



Date: 25.11.2011

**To: TARGU-JIU CITY HALL**

**Mayor Florin Carciumaru,**

we approach you on an important matter.

Our cooperation partner, association Pro Animals, has supported the community for over a decade. In over 12 years their work has meant thousands of spayings in Gorj County to reduce the number of stray animals that is something the city of Tg-Jiu as well as all cities in Romania have aimed at. Pro Animals has also implemented an important, sustainable development-based project in schools of Tg-Jiu to give children environmental education to become responsible citizens and participated in supporting elderly people at a care home via an animal therapy programme never-before-seen in Gorj, perhaps in the whole Romania.

Pro Animals is constantly trying to change the stray dog situation for the better by educating, informing, spaying and campaigning for dog adoptions. Pro Animals has maintained a shelter of over 600 stray dogs without using or been given public money, so we, Pro Animals Finland, a foreign association, consider Pro Animals a huge support and remarkable factor for your city.

We were very happy and content to find out that you gave Pro Animals a piece of land to use for building a new shelter. We were happy to report that in a very short period of time Pro Animals managed to build ca. 45% of the new shelter. This included capacity for over 200 dogs, a veterinary clinic, recuperation area, room for dogs with special needs, warehouse for food and place for workers. It has demanded a huge effort both financially as well as physically to efficiently manage a shelter of over 600 dogs and at the same time build a new one.

Unfortunately, as we have come to realize, the only support for this project has been ours when usually animal shelters are built in cooperation with many financially stable instances and supported by the community. So far the Finnish citizens have made possible the new shelter-project and they also wish to continue supporting as they find Pro Animals' efforts for the community very important.

We do not understand the absence, non-participation and lack of any support from the local community towards Pro Animals' work. There is a constant pressure from the neighbours around shelter and the owners of land of the shelter, the dogs of the shelter have been poisoned and the representatives of Pro Animals have continuously gotten threats. Despite the negative attitude and discouragement from the community, Pro Animals have stood behind their cause and continued their work.

Let's not ignore the fact that all these aspects could be prevented with the participation of the authorities that could calm down the situation until the new shelter was finished and the dogs were moved. It's difficult for us to understand why the locals and authorities fight so hard against Pro Animals when they only try to help the community by reducing the number of stray animals and teaching how to take care of animals properly and solve problems in a humane and efficient way.

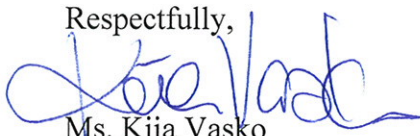
We have been told that starting from December 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, Tg-Jiu city hall will cut the electricity for the shelter from Narciselor street.

We do believe and hope, Mr. Mayor, that you will find a way to not let this happen as this would mean that many dogs – old dogs, puppies and dogs with health problems – would not survive this and the city would sentence these dogs to die on Christmas season no less. Pro Animals are not able to sign a contract with CEZ Romania as they are the not owners of the land. So, please, we are asking for your intervention on this and a decision that could save these animals.

We are not speaking for the whole Finland but for hundreds of Finnish donators and maybe thousands of those who follow Pro Animals' steps from the distance. Please, pay attention that your involvement and support for association Pro Animals would mean a lot for the Finnish donators and would encourage good spirit towards your city and you as a Mayor.

Please, let us see that you are able to do good deeds for animals and for the wellbeing of the whole community. In hope of finding understanding and empathy from you in this difficult situation, we want to express our gratitude in future by continuing and developing our cooperation with Pro Animals in various ways for the welfare of your community.

Respectfully,



Ms. Kiia Vasko

President of Pro Animals Finland registered association.