



ANNUAL REPORT

April 2016 – March 2017



Overview

2016/17 was our third tax year (and the fourth calendar year) since our formation in February 2013. We have continued to grow and make progress even though Russia remains a challenging and controversial place for charitable work in general, and in the animal welfare sector in particular.

Progress

The situation in relation to animal welfare in Russia remains difficult. The bad news is that there is still very little progress in relation to the government initiatives or support for any improvement in animal welfare. Animal cruelty remains unpunished and is on the increase. The good news is that there is an increase in public awareness about and support for animal welfare issues (largely due to the work of charities and volunteer groups). This is more the case in large cities and in Moscow and St Petersburg in particular.

There is also a drive to encourage the growth of volunteer movement. There are various government programmes in support of that for adults and, particularly, for young people. There are also state grants available for projects which support and encourage volunteering. This is bound to have a positive effect on developing a new generation of volunteers in the animal welfare sector.

This year we successfully focussed on building our presence on the ground in Russia through the registration of a Russian charity and undertaking a number of projects which raised our profile in the Russian charity sector and public awareness about our work.

We would like to say a big heart-felt thank you to everybody who continues to support our work. Together we are making a difference!



OUR YEAR IN RESULTS

Our annual income has remained steady with approximately 6% increase

Our income in **2015/2016** was **£44,445** and our income in **2016/2017** was **£47,434**. This has allowed us to maintain a consistent level of commitment in relation to our programmes which is very important, especially as sustainability is a big problem for animal welfare charities in Russia.

We are also keeping a healthy reserve which gives us better protection in the event of a drop in the income stream. The sources of income remain the same as before – private donations and an annual fundraising event (this year it was an art exhibition ***Tails & Dreams*** in September 2016).



Also, LAPA has applied and received an approval for a grant from Dogs Trust in relation to its educational programme. The grant will be provided in April 2017 and will therefore be accounted for in the income figures next financial year.

Changes in our governance and structure

First, we are very pleased to welcome Carla Brown as our new trustee. Carla has been involved with LAPA's work from its inception and has now replaced Olga Klyuzhina as a trustee of LAPA.

Second, a charity called LAPA (spelled in Cyrillic) was registered in Russia ("**Russian LAPA**") at the end of September 2016. Our founder and trustee Natalia Chumak is also the founder and a trustee of Russian LAPA. The other trustees of LAPA are also on the board of trustees of Russian LAPA. Until Russian LAPA was registered, we operated in Russia through a group of volunteers. The purpose of registering Russian LAPA was to create a sound and sustainable platform for further growth and development of LAPA's programmes.



Why was it so important to register Russian LAPA?

- Working through a registered charity on the ground, rather than a group of volunteers, gives our work more credibility and creates opportunities in Russia for fundraising and for establishing partnership relationships for joint projects.
- As a registered legal entity Russian LAPA can enter into legal contracts. Following its registration Russian LAPA entered into direct sterilisation contracts with over a dozen of Russian veterinary clinics. This has given our sterilisation programme a better and more accountable structure.
- As a registered legal entity Russian LAPA has entered into employment contracts with two full-time employees. One is a professional teacher of English, Daria Volkova. Her role is to develop further, coordinate and conduct our educational programme on a full-time basis. The other is Ekaterina Koldaeva whose role is to explore fundraising opportunities in Russia, develop relationships with potential partners and raise Russian LAPA's profile.





Sterilisation programme

During the year 2016-2017 we nearly doubled the number of animals that we neutered compared to 2015 – 2016. We paid for the sterilisation of **932 animals** which comprises of **503 dogs** and **432 cats**.

2015/2016	2016/2017
Cats: 282	Cats: 432
Dogs: 316	Dogs: 503
Total number neutered: 592	<u>Total number neutered: 932</u>

This means that we have helped **932 live animals** and saved **hundreds of thousands of unborn animals** from suffering. You can see how quickly stray populations can get out of control:

