



SRCEZAŠAPU
THE LAND OF HAPPY DOGS



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

Key Information about the SRCEZAŠAPU

SRCEZAŠAPU is an association founded in 2015, as a spontaneous response to extreme violation of the Animal Welfare Law and critical condition of abandoned dogs in Sanski Most (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Our mission is to relieve homeless dogs from suffering and pain and to enable them a safe, healthy and happy life.

In order to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome abandoned dogs, we defined five objectives:

1. To remove the dogs from the temporary dog shelter based on the garbage dump to the “Land of Happy Dogs” – the unique dog shelter built and managed in accordance with dogs’ needs and nature.
2. To provide the chance for each dog from the shelter to be adopted to responsible and trustable national and international adopters.
3. To reduce the number of stray dogs in the municipality by raising awareness for responsible dog ownership, advocating for chipping/registering and by organizing actions for neutering of stray and owned dogs.
4. To protect animal rights and decrease different forms of cruelty towards animals by reporting perpetrators to the authorities and lobbying for implementation of sanctions prescribed by the Law.
5. To ensure organizational and financial sustainability of the “Land of Happy Dogs”



The shelter that we were running in period August 2015 – November 2019 was made by local government in year 2010, as its legal obligation, but when we came it was abandoned and in terrible condition – there were just hungry, thirsty and sick dogs wandering around the garbage dump, where this shelter of 190m² was actually made. In these chaotic circumstances we took over to manage this municipal „shelter“, **but only as a temporary solution.**

Until November 2019 we had around 100 dogs placed on 790m², operating in extremely unhealthy environment. Regardless of our efforts the grounds was fully unsuitable in terms of maintaining the hygiene. Poisonous water from garbage dump were flushing directly into the shelter and the whole area was inhabited with rats, so there was a constant risk of spreading dangerous diseases. It was literally impossible to clean dogs of parasites, fleas and ticks because the area is contaminated and all our efforts mostly were gone in vain. The ground was infected with parvovirus and that had disastrous consequences on mortality of the puppies. The accommodation facilities for dogs were extremely small and in very bad condition. There was no quarantine, so diseases were spreading rapidly. Furthermore, there was no proper storage facility and housing for workers, no electricity, while water supply was improvised, so during summers we had problems with water shortage, while during the winter the water pipes were frozen.



From the very first day our mission is to remove the dogs from dangerous, unhealthy, depressing, degrading and inhumane garbage dump to the “Land of Happy Dogs”, where abandoned dogs will live in a scenic and healing environment among human and animal friends - until adoption.

With that aim, in year 2016 Board members bought the land size 18.500 square meters, installed the fence and it gave it to the association SRCEZAŠAPU to build new dog shelter and manage it in a long-term.

After two years of exhausting administrative procedure and obstructions of local government, in July 2018, we finally got the Building Permission and started with works.



With satisfaction and pride we can say that our first objective is fulfilled. In November 2019, SRCEZAŠAPU opened the doors of the Land of Happy Dogs and moved all dogs from the landfill shelter.

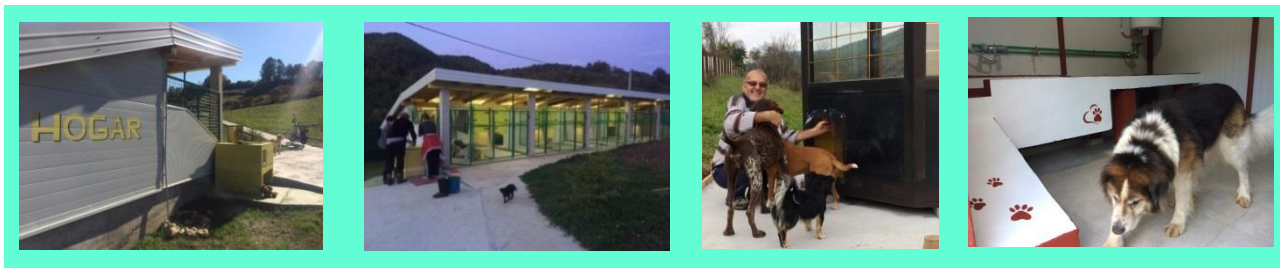
The shelter is comprised of three houses for collective accommodation, each measuring 15.6 m x 5.40 m.



