

Press release, April 11<sup>th</sup> 2008

TITLE: Animal abuse in Romania

Dear Madam/ Sir,

We would like to bring up some concerning issues relating to animal abuse in Romania.

We, Pro Animals Finland registered association in Finland, together with our Romanian cooperation partner Pro Animals Romania have witnessed horrible cases of animal cruelty in Romania and we ask your help on this matter.

One of the most recent cases of animal abuse is Rona, a horse that has been severely abused by its owner. The local authorities' attempts to confiscate her have been unsuccessful. Here is more information of the case: <http://koti.phnet.fi/proanima/Ronan%20pelastusoperaatio>.

Other serious cases of animal abuse are the municipal dog shelters of Gorj County in Rovinari, Carbonești and Tg-Jiu. The local officials of Rovinari even claim the shelter to meet the EU-standards of quality! In reality these shelters function as concentration camps as the dogs receive hardly any food and water, and no medical care. Needless to say, the dogs in these shelters are facing an agonizing death. For more information, please, see the link: <http://koti.phnet.fi/proanima/Rovinari%20shelter>.

Right now we are trying to find international help for the neglected stray dogs in these shelters of the Gorj County. For more than a decade, the Romanians have tried to solve the stray dog problem with brutal dog massacres. This method is not only inhumane, but also ineffective. Only large scale neutering programs will reduce the stray dog population permanently. Many international and local animal protection associations encourage Romania to search for the solution in continuous neutering programs, vaccinations against diseases and building quality dog shelters in which the dogs receive sufficient care. The leading national newspaper of Finland; Helsingin Sanomat reported on April 1st 2008 that thousands of stray dogs have disappeared from the streets of Bucharest just before the Nato Summit. It is not difficult to guess the fate of these dogs.

Since you are reporting also of injustice in the world, we kindly ask for your help. We hope that you would raise awareness of these important issues and help make the future better for the homeless and abused animals.

Please, visit our homepage <http://www.pafiry.net> to find out more about our activities and do contact us in case you have any questions relating to the matter.

Sincerely,

Pro Animals Finland registered association