		Number of births (e.g. 10)		Number of births (e.g. 12)
Year 1	1 cat will produce 10 to 15 kittens per year	1 x 10 = 10 cats (e.g. 5 female and 5 male)	1 dog will produce 12 – 24 puppies per year	1 x 12 = 12 dogs (e.g. 6 female and 6 male)
Year 2	5 female cats from year 1, have litters (plus cat from year 1)	6 x 10 = 60 cats (e.g. 30 female and 30 male)	6 female dogs from year 1, have litters (plus dog from year 1)	7 x 10 = 70 dogs (e.g. 35 female and 35 male)
Year 3	30 female cats from year 2 (plus cats from year 1)	36 x 10 = 360 cats (e.g. 180 female and 180 male)	35 female dogs from year 2 (plus dogs from year 1)	41 x 10 = 410 dogs (e.g. 205 female and 205 male)
Year 4	180 female cats (plus cats from years 1 and 2)	216 x 10 = 2,160 cats (e.g. 1,080 female and 1,080 male)	205 female dogs (plus dogs from years 1 and 2)	246 x 10 = 2,460 dogs (e.g. 1,230 female and 1,230 male)
Year 5	1080 female cats (plus cats from years 1, 2 and 3)	1,296 x 10 = 12,960 cats (e.g. 6,480 female and 6,480 male)	1,230 female dogs (plus dogs from years 1, 2 and 3)	1,476 x 10 = 14,760 dogs (e.g. 7,380 female and 7,380 male)



Sterilisation programme



Educational programme

We have reached out to 4,151 children. This represents a significant increase compared to the previous year which is due to the employment of a full-time teacher following Russian LAPA's registration.

And our programme has improved:

1. Instead of using "one for all" programme, we have developed programmes for three different school age groups. They cover the whole of the primary and secondary school audience. Each programme consists of up to three consecutive lessons. This means that we keep up our contact with the children which helps them to learn more about how to treat animals properly and they can retain information better through practice and reflection at every lesson. We believe this approach should have a better effect long-term.



2. We have also launched new programmes for children of pre-school age and for students/adults on volunteering. Small kids learn through games, dancing, singing and playing under supervision with our furry assistants – soft toys and puppets. Students are given case studies to debate in groups and present their proposed solutions to the peers.



3. Finally, Russian LAPA, in partnership with a large Russian people's charity called Absolut Group has successfully launched an interactive game (called "quest") for children. The quest is aimed at providing knowledge on good animal care and means of testing that knowledge through interactive games. The event took place in February 2017 at a children's home for abandoned children and children with special needs which is financed and managed by Absolut in the Moscow region.



Other activities and events

Art Exhibition *Tails & Dreams* in London

This was a unique exhibition of the works of over 20 international artists who presented their vision of the dreams of selected rescued animals helped by LAPA. Each piece of art was accompanied by a photograph of the animal the art referred to with a description of their life story. The exhibition took place in London. The exhibition was inspired and curated by Ekaterina Nikitina, the Editor-in-Chief of Russian Gap Magazine (now Zima Magazine). All the proceeds from the event and from the subsequent sales of the art were donated to LAPA.



Giving Tuesday at Yoga Space

"Giving Tuesday" saw a great fundraising evening, with yoga and vegan snacks and an interactive talk on responsible pet ownership held at Yoga Space Studio in Moscow. The proceeds from the event were donated to Russian LAPA.



Vanessa May

Russian LAPA was invited by a worldwide class violinist_Vanessa May to attend her concert in Crocus City Hall Moscow, put the stand and a collection box in the main lobby of the concert hall and present a video on our work on the main screens of the concert hall during the intermission. The audience was 6,000 people.

Christmas cards

A Russian artist designed a number of seasonal cards for Russian LAPA which were sold in some shops in Moscow. All the proceeds were donated to Russian LAPA. This was a very small project, but it was good for testing the ground in relation to projects of this kind.





Animals in the City

March 2017 – a project entitled "Animals in the City" was launched by a number of people's charities under a state grant. Russian LAPA was invited to take part in the project as an expert on education. The project lasted until October 2017. During the project Russian LAPA conducted its educational programmes at schools and other children educational facilities throughout Moscow. This was a significant profile-raising event for

Russian LAPA. As a result, Russian LAPA forged new potential partnering relationships with a number of charities and schools. The project, the first one of its kind in Russia, was widely publicized in the Russian Moscow-based press.

Electric Cat Tattoos

19 – 29 March 2017 – a fundraising event where a group of tattoo artists designed and applied tattoos for members of the public throughout one working day. All the proceeds were divided in equal measure between a Russian dog shelter and Russian LAPA. The event was held at a Moscow based tattoo studio called "Electric Cat".



Speaking opportunities

23 March 2017 – Russian LAPA attended and spoke at an animal welfare conference in Moscow on the issues of international experience in animal welfare management and Russian LAPA's experience in conducting the sterilization programme. The conference was well attended by the leading animal welfare groups in Moscow, some regional representatives and some leading people's charities which are interested in animal welfare issues.



