



**IMPACT REPORT:**  
**Mars-HSI Global COVID Response for Companion Animals**



**HUMANE SOCIETY  
INTERNATIONAL**

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Washington, D.C.



Mars' generous \$1 million COVID relief grant to Humane Society International saved the lives of thousands of companion animals and prevented thousands more from suffering the pain of hunger or unmet medical needs. This report illustrates the enormous impact Mars had around the world in 2020-21 for animals and pet owners in desperate straits.

Just one example is the story of Dolly, a sweet disabled street dog in Chandigarh, India, who is alive today thanks to Mars' compassion.

Before the pandemic, Panjab University was a bustling campus that dozens of local street dogs called home. Staff and students fed and cared for these community dogs but especially adored Dolly, who had lost her two front legs in a car accident years earlier. Dolly got around by dragging herself or, more often, being carried in the arms of those who loved her.

When India went into lockdown, the campus—like everywhere—became deserted. Lying in her usual spot at the university gate, Dolly found herself alone; no one brought her food and no one came to pick her up. Days turned into a week, and then another. Finally, news of the plight of the starving campus dogs reached our local HSI-India staff.

Thanks to Mars' generosity, we were able to respond immediately with a delivery of 600 kg of dog food. We organized a daily feeding schedule, just as we were doing in cities all over India, and came each day to care for the dogs until students and staff returned weeks later.

Today, Dolly is back at the university gate, healthy and holding court with her gang of canine and human friends and frequently being scooped up by someone delighted to see her. Ever since she was saved by a local animal group after her car accident, Dolly has greeted her rescuers who visit by wagging her tail furiously, as if to say thank you for giving her a second chance at life. With its generous donation to Humane Society International, Mars gave her a third chance.

If someone from Mars were to show up at Panjab University tomorrow, I sincerely believe Dolly would greet them the same way, bouncing and wagging her tail in thanks. We're wagging ours, too.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "j flocken".

Jeff Flocken, President, Humane Society International



*Dolly*

Thanks to Mars, HSI was able to bring lifesaving food and care to more than a quarter of a million animals in 36 countries.





2020-2021 Mars-HSI Global COVID Response

## A global partnership to help companion animals impacted by the pandemic

Eighteen months ago, daily life ground to a halt as governments around the world issued stay-at-home orders to try and stem the spread of COVID-19.

At Humane Society International, we immediately began planning our emergency response, knowing that the consequences of the pandemic—extended lockdowns, widespread illness, economic hardship, an abrupt halt to tourism—would quickly become an existential threat to companion animals, both owned and homeless, who depend on humans to survive.

Into this approaching darkness, Mars appeared as a beacon of hope, asking simply: “How can we help?”

The answer we gave was met with unsurpassed generosity. Mars’ \$1 million grant to HSI financed our deployments and partnerships in 36 countries on five continents, enabling us to provide desperately needed food, medical care and other support to more than 280,000 animals suffering or at risk because of conditions created by the pandemic.

In India alone, we were able to bring lifesaving help to more than 43,000 individual animals and provide more than 500,000 meals to hundreds of thousands of additional hungry cats, dogs, and other animals.

Mars made it possible for HSI and our partners to alleviate animal suffering on a global scale by systematically:

- ◆ Providing food and medical care to street dogs and cats who lost their source of food due to lockdowns, business closures and lack of tourists; and helping shelters and rescue groups struggling to cope with increased numbers of pet surrenders and abandonments.
- ◆ Supporting pet owners hit by financial or health crises with pet food and veterinary care so they could keep their companion animals rather than surrender them to shelters or abandon them on the streets;
- ◆ Correcting misinformation that falsely implicated companion animals in the spread of COVID, and advocating emergency plans that factored in the protection of animals.

The generosity of Mars’ gift is a testament to its compassion for companion animals the world over, and all those who love and protect them.

We could not be more grateful. Thank you.

# Country-by-country breakdown of how Mars' funding helped more than 280,000 animals and provided more than 600,000 meals.

