

Press release, April 13th 2008

TITLE: Horse abuse in Romania

We, Pro Animals Finland registered association, are very concerned over animal cruelty and hope you would pay attention to these serious issues regarding to horse abuse in Romania.

There is only so much brutal whipping and violent forcing a starving, exhausted and hurt horse can take. Then its legs began to shake and the horse collapses on the ground. Even on the ground, broken and dying, someone still thinks the horse deserves to be physically punished for not serving its master. This isn't just a story of a horse; this happens to dozens of horses every day in Romania.

Our Romanian cooperation partner, Pro Animals Romania, discovered on April 6th 2008 a tragic example of a workhorse that had collapsed of severe exhaustion. Despite the new animal protection law requiring the police to act, the authorities didn't intervene in this cruelty. The skinny, sick horse named Dona was later found abandoned and now we are doing our best to help the horse to recover.

Together with Pro Animals Romania we have also desperately tried to rescue Rona, a horse that has been horribly abused by its owner. Even though Rona's condition is worsening by the second, the authorities still won't do a thing to stop the owner from maltreating the horse. Please, see the link: <http://koti.phnet.fi/proanima/Ronan%20pelastusoperaatio>.

In Romania a horse's life isn't worth even a decent death. Horses are abandoned to the streets without any care to wait for a slow death or taken to "horse storages" in which the horses are left without proper care before taken to be slaughtered. Needless to say, the circumstances are agonizing, as you can see here: <http://koti.phnet.fi/proanima/Maltreated%20horses>.

Helping victims of animal abuse is a constant struggle for Carmena Serbanoiu and her daughter Patricia, the founders of Pro Animals Romania. Not only do they have to face shocking cases of cruelty, they also have to cope with offensive and threatening people who are against helping animals and who can't comprehend why animals should be treated without violence. These aggressive opposers, usually local Romanies, have been capable of poisoning dogs of Pro Animals Romania's dog shelter, threatening the women and sabotaging their work for animals. Who knows what these people will do next?

We may not be able to save all the abused horses but it's not too late to act to raise awareness and try to prevent this suffering from happening. Please, do the right thing and help us to help these horses by telling their sad story to the world.

Sincerely,

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