



SATURDAY, MAR 7, 2015 08:00 AM EST

## Home-made wheelchair helps injured pets in Balkans

JOVANA GEC, ASSOCIATED PRESS



TOPICS: FROM THE WIRES, LIFE NEWS, NEWS





In this photo taken Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, Milce Cankovic Kadijevic's dog Bak, who is in a wheelchair, walks in the park in Belgrade, Serbia. When Milica's dog Bak crushed a spinal disk two years ago, Belgrade veterinarians told her to euthanize the dog. Then she went to Dragan Dimitrijevic, who made a wheelchair for her dog. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)(Credit: AP)

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — 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.

Though 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 made around 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 told The Associated Press. "A wheelchair is not a cure, but it enables them to run, sniff, do all the things other dogs normally do."

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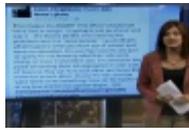


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