

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE, CHANGE THE TREND



HELP STRAY CATS



WHAT HAPPENS

In many European countries, due to the lack of sterilisation, cats proliferate and unwanted kittens are abandoned in front of restaurants or behind hotels, all due to the concept, unfortunately still rooted in people, that “cats fend for themselves to some extent”.

This is the reason why many streets are filled with animals left to their fate who inevitably end up hungry, sick, injured, wandering on the seafront or in the historic centre of cities, along busiest promenades, or next to famous coffee bars. They are injured, hungry and pregnant cats who seek help from whoever is friendly with them. Tourists, touched by a deep compassion, try to give aid, taking them to the vet or opening some food cans purchased in a local shop, gestures that no local resident



THE FACT

In Dubrovnik, a city of Albania, the elderly cat Anastasia, who was a tourist attraction and symbol of the city, had her home taken away in front of the Ducal Palace before the summer of 2022. Why? Because according to local authorities “she disturbed tourists”.

does. This situation is “normal” for the most of citizens as they think there is “nothing to be done” to better manage cat population, yet there are many solutions, including effective sterilization campaigns.



WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE TOURIST SEASON?

Unfortunately, many countries consider street cats a problem to be eradicated, especially before the summer, because according to their opinion “stray animals would scare tourists away”. Instead of opting for sterilization, they choose the worst solution: the drastic elimination of animals through mass poisoning. This tragic initiative is implemented in many European countries, including Croatia, more often than we can imagine. A terrible choice made in the name of tourism (therefore in your name) on the wrong belief that stray cats “would bother you”. But we know well that this is not the case.

When these extermination campaigns are launched (because that’s the only way we can call them), all cats are affected, both stray and owned ones, as well as those sterilized with

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the efforts and economic commitment of volunteers and local associations. Cases of mass poisoning are so frequent that they enter into the daily lives and habits of local authorities and citizens who, accustomed to this practise, are no longer able to understand the atrocity of this act and therefore to ask for an alternative.



YOU ARE THE KEY

Tourists who, during their holidays, feed cats moved by compassion and an ethical attitude can change the world. You, as a tourist,



are the key to create a new world where humans and animals can co-exist in perfect harmony.

Prove yourself to be a modern tourist: take care of stray cats by funding sterilization projects and pet houses. Every hotel, tourist facility, company or private guest house is concerned with the ethical relationship between human and animal and its effect on tourism and their business.

Send hotel receptions and tourist offices positive impressions and reactions to their correct human-animal relationship approach, make them aware of what you would like to do. For example, saying that you would never return to a city or town that treats animals violently has enormous bearing on their economy.

Unfortunately, hotels, tourism companies, bars, restaurants and local attractions that consider cats to be a nuisance usually use tourists as an excuse to get rid of them, claiming that they are eliminating animals “to do you a favour”!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Make them understand that cats don't bother you.
- Make them understand that what bothers you is exactly the opposite: the pain and suffering of living beings that can be avoided thanks to sterilization projects as already implemented in other countries around the world.
- Make them understand that these projects make you feel good,

safe, satisfied, happy and that, thanks to them, you would return there for holidays or recommend the location.

- Make them understand that cats and dedicated areas for them are an attraction, an added tourist value for the place.
- Make them understand that you feel bad when you realize that the place you have chosen for your holidays does not treat animals ethically and that it has actually chosen to eliminate them.

AND IN PRACTISE?

• In any country, place or city you choose for your holidays, if you see evidence of sterilization projects, houses for cats living in colonies looked after by volunteers, or if you witness scenes of animals in distress that shock you, let it know to the reception or the tourist office.

- Share your positive or negative experience with the hotel reception or tourism association.
- Write what you think and feel on social media.
- Give positive or negative reviews online.

WHAT TO WRITE?

- Write that you want ethically responsible destinations and accommodations.
- Write that you find the tourist destination that treats stray cats (an-

imals in general) humanely attractive and of higher quality, and that if they are treated humanely, you too feel safer in that location.

- Write that for the money you pay you expect to be entitled to a pleasant experience.
- Drastically criticizes tourism that sells the experience of suffering and pain of stray cats (as well as animals in general)
- Show your fear of having to walk along streets strewn with poison, which would make you feel unsafe.
- Participate in creating a story and an enjoyable experience. Demand safety, luxury, attraction, quality, features that can exist on the basis of the use of ethical and humane methods to manage stray animal population. This way you will show local people who make a living from tourism that they need to be aware of the importance of taking care of stray cats ethically and that you as a tourist want to see evidence of projects addressed to the well-being of stray cats.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Don't think that you are in minority and that your contribution is useless. Remember that you are the key and that your words have meaning.

A modern, demanding and polite guest asks and acts: **“Make the difference, Change the trend”.**



INFO



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