

PRESS STATEMENT

Charity sets up initiative to help dog-owners in need during COVID-19 breakout

Tues, 17 March 2020

UK-registered charity Underdog International have set up an initiative which redeploys their volunteers and resources to support dog-owners in need due to the impacts of the coronavirus.

The initiative called **Underdog Unity** is a network of volunteers across the UK who can be matched with people who need help caring for their dog – whether that be walking their dog, shopping for food and supplies, taking dogs to the vets and even caring for the dogs for extended periods in their own homes.

All Underdog Unity volunteers are vetted and have received guidance and training to ensure they understand the responsibility of their role in looking after someone else's dog – many volunteers are dog behaviourists or dog walkers by trade, and all others have experience with looking after their own dogs.

If you have experience with dogs, whether that be professionally or personally, and would like to volunteer, you can register here www.theunderdog.org/become-a-unity-volunteer.

If you are in need of help with your dog, you can call 020 8050 4292, email hello@theunderdog.org or register here www.theunderdog.org/sign-up-for-help.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT UNDERDOG INTERNATIONAL

Underdog International aims to positively impact one million children by 2025 through the provision of animal-assisted therapy, global youth projects and dog adoption from all over the world. They advocate sharing life lessons with children to nurture kindness, compassion, positivity and resilience.

Underdog International runs a comprehensive 'dogs in school' programme and have a UK network of therapy dogs and volunteers who provide life lessons in schools. They plan to roll-out the programme to other countries with Uganda, Romania, Cyprus and Greece underway or in the planning.

Underdog International was set up as a registered UK Charity in early 2019 by Nadine Kayser, who had previously co-founded *Wild at Heart Foundation* in 2015, a charity that aims to reduce the world's 600 million stray dog population and has become a leading component in the global activity working to address this issue.

After four years, working at *Wild at Heart* addressing the front line of dog rescue and neutering, Nadine wanted to focus more on the 'human element' of what she'd learnt - how to make people more compassionate towards animals. Having been involved in education projects across the globe – in China, Swaziland, Romania, Borneo, Greece and the UK - she realised that an effective way to create lasting change, was through her interactions with children. Not only do the animals benefit, but the children hugely benefit too.

Issued on behalf of Underdog International

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