

FARM ANIMAL WELFARE ACTIVITY OF SOCIETY FOR ANIMALS

from the beginning of organization in 1996, till 2006 by Dita Michalickova, chairperson to Society for Animals, Czech Republic March, 2007

Before

At the end of 1989 the regime in the Czech Republic changed. Before the "Velvet Revolution", as this change is sometimes called, people lived quite well, provided they took care only after themselves and did not cause troubles. They could travel within the COMECON (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) countries and if they wished to get a car, they would be able to buy it from a state-owned enterprise after many years of waiting. Everybody had a job he or she was paid for and no unemployment was tolerated.

Farm animals were transported mainly in trains, each state farm or agricultural cooperative had its own vet, animal testing was not controlled (in 1985 it was supposed to be 1,5 million, compared to 250 000 today) and protection of animals was nonexistent, except for certain activities within dog breeding shielded by the state protection of nature. As in the so-called western part of the world fattening stations and huge buildings for farm animals breeding existed also in our eastern part from the 1950's.



Prague - the Velvet revolution, Nov. 1989,
by ${\rm DM}$



As students of the Agricultural University we organized events supporting adoption of an animal protection law with acceptable wording. The Act was adopted in 1992. Afterwards we organized lectures on the animal protection and conditions abroad with lecturers from WSPA, the Australian ASPCA, etc. (1992 - 3). The lectures were attended by many teachers and university management staff.

In the mid-1990's the Agricultural University in Prague was the first to introduce a subject called "ethics of farm animals breeding". We have been co-operating with lecturers until today; they use our materials and videos (particularly translations of CIWF materials), we could present our activities to their students and we can use a section of the institute's notice board.

Animal protection is taught also at the only one Veterinary University in Brno. Our cooperation with the university focuses on the "Protection and Ethology of Animals" subject.

The Southern Bohemia University teaches protection of animals within the "Ethology of farm animal breeding". The same applies to the Mendl Agricultural University in Brno.

Society for Animals was founded (as the Group for Animals) in 1996. At the beginning our activities dealt with animal protection in general, responsible ownership, fur animals breeding, animal testing alternatives, cosmetics testing, and vegetarianism... One of the issues we wanted to concentrate upon was the situation of farm animals, which was not simple at all.



part of our team in 1999 at Czech national agro fair

Since 1997 (until 2004) the chairperson of the Society for Animals was a member of the Central Commission for the Animal Protection, by the Ministry of Agriculture, a body which is authorized by the law to supervise animal protection, propose changes in legislation, approve activities of entities supplying and using animals for the purpose of testing.

In 1998 we were honoured to have been addressed by CIWF and since then we have been cooperating closely.

Until 2000 our team consisted of 2 people (sometimes paid fully, sometimes partly) and several volunteers and members of the organization. From 2000 we were five, fully or partly time paid, and since 2004 our number decreased again to 2-2,5.

Besides the farm animals protection, we have been active and successful in promoting alternatives to animal "experiments in universities, and in humane education generally, (many materials are being distributed to schools and ecological NGOs), helping animals from cruelty, and other activities (see www.spolecnostprozvirata.cz and www.alternativeducation.org). Our



at one of our offices in 2001 and our increase by the baby

projects were supported mainly by CIWF, WSPA and RSPCA. Without their support we would not be able to work professionally and would not have accomplished what we have.

Our activities include surveys, investigation, lobbying, negotiation with state institution and breeding organizations, public relations (press conferences, press releases), promoting, campaigning.

Farm Animals Protection:

General activities:

In 1998 we prepared – together with CIWF and other organizations – a mobile exhibition in a truck about life of farm animals called "Another View on Animals". Apart from displayed photos, information and models of animals, the visitors could watch a short film about life of farm animals and possibilities of its improvement. The exhibition visited 7 towns and was attended by more than 20 000 people, who also had the chance to sign a petition and take information materials, including postcards to be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Photos of the exhibition truck and materials for people including a postcard and petition.



















In 2000 we organized a conference "Intensive Farming and Animal Rights" in the centre of Prague. The conference was intended for specialists, teachers, farmers and organization representatives. Speakers came from the state administration, NGOs and abroad (CIWF and CEEC: John Callaghan, Ewa Gebert, Virag Kaufer, Marek Spinka, Jiri Dousek, Deutsche Tierschutzbund, Ecological Legal Service etc.). The refreshment and lunch was vegan and the conference was attended by 85 participants.







