

Dear Colleagues,

Recent weeks have presented us with a situation no one was prepared to face on our continent. None of us has expected to see the atrocities and both human and animal suffering the military conflict brings.

An enormous number of refugees has fled Ukraine, many with their companion animals. Our profession has been once again put in front of a difficult challenge and once again we faced the challenge in an excellent manner. Numerous temporary veterinary border points set up along the border with Ukraine staffed with state veterinary officers as well as volunteering practitioners working on basis of simplified entry procedures made sure the horrors of being a war refugee are not increased by the necessity to part with one's animal companion, and at the same time minimizing the threat of the spread of rabies, microchipping the animals, etc.

Many Ukrainian veterinarians from the whole spectrum of our profession have found shelter with their colleagues in Europe and other parts of the world. This was possible thanks to individual actions as well as the vetsforukraine.com platform which helped to coordinate the aid coming from different countries in different forms.

An excellent example of solidarity and help is the action undertaken by the Panhellenic Veterinary Association along with the Greek Ministry of Internal Affairs coordinated by UEVP Vice-President Athina Trachili, which resulted in donating 11 tonnes of pet food to a coordination point in Poland. The food will now be partially distributed to temporary veterinary border points on the Polish-Ukrainian border, but the majority of it will be transported to Ukrainian animal shelters which are presently overcrowded with abandoned animals to protect the welfare of these animals.



UEVP Board strongly supports such charitable actions. As the UEVP President, but also as a neighbour of Ukraine I would like to congratulate our Greek colleagues and all the veterinarians from all over the world for the help and support they have shown and are still showing to Ukraine.

VETS FOR VETS & VETS FOR ANIMALS

Piotr Kwieciński
UEVP President