

PRO ANIMALS FINLAND REGISTERED ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT 2006

GENERAL INFORMATION

Pro Animals Finland registered association operates from project to project which means that the administrative board of the association chooses only one object of helping at a time. Our long term project is aimed at Romania to help Pro Animals Romania that maintains a dog shelter in Tg-Jiu. Pro Animals Romania takes care of a shelter of nearly 400 dogs without any support from the state, the city of Tg-Jiu or the local quarters. Pro Animals Romania is completely dependent of external – mainly foreign – supporters.

The catching of stray dogs and killing them in various kinds of methods is commonplace in Romania. This kind of action has taken place also in the city of Tg-Jiu that has no dog shelter provided by the city, only the shelter taken care of by Pro Animals Romania.

The city of Tg-Jiu owns the land area in which the dog shelter of Pro Animals Romania is situated. The city is putting pressure on Pro Animals Romania to move the shelter with its dogs to elsewhere so that the land area could be used productively. Pro Animals Romania consists of a family of Carmena Serbanoiu and her daughter Patricia.

THE BASIS OF THE ACTIVITY

The situation of the Tg-Jiu dog shelter has been very difficult. The conditions of the shelter are very undeveloped and there are lots of dogs, some of them are old and sick. Dogs, especially puppies, are constantly abandoned at the gates of the shelter and even thrown over the wire-netting fence inside the shelter area. Very few homes are found for the dogs in comparison to the number of the abandoned dogs.

For several years a portion of the food supply for the shelter dogs has been provided (among others) by the Brigitte Bardot Foundation as a donation. The organisation of the foundation has gone through significant changes in personnel and the representative of the foundation visited the Tg-Jiu shelter in the end of December. In the first few months of the year 2007 the representative will decide whether the foundation is going to continue supporting Pro Animals Romania also in the future. However it has been heard that the donations to Romania will be reduced in any case.

The neutering of the dogs is very important and Pro Animals Romania has managed to neuter every female of the shelter. Pro Animals Romania is also trying to neuter all the newcomers as soon as possible after they are brought to the shelter. The problem is that there is only one vet in the city of Tg-Jiu who knows how to neuter and he isn't very interested in treating stray dogs. Pro Animals Romania has often taken dogs hundreds of kilometres to a vet even all the way to the Bucharest which is over 350 kilometres away. Of course this is very strenuous and consumes time and resources.

The efforts of several people are needed in taking care of the shelter and the dogs. It's very hard for Pro Animals Romania to find trustworthy employees or simply just employees to work in harsh conditions for a small salary. The social welfare services are already in use in Romania and many people able to work prefer staying at home and enjoying their social security benefits. In practice the mother of the family, Carmena Serbanoiu, takes care of the shelter with an occasional help of 1-

2 workers. The home of the family is also a little dog shelter with at least 30 dogs. Of these dogs some are always shelter dogs recovering from operations or sicknesses.

Pro Animals Romania has managed to buy a land area. The land area is for the new private shelter but Pro Animals Romania doesn't have money to build it. In Romania the bureaucracy also takes a lot of time and money.

THE GUIDELINES OF THE ACTIVITY

Because the need of help is enormously great and versatile in the Tg-Jiu shelter, it's time for us to take one step at a time to help Pro Animals Romania to secure the wellbeing of the shelter dogs.

On our own behalf our association has wanted to secure the daily meals of the dogs, the salaries of the employees and the necessary neutering and medical care of the shelter dogs.

Pro Animals Romania needs also a help from a dependable vet and our association has tried to find opportunities to hire a vet for the shelter. In order that this could happen, the vet should have proper facilities to perform also demanding operations. Because it's not possible to build a fixed clinic to the current shelter area, in this case it should be either moving clinic or then a proper rented space. The moving clinic has certain benefits, in case it's needed, it could be taken to other places of the country to help. It's impossible to get a competent vet to the present-day conditions. PAFi (Pro Animals Finland) has tried to find possibilities that would open doors to hire a vet to the shelter but there are no quick or simple solutions for the previously mentioned matters.

Pro Animals Romania has finally gotten the city council of Tg-Jiu to agree on the neutering programme which means that the stray dogs of the city are being regularly neutered and then released under supervision. In this way in time it's possible to reduce the rapid reproduction of the strays. The neutering programme is also a humane way to grip onto the problem instead of capturing the dogs and killing them in wrongful ways. The neutering programme demands a lot of resources and without resources it's impossible to start the programme. The city council has promised to cover a certain amount of the costs. The rest of the costs will be taken care of by Pro Animals Romania. Our association Pro Animals Finland registered association has promised to give all the possible support on this project.

When agreeing to the neutering programme, the city of Tg-Jiu required Pro Animals Romania to build a new private dog shelter with veterinary services to someplace else in two years. PAFi registered association aims at helping Pro Animals Romania in the new shelter – project as much as possible. For this project there is a campaign called “A new shelter for the homeless dogs of Tg-Jiu for Christmas 2008”.