CIWF Trust – Animal Sentience

CIWF Trust organized two conferences related to the topic: Animal Sentience.

For the conference in 2003 we invited students and teachers of Czech universities and organized participation of three students and two teachers.

The topic of Animal Sentience was put on our website together with translated texts of the crucial conference contributions in 2005.

Zvířata jsou živí tvorové - cítící bytosti

Skutečnost, že jsou zvířata živými tvory, kteří mají nárok a právo na svůj plnohodnotný život většinou chápe každý rozumný člověk. Nicméně v zákonech rozvinutých zemí jsou zvířata chápána jako věci (což jim přisuzuje alespoň určitou ochranu - podle situace) či jako zboží a zemědělské



produkty. V rozvojových zemí jsou sotva zákony chránící lidská práva natož ta zvířecí. Mezinárodní organizaci pro ochranu hospodářských zvířat - Compassion In World Farming CIWF se podařilo, po 9letém úsilí, doplnit smlouvu o Evropské unii o ustanovení, které přisuzuje zvířatům status "cítící bytosti". Tento unikátní počin se stal v Amsterdamu, roku 1997. CIWF ve své snaze pomoci zvířatům nadále pokračuje. V roce 2003 organizace uspořádala první konferenci na toto téma: "Understanding Animals"/"Rozumíme zvířatům".

V roce 2005 konferenci druhou: "From Darwin to Dawkins: the science and implications of animal sentience" "Od Darwina k Dawkinsové: věda a důsledky schopnosti zvířat vnímat"

Kromě obou konferenci uvádí CIWF další informace a důkazy o tom, jak vnímavá a inteligentní jsou zvířata na <u>www.animalsentience.com</u> a <u>CIWF Animal Sentience Newsletter</u>

Investigation in 2003:

Many "good" pictures and video records have been taken by CIWF investigators and us in March 2003 at slaughterhouses and various farms.













Against long distance transport:

In 2000 we launched a campaign focused on **abolition of long-distance transportation of farm animals** that are to be slaughtered or fattened. In the course of our investigation we found out several cases of law violation and we made the responsible institutions to improve the situation (e.g. journey plans not complied with – time of journey, places for rest, improper driving, etc.) We also launched a media campaign and got support from the public (18 284 signatures).



In 2000, in conjunction with our Central European group within CIWF, we prepared a meeting and a press conference in a border rest station for animals in Zebrydowice at the Czech-Polish border. The conference was attended by both the Czech and Polish directors of the State Veterinary Administrations. They both agreed that transportation of farm animals to distant slaughterhouses

must be ended, the animals should be slaughtered as close to the place of their keeping as possible and further only the meat should be transported.

In 2001 our Central-European group within CIWF organized an international exhibition in a truck about cruel transportation of farm animals, The End of Transporting of Live Animals. The truck journey began in Lithuania and continued to Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia and ended in Italy as well as hundreds of thousands animals. The exhibition was supported by the Regional Environmental Centre in Budapest.













During the campaign in 2002 we organized several demos in front of various Embassies, e.g. those of Italy, EU, Lebanon, Romania, Greece. During the campaign we took part in several ECFA demonstrations in Brussels.

photos: in front of Polish Embassy, Prague centre and at the EU representation:













With media, in front of Italian Embassy and Brussels demos:











In 2003 we organized an international demonstration at the Czech-Polish crossing point of Český Těšín; 55 participants from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland.







In summer 2005 we did our **transport investigation** – trailing trucks to a Croatia – and have found several cases of law violation. Our findings and records were sent to EU Commission.

Our campaigns have helped to make animal transport more complicated. Since 2004 all Czech carriers and their employees have to go through training if they want to obtain a licence for farm animals transportation. All training centres were provided with our materials and videos. In 2005 we visited such a 2-day training. At many training centres the participants have a chance to watch farm animals handling practice. In 2006 the State Veterinary Administration, in conjunction with the Police, started to supervise animal transports.



In 2005 the **Stop the Bull Ship** campaign begun. Seventeen of twenty-four Czech MEPs supported the written declaration and at the beginning of 2006 the subsidies for export of cattle to third countries were stopped. The campaign received good media coverage and public support.

In 2005 we had the chance to give four lessons on animal protection to policemen in the district of Ústí nad Orlicí. The 200 participating policemen were provided with

information about general legislation, problems in breeding of farm animals and transport – particularly, what they should check and how they should deal with cases of cruelty on animals.

