



Subscribe

Subscriber Login

Search JSOnline



Today's Paper



MILWAUKEE · WISCONSIN
JOURNAL SENTINEL



Click for Career
Opportunities This Winter >>

 **Wheaton
Franciscan
Healthcare**
Making Our Community
Stronger. Healthier. Better.



News

Watchdog

Opinion

Sports

Business

Food

Entertainment

Lifestyle

Green Sheet

Marketplace

Jobs

Autos

Homes

 U.S. and World

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [U.S. and World](#)

Homemade wheelchairs helps injured Balkan pets



**Memory
loss...**

shouldn't take
away purpose and



Associated Press

Milce Cankovic Kadijevic's dog Bak, which is in a wheelchair following a spinal injury, plays with another dog last month in a park in Belgrade, Serbia.

By Jovana Gec Associated Press, Associated Press

March 7, 2015

TWEET Share 87 4

EMAIL PRINT (1) COMMENTS



Advertisement

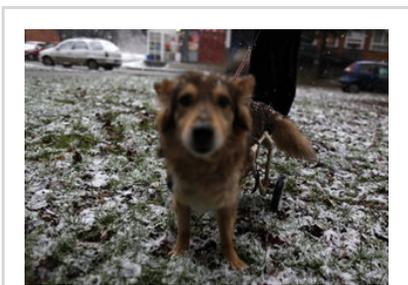
MOST POPULAR - NEWS

most read	commented	e-mailed
------------------	------------------	-----------------

[» more most popular content...](#)

Advertisement

Photos



Belgrade, Serbia — When his dog Mica suffered a spinal injury, Dragan Dimitrijevic made her a wheelchair, using small wheels, plastic pipes and old belts. It worked: The foxy-looking mongrel was back in the park in no time, other dogs barking and sniffing inquisitively at the strange construction dangling along.

Although it is homemade from used parts, word of Mica's wheelchair spread swiftly among dog lovers in not-so-animal-friendly Serbia. Other pet owners with similar problems started calling, and Dimitrijevic was soon taking orders.

In more than three years, the computer programmer from Belgrade has

Wheelchairs helps pets stay mobile

made about 80 wheelchairs for invalid dogs and cats, developing a small business with happy customers all over Serbia and other Balkan countries.

"I have a soft spot for dogs," Dimitrijevic said. "A wheelchair is not a cure, but it enables them to run, sniff, do all the things other dogs normally

do."

For many in the impoverished Balkans — a region with a bad record both in care for the disabled and in animal welfare — Dimitrijevic's wheelchair is the only way to deal with pet disability. There are no other local producers, while obtaining a pet wheelchair from European Union countries costs many times more.

In Serbia, authorities have been unable to cope with the problem of tens of thousands of stray dogs, so injured animals are often simply put down.

Milce Cankovic Kadijevec was first told to euthanize her wire-haired dachshund Bak, who squashed a spinal disk four years ago. Then she heard about Dimitrijevic.

"This wheelchair has allowed Bak to live normally, to run and play," Cankovic Kadijevec said. "He doesn't even know he has a problem!"

Veterinarian Dragan Bacic explained that a wheelchair for pets also helps the animals exercise and prevents additional injuries when they go outside.

Dimitrijevic said each wheelchair is made in consultation with veterinarians, adapted individually to fit a particular pet and the nature of its injuries. While the first wheelchair took three days to make, nowadays it is a one-day routine, he said.

But, Dimitrijevic insisted, seeing photos or a video of a joyful animal able to run again, is as rewarding as ever. "There is nothing like a dog rushing toward its friends or owner," he said. "So happy!"



Comments »

Read and share your thoughts on this story.

From around the web and the Journal Sentinel



10 Dorm Room Hacks You Need to Know
Bentley University



A method to pocket 6% cash back on grocery purchases

More from around the web

- Inside Look At LeBron's Incredible Miami Home For Sale (Bankrate)
- A method to pocket 6% cash back on grocery purchases (NextAdvisor)
- 4 in 5 Americans Are Ignoring Buffett's Warning (The Motley Fool)
- How Much Money Do You Really Get from a Reverse Mortgage? (NewRetirement)
- Why Aren't Homeowners Taking Advantage of HARP? (LowerMyBills)

More from the Journal Sentinel

Sponsored Links by Taboola



E-mail Newsletter

The latest local news delivered to your inbox Monday-Friday around noon – or whenever there's big breaking news.

[Sign Up Now!](#)

Enter your e-mail address above and click "Sign Up Now!" to begin receiving your e-mail newsletter

[Login](#) or [Register](#) to manage all your newsletter preferences.

advertisement



[News](#) [Watchdog](#) [Opinion](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Food](#) [Entertainment](#) [Lifestyle](#) [Green Sheet](#)

[Connect with us](#)

[Contact us](#)

[About us](#)

[Partners](#)

Facebook

> Newsletters

Twitter

> Today's paper

Google Plus

> Subscription services

YouTube

> Archives

RSS

> Historical Archives

Mobile Apps

Phone numbers

Manage account

Advertising

Paid Death Notices

Back copies

Digital access FAQ

Place an Ad

Journal Sentinel



journalmediagroup

© 2015 Journal Sentinel, Inc. [PRIVACY POLICY/YOUR CALIFORNIA PRIVACY RIGHTS](#) [Terms of Use](#)

Tuesday, June 16, 2015