

Dear friends,

I will begin this report with a historic milestone that marked 2025. After more than ten years of persistent efforts to find an EU partner for dog adoption, we established formal cooperation with the German organisation Vox Animalis e.V. This opened the doors of homes to many more dogs from our shelter and created safe, legal, and sustainable adoption pathways for animals who had waited far too long. The importance of this partnership — for our organisation and, above all, for the dogs — cannot be overstated.

Meanwhile, our work throughout 2025 would not have been possible without steady and reliable support. We extend our deepest gratitude to the TAO Foundation, whose consistent monthly financial support provided a crucial backbone for the shelter. Many thanks to the Catholic Concern for Animals for their grant for dogs' neutering, chipping and vaccinations, as well to the Seelenhunde Vergiss Mein Nicht, whose occasional monthly contributions offered stability in times of constant uncertainty. We are equally grateful to the dog sponsors, individual donors, and supporters who chose to stand with us — sometimes quietly, sometimes visibly, but always with trust and commitment.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the volunteers who supported us this year with their time, energy, and care. Their presence in the shelter — during moments of staff shortages, exhaustion, and routine overload — was not only practical help, but also a powerful reminder that solidarity still exists.

As you read this report, we invite you to look beyond the numbers. Behind every figure stands a living being, behind every success a long chain of dedication, and behind every setback a renewed resolve to go on. Each recovery, each adoption, and each gesture of solidarity throughout 2025 reaffirmed what guides our work every day: that every individual life matters — especially in a system where institutional support is scarce and compassion too often fills the gaps.

*Eni and Dževad
Founders, SRCE ZA ŠAPU*

2025 - Summary

□ Key Results Achieved in 2025

- Cared for 150 dogs throughout the year; entered 2026 with 153 dogs.
- 31 puppies admitted and received full veterinary care.
- Comprehensive health care delivered: vaccinations, microchipping, parasite treatments; 26 dogs neutered.
- Managed multiple complex and long-term medical cases successfully.
- Significant reduction in dog-to-dog conflicts due to improved supervision and reallocation strategies.
- Successful adoption of long-term, elderly, and handicapped dogs.
- Completed construction of new insulated puppy enclosure improving winter conditions.
- Increased visibility, international visitors, and volunteer engagement.
- Established structured cooperation with Vox Animalis e.V. enabling legal TRACES transport - first historic transport of 10 dogs to Germany.

🔍 Key Challenges / Risks

- Chronic staff shortages, burnout, and high turnover.
- Financial instability: expenses exceeded income most of the year.
- Significant rise in salary costs due to legal minimum wage increase.
- Decrease in total donations compared to 2024.
- Founders personally covering financial deficits (structural sustainability risk).
- Growing operational and emotional burden linked to adoption follow-up.
- Municipal practices of stray dog capture and inhumane transfers.
- Failed decade-long dialogue with local authorities; potential legal battle ahead.
- Increasing infrastructure maintenance demands due to weather and wear.

Despite operating under significant financial and human resource constraints, the organisation maintained high standards of animal welfare, strengthened international partnerships and improved infrastructure.

Long-term sustainability will require diversification of funding sources, stabilisation of human resources and continued development of international adoption and advocacy.

Dogs and Dogs' Health

Throughout the year, the number of dogs in the shelter fluctuated around 150. We entered 2026 caring for 153 dogs. A total of 31 puppies were admitted during the year; tragically, one did not survive. This was the only death recorded in 2025.

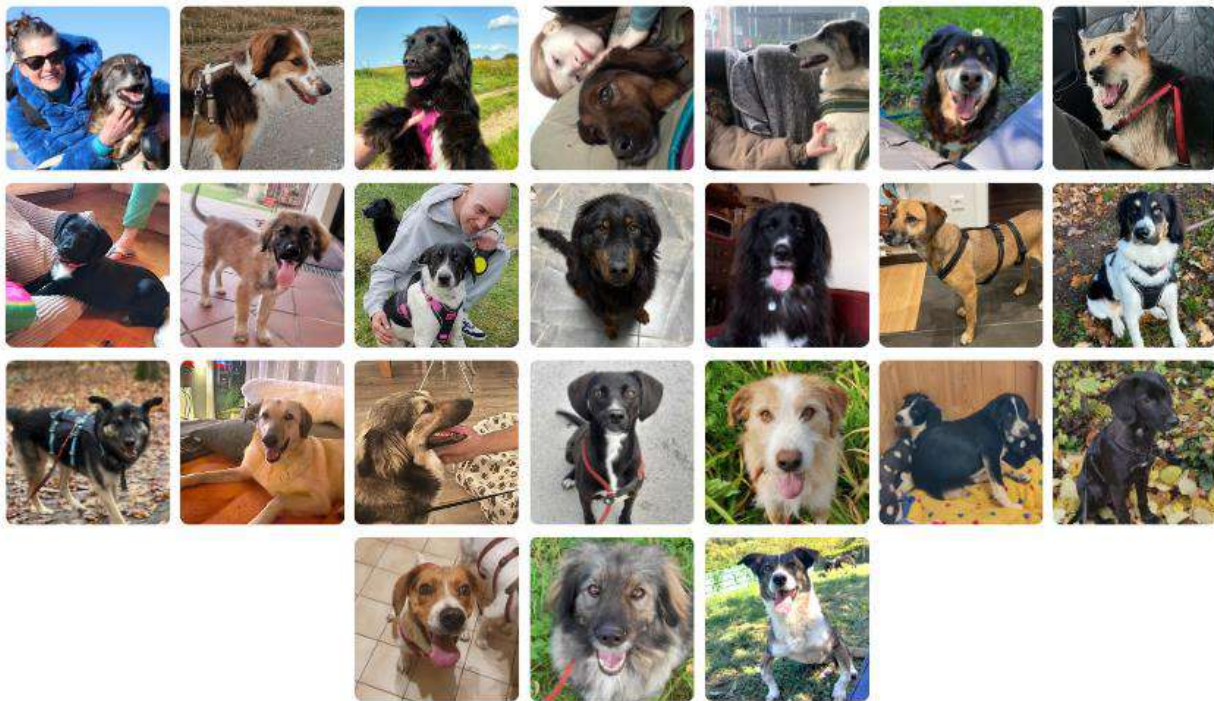


Despite an ongoing shortage of staff, throughout the year we have strived to ensure regular walks, enrichment through play, and proper grooming and hygiene care for the dogs.



Adoptions

Adoptions remained both our greatest hope and our greatest uncertainty. Over the year, 25 dogs were adopted in Croatia, Austria, Germany, Slovenia, the United Kingdom and Denmark. Their names deserve a special place in this report: Ahil, Ashley, Badie, Betty, Čupko, Emma, Jerry, Korana, Stella, Goldie, Marley, Mia, Mira, Oli, Alfie, Noah, Skinny, Athina, Teddy, Alice, Panda, Moon, Mars, Vita and Honey.



Unfortunately, one dog adopted in Bosnia was returned after a month. This painful experience once again highlighted the lack of sensitivity of Bosnian people toward animals and the limited readiness of many people to invest time and patience in the adaptation process.

A particularly significant development was the establishment of structured cooperation with the German organisation Vox Animalis e.V. This partnership enabled legally compliant TRACES transports and opened realistic adoption pathways for dogs who had spent years in the shelter. October marked a historic moment, with the first coordinated transport of 10 dogs to Germany.

Among the most touching stories were the adoption of handicapped or older dogs such as Vita, Honey, Ahil and Betty; Oli, who had withdrawn into deep depression after losing his canine companion three years earlier and found new life with a dog trainer from Germany; and Mia, who was once returned by local adopters but finally found security and joy with a family in Slovenia.

Certainly, adoption is a delicate and demanding process that requires patience, honesty and a high level of responsibility from all parties involved. Continuous communication with adopters and regular follow-up on the dogs' well-being are essential. Inevitably, this process is accompanied by a persistent concern: whether the adoptive family is truly able to provide enough care, attention and emotional security for the dog to be genuinely happy. This ongoing responsibility places an additional emotional and operational burden on the organisation. Further, as the number of adoptions grows, so does the volume of volunteer work carried out by one of the founders, making it clear that a sustainable solution to this challenge will need to be identified in the future.

Upgrading and Maintenance of the Shelter

Maintaining a functional shelter infrastructure required constant effort throughout the year. Weather extremes, wear and tear and the new groups of puppies demanded continuous repairs and improvements.

An important infrastructure project was completed in December: the construction of new, well-insulated enclosure with dog houses. These upgrades substantially improved winter conditions for the youngest and most vulnerable dogs.

Besides on-going cleaning, maintenance included fence repairs and replacement of wooden panels, regular mowing and vegetation control (including snake prevention measures), drainage cleaning, water pump repairs and the replacement of damaged technical equipment. A new lawn mower was purchased through donations, significantly improving safety and hygiene.



Advocacy Activities

Advocacy intensified in response to municipal practices of capturing stray dogs and transferring them to facilities associated with euthanasia and poor conditions. Throughout the year, SRCEZAŠAPU sent official letters, had meetings with municipal Mayor and demanded transparency under the Law on Free Access to Information. Our proposals, including free sterilisation campaigns in cooperation with international partners, were repeatedly rejected by local authorities. By the end of the year, it became clear that this dialogue that lasts a decade was ineffective. As a result, preparations began for legal action against the local administration, despite the risks involved. This reflects the organisation's commitment to systemic change and animal protection beyond shelter walls.

Visibility and Volunteers' Support

Visibility increased significantly in 2025, particularly through social media. Some posts reached several thousand interactions, resulting in increased inquiries and international contacts. The shelter welcomed visitors from Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden, Austria, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



We were especially fortunate to host three dedicated volunteer stays during the year. Vanessa from Belgium, Maud from France, Lea from Germany, each spent several days at the shelter, providing crucial support with daily tasks. And beside them a whole family from Bosnia – Anja, Lejla, Adi, Dani and Džan. Volunteers assisted with brushing and walking dogs, cleaning, painting fences and general maintenance – often during periods of critical staff shortages. Their contribution was not only practical, but also emotionally sustaining.



Human Resources

Human resources were one of the most fragile aspects of 2025. The shelter operated for long periods with insufficient staff. Staff turnover, a lack of applicants, burnout and personal crises directly affected daily operations and required constant personal involvement beyond sustainable limits. Temporary solutions – such as short-term contracts and the voluntary work of the shelter’s founders – helped bridge critical gaps but did not resolve structural vulnerability.

Despite these challenges, staff dedication remained extraordinary. Rescuing puppies at night and accommodating them in private spaces, or continuing work during floods and fire threats reflect a level of commitment that cannot be formalised in job descriptions.



Fundraising & Financial Information

Fundraising remained a constant challenge - overall expenses exceeded income for most of the year. Legal increase in minimum wages significantly raised employment costs, and this was an additional burden for the organization (2024: 33.215 BAM for salaries - 2025: 62.388 BAM for salaries). Besides, while the shelter realistically needs three workers to function properly, organization financial limitations make this impossible. So it happened that for the first 6 months we had three employees, but in the second half of the year we had to give up on that idea and stay with just two employees.

It is worrying that the costs in 2025 are slightly higher than the previous year (2024: 125.876 BAM - 2025: 126.106 BAM), and the total amount of donations is much smaller (2024: 119.018 BAM- 2025: 101.485 BAM). Fortunately, during the year we had several donations of food (in goods), otherwise the costs would have been even higher.

COSTS	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL BAM
Food for dogs	4.408,10	2.101,67	2.101,67	2.401,72	3.056,54	2.008,35	4.140,71	992,45	4.681,64	1.095,12	3.201,12	4.213,89	34.402,98
Vets & Medicines	2.511,00	700,00	298,80	816,92	3.499,08	560,00	710,00	290,00	1.352,00	948,70	116,00	2.050,00	13.852,50
Salaries	3.881,58	4.170,35	5.941,71	5.254,67	4.691,38	8.434,57	5.018,89	4.788,83	5.313,75	4.194,63	5.850,53	4.847,31	62.388,20
Upgrading the shelter	87,08	0,00	133,05	0,00	2.399,00	0,00	65,25	74,97	0,00	460,00	511,46	822,40	4.553,21
Adoption costs	0,00	567,03	187,73	585,12	247,51	368,22	125,01	367,44	0,00	125,44	0,00	235,00	2.808,50
Operational costs	462,18	377,60	268,82	377,50	262,82	200,57	223,26	227,08	246,51	383,87	858,18	623,55	4.511,94
Book-keeping	234,00	234,00	234,00	234,00	234,00	234,00	234,00	234,00	234,00	234,00	234,00	234,00	2.808,00
Bank fee	67,30	89,25	83,73	54,98	79,40	51,91	52,25	48,36	49,35	48,08	75,52	80,38	780,51
	11.651,24	8.239,90	9.249,51	9.724,91	14.469,73	11.857,62	10.569,37	7.023,13	11.877,25	7.489,84	10.846,81	13.106,53	126.106

DONATIONS	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL BAM
TAO Foundation	3.912	3.912	3.912	3.912	3.912	3.912	3.912	3.912	3.912	3.912	3.912	3.912	46.944
Seelenhunde		391	196			391			293		391	293	1.955
CCA						1.113							1.113
Bosniske Hunde		120											120
Individuals	3.927	3.843	3.158	5.082	7.735	3.989	3.324	1.597	3.183	4.577	4.204	6.734	51.353
	7.839	8.266	7.266	8.994	11.647	9.405	7.236	5.509	7.388	8.489	8.507	10.939	101.485

Without the substantial monthly support of the German TAO Foundation, covering 37,2 % of the shelter's annual budget, the shelter would not be able to survive on individual donations alone.

In addition to the TAO Foundation, we had the smaller and more or less consistent support of the Austrian organization Seelenhunde Vergiss Mein Nicht. During the year, we also received a grant from Catholic Concern for Animals, which covered part of the costs for sterilization, chipping and vaccination of dogs.

The dog sponsorship programme is slowly growing, although at the same time a noticeable number of dog sponsors discontinue support after a certain period. Individual donations account for 42.3% of total donations.

The design and printing of the 2026 calendar (largely financed by an anonymous donor –paid directly to the printing house) served both fundraising and awareness purposes, although financial results fell below expectations.

Two targeted fundraising campaigns were organised - to purchase Simparica Trio tablets and a lawn mower, both of which received excellent responses from individual donors. This shows us that in the future we need to organize more ad-hoc campaigns with concrete goals, to which people prefer to respond.

The difference between costs and donations was deposited into the association's account by the founders of the association from their own funds. Besides, replacements for days off and extra tasks are usually handled by occasional workers, paid in cash by the founders from personal funds. Also, the most works on maintaining the shelter and construction of the new puppy yard was carried out with the engagement of local craftsmen and paid in cash by founders. As such, these costs paid in cash are not presented in our book-keeping financial monthly reports.

Thank You



SRCEZAŠAPU – The Land of Dogs

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Transaction account for Bosnia and Herzegovina: Udruženje Srce za šapu, Husimovci 207, Sanski Most; UniCredit banka, broj računa 3385402228757744

Foreign currency account: UniCredit Bank d.d. Mostar; Kardinala A. Stepinca bb, 88000 Mostar; Bosna i Hercegovina; Beneficiary: Association SRCE ZA ŠAPU; Husimovci 207, Sanski Most, post code 79260; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Acc: 20026268101; S.W.I.F.T. UNCRBA22; IBAN: BA39 3385 4048 2876 0779

Link for on-line donations: <https://doniraj.ba/organization/view/srce-za-sapu>