



2022



Republic of  
Georgia Dog  
Refuge

# Annual Report



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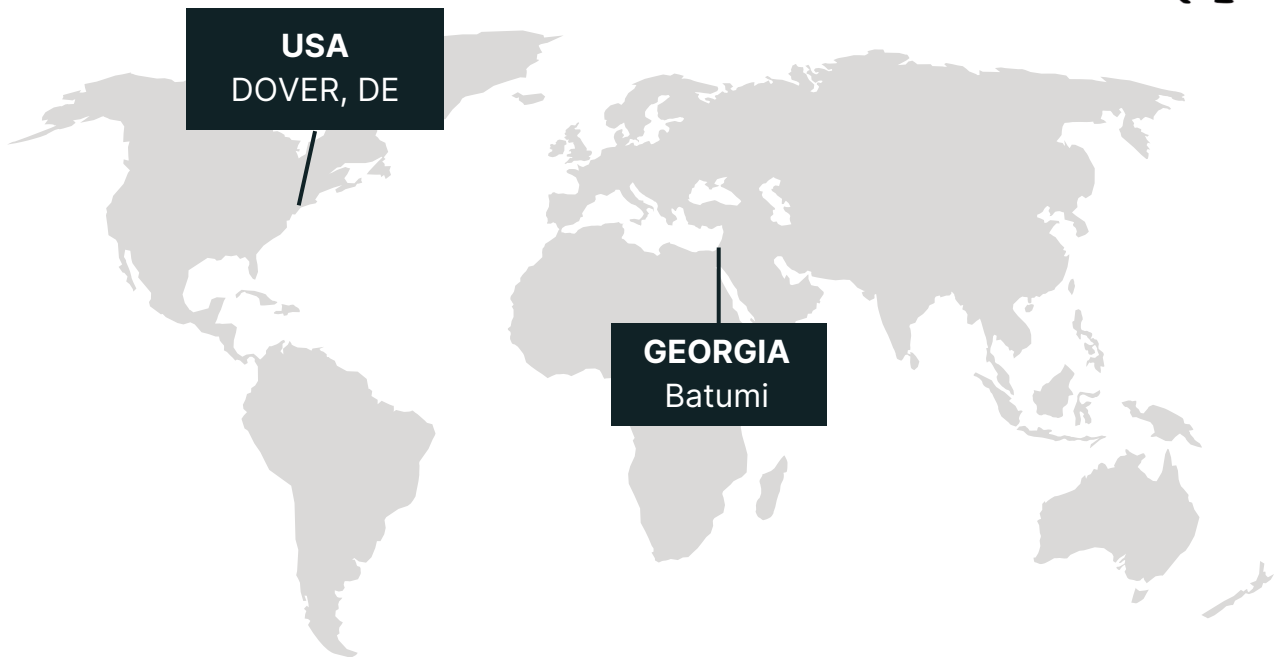


# About Us

We are the Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization registered in the United States. Our mission is to improve the welfare of dogs in Georgia, a country facing numerous challenges due to its increasing population of street dogs.



As the only registered dog rescue organization in Batumi, we are dedicated to providing care and resources to improve the lives of dogs in our community. Our focus is on sustainable solutions to reduce the number of strays, promote responsible pet ownership, and facilitate dog adoptions. We believe in collaborating with local partners to maximize the impact of every pound donated.



## A Global Perspective

In June, 2022 Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge (Geo Dog Refuge) became formally established both as a registered nonprofit organization in Georgia and a 501(c3) in the USA.

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

**Candid.**

Our organization is proud to be a platinum-level **GuideStar participant**, which showcases our dedication to transparency by providing in-depth information about our mission, programs, finances, and impact. This not only demonstrates our commitment to accountability, but also enables potential donors and stakeholders to make well-informed decisions when deciding to support our organization.





# Our Team

**Dr. Lili Castille**, an American psychologist, has been instinctively attuned to animals since childhood. She therefore works hard to alleviate the suffering of animals. She rescued scores of abused, neglected or illegally trafficked exotic or endangered animals and birds while living in Asia. Now, she and Lance have co-founded Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge (Geo Dog Refuge) to rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home abandoned animals in this country.

**Dr. Lance Castille**, an American psychologist and consultant, has had years of experience caring for animals, including farm animals and pets. Having lived overseas for over three decades, he has observed the treatment of animals in different cultures. He supervises rehabilitation and socialization of the rescued dogs for their best possible future as companion dogs.