As soon as the campaign begun, the CIWF films about transport were translated into Czech language: Cruel export of horses, Cruel export of cattle, Some lie dying and the trade still goes on. Further the report: Live export - Cruel and Archaic trade.

HENS – AGAINST BATTERY CAGES:

In 1999 we joined the European campaign for termination of keeping hens and laying hens in battery cages. Using the campaign mascot, the Hetty hen, we asked the Czech governmental officials to support the ban and managed to get support from the public and media. With Hetty we visited MPs and senators many times and once we gave a minister free range eggs.. The ban of battery cages in the EU was adopted in 1999 and in 2003 it was implemented into the Czech law.

According to our own research -2003-2004 public opinion poll - majority of people would buy more expensive eggs if they come from welfare breeding.

Some examples of related materials are to be found below. The CIWF Trust reports called Brittle bones – Osteoporoses, How do you like your eggs?, Laid Bare, Practical Alternatives to battery cages were translated into the Czech language.













Since 2006: to ensure that the ban on use of small conventional battery cages for hens is complied with because there are the poultry industry attempts to postpone implementation of the ban that has been already agreed (from 2012). What we do is mainly the lobbying – especially MEPs, petitions, media coverage, sending out materials. Negotiations still continue and once we have the Commission report, we will be wiser. In October 2006 we met with the Minister of Agriculture and demanded that the Ministry supports the ban. It looks that the egg industry is strong in the Czech Republic and the Ministry is either afraid or not willing to act differently. Financial problems arising from the bird flu make the situation even more complicated.

Together with the CIWF we have created a Czech version of the CIWF 's link related to the ban campaign: www.keeptheban.eu/cz

Besides this www link we have also created a link from our website, with a range of information and materials: www.spolecnostprozvirata.cz, link Slepice – nosnice chované pro snášení vajec (Hens – layers bred for an egg laying).

The Czech version of the CIWF Trust report: "The Way Forward EU egg industry- Keeping the ban" is being translated into the Czech language.

Czech consumers can buy free-range eggs coming only from two organic egg farms. Eggs are supplied to one or two supermarket chains and shops with organic food. We have visited both the farms several times, unfortunately due to the bird flu restrictions the hens have to be kept inside or with an entry to aviaries.

A sample of the information at www and from leaflets:

Veřejné minění výrazně podporuje zákaz kleci

Při nedávném evropském průzkumu (Eurobarometer) bylo zjištěno, že většina občanů EU je ochotná zaplatit více za vyšší welfare slepic. Již nyní v několika EU zemích pochází asi 50 % vajec prodávaných v obchodech z neklecových systémů. Zákaz chovu slepic v klecích odráží silný veřejný nesouhlas s tímto systémem. 58 % respondentů v průzkumu označovalo welfare slepic/nosnic jako velmi špatný. A 78 % respondentů uvedlo, že stav welfare slepic je nedostatečný až velmi špatný.

Průmysl se obává, že zákaz chovu nosnic v klecích způsobí zvýšený import, ne vajec ve skořápkách, ale vaječných produktů, které se používají do zpracovávaných potravin. Ale sociálně ekonomická studie připravená pro komisi odhaduje, že importy se zvýší pouze o 3-4 %. To je velmi malý nárůst, protože i současný import je velmi nízký.

Podpořte trvalost zákazu chovu slepic v klecích

Podepište on line petici: <u>www.keeptheban.eu/cz</u> Shlédněte animovanou píseň "Uvězněná mezi vámi" <u>www.keeotheban.eu/cz</u> Pište ministryni zemědělství MVDr. Mileně Vicenové.

Podepište a rozšířujte naší petici; na požádání zašleme nebo je ke stažení na

www.spolecnostprozvirata.cz

Pište si k nám o pohledy pro velkoprodejny, aby nabízely vejce z volných chovů. Nakupujte vejce a další živočišné potraviny pouze

z chovů, kde zvířata netrpí (např. z dobrých chovů z ekologického zemědělství)