Dog houses are surrounded by spacious courtyards for playing and running. This concept of the shelter allows free movement for each animal and socializing with people and we are especially proud of that.



In addition to these facilities, the shelter has a quarantine with 10 kennels, one smaller puppy facility, as well as a dog reception and bath facility that is, for the moment, used as a storage room and kitchen also.



Members of the SRCEZAŠAPU Governing Board are:

- Dževad Karabeg, Mr.Sci.dr, President, Doctor of Dental Medicine and Oral Surgery, Zagreb
- Eni Kurtović, Sociology of Ed. MA, Vice President, Free-lance Consultant, Sanski Most
- Ivona Čelebičić, M.Sc, Board member, Director of proMENTE Social Research from Sarajevo
- Zlatan Nikolić, M.D., Board member, retired, Sarajevo / USA
- Vahidin Omanović, Board member, President of the NGO "Center for Peace" in Sanski Most



Since organization does not have professional management staff, Board members voluntarily perform tasks related to the planning, organizing and overseeing the human, financial and material resources of the organization, keeping dog records, reporting, promoting and establishing contacts with possible partners, fundraising etc. However, the favourite part of our job remains direct work with dogs in the shelter.



The shelter that we run has a permanent employment relationship with two people – Selma Huzejrović (veterinarian technician) and Dženana Ibrišimović .

They take care of the dogs seven days a week, during the working hours from 08.00 to 18.00.



The work of the association, including the capital investment in building the Land of Happy Dogs is exclusively funded by us who are the founders (Governing Board members), with support from our friends and sympathizers, without contribution from any foundation or governmental institution.

Activities & Results 2020

Running the Land of Happy Dog

This included usual activities related to nutrition, cleaning, health care, regular giving the pills against internal and external parasites, sterilization and micro-chipping (36 dogs), construction of two additional facilities for dogs accommodation, facility maintenance and repairs of bitten fences and most importantly, **giving love and playing with dogs** - with up to 127 them in year 2020.



Dog Adoption

The readiness of people in Bosnia and Herzegovina to adopt homeless dogs and treat them responsible and with empathy and love is extremely low. Long ago we have given up hope that the dogs from our shelter will be adopted in Sanski Most. Apart from the sad fate of dogs doomed to spend their lives in a shelter, the impossibility of adoption also means the impossibility of taking new dogs to the shelter - and there are more and more of them in this town every day. Their only chance for truly happy and fulfilled life is the adoption in the Western European countries, where people are aware of animal rights and very well know the value of living with a pet.

After getting the TRACES licence SRCEZAŠAPU intensified activities in finding partner organization for dog adoption in EU countries. First of all, lots of efforts was invested in increase in quality of our promo materials, especially dogs' photo albums and videos, which are supported with descriptions of each dog. Youtube canal is created and high quality promo video is published <https://youtu.be/Nfk-KI7q3cM> . Dog adoption contracts and pre checking questionnaires were developed. Letters of interest were sent to number of organizations and were followed up with negotiations. Even a visit to one German organization in Aachen was conducted but without result. At the end of the day, only two dogs got their forever happy home. We established good cooperation with one association from Belgium, but this association does not possess the TRACES licence. Yet, we believe that our efforts will bear fruit and that in 2021 many of the long-standing and new inhabitants of the Land of Happy Dogs will get their forever happy homes.



Advocacy efforts

When it comes to the number of abandoned dogs, Sanski Most municipality is one of the worst in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this municipality, even ten years after the adoption of the Animal Welfare Law, nothing has been done regarding its implementation. The municipal government does not require chipping and registration of owned dogs, does not punish irresponsible owners, does not implement sterilization programs and does not have a municipal dog shelter. The government is hiding behind the supposed inability to implement the Law because "people's awareness is not matured for its implementation", as the municipal Mayor "explained" to us. The residents of the municipality of Sanski Most themselves are completely insensitive to the suffering of abandoned dogs and see them as a nuisance, for which dog guards are to blame.

