



FOUR PAWS International
Thomas Pietsch
Wild Animal Lead Expert
Schomburgstraße 120
22767 Hamburg
Germany

Ministry of Agriculture
Prof. Davor Romić, PhD, Minister Ministry of Agriculture
Ulica grada Vukovara 78
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

24. February 2016

Dear Minister,

Uphold the legal ban of fur farming in Croatia

I am writing you on behalf of the international animal welfare organisation FOUR PAWS. We strive for sustainable improvements for animals through substantiated research and scientific expertise, awareness raising campaigns and projects providing concrete solutions for animals in need. We are focusing on animals that are directly under human influence, in the area of captive wild animals fur farming is one of our main working areas.

FOUR PAWS runs offices in countries like Austria, Switzerland, The Netherlands or United Kingdom with legal bans for fur farms in place and since years we encourage the development of such legal measures that effectively protect fur bearing animals from cruelty. Behind this background we are alarmed to hear that the ban in Croatia is threatened by a new amendment to the Animal Protection Act which would exclude chinchillas from the existing ban. In our opinion such an amendment would be a huge step backwards for Croatian welfare legislation and the protection of fur animals, especially because of the fact that the transitional period should end in less than a year.

Today more and more European countries decide to ban all types of fur farming irrespective of the species concerned. We are now worried that Croatia – being one of Europe's forerunner countries on welfare standards for fur animals since years - may fall



back into the situation before 2007. The Animal Protection Act that Croatia passed that year including the fur farming ban on all species with a 10 year phasing out period was praiseworthy and strongly supported by many important stakeholders as well as by 70 percent of Croatia's citizens. Apart from ethical concerns today current reports and cases provide clear evidence that fur farms can not be operated in line with acceptable welfare for the animals. Moreover fur farms and fur processing is very questionable from an ecological and climate impact perspective.

Still Croatia is a European leader regarding the welfare of fur animals and we would like to ask you to keep the fur farming ban for all species and stay in company of other progressive countries that decided to end fur farming like UK and Northern Ireland, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and others.

We rely on your support that you will prevent the Animal Protection Act from a possible downgrade and keep working on its improvement.

Sincerely,

Thomas Pietsch