

The Foundation acts in public benefit:

- Overall activity in animal welfare;
- Expanding public participation in solving environmental problems;
- Solving specific and priority problems related to animal preservation and protection and the resulting activity for environmental protection;
- Veterinary care for injured animals;
- Assisting and support to animal owners for providing the necessary living conditions and protecting them from the harmful effects on their health, including registration and prevention from abandonment;
- Organizing sterilization campaigns for domestic and homeless animals;
- Organizing educational and information campaigns.

The Foundation does its activity entirely voluntary. The participating volunteers are 11.

The incomes in the Foundation are entirely from donations, provided mostly by individuals.

The donations received are used/spent mainly in two directions:

- Veterinary services (deworming, defleaing, vaccination), treatment and sterilization for domestic and homeless animals;
- Animal food and medicines;
- Educational and information campaigns.

## **REPORT FOR THE FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITY DURING 2015**

In 2015 for 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Foundation performed **Sterilization campaign** in the territory of Burgas and the surrounding populated areas. The sterilizations were mainly directed to female homeless dogs, basing on the huge population of homeless animals. The project was carried as follows:

1. Planning a region inhabited by many dogs (a pack);
2. Contacting people living in or near the area for searching cooperation in catching the animals;
3. Building trust in the pack in order of easy catching (in the cases when nobody caring for the animals);



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4. Catching the dogs, placing them in transportation boxes, transporting them to the clinic the Foundation works with;
5. Detailed examination of the dogs: blood testing and tests for Dirofilariosis, Ehrlichiosis and other diseases depending on the blood testing results;
6. Sterilization of the dogs finishing with dissolvable stitches in order to avoid their repeated catching.
7. The sterilizations of some dogs had to be delayed due to their compromised health condition and impossibility of being anesthetized and/or operated. After successful treatment the dogs were sterilized;
8. Returning of the dogs back to their habitat;
9. Final control visit in the corresponding area after period of 2 months.

As in the previous year, amongst the 220 performed sterilizations there were a big number of dogs sick with **Dirofilarious, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis!**

Information about the disease Dirofilariosis:

Dirofilariosis (Heartworms) is a dangerous disease. The specificity here is that the transitional carrier or host is mosquitoes. When mosquitoes suck blood from an infected animal, they swallow microfilariae (young larva forms of the parasite). Then, sucking blood from a healthy animal, the mosquitoes flow in part of their stomach content and thus “inject” the larvae in it. The final host is the dog. After a long incubational period of about 6 months, adult parasites develop and they live in the lung arteries and in the heart. The worms are 17-27 cm long. The bigger the number of parasites is, the harder the disease goes. The disease develops slowly and treacherously; the clinical signs are losing weight, easy tiredness, asthma, cough, heart noise and others. Dirofilariosis treatment is difficult and expensive. Despite the treatment, the mortality of dogs in advanced phases of the disease is big.

Dirofilaria treatment is very expensive, but prevention is accessible and easy for everybody. Once again this year Animal Friends Foundation-Burgas informed the media about the problem with that insidious disease. A big part of local and foreign media paid attention to our warning about the danger of the so easy spreading of the disease. The city of Burgas is surrounded by many water tanks and this makes the situation even harder by the easy and rapid breeding of the mosquitoes!

The other two diseases are forms of diseases caused by the parasites ticks. Without treatment they also lead to fatal outcome for the animal. For those diseases the only prevention is treating the areas against parasites by the municipality departments.

**Since the beginning of spring until the end of autumn Animal Friends Foundation-Burgas made a series of ADOPTION campaigns under the moto “Home for me too”.**



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The campaigns were performed in “Primorski Park” (Sea Garden in Burgas) and they were highly visited and resulted in many adoptions.

**For the past year the Foundation treated and rehomed more than 200 dogs and cats, which it took out from the streets of the city and the surrounding areas!**

**Monthly, volunteers visited the Public shelter of Burgas**, spreading information for its location, popularizing the current animals there, feeding and walking the dogs. Each dog was presented by photo profile and suggested for adoption. A big part of them found families.

On the Foundation’s e-mails and telephones there came daily signals for injured, lost or needy animals. A big part of those stories had a happy ending.

**The Foundation performed a few educational and information campaigns in the city territory.** Also, with the cooperation of some schools, it popularized its activity and informed the young population about some main points:

- Sterilization as a long lasting method for decreasing the stray population;
- Responsible animal ownership – registration, microchipping, vaccination, cleaning after the pet;
- Dog fighting – beginning and consequences;
- Responsibility of having a pet due to the duration according to the species.

**The Foundation popularized the idea of adopting a dog from a shelter, instead of buying it from a pet store**, pointing particular benefits of adopting a breedless dog/cat.

With the help of individual sponsors, some **educational leaflets** were printed, containing the initial information for the specific matter. They were distributed in the territory of the city in the weekends by Foundation volunteers.

**During the whole year the volunteers of the Foundation visit certain city areas and feed, deworm, deflea and sterilize certain dogs.** For some of them, they get cooperation by the so-called “owners”, who live around the dogs’ habitations. A big part of the animals disappeared – shot by guns or poisoned!

**During the year a huge number of animals were healed, sterilized and rehomed.** Also, there were constant appeals in the Internet networks to the animal owners for seeking the help of the Foundation before abandoning their pet in order to prevent a big part of the cycle and find a suitable home for the certain animal, without it having to end in the street.

In the upcoming 2016, Animal Friends Foundation-Burgas hopes to manage helping more needy animals, sterilize bigger part of female dogs and cats and thus help decreasing the stray



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population in the territory of the country. **Our huge efforts are directed to our own Rescue and Sterilization Center** and mobile ambulatory.

Animal Friends Foundation-Burgas has no own actives to the date of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

**Burgas**  
**12/31/2015**

**President: M. Ivanova**