As a consequence, the groups of abandoned dogs, many of them in terrible condition, are on the streets in the town, as well on the fields and woods around. The greatest number of the homeless dogs is in the garbage dump, where people usually leave unwanted dogs. From time to time, when their number on the streets critically increases and when people start to complain, the municipal dog-catcher takes the dogs to the garbage dump and leaves them there to die from hunger, illness or mutual fights. Some of lucky dogs end up in our shelter, but the most of them stays around on the garbage, desperately trying to survive.

We came to the point where all our efforts have no sense any more. We are doing so much, fully devoting our lives to help abandoned dogs, but the true impact is so small – there are 127 dogs currently housed in the shelter, who received care and little of love and that is all. Hundreds of them remain on the streets and in slums, outside in all weather, with nothing to call home other than the bare dirty pavement.

So, we can just continue our advocacy efforts. In October 2020 SRCEZAŠAPU sent one more letter to the local government requesting installation of video surveillance and activating the work of the municipal inspection in order to prevent abandonment of dogs. In December we formed non formal group "STOP crime against dogs" and organized an campaign supported by promo videos on two city displays, posters and social media. On December 24th we organized citizens' protests and handed over our requests to the Mayor and the Municipal Council for urgent implementation of the Law on Protection and Welfare of Animals, especially regarding the punishment of unscrupulous dog owners, sterilization of abandoned dogs and the construction of a municipal shelter for dogs.



Financial Operations 2020

The financial operations of the SRCEZAŠAPU are managed by the accounting firm MeAd d.o.o. from Sanski Most. Every month the Association publishes the reports on donations and their use on its FB page. According to our monthly reports, in year 2018 totally 52.943 EUR (71.108,65 BAM) was invested in maintaining the Land of Happy Dogs. xx % of funds was raised from our friends and sympathizers, while the rest of the money was donated by Governing Board members.

Donations to SRCEZAŠAPU in 2020 in KM / BAM

Transfer from Dec 2019 612,12	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL 2020
Friends & Sympatizers	1.010,00	2.412,00	420,00	2.925,00	1.427,00	3.065,00	1.381,00	3.065,00	2.376,00	1.772,00	1.120,00	1.070,00	22.043,00
Governing Board Members	1.730,02	3.091,88	3.718,51	1.751,46	2.279,03	1.522,69	1.843,23	1.142,27	1.463,44	4.558,47	2.455,06	2.464,05	28.020,11
TOTAL per month	2.740,02	5.503,88	4.138,51	4.676,46	3.706,03	4.587,69	3.224,23	4.207,27	3.839,44	6.330,47	3.575,06	3.534,05	50.063,11

Expenditures 2020 in KM / BAM

Type of Cost	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Dog food	955,72	2.332,53	2.203,74	1.814,85	1.446,66	1.516,11	1.442,80	1.442,80	1.473,50	3.147,48	1.422,97	1.450,47	20.649,63
Veterinary services & medicines	65,20	147,95	36,45	456,36	283,90	390,00	105,00	218,40	35,24	188,00	97,70	8,95	2.033,15
Salaries for two employees	1.408,66	1.561,35	1.220,19	1.623,09	1.593,11	1.623,08	1.618,11	1.613,52	1.581,18	1.595,87	1.625,87	1.625,87	18.689,90
Operational costs	176,74	194,87	100,02	379,04	19,80	593,15	0,00	452,52	282,00	1.036,66	35,60	0,00	3.270,40
Upgrading the shelter		930,78	390,15	169,33	177,16	278,03	25,13	141,83	282,72	148,30	184,79	261,56	2.989,78
Book-keeping	100,00	300,00	150,00	150,00	150,00	150,00	0,00	300,00	150,00	150,00	150,00	150,00	1.900,00
Bank fee	33,70	36,40	37,96	83,79	35,40	37,32	33,19	38,20	34,80	64,16	58,13	37,20	530,25
TOTAL costs per month	2.740,02	5.503,88	4.138,51	4.676,46	3.706,03	4.587,69	3.224,23	4.207,27	3.839,44	6.330,47	3.575,06	3.534,05	50.063,11

Note: The book-keeping balance sheets for 2020 show the revenues and expenditures of the period regardless of whether they were paid or collected, while the above tables show the revenues and expenditures according to the cash register principle (paid / collected regardless of which period the revenues and expenditures relate to).

