



Press Contact:

Chelsey Saatkamp, The WNET Group, 513.266.1748, saatkampc@wnet.org

Press Materials: pbs.org/pressroom or thirteen.org/pressroom

***Nature: Saving the Animals of Ukraine* Chronicles the Extraordinary Efforts by Ukrainian Citizens to Rescue Their Animals**

New documentary premieres Wednesday, May 15 at 8/7c on PBS ([check local listings](#)), pbs.org/nature, [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#)

In the midst of violence and war, Ukrainian citizens are coming together to rescue animals that have been left behind by those forced to flee. Witness a moving view into the effects of war on animals, and the humans who help them, in ***Nature: Saving the Animals of Ukraine***, premiering [Wednesday, May 15 at 8/7c on PBS](#) ([check local listings](#)), pbs.org/nature, [YouTube](#) and the [PBS App](#).

Directed by travel YouTube vlogger turned war correspondent Anton Ptushkin, the documentary chronicles stories of survival, love and resilience from the heart of war-torn Ukraine. See those rescuing cats and dogs in abandoned buildings as well as lions and tigers in the nation's zoos, and the extraordinary efforts to bring them to safety. Hear from volunteers of the nation's animal shelters, who are risking their own lives to care for their charges during bombardment. Meet Patron, the bomb-detecting Jack Russell Terrier who has saved countless lives, as well as Shafa, a cat in Borodyanka who becomes a symbol of hope.

"I never imagined I would become a war or nature documentarian, but when this war began, I was so inspired by the footage of people trying to save their pets," said director Anton Ptushkin. "I knew I wanted to tell the story of the important relationship between the Ukrainian people and

their animals. Animals have helped us cope with the stress and consequences of this war, and I'm honored to showcase their stories of resiliency alongside those of the humans rescuing them."

"This film is a tribute to the very best of the human spirit despite the horrors of war," said Fred Kaufman, Executive Producer for **Nature**. "We're honored to showcase these stories on **Nature** and hope viewers are inspired by the heroes in this film and never take for granted the hope and joy that animals bring us even in the darkest of times."

Nature: Saving the Animals of Ukraine is a production of Yap Films Inc. and VSE Sam in association with The WNET Group and The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The documentary is directed, produced and filmed by Anton Ptushkin. Written by Sonja Obljubek and Serhii Lokshyn and produced by Elizabeth Trojian and Zoya Soshenko. Elliott Halpern, Elizabeth Trojian and Zoya Soshenko are Executive Producers. For **Nature**, Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer, Bill Murphy is Series Producer and Janet Hess is Series Editor. **Nature** is a production of The WNET Group.

Saving the Animals of Ukraine is produced with the participation of Rogers Documentary Fund and The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit. Produced with film and television tax credit assistance from The Government of Ontario. Additional financial support for this episode is provided by Bradley L. Goldberg Family Foundation, Perpetual Kindness Foundation and Sun Hill Renewal Fund. Series funding for **Nature** is made possible in part by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, The Arnhold Family in memory of Henry and Clarisse Arnhold, The Fairweather Foundation, Kate W. Cassidy Foundation, Charles Rosenblum, Kathy Chiao and Ken Hao, Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III, Filomen M. D'Agostino Foundation, Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust, Gregg Peters Monsees Foundation, Koo and Patricia Yuen, Sandra Atlas Bass, and public television viewers.

Since 1982, **Nature** has pioneered a television genre that is now widely emulated in the broadcast industry, bringing the natural world to millions of viewers. The series has won more than 700 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film communities and environmental organizations, including 21 Emmys and three Peabodys. **Nature** is available for streaming concurrent with broadcast on all station-branded PBS platforms, including [PBS.org](https://www.pbs.org) and the [PBS App](#), available on iOS, Android, Roku streaming devices, Apple TV, Android TV, Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Chromecast and VIZIO. Classic episodes are available on various [FAST channel platforms](#) and on [PBS Passport](#).

Websites:

pbs.org/nature; facebook.com/PBSNature; twitter.com/PBSNature; instagram.com/pbsnature; youtube.com/naturepbs, tiktok.com/@pbsnature, #NaturePBS

About The WNET Group

[The WNET Group](#) creates inspiring media content and meaningful experiences for diverse audiences nationwide. It is the community-supported home of New York's [THIRTEEN](#) – America's flagship PBS station – [WLIW21](#), THIRTEEN PBSKids, WLIW World and Create; [NJ PBS](#), New Jersey's statewide public television network; Long Island's only NPR station WLIW-FM; [ALL ARTS](#), the arts and culture media provider; newsroom [NJ Spotlight News](#); and FAST channel PBS Nature. Through these channels and streaming platforms, The WNET Group brings arts, culture, education, news, documentary, entertainment and DIY programming to more than five million viewers each month. The WNET Group's award-winning productions include signature PBS series ***Nature***, ***Great Performances***, ***American Masters*** and ***Amanpour and Company*** and trusted local news program ***NJ Spotlight News with Briana Vannozzi***. Inspiring curiosity and nurturing dreams, The WNET Group's award-winning Kids' Media and Education team produces the PBS KIDS series ***Cyberchase***, interactive ***Mission US*** history games, and resources for families, teachers and caregivers. A leading nonprofit public media producer for more than 60 years, The WNET Group presents and distributes content that fosters lifelong learning, including multiplatform initiatives addressing poverty, jobs, economic opportunity, social justice, understanding and the environment. Through Passport, station members can stream new and archival programming anytime, anywhere. The WNET Group represents the best in public media. Join us.

About Yap Films

Founded in 2002, [Yap Films](#) is an independent production company specializing in entertaining, original and high-profile documentary specials and factual series on a wide range of subject matter for broadcast and cable networks in North America and internationally. Yap is owned and managed by Elliott Halpern and Elizabeth Trojian. Along with two Emmy Award wins and three Emmy nominations; Yap received a 2021 Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series and a 2022 NAACP Image Award nomination for Outstanding Documentary for *How It Feels To Be Free*. Yap Films is a Global Top 100 production company and continues to be a leading producer of respected documentaries and factual series for broadcasters and streaming services worldwide.

###