

Animal Rights Activists Buy Lioness Seen Roaming St. Petersburg Streets

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Vkontakte / veles_spb

Animal rights activists have reportedly bought a lioness that was seen roaming St. Petersburg last week from its reality show star owner.

After the unattended predator was [spotted](#) on a snowy street over the weekend, local media reported that 7-month-old Simona belonged to a local resident who once starred in a popular Russian reality television show. Its owner [told](#) a Russian tabloid on Sunday that he planned to sell Simona because he found it increasingly burdensome to care for the animal in his apartment.

Veles, a private organization for the housing, treatment, rehabilitation and quarantine of wild animals [announced](#) on social media that it had bought Simona on Tuesday after raising funds in a crowdfunding campaign.

Videos posted on a Russian social media page showed the lioness interacting with its new

owners.

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“We have one more lioness, we think they’ll become friends,” the activists at Veles [told](#) the Komsomolskaya Pravda tabloid on Tuesday.

Veles said the animal is in need of surgery and is suffering from rickets, a disorder characterized by weak bones caused by vitamin deficiency.

Veles last made headlines for [adopting](#) a baby crocodile in 2014.

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