

REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Veterinary and Food Safety Division
Veterinary Inspection Sector
Veterinary Inspection Service
Department – Veterinary Office Požega
Branch Office Slavonski Brod

CLASS: 322-07/16-03/425
REF. NO.: 525-10/0446-16-5
In Slavonski Brod, 10th June 2016

PRIJATELJI ŽIVOTINJA (ANIMAL FRIENDS)
Zagreb, Jurišićeva 25
prijatelji.zivotinja@inet.hr

Subject: animal circus at Slavonski Brod
your submission without reference number, reply, delivered;

Dear Sir or Madam!

Thank you for your kind worded introductory even though it was obviously directed at the Mayor and not the Veterinary Inspection, and we acquired the uniformed letter as a „collateral casualty“. However, we understand your concern. Thank you for your concern and engagement with regard to animal rights. Your allegations are not grounded in knowing zoology or the law because camels and llamas are not wild animals but tame animals (in those parts of the world where they are domiciled). I will gladly clarify to you, for information's sake, that a certain amount of camels live in the wild only in Australia, more specifically those are one-humped camels (so called „feral“ animals). However, not even those are wild animals but tame animals which became feral. Llamas were domesticated in the pre-Columbian era until today.

Therefore, your allegation is not correct and the Safari circus does not have wild animals, which has been established by inspection before issuing consent for animal shows, nor was the consent for a circus show including wild animals ever requested.

In conclusion, your submission does not qualify for initiating proceedings.

Let me be absolutely clear: Associations may perform activities and they act emotively and affectionately, but inspectors have to work according to law. If a party filed an application requesting something, that that application may be granted only if the law allows it, and it has to be rejected if anything illegal should be requested. In this particular case, you are suggesting that the inspection should deprive the party of its legal right only on grounds of your emotional attitude towards animals. Moreover, in your letter yet without any legal responsibility, you suggest that I act unlawfully with respect to the party and that I deprive the party/the Safari circus of its certain right – its right to hold manifestations with animals.

My experience tells me that in this particular case you acted on the edge of law, and even over the edge of law since you are leading on a government authority to an unlawful act of depriving another's rights in an unlawful way. I believe that this issue should also be considered by your

management bodies in order not to lead on government authorities to unlawful acts, which could be interpreted correctly with grave consequences, in the future.

The City Administration decision is not within the scope of this inspection, yet objective facts state the following. To the great joy of the citizens, the decision of the City of Slavonski Brod allowing circus shows, even the ones with animals, should be commended. A large number of visitors with many children coming to see these wonderful animals kept at the lawn next to the "roundabout" is a scene which should bring delight to any citizen with good intentions. How many times have the children in this city had an opportunity to see camels and llamas? Is it not uplifting to hear a donkey braying in the city? There are far more joyful children's faces at the fence of the circus corral than a couple of unnecessarily concerned animal lovers.

Therefore, the decision of the City of Slavonski Brod should be commended and supported for future shows, and we should be thankful to the circus owners for bringing such amiable and for us exotic animals, fortunately for the children and citizens, and embellish the scenery of this city with a couple of tame animals on a complacent pasture.

Your sincerely,

Senior Veterinary Inspector

Damir Agičić, dr.vet.med.

Delivered to:

- 1) The addressee – via e-mail,
- 2) Veterinary and Food Safety Division, Davor Svoboda,
- 3) City of Slavonski Brod, Mayor's Office
- 4) File, here