Country	Type of support provided with Mars' funding	Animals helped
Bolivia	Support for emergency vet care for community animals and animals surrendered in La Paz and Viacha, shelter food supplies.	1,800
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Funding for food and veterinary care at shelter and rescues as pet surrenders increased and donations decreased.	250
Chile	Food and veterinary care for unowned cats and dogs, especially in small towns and fishing villages with increased need and no access to care.	4,961
China	Support for abandoned animals and those targeted by inhumane state-run programs, and for pet owners in need.	852
Colombia	Support for areas affected by pet abandonment and cruelty due, pet owners in indigenous and hard-to-reach areas; food for street animals.	13,459
Costa Rica	Basic and emergency vet care and food for abandoned and rescued dogs and cats; support for shelters and independent rescuers struggling to provide food and care for increasing numbers of abandoned animals.	6,120
Dominican Republic	Veterinary services and emergency care for pet owners who lost their income due to COVID; food and care for street animals.	1,186
Ecuador	Veterinary services and emergency care for pet owners in rural and remote regions that depended on tourism for survival.	2,591
El Salvador	Emergency food supplies for shelters and rescuers coping with decreased donations and increased abandonments.	800
Germany	Funding for several groups that shelter old, disabled or infirm dogs and cats and support homeless and senior pet owners.	2,197
Greece	Support for struggling shelters with veterinary care and food; fund project on Crete to feed dogs and cats during crisis.	140
Guatemala	Food and veterinary supplies for a key HSI partner who handled animal welfare cases during the pandemic; support for pet owners and unowned animals in impoverished areas.	2,221
Guyana	Help for one of the only shelters in Guyana; vet care to alleviate outbreaks of parvo and distemper; emergency feeding of street dogs and cats.	2,550
Honduras	Purchase of veterinary supplies for temporary vet clinics in low-income areas, targeting pet owners who lost their jobs due to COVID.	423
India	Provide lifesaving food and care to street animals across India gravely affected by lockdown; assist partner shelters and organizations to care for animals during period of increased intake and abandonment; support community members who feed and care for street dogs and cats. Capacity building in West Bengal, where the pandemic highlighted a major gap in the resources available to alleviate suffering in large-scale crises. Tens of thousands of dogs and other animals were left without food sources and care, so funding supported a 3-year project to create the infrastructure and provide training for emergency animal response.	43,114 plus some 500,000 meals provided to animals

Country	Type of support provided with Mars' funding	Animals helped
Indonesia	Food for dogs and cats living on the street.	16,000 meals
Italy	Support shelters struggling with increased intake due to pet surrenders; provide food and vet care for pets of people experiencing financial crises.	1,200
Kenya	Fund the reopening of a vet clinic forced to close during lockdowns and vaccination/vet care for pets and street animals.	918
Liberia	Vet care, pet food and volunteer costs for care of companion animals.	1,844
Mauritius	Emergency vet care and food for pet owners and street animals.	85,615 meals
Mexico	Vet care and animal supplies to two HSI partner shelters.	500
Middle East Region	Care for animals abandoned on the streets and support for pet owners.	3,133
Morocco	Care and feeding of street dogs and cats impacted by lockdown.	4,663
Mozambique	Veterinary care and assistance for abandoned pets, vet care for street animals.	850
Nepal	Feeding as many as 50% of Kathmandu's street dogs.	13,050
Nicaragua	Veterinary services for pet owners facing financial hardship, feeding street dogs and cats.	515
Nigeria	Food and vet care for owned animals, to keep pets in their homes.	5,000
Panama	Low-cost vet care for pets, to keep companion animals in their homes.	2,530
Poland	Feeding dozens of street dogs and hundreds of cats in four cities; support for a rescue group caring for and seeking adoptive homes for cats.	510
Romania	Support for several vet clinics that provide free or low-cost services to pet owners and shelters; support for rescues and shelters dealing with significantly higher intake levels and reduced donations.	2,765 + 1,200 pets helped per month
Serbia	Support for pets of home-bound pensioners; care and feeding of several community cat colonies.	850
South Africa	Assistance for HSI partner organization to build 40 kennels to shelter abandoned animals; pet supplies and food for pet owners in need.	375 + 566 relief packages
Tanzania	Food, vaccinations and medical care to injured pets and street dogs and cats.	2,742 + 600kg food distributed
Turkey	Vet care and food to support influx of abandoned animals at shelters.	1,465
United States	Financial support for shelters/rescues/groups providing pet food and low-cost vet care in communities hard hit by COVID; expanded HSUS pet support programs in underserved cities and rural and remote areas.	50,000
Zimbabwe	Vet care and food for owned and unowned companion animals.	4,123

A young woman with a yellow beanie and a black jacket is crouching in a field of dry grass. She is smiling and looking towards the right. In front of her, a light brown dog is sitting and looking towards the camera. To the right, another light brown dog is sitting and looking towards the right. In the background, there are more light brown dogs and a range of mountains under a clear blue sky.

On behalf of everyone at Humane Society International, our partners in animal protection around the world, and the hundreds of thousands of companion animals who were fed, treated or saved because of your generosity and compassion:

**Thank you, Mars!**



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