THE CONCRETE ACTIVITY IN 2006

With the help of our association 100 shelter dogs of Tg-Jiu got a Finnish godparent (sponsor). By sponsoring we can secure almost half of the daily need of food and necessary treatments of the shelter dogs.

In cooperation with Pro Animals Romania our association carried out a neutering programme in August 2006 in the city of Tg-Jiu. The local people had a chance to bring their pets for neutering

and vaccination without a charge. At the same time they received information how important it is to take care of animals if for no other reason than public health reasons. On the spot during the neutering campaign were also a Finnish vet and pet nurse.

The campaign was entirely funded by PAFi with 6 500 euros of collected funds. Of these funds a portion went to cover the travelling and accommodation costs of the Finnish vet and pet nurse. Also Kiia Vasko and Jukka Kinnunen, the representatives of PAFi's administrative board, were on the spot on their own cost helping to implement the campaign. There in the Tg-Jiu shelter was also a Finnish volunteer helping with the campaign.

During the neutering campaign in August PAFi registered association took an electrician to repair the dangerous and poor electrical installations of the shelter's warehouse. The warehouse is used as a place to treat old and sick dogs and there are also abandoned puppies. The electrical installations of the building had been so poor that for example in winter there had been power only for one radiator. There had always been a risk of getting an electric shock since for example the cables were mostly uncovered near the sockets. The travelling and accommodation costs of the electrician and the most of the materials for the electrical installations were covered by the PAFi administrative board.

In October 2006 the local vet of Tg-Jiu was helped by PAFi registered association to travel to Finland. In Finland the vet from Tg-Jiu got some extra education in the clinic of the Finnish vet who participated in the neutering campaign.

On the 4th of October 2006 PAFi registered association participated in the Eläinten päivän messut (A fair for the animals' day) in Helsinki's Vanha Ylioppilastalo.

PAFi registered association got a licence to collect money from the 1st of November 2006 to the 31st of October 2007.

PAFi registered association introduced its activity and arranged a lottery in the Itäkeskus Mall of Helsinki for three days from 8th to 10th of December. The profits of the day were 1 505 euros.

In the latter part of the year PAFi registered association got a remarkable cooperation partner Faunatar which is a Finnish pet store chain. Several Faunatar pet stores have taken a goddog from the Tg-Jiu shelter. A fund-raising box was taken to the store in Itäkeskus Mall in the mid-December. The cooperation will be developed in many different ways in the future.

PAFi registered association received 4 500 euros of support from the Finnish Ministry of Education to start an education project aimed at the pupils of Tg-Jiu. The project has been prepared in the latter part of the year 2006 for example by negotiating with the Romanian educational authorities about the contents and alignments of the education, by training two people to visit the schools on regular basis and by planning educational leaflets for the pupils to support the education. In practice the project is carried out by Pro Animals Romania.

With the guidance and support of PAFi registered association Pro Animals Romania started a therapy dog program in September 2006. In Tg-Jiu Pro Animals Romania took the therapy dogs to the Susen's retirement home that has over 100 residents. Pro Animals Romania has visited the elderly people regularly every week and they have had 2-3 dogs with them. Pro Animals Romania arranged a Christmas to remember for the residents of the retirement home by taking them several Christmas trees and decorating the trees with the elderly people. Pro Animals Romania also

prepared a personal Christmas gift box for every elderly person. The gift box included among other things a framed photo of the elderly person with a therapy dog of his/her own. The therapy dog program has been a huge success and it's been in the news in Romania also nationally for example on TV.

The active members of our association have raised funds for the Tg-Jiu shelter by arranging rummage sales and flea markets for example in Tampere, Oulu and Helsinki.

Our association sent a newsletter to its members, the sponsors and other people interested at least twice a month to give continuous information of the situation of the shelter and Pro Animals Romania.

Our association maintains and updates its homepages (www.pafiry.net) that are used for sharing information of our activities and projects.

By selling products of the association, it has been possible to support for example the neutering campaign and the Tg-Jiu dog shelter. During the year 2006 postcards, badges, silicone bracelets and t-shirts have been the supporting products of the association. We are also trying to come up with suitable ideas for new supporting products to expand our product selection.

We have aimed at informing media of the activities and achievements of our association on regular basis. In 2006 an article about the activity of Pro Animals Finland registered association was published in a magazine Eläinten ystävä (A friend of animals) by Finland's humane society. There was also little news of us in Koirat (Dogs) – magazine.

We have also tried to find cooperation partners who would find the supporting of Pro Animals Romania with us as meaningful and suitable for their own actions and for their ways of thinking.

In 2006 PAFi registered association collected approximately 30 000 euros of support for the Tg-Jiu shelter and Pro Animals Romania. Precise numbers can be found later in the accounting data.