Nebuďte lhostejní. Děkujeme

Další informace na www.spolecnostorozvirata.cz

Společnost pro zvířata – z. o. ČSOP, organizace pro ochranu zvířat, Lublaňská 18, 120 00 Praha

s.pro.zvirata@ecn.cz, www.spolecnostprozvirata.cz,

www.alternativeducation.org www.ciwf.org/ChickensOUT







Ekologický chov slepic chovatele P. Kýra, Heroltice u Štítů, pavelkyn@seznam.cz. Po ukončení zákazu pobytu drúbeže venku (kvůli ptačí chřipce) mají slepice k dispozicí nádherný prostor. Tato vejce můžete zakoupit třeba v prodejnách Bazalka v Hradci Králové nebo v síti Delvita pod značkou BIO Plus









CHICKEN BROILERS:

In 2002 we joined CIWF and ECFA in the **campaign for adopting the first legal regulation protecting broilers** – chickens fattened to provide meat. We have started with awareness activities because so far the public was not aware about problems related to industrial rearing of broilers. In response to our actions and media campaigns we got the public support. In the EU scope, we managed to hand over a draft directive for broiler protection to EU bodies.



Worth mentioning is the Czech version of the CIWF film: Live

fast, die young; translation of the "Welfare of broilers" (1995) and "Chicken – How come it's so cheap" reports.

We have brought the broiler topic into media, and organized supporting events for the public. The inflatable broiler Bobby has received a lot of attention and we have used him for agricultural exhibitions, too.





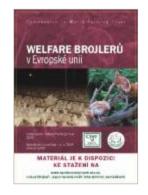
Since 2006 we have again focused on this issue.

What we do is again mainly lobbying – the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, the State Veterinary Administration, MEPs, and negotiating with the Czech Permanent Representation to the EU.

In May 2006 we handed over four giant broiler postcards to the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, to the State Veterinary Administration, to the Italian Embassy and to the French Embassy.

In October 2006 we met with the new Minister of Agriculture, as well with the mascot Chick Pipin.

We have been corresponding regularly with Czech MEPs and have met three of them and several assistants in November in Brussels.



Even if the State Veterinary Administration agrees with adoption of the direction with comprehensible wording, the problem is again the Ministry of Agriculture and the industry lobby. We have translated the CIWF report "Welfare of broilers in the EU" and now we prepare translation of the RSPCA's report "Everyone's winner". We have issued many press releases and have appeared twice in the national TV programme about animal protection.



Together with the CIWF we have created a Czech version of the CIWF's link about broiler campaign: www.ciwf.org.uk/broilers/indexcz.html

Besides this www link we also created a link from our web site, with a range of information and materials: www.spolecnostprozvirata.cz, link: Brojleri – zapomenute obeti intenzivniho zemedelstvi (Broilers – the forgotten victims of intensive farming). The material that is available in this link includes:

- the Czech version of the CIWF report: Chicken how come it's so cheap
- a leaflet: A time is running for chickens in Europe (Cas ubiha kuratum v Evrope)
- a postcard to be sent to supermarkets
- a petition and further links and information

With the Sumo mascot chick Pipin we have attended several events for public.



Postcard addressed to supermarkets:



Giant postcard handed over to the ministry of agriculture and state veterinary administration, May 2006:













PIGS:

In 2001 we joined the **campaign for termination of keeping sows in sow stalls**. We organized several public events, using a model of a sow in a stall, and gathered 10 090 signatures on our petition and thus contributed to the adoption of the EU regulation banning sows being kept in stalls from the 4th week of pregnancy up to two weeks before delivery. The regulation becomes valid in 2007 and has been incorporated in the Czech legislation.

In 2004 we helped Phil Brooke with the Czech case study for the GAP pig production materials. We carry out investigation on farms and make records of castration and further mutilation. We negotiate the possibility to change legislation in this respect.













Bad treatment of farm animals by farmers:

From our own survey and experience we know that many farmers do not keep farm animals in suitable condition and very often they leave them to suffer. Our limited evidence is supported by the official veterinary records on the kind of death of each head of cattle above 24 months, which are kept because of the BSE.

In the period of February 1, 2001 – March 31, 2005 the total of **738 654 heads of cattle above 24 months of age were inspected. 80 826 of them were found dead on farms, 157 566 ended up their lives in emergency slaughter**. As shown by these numbers, **32 per cent** of cattle were mistreated, lacked care and first aid or died from infections. We asked the Ministry how this was possible and what measures they intended to introduce. The big problem is that farmers receive subsidies and the Ministry does not check whether farm animals are provided with proper care and treatment. The ministry was not so keen, but the State Veterinary Administration agreed with us.

This problem has not been resolved. The State Veterinary Administration partly co-operates with local branches of the Ministry and provides them with data obtained during inspections of individual farmers, but only in a limited scale.

