



World Animal Day Grant 2020

Awarded to: Animed Arad's project
"Spay, spay, spay!"

SUMMARY:

The World Animal Day Grant was awarded to Animed Arad, with the goal of spaying 100 dogs and cats in Santana, Romania. Their mission is to work for a future in which there are no more unwanted dogs and cats that suffer on the streets. To achieve this, they spay homeless female dogs and cats; and when they can, work towards getting them adopted. They also spay companion animals with extremely poor owners who cannot afford to pay for the surgery.

By collaborating with the local Fire Department and City Hall in Santana, they were able to use one of the **fire engine's** spaces to park their specialist animal ambulance. The residents of Santana brought their beloved pets and strays here to be spayed, with Dr Claudiu Iosim (the founder of Animed) carrying out these life-changing surgeries.

Find out more about our two grant winners here:

[Winners of the World Animal Day Grant 2020 - Naturewatch Foundation](#)

Why the project was needed:

Every year in Romania, thousands of animals end up on the streets as a result of unwanted breeding. A big part of this problem is that many companion animals, although they have owners, are free to roam rather than staying inside the home or its grounds. They are loved by their owners, but some families only live on less than 100 euros a month, which means that they cannot possibly afford to have their beloved pets spayed.

These animals and their offspring go on to produce thousands more puppies and kittens every year, which nobody can afford to keep. As a result, these puppies and kittens are abandoned and added to the growing stray population.

Animals suffer immensely in the streets, struggling to survive on limited food, with very cold winters and untreated health conditions. Unspayed females can also often suffer with health problems such as uterine infections, sticker tumours, mammary tumours, and ovarian cysts.

To help combat the problem, Animed started its animal birth control programme in 2004 and remains the only group running a trap-neuter-return program for stray dogs and cats in Arad. The organisation is run with no paid staff, so 100% of donations go directly to animal birth control, medical care, food, fuel, phone bills, cleaning, promotional material for adoptions and spay/neuter programs. Their surgeries are carried out in a specialist animal ambulance, equipped with the best supplies on the market to ensure **the animals'** comfort and wellbeing during and after their surgery.

With the World Animal Day Grant, Animed Arad wanted to help low-income families to have their companion animals spayed, to prevent the ongoing cycle of births of unwanted puppies and kittens and their subsequent abandonment. When they can, although not running a shelter, they spay and adopt out strays to their own dream families.

Project Objectives:

1. To safely spay 100 dogs and cats in Santana, Romania.
2. To collaborate with the City Hall of Santana and the Fire Department to make a safe space for people to come and bring their pets to be spayed.
3. To help low-income families who could not afford to have their companion animals spayed.
4. To help stop the continued uncontrolled breeding and abandonment of thousands of pups and kittens that these dogs and cats would undoubtedly produce if left unsterilised.
5. To improve the general welfare of roaming companion animals and strays, especially females who might also face health problems.
6. To act as part of a long-term goal of creating **"a future in which there are no more unwanted dogs and cats that suffer on the streets"**.

Project Achievements:

With the help of the grant and support from the City Hall and Fire Department, the project reached its target, and 100 dogs and cats were spayed across four days in October 2020!

The long-term impact of the project is that now these 100 females have been spayed, their offspring (3–12 puppies or kittens, twice a year, and their offspring too!) will not be suffering on the streets as strays and adding to the overpopulation problem. Another positive impact is the health and longevity of those 100 females, who will not suffer from reproductive-related health problems. These females will now be able to live longer and happier lives.

Hopefully, projects like this which involve collaboration from multiple agencies will continue to inspire people to work together to help animals!

Questions for Dr Claudiu:

We asked the founder of Animed Arad, and World Animal Day Ambassador, Dr Claudiu Iosim to tell us more about the spaying project and the impact that it will have for the animals in Santana:

What was your favourite part of the spaying project you held in Santana?

"When I feel very tired after 100 surgeries but think of how many pups and kittens won't be abandoned from that point forward."

Do you feel the project was a success? If so, what do you think made it so successful?

"It was successful as we reached our 100 goal, and we had the support of the City Hall and Fire Department"

When you were speaking with members of the local community, what feedback did you receive?

"They were super happy they had the chance to spay their pets and rescued strays they offer for adoption."

What do you think is the best way to reach communities in order to inspire collaboration and positivity about your work (both among local residents, government, and other partners like the Santana Fire Department)?

"I believe talking directly to people has the biggest impact. Calling the officials and meeting them. The City Hall representative talked to the Fire Department. It was a surprise for me. It is nice to see people getting involved and finding solutions."

What do you hope the long-term impacts are of this project for both the animals and the community of Santana?

"I don't have to hope as I know what the impact is. On one hand we showed people what can be done, and on the other hand the operated dogs and cats will live longer and healthier lives and hundreds and hundreds of pups and kittens won't be born by mistake in Santana city."

What things do you wish people knew about the benefits of spaying projects?
"I want people to realise that spaying isn't only for birth control but to prevent cancers and infections as well. That pets will live 18 years instead of nine or 10 when they die of uterine infection or mammary tumors."

How did you feel when you completed your 100th spay?
"I felt relieved and happy I managed to do this project too."

Photo Gallery:



The Animed animal ambulance set up and ready to go at the Santana Fire Department, proudly equipped with a Romanian and World Animal Day flags.

Dr Claudiu Iosim showcasing **Animed Arad's partnership with World Animal Day**



The Animed Arad ambulance ready to start receiving patients!



No more kittens for this lucky cat!



A man poses with his beloved dog before she goes in for surgery.



More happy patients!



Ready to go home: A local gentleman poses with his cat after her surgery.



Barely visible! Dr Claudiu prides himself on his tiny incisions made during spaying.



Recuperating at home: **Some of Animed's patients** thriving after their surgeries!

A dog named Cali, the 100th spay!

Cali was found abandoned in a graveyard in Romania. She was immediately taken in by the ADVAAM charity in Galsa, that runs a private shelter for about 100-120 rescued strays.

ADVAAM brought her to Animed's animal ambulance to be spayed, vaccinated, have blood tests, deworming, flea and tick treatment, and a microchip.

Thankfully, she was found to be healthy, so she was then put up for adoption.



Cali posing for her adoption pictures

On December 8th, 2020 Cali went was adopted!

She now lives in a loving family of her own in the UK. Where she enjoys lots of cuddles with her new Mum and Dad.



Cali enjoying some family time

Thank you to Animed Arad for their amazing work improving the lives of animals!
Thanks to the donations and efforts of people across the globe to improve the lives of animals, we can help dogs like Cali.

Why not join us by making an event on October 4th 2021?

There are lots of events to choose from, simply go to the World Animal Day website for some ideas.

Visit us at: <https://worldanimalday.org.uk/events> and register your event now!