



GEO DOG REFUGE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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About Us

We are the Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization. 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.

Our mission is to improve the welfare of dogs in Georgia, a country facing numerous challenges due to its increasing population of street dogs.



Georgia's stray dog population has reached alarming numbers, with an estimated 500,000 dogs in rural areas, 30,000 in Batumi, and 50,000 in Tbilisi. Despite the escalating issue, the Georgian government is no longer able to provide funding for animal welfare programs or support the Catch-Sterilize-Vaccinate-Release (CSV) initiatives. Consequently, the number of stray dogs continues to rise, resulting in substantial animal welfare challenges.



Insufficient animal welfare laws and policies have led to widespread abuse and neglect. The challenges we faced in 2023 mirrored those of the previous year, with no significant improvement in the street dog population issue or government support.

Our organization remains steadfast in recognizing and addressing the hurdles posed by Georgia's stray dog situation and is committed to finding sustainable solutions to improve the lives of dogs in our community.





A Global Perspective



Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

Our organization is proud to be a platinum-level **GuideStar participant** again, which showcases our dedication to transparency by providing in-depth information about our mission, programs, finances, and impact.



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



2023 Overview

As a non-profit and volunteer-based organization, we rely heavily on donations and fundraising to support our programs, and 2023 was no different. Our revenue streams include small donations from individual supporters, as well as contributions from local businesses. We have also recently launched a successful campaign through the Cuddly.com fundraising platform and received a grant from the Cold Noses Foundation in May 2023.

However, the largest revenue stream in 2023 was a \$51,716 Founders' Contribution, which was used to support our ongoing operations and land purchase. We are self-funded for most of our initiatives and are actively seeking to diversify and grow our revenue streams to expand our impact on the communities we serve.





2023's Biggest Challenge: Lack of Space

Since 2018, Geo Dog Refuge in the Republic of Georgia has been a haven for the forgotten and abandoned souls who've known only the harsh streets as their reality. But in 2023, we stood at crossroads and needed to make our next step.

Our rented space, the beacon of warmth and safety for these beautiful souls, is slipping away due to a sudden rent hike. At monthly costs being over \$4,000, the heart-wrenching reality is that we're left without a place to call home for these precious beings.





These dogs, our friends, companions, and silent warriors, deserve more than uncertainty. They deserve a sanctuary—a place where their eyes reflect the hope that's been kindled within them, where their tails wag freely in joy, and where their souls find solace in love.

Geo Dog Sanctuary

In 2023, we embarked on a mission to build not just a shelter, but a sanctuary that our rescued dogs will proudly call their own. Having purchased the land this year, we began turning our dream into reality. This sanctuary will be nestled away from the bustle of city life, where peace reigns and love abounds. Our aim is to create a haven that houses not only their recovering bodies but also nurtures their spirits.

Our goal is grand, and our need is more urgent than ever. This marks the beginning of something magnificent—a safe space with recreation areas and dog cottages where these beloved animals can find comfort and love. As we move forward, we plan to build a comprehensive healthcare unit, a place where our furry friends will receive the care they need, from veterinary services to rehabilitation and training facilities, paving their way to a brighter future.

To continue our progress, we urgently require more support, both from volunteers and through financial contributions, to help bring this vision to full fruition.





Our dedicated volunteers hard at work clearing the newly purchased land, laying the foundation for a sanctuary where peace and love will thrive.





2023 In Review: Key Achievements

As we reflect on the progress made in 2023, we appreciate the steady efforts and contributions of our volunteers, staff, and community partners that have supported Geo Dog Refuge's mission. This year was marked by consistent progress and meaningful achievements in our work to provide care and shelter to animals in need. Below we outline the key impacts we've managed to achieve, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to animal welfare and community engagement.

- 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 for approximately **350 homeless dogs** in and around Batumi, in nearby towns, and in rural areas.
- We have also distributed free dog food, veterinary care and fence repair services to **60 low-income pet owners** in our Community Outreach program.
- We have provided food and medical care to **100 sick or injured abandoned dogs** in Batumi garbage dump.