**Alex Sani**, a company manager in Batumi, is a founding member and the caretaker of the ROG Dog Refuge compound. He has had a connection with animals since childhood, and has always been able to feel their pain and happiness. He feels animal energy is the best medicine, and says that if people love and care for all animals, that love will always be unconditionally returned. He has both dog and cat family members.



**Dr. Lili Castille**  
Cofounder and  
director



**Dr. Lance Castille**  
Cofounder



**Alex Sani**  
Founding  
member





## Measures of Success in 2022

The seaside resort and retirement town of Batumi, Georgia (population 150,000) has a disproportionately large population of homeless dogs (30,000).

The Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge (Geo Dog Refuge) started informally as the Batumi Animal Friends Association in 2019 to rescue dogs most at risk, recruit volunteers to help feed the strays and transport sick and injured ones to veterinarians.

In June, 2022 Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge (Geo Dog Refuge) became formally established both as a registered nonprofit organization in Georgia and a 501(c3) in the USA.

It is a no-cage, no-kill refuge with an open-admissions policy that follows socially conscious principles: We rescue dogs of any age, breed and temperament and in any condition: ill, injured, senior or disabled.

There is no a set time limit for how long a dog can remain in our care while waiting for adoption.

For many, particularly senior and disabled dogs, Geo Dog Refuge becomes their forever home, where they can live out their lives in comfort and safety.

## Highlights

- We have treated more than **100 dogs** in our Catch Vaccinate Sterilize and Release program, and our live release rate remains above **90%**.
- We have provided food and emergency medical care every week for approximately **300 homeless dogs** in and around Batumi, in nearby towns, and in rural area.
- We have also distributed free dog food and medical care to **50 low-income pet owners** in our weekly Community Outreach program.





In 2022, Geo Dog Refuge experienced a record number of animal intakes due to post-pandemic and war inflation financial strain, and the housing crisis. However, through the efforts of a small, but dedicated staff and team of volunteers, we have found homes for many animals.



## In comparison to 2021, below is how we made an impact:

- **19** Volunteers served 1290 hours to help us provide quality care for dogs at Geo Dog Refuge, in our annex Dog Camp, and for our Community Outreach program
- **20** Adoptions (50% increase).
- **20** Lost pets returned home (25% increase)
- **30** Animals transferred to trusted rescue partners
- **40** New dogs rescued and accommodated at Geo Dog Refuge
- **45** Animals fostered in 2022
- **108** Spay/Neuters (30% increase) (in our CVSR program)
- **108** Animals vaccinated (30% increase)
- **300** Dogs in Batumi communities, landfill colonies and rural areas regularly fed and received medical care
- **365** Days of shelter provided for 70 animals





# The Challenge: Georgia's Stray Dog Population and Animal Welfare Issues

Georgia's stray dog population has reached an alarming number, with an estimated 500,000 in rural areas, 30,000 in Batumi, and 50,000 in Tbilisi. Despite this growing issue, the Georgian government is no longer able to provide funding for animal welfare programs or support the Catch-Sterilize-Vaccinate-Release (CSV) initiative. As a result, the number of stray dogs continues to increase, resulting in a significant animal welfare challenge.

The ongoing conflict between neighboring Russia and Ukraine has directly impacted dog abandonment in Georgia, with the influx of refugees and war inflation resulting in more abandoned animals. Moreover, washed-up anti-ship mines along the Black Sea coast pose a risk to the street dog population, as they frequent beach areas.

Insufficient animal welfare laws and policies have led to widespread abuse and neglect in Georgia. The country has the highest number of rabies cases in Europe, emphasizing the need for vaccinations as part of our program to ensure the safety of both street dogs and public health. Our organization recognizes the challenges posed by Georgia's stray dog population and animal welfare issues and is committed to finding sustainable solutions to improve the lives of dogs in our community.

**We are tackling the alarming increase of Georgia's stray dog population amid insufficient animal welfare laws and policies, and the challenges posed by the ongoing conflict and natural disasters.**







## 2022 in Photos and Stories

The Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge (Geo Dog Refuge) made significant strides in 2022, rescuing and caring for homeless dogs in Batumi, Georgia. Through our Community Outreach program, we provided weekly food and emergency medical care to 300 homeless dogs and supported 50 low-income pet owners. We experienced notable increases in adoptions, lost pet reunions, spay/neuters, and vaccinations.







To see the impact of our efforts, please explore the photos and stories we've shared on Facebook, which highlight the positive change we've brought to the lives of animals in Batumi and surrounding areas.



