



Prijatelji životinja

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Veterinarska inspekcija Brodsko-posavske županije
(Veterinary Inspection of the Slavonski Brod-Posavina County)
Petra Krešimira IV, br. 1
35000 Slavonski Brod

Subject: reaction to the response related to the animal circus in Slavonski Brod

Dear Mr Agičić, dr. vet. med.,

Thank you for your quick response.

Our concern, as well as the concern of numerous citizens with regard to the animal circus in Slavonski Brod and elsewhere in Croatia, arises from our desire for the Animal Protection Act to be observed, which, sadly is not the case at the moment.

The Animal Protection Act (OG 135/06) from 2006 defined domestic animals as “animals which were domesticated by man and which are bred for production of food, animal food and animal by-products and for other economic purposes”.

In particular, since animal circuses incorporating llamas and camels often visit Croatia, the definition of domestic animals was modified in the Act on amendments to the Animal Protection Act (OG 37/13) in order to clarify that llamas and camels are not domestic animals in Croatia: “animals which were tamed and **domesticated** by man and which are bred for production of food, animal food and animal by-products and for other economic purposes”.

We agree with you that llamas and camels are domestic animals in certain countries, but not in Croatia since they have not been domesticated in Croatia, nor are they bred in Croatia for production of food, animal food and animal by-products and for other economic purposes.

Since in Croatia the Animal Protection Act in force stipulates that keeping and using wild animals in circus and other animal shows is prohibited, then that legal provision also relates to circuses visiting Croatia which incorporate llamas and camels, which are wild animals in Croatia. Thus, the Safari circus and similar circuses may hold camels and llamas in countries where they are defined as domestic animals, which is not the case in Croatia. Therefore, allowing such circuses to hold shows in Croatia represents a violation of the Animal Protection Act.

We believe that due to relatively frequent amendments to legal regulations make them hard to follow. Therefore, we state the information from 2013, when the legal provision was amended:

- <http://www.poslovni.hr/hrvatska/sabor-danas-raspravlja-o-preciznom-opisu-domace-zivotinje-231372>: “The suggested amendments strive to, among other, ensure a clear interpretation of legal provisions and, more specifically, the basic intention was to provide a more precise description for the meaning of the ‘domestic animal’ concept. The Animal Protection Act prohibits holding wild animals in circuses and their shows, and by defining the concept of ‘wild animals’ (all animals, which includes foreign animal species except domestic animals, pets, official dogs and horses and work animals) the exact animals would be defined.

Since certain circus show organizers interpreted that llamas and camels are domestic animals, and that they may be imported into Croatia as a part of the circus, the law is to serve the purpose of clarifying that the concept ‘domestic animals’ refers only to animals tamed and domesticated in Croatia, and not to foreign animal species domesticated in other geographic areas.”

- <http://dnevnik.hr/vijesti/hrvatska/sabor-zastititi-zivotinje-i-u-pokusima---275602.html>: “The concept of a domestic animal is clarified in order to emphasize the difference between domestic animals in Croatia and in other areas, and for clearer interpretation of the legal provision prohibiting holding wild animals in circuses and their shows.”

The Ministry defined this field in a great way with this amendment and we have to commend their efforts and dedication in order for legal solutions to keep up with the development of the ethical awareness of citizens.

We hope that we have clarified our request for your response and that you may see that it was well-intended and for the purpose of cooperation in animal protection, which we believe you equally care about.

We are at your disposal for all additional questions and clarifications, and we thank you in advance for acting in view of observing the Animal Protection Act.

Sincerely,

Luka Oman
Association president

Zagreb, 13th June 2016