In comparison to 2022, this is how we made an impact:

- **20** Volunteers served 1300 hours to help us provide quality care for dogs at Geo Dog Refuge, in our annex Dog Camp, and for our Community Outreach program
- **25** Adoptions (**55% increase**).
- **25** Lost pets returned home (**30% increase**)
- **30** Animals were transferred to trusted rescue partners
- **40** New dogs rescued and accommodated at Geo Dog Refuge
- **45** Animals were fostered in 2023
- **120** Spay/Neuters (**40% increase**) (in our CVSR program)
- **120** Animals vaccinated (**40% 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





EXPECTED CHALLENGES IN 2024

Geo Dog Refuge is keenly aware of the ongoing issues that have shaped our efforts in past years. The situation in Georgia remains complex, with insufficient animal welfare laws and policies continuing to result in widespread abuse, neglect and rabies.

The stray dog population continues to be a pressing concern, with numbers remaining alarmingly high—approximately 500,000 in rural areas, 30,000 in Batumi, and 50,000 in Tbilisi. The lack of governmental support for existing animal welfare programs, including the Catch-Sterilize-Vaccinate-Release (CSVV) initiative, exacerbates this challenge, contributing to the steady increase in stray dogs.

In 2024, alongside our efforts to secure funding and engage volunteers for the construction of our new sanctuary, we must also navigate these multifaceted challenges.

Continued support from our community and international donors will be crucial as we strive to adapt and expand our services to meet these needs and continue providing safe and loving environments for our canine companions.

Facing enduring challenges, Geo Dog Refuge continues to combat Georgia's rising stray dog population amid insufficient welfare laws and escalating regional conflicts. Your support is vital as we strive to improve animal welfare and expand our sanctuary in 2024





2023 in Photos and Stories

To see the impact of our efforts, please explore the photos and stories we've shared on our social media pages, which highlight the positive change we've brought to the lives of animals in Georgia.



Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge

February 15, 2023 · 🌐

Gruzińskie Psy holds bake sale fundraiser for Geo Dog Refuge

Gruzińskie Psy, the dog welfare project run by an amazing group of students in Szczecin, Poland, held a bake sale to raise funds for Geo Dog Refuge. They baked all the sweets themselves, and partnered with Starbucks, who donated coffee, cups & other branded items. A big THANK YOU to Gruzińskie Psy 🙌❤️. Show them some love. Click the 🙌 or ❤️ icons.





Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge

March 4, 2023 · 🌐

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Vegetable Hunt Game

Our Geo Dogs dig holes all over the property, looking for grubs & rodent nests. In the evening when they were asleep, we buried some raw vegetables in the holes: whole cabbages, carrots, bell peppers, potatoes & eggplants. (NO onions or garlic. They're toxic to dogs). Will they sniff them out come morning & eat these super-healthy snacks, or will they leave them there? We'll find out!



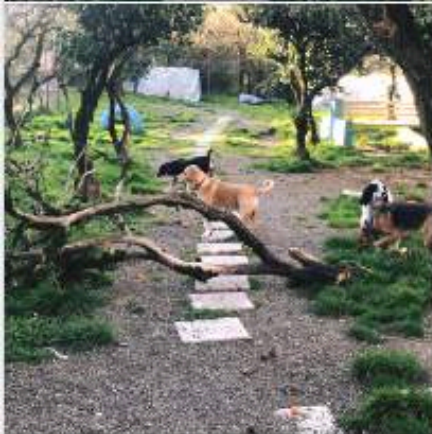


Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge

March 29, 2023 · 🌐

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Hurricane hits Batumi. GeoDog Refuge damaged. Humans & dogs all safe. Hope you are all safe, too.





Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge

May 5, 2023 · 🌐

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When teaching dogs a new skill, the first step is to get them used to the new equipment. Here, we placed cookies on a slide, and praised them when they got on it. ("Good dog!") After repeating this activity several times, over a few days, we'll get one of them to climb up the steps & just sit on the slide. The others will watch & imitate. After that, we'll help them to slide down. Repetition & praise are the keys; that & making it fun!





Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge

May 20, 2023 · 🌐

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GeoDogs Medical Care Program in Batumi Garbage Dump - Week 2

Some dogs look fine, but have symptoms like coughing which could indicate a serious condition like heartworm. Others have secondary infections that require antibiotics or other medications. Some are so sick or injured, we rescue them, take them to a clinic right away or bring them to Geo Dog Refuge for further treatment. If you love dogs, we could really use your help. Please give us a star! Brought to you by Cold Noses Foundation. [#dog](#) [#k9insta](#) [#dogsofinstagram](#) [#Batumi](#) [#dogcatbatumi](#) [#doglovers](#) [#dogrescue](#) [#coldnoses](#) [#coldnosesfoundation](#) [#doglife](#) [#dogsofinsta](#)





Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge

July 20, 2023 · 🌐

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Help name these 3-week old Labrador babies!

They'll be ready for adoption after getting a series of vaccinations. Core puppy shots start at 6 to 8 weeks old and protect new pups from rabies, distemper, parvovirus, and hepatitis. They get injections in two-week vaccination cycles in their first three months, so they can gradually build up immunity. The 3 boys can be neutered between 6-9 months, and the 3 girls can be sterilized after 1 year, or after their first "season"(menses). Contact us for to reserve for adoption.

[#k9insta](#) [#georgia_dog_file](#) [#Batumi](#) [#expatsinbatumi](#) [#gruzinskie_psy2](#) [#yanasanko](#)





Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge

August 17, 2023 · 🌐

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Make Beach Day a Fun & Safe Experience

Make sure your dog knows commands like "Come" or "Leave it" (if they pick up a strange object) before you let them off leash.

Bring bottled water & a container so they won't drink salt water.

Go early in the morning when the sand is not too hot.

Find an area with no beach-goers, fishermen, drunks or firecrackers.

Wear a hat & put on sunscreen. Use pet or hypo-allergenic sunscreen for dogs. Light or white dogs can get sunburned.

On very hot days, keep the beach visit short (less than 1 hour).

If your dog is new to water, play with them near the water's edge.

Bring a doggie life jacket or water wings so they can float.

Teach them how to swim.

Go for a walk & explore. Dogs love new smells.

Play fetch on the beach or in the water with a ball, frisbee, stick or floating toy.

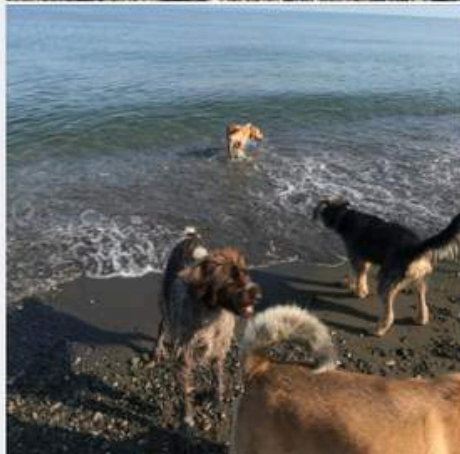
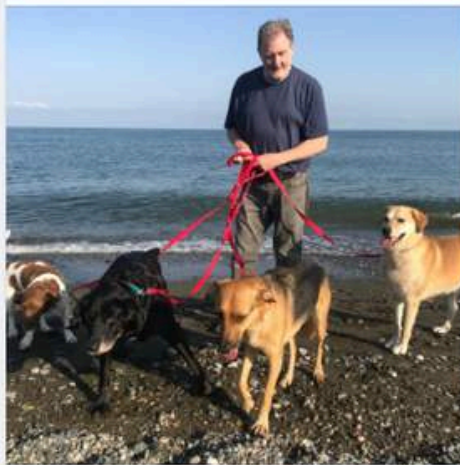
Teach your dog to surf or boogie board.

Take them out on an inflatable cushion or small boat.