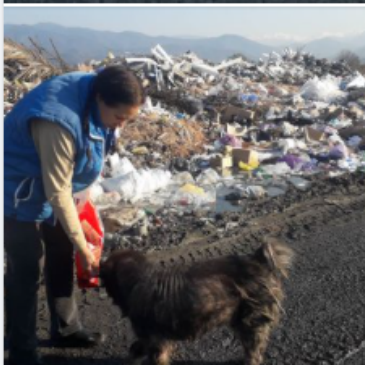
**Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge**

December 23, 2022 · 🌐



Give Dump Dogs a Holiday from Hunger (pics taken 12/22)

Countless dogs still need our help. Please take time to go feed the Batumi dump dogs. If they are fearful, just leave piles of food at the side of the road. Some are sick or hurt & can't move, so throw handfuls of food near them. If you can, take Bravecto, or flea medicine for the sick ones. If you're not in Batumi, please go feed homeless animals in your area. Thank you for your compassion!





**Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge**

December 7, 2022 · 🌐

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**Feeding Dogs Outside Supermarket**

Whenever we go shopping, we feed the hopeful parking lot dogs. It's a good idea to bring dog food with you to feed street animals because these days, some stores are in short supply (e.g. Carrefour is out of Darling which was produced in Russia).







**Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge**

December 3, 2022 · 🌐

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Hopeful dog waits on roadside for kind drivers to stop with food

In the morning, the guys spotted this hungry dog on the Urekhi-Samtredia highway, but couldn't pull over to feed him because of the traffic. Later, on the way back, they saw the dog still waiting patiently in the same place. Alex got out to feed him. The dog quickly ate all the food, so Alex gave him the rest of the bag. Luckily, there was a bit more food in the car to feed a few more hungry pups at another place.







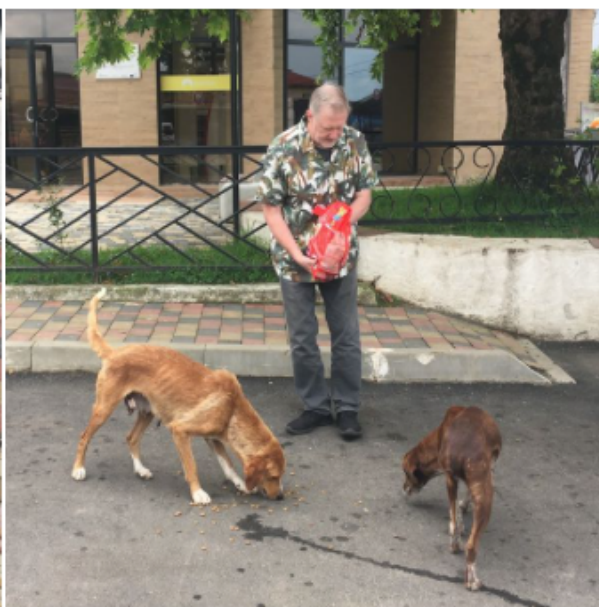
Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge

September 20, 2022 · 🌐

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### Street Dogs Getting Healthier

On our Outreach program, for the past 6 months, we've been going to feed the street dogs in rural areas. This is in MukhaEstate. The first time we visited (photo 1), the dogs were bone-thin, but with regular feeding visits, they began to gain weight (photo 2). Just this week, we were glad to see they are almost at a normal, healthy weight (photos 3 & 4).





**Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge**

November 9, 2022 · 🌐

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**Shy Dogs in Senaki Outreach**

Lance started feeding a couple of dogs who cautiously approached from behind a gas station in Senaki. Then Alex took a turn feeding, and a whole pack came over to join the feast!

Remember when feeding strays in new locations, give them time to approach you. There are often shy ones or puppies hiding nearby that are waiting to see if you are friendly and it's safe to come out.