Plans for 2021

1. ADOPTION OF happy dogs IN WESTERN UNION COUNTRIES



To make the LAND OF HAPPY DOGS truly happy, its' residents have to leave it and be adopted , and others must come to their place - hundreds of them who are currently hopelessly wandering on the streets of Sanski Most, craving bread crust, warm bedding and friendly hand.

Our biggest dream and hope is start of the adoption process of abandoned dogs in the Western Europe countries. In order to become a so-called "go-through-shelter", we primarily intend to **establish serious partnerships** with international organizations with TRACES licence.

A prerequisite for sucesfull and smooth dog adoption is, among other things, the purchase of **vehicle** that will be licensed for the transport of dogs in EU countries.

2. CENTRAL BUILDING WITH ambulance



The construction project envisaged the **central building** (10mx9m) with office, dog food preparation area, storage, toilet and veterinarian ambulance. Ambulance will enable conducting proper healing of the dogs, as well conducting the neutering actions of stray dogs in Sanski Most municipality by veterinarians engaged on contract. Several veterinarians and organizations are ready to conduct neutering pro bono for us, but currently, without veterinarian centre, it is impossible.

Besides, in the central building we will be able to provide **accommodation for international volunteers**. Since people in Sanski Most are not ready to volunteer and help us in dog care and socialization, we plan to invite dog lovers from abroad to visit us and bestow their time, hands and hearts for some time of hugging and playing with inhabitants of the Land of Happy Dogs.

3. ADVOCACY AND Promotion



We are aware that our long-term goal should be focused on the root of the problem - abandoned dogs are not the problem, people are. Therefore, our plan for 2020 is to continue with promotional and advocacy activities focused on decision makers and citizens, especially dog owners, in order to enhance **implementation of the Animal Welfare Law.**

4. VOLUNTEERS



Most of all, dogs in the shelter need human love. But, we can never provide enough attention to each of them, especially when it comes to the dog walking and the rehabilitation of traumatized animals. Therefore, we will strategically work on promoting and organizing visits and activities with volunteers – those from BiH, especially high school students, as well as international ones, who will bestow their time, hands and hearts for a few hours or days of hugging and playing with the inhabitants of the Land of Happy Dogs. In order to achieve this objective, we plan to intensify promotional activities, especially through social networks.

5. DOG HEALTH AND Neutering



Health Care & Neutering: In cooperation with contracted Veterinary Station from Prijedor will continue to provide regular health care to animals - carry out vaccinations, treat animals against intestinal and external parasites and organize treatment of diseased animals. In accordance with financial abilities, we will provide surgical treatments to those in need. Minor interventions such as providing saline solution to affected puppies, wound hygiene, providing injection drugs and the like will be performed by our veterinary technician according to a veterinarian's instructions. Also, we will continue with neutering young dogs, as they mature.

6. FINANCIAL Sustainability



Current way of financing is not sustainable and it is only matter of time when the Governing Board members will not be able to provide such large sums of money on monthly basis any more. At the moment, we see three strategies to ensure funds for the Land of Happy Dogs:

- ❑ **Pool of regular donors:** Our aim is to build a pool of at least 50 loyal individual donors who would orderly provide small monthly amount (10 to 30 BAM). It is also necessary to build a strategic approach to connecting with the Diaspora and creating a group of friends of the Association that will collect donations in money, food or other goods.
- ❑ **Project proposals:** We will continue to work on development of project proposals for foreign and domestic donor organizations, ministries and companies in order to raise the funds, especially for continuation of constructional works in the Land of Happy Dogs
- ❑ **Adoption donations:** In addition to covering the adoption costs, the plan is to request the adoption donation from adopters as a support to the SRCE ZA ŠAPU for further activities on rescuing abandoned dogs.



Acknowledgements

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Husimovci 207, Sanski Most / Bosnia i Herzegovina

Contact: Eni Kurtović; tel: ++387 61 197 485

e-mail: srcezasapu2020@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/SrceZaSapu/>

Bank details:

Unicredit Bank d.d. Kardinala A.Stepinca bb, 88000 Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

TR: 3385402228757744, Unicredit bank d.d., Poslovnica Sanski Most

Inostrana plaćanja: S.W.I.F.T. UNCRBA22; Acc: 20026268101; IBAN: BA39 3385 4048 2876 0779