Play in the sand. Dogs love to dig. Build a sandcastle then let them destroy it.

Be sure to interact with your dog(s). Keep close watch.

Have fun!





Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge

September 3, 2023 · 🌐

Dog Lover, Chele, Visits Geo Dog Refuge

Animal activist with a big heart, Chele Anderson played with the refuge dogs & brought them much joy. She has been doing volunteer work this summer at Mayhew & D.O.G organization in Tbilisi & has come to help us in Batumi, too. Thank you, Chele! 🙏💜

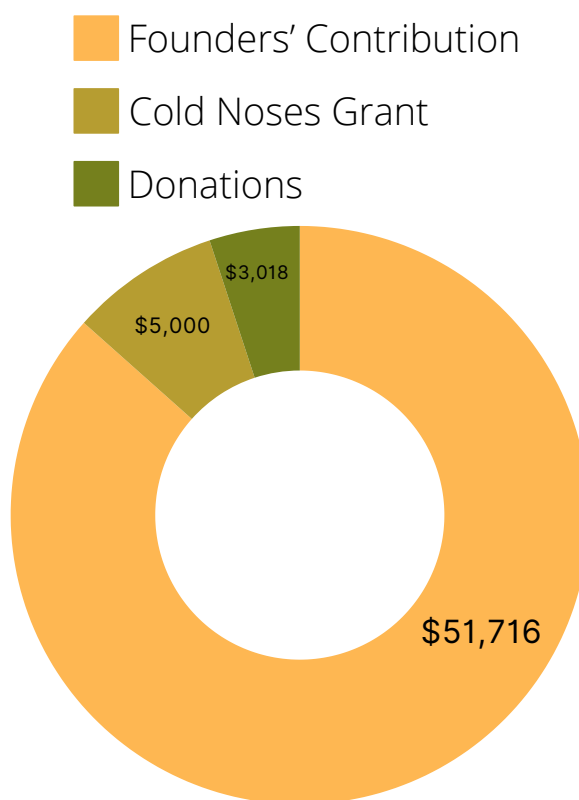


These are just a few stories from our daily outreach efforts; to explore more heartwarming stories and see the impact we're making, we invite you to visit our [Facebook page](#).



2023 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.



Total 2023 Income:
\$59,734

Our goal at Geo Dog Refuge remains unchanged: to diversify our funding sources by increasing donations, applying for grants, and exploring other fundraising opportunities. We continually aim to expand our resources, enabling us to rescue and care for even more homeless dogs in Batumi and surrounding areas, complete the Geo Dog Sanctuary, and continue making an impact on the lives of animals and our community.



Summary

The Republic of Georgia Dog Refuge (Geo Dog Refuge), established in 2022, remains unwavering in its mission to rescue, treat, and find homes for homeless dogs in Batumi, Georgia, and the surrounding areas. Upholding a no-cage, no-kill policy, our refuge provides a safe haven for dogs of all ages, breeds, and conditions, while employing stress-free animal handling techniques.

In 2023, our Community Outreach program expanded, providing food and emergency medical care to approximately 350 homeless dogs and offering support, including free dog food, veterinary care, and fence repair services to 60 low-income pet owners. We also provided care to 100 sick or injured dogs found in the Batumi garbage dump.

Throughout the year, we treated over 100 dogs through our Catch Vaccinate Sterilize and Release program, maintaining a live release rate above 90%. Our dedicated team of 20 volunteers contributed 1,300 hours of service across Geo Dog Refuge, our annex Dog Camp, and the Community Outreach program, ensuring quality care for all animals involved. Significant progress was also made in our adoption and animal welfare efforts.

What Next?

Our primary focus for the coming years is to complete the construction of our sanctuary, enhancing our capacity to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome even more dogs in need. We aim to further expand our Community Outreach programs and deepen our engagement with local communities to promote responsible pet ownership and increase awareness of animal welfare issues.

Strengthening our partnerships with local and international organizations will also be key to broadening our resources and extending our reach.





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**