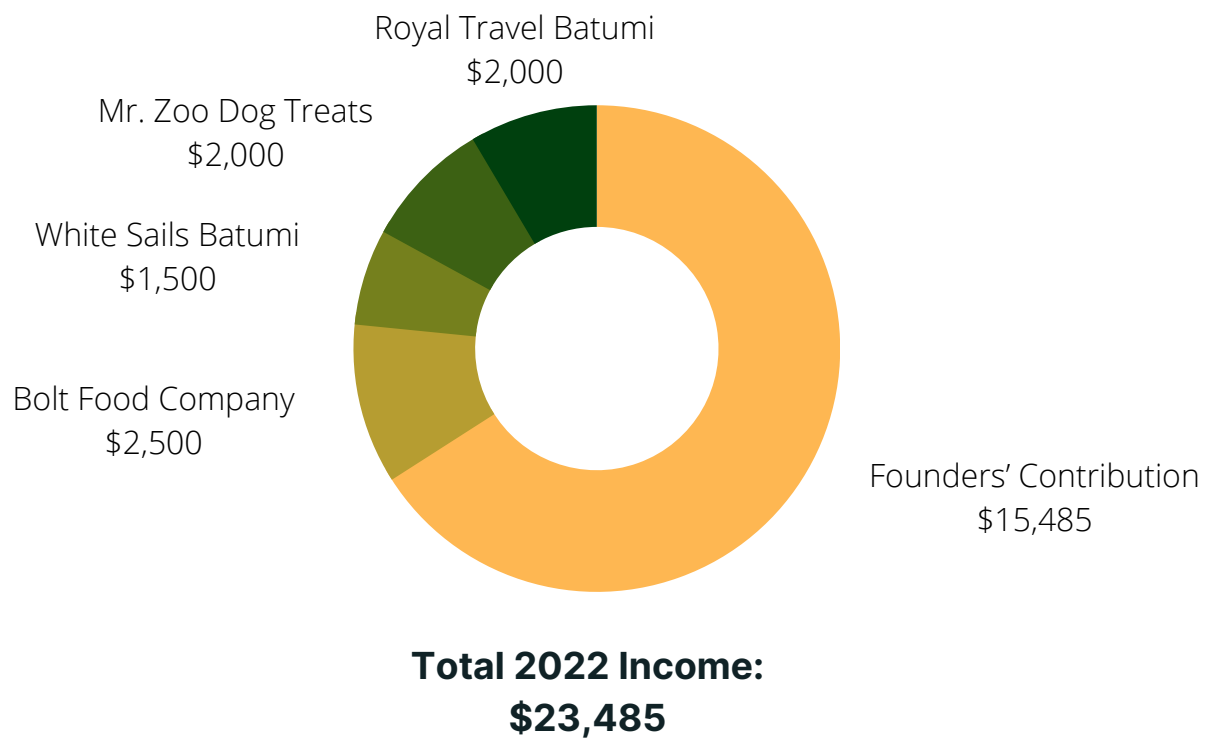
These are just a few stories from our daily outreach efforts; to explore more heartwarming stories and see the impact we're making, we invite you to visit our [Facebook page](#).





## 2022 Income

Geo Dog Refuge primarily finances its operations and programs through self-funding, with only a small portion of its budget supplemented by generous donations from supporters.



Our next goal at Geo Dog Refuge is to diversify our funding sources by increasing donations, applying for grants, and exploring other fundraising opportunities. By doing so, we aim to expand our resources, enabling us to rescue and care for even more homeless dogs in Batumi and surrounding areas, and continue making a lasting impact on the lives of animals and their communities.



## Summary

The Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge (Geo Dog Refuge) is a dedicated organization established in 2022, focused on rescuing, treating, and finding homes for homeless dogs in Batumi, Georgia, and surrounding areas. With a no-cage, no-kill policy, Geo Dog Refuge offers a safe haven for dogs of all ages, breeds, and conditions, while ensuring stress-free animal handling techniques are employed by all team members.

The Community Outreach program provides weekly food and emergency medical care to 300 homeless dogs and support to 50 low-income pet owners.

Throughout 2022, Geo Dog Refuge achieved notable success, with significant increases in adoptions, lost pet reunions, spay/neuters, and vaccinations, thanks to the unwavering commitment of 19 volunteers and collaborations with over 40 rescue organizations.

The organization primarily self-finances its operations, with a small portion of the budget supplemented by donations from supporters.

## What Next?

Moving forward, Geo Dog Refuge aims to diversify funding sources by increasing donations, applying for grants, and exploring other fundraising opportunities to expand its positive impact on the lives of animals and their communities.

The organization welcomes inquiries from those interested in collaborating, volunteering, or making a donation to support their cause.





## Work with Us / Donate

Everything we do is made possible by you.

Your donations help rescue, feed, house, and provide medical care for homeless dogs.

They also support Spay & Neuter and Community Outreach programs.

Please help us help them.  
Thank you for your generosity.

Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge Foundation is fully certified in the Republic of Georgia and is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization in the United States. All donations are tax-deductible.

Feel free to contact us if you are interested in collaborating with us, volunteering, or making a donation to support our cause.



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**Republic of Georgia  
Dog Refuge**