Creating an Urgently Needed Humane Animal Shelter in Moscow

The problem:

In Moscow, street dogs fend for themselves on streets that are bitterly cold for many months every year. Although the dogs can rely on scraps from several people in the neighbourhoods, they cannot rely on care for any injuries, spaying or neutering to prevent unwanted puppies, or regular vaccinations to prevent illness.

At one time, Moscow authorities periodically would enact massive street dog slaughters to control the dog population, but legislation has now been put in place to stop the cruel catch and kill policy. Unfortunately, the strays’ future is still bleak. The city has built a number of vast dog shelters, and is planning to round up stray dogs by the thousand, keeping them under lock and key for the rest of their lives. With no plans for rehoming or adoption, the strays are likely to live out the rest of their lives in facilities that are little more than a prison camp for dogs.

How you can help:

GET INVOLVED  Persuade everyone you know who has a pet to have it spayed or neutered.
Adopt an animal from a shelter rather than buying one from a pet shop or breeder.

DONATE  Your gift could help our mobile clinics carry on delivering vet care to dogs and cats who need it most. To donate go to www.ifaw.org/donate or call us on 1-800-932-4329

Our solution:

Since 2000 IFAW has been working with the Tess mobile veterinary clinic to provide surgery and medical help for thousands of animals in communities across Moscow. The mobile clinic has motivated city officials to support improved animal welfare.

To build on the mobile clinic’s success and reach even more animals in need, IFAW opened the Tess Animal Welfare Center in northern Moscow. The Center has taken on responsibility for a dog shelter on the same site, which is in a woeful state of repair and currently not up to the standard of care IFAW believes all dogs deserve. We are helping Tess to refurbish the shelter, putting in heating, sanitary facilities and exercising areas, as well as helping staff learn how to train stray dogs.

The new shelter won’t just help us reach out to many injured, sick and abused dogs that are currently living a life of misery on Moscow’s streets, it will also stand as an example of just what is possible when a shelter has the proper facilities. People across the city, including key decision makers, will be able to see what a difference they can make to needy and suffering animals in their community.

FAST FACTS

- There are currently around 30,000 homeless and abandoned dogs roaming the streets of Moscow.
- Until 2003, the Russian authorities dealt with the overwhelming numbers of strays by catching and killing them.
- IFAW’s spay and neuter program persuaded the government of Moscow to end its catch and kill policy, but their current policy still needs much work.
- IFAW founded the Tess Animal Welfare Center to model the practice of humane population control and care for homeless animals in Moscow.