Another problem is how cases of mistreatment are dealt with. Above the scope of our project we try to help animals that are ill-treated and we assist local people who want to change the situation. Nevertheless, all cased ended up in a legal deadlock because of the lack of activity on the side of respective authorities. Sometimes we managed to agree with the owners and took the animals away, in other cases the owners killed the animals or transported them to slaughterhouses. In summer the situation gets usually better and the respective legal cases go on and on for years.

At the moment we prepare a public money collection that would help these animals (including a space to accommodate farm animals) and would cover a related campaign.







EDUCATION (concerning farm animals):

Czech version of CIWF - Farm Animal and Us (booklet and video): About 550 items distributed so far to schools, ecological centres and individuals.

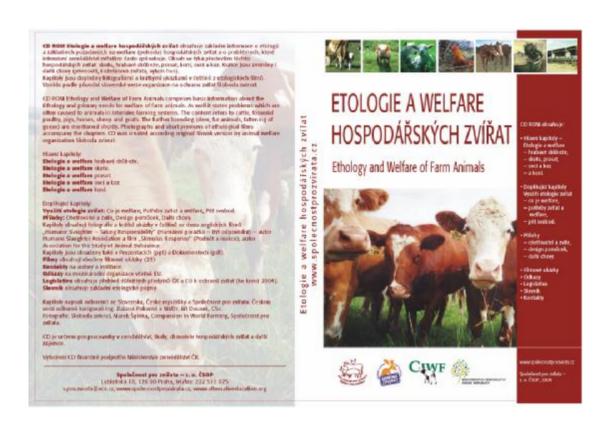
Czech version of materials for the Eat less meat campaign: the leaflet, the film, the report Detrimental Impacts of Factory Animal Production.



CD Rom Ethology and welfare of Farm Animals was created in 2004:

CD Ethology and Welfare of Farm Animals contains basic information about the ethology and primary needs for welfare of farm animals. As well it states problems which are often caused to animals in intensive farming systems. The content refers to cattle, fossorial poultry, pigs, horses, sheep and goats. The further breedings (deer, fur animals, fattening of geese, ...) are mentioned shortly. Photographs and short previews of ethological films accompany the chapters.

200 copies were distributed among the ministry of agriculture and its branches, 90 copies were for the State veterinary administration. CD Rom is used by univerzities, students and officers.





SPOLEČNOST PRO ZVÍŘATA - z.o.ČSOP NABÍDKA MATERIÁLŮ PRO ŠKOLY I JEDNOTLIVCE

ZVÍŘATA JSOU ŽIVÍ TVOROVÉ - CÍTÍCÍ BYTOSTI

roce 2005 proběhla již konference druhá:

Od Darwina k Dawkinsové: věda a důsledky schopnosti zvířat vnímať.

www.spolecnostprozvirata.cz

CD ETOLOGIE A WELFARE HOSPODÁŘSKÝCH ZVÍŘAT

MULTIMEDIÁLNÍ CD obsahuje základní informace o etologii a základních požadavcích na welfare (pohodu) hospodářských zvířat a o problémech, které intenzívní zemědělství zvířatům často způsobuje Obsah:

Etologie a welfare: hrabavé drůbeže, skotu, prasat, ovci a koz a koni.

Využítí atologie v praxi: Co je welfare, Potřeby zvířat a welfare, Pět svobod Přílohy: Ošetřovatel a zvíře, Design pomůcek, Další chovy. Výše uvedené kapitoly doplňují fotografie a krátké ukázky o etologii a správném zacházení se zvířaty.

PREZENTACE (ppt) o etologii a welfare výše uvedených druhů hospodářských zvířat.

DOKUMENTY (pdf) a etologii výše uvedených druhú zvířet. FILMY - všechny ukázky filmů. KONTAKTY na autory a instituce.

ODKAZY na mezinárodní organizace včetně EU.

LEGISLATIVA ČR a EU k ochraně zvířat. SLOVNÍK základních etologických pojmů.

Vytvoření CD finančně podpořilo Ministerstvo zemědělství ČR.

Cena za distribuci: 70,- Kč (pli objednání pouze CD, přičitáme na dobírku 55,- Kč)

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www.spolecnostprozvirata.cz

www.alternativeducation.org

Since 1999 we regularly participate in the Animal Welfare conference, which is organized annually by the Veterinary University in Brno and UKