

Fundraising for Dogrescue Romania and A Better Life Dog Rescue

The aim of our project is to raise food and money for stray dogs and to raise awareness among children for street dogs in Romania. Our project addresses the goals: Good health and well-being, sustainable cities and communities, life on land and partnerships to achieve the goal. Good health and well-being because stray dogs can carry diseases; sustainable cities and communities because our school community can keep fundraising, and if the idea spreads then more people in Bucharest will; life on land because we are supporting the life of dogs and humans alike; and partnerships to achieve the goal because we are fundraising for two dog rescue charities.

We are currently a team of three, because Domenica left the school. Our team is made up of Thea, Iarina and Anna.

Thea: makes the PowerPoints for assembly, baked and sold the pancakes and spoke in assembly.

Anna: designs posters, baked and sold the pancakes and spoke in assembly.

Iarina: helps come up with ideas.

Our project wasn't affected by our team member leaving because we got someone else to take her place now. Tishya will help us organise the fundraising activities now.



This is a picture depicting pancake day, when we baked pancakes and sold them in the playground with different toppings. It was very successful - we raised 755 lei (around 160 euros) in 20 minutes! The children loved the pancakes and many came to ask us if we'd do it again! Some of the funds included the school paying for the pancake ingredients.



Also, we talked in assembly and told the children about our upcoming projects and the importance of helping stray dogs. During the presentation in assembly, the children found out just how dire the need to help stray dogs is. After that, many came and asked us how they could help, and we often get students asking us about the date of the non-uniform day and dog food week, which they really seem to be looking forward to. During dog food week we'll run themed workshops about dogs and pets to raise awareness for kids. We hope they'll be as successful as the pancake sale.

We've improved our presentation skills, and, obviously, we learned how to make delicious pancakes! While researching, we found out a lot about the stray dog situation in Romania. Did you know that the city with the most stray dogs in the European Union is Bucharest? With a staggering 64,000 strays, there were over 16,000 reports of people bitten by dogs. So, what is the solution? Euthanasiation? That's what the government thought. They were wrong. Violence isn't treated with violence, especially when the problem was created by us. There is an approach which can satisfy both sides: adoption! You want a dog, adopt it, changing its life and yours too.

This is why our group chose to fundraise for a dog rescue charity. The fewer dogs out there, the least they reproduce which means less chances for aggressive dogs to strike. Also, by teaching children about this, and getting them to help us fundraise, they'll feel like they're doing something for this community, thus making this project closer to their heart, since much of the charity we do in school is for a faraway cause. The stray dog problem in Bucharest is one which all the kids are familiar with.

We haven't yet made a considerable impact on the Sustainable Development Goals because we didn't send the money to the charities yet and we only did one fundraising activity. However, in a few weeks we'll have non-uniform day and dog food week, so we'll be able to measure the impact easier. Still, the sustainable cities and communities goal is beginning to be impacted, because the school community is starting to understand the stray dog issue more and the children wish to help the cause.

Most of the school is involved in our project now (as participants in our activities) and 2 dog rescue organisations (Dogrescue Romania and A Better Life Dog Rescue) will be impacted once we send them the money. 4 students have been spent on the project, and we estimate that around 40 hours have been spent.

Although it might not seem like it, our project is sustainable. By teaching children about stray dogs, they can carry out the information to their parents, who have more power to help them and get involved. If we do it at school each year, it will become sustainable, and the knowledge which the kids will pass in will help make it even more sustainable, since their relatives could donate some money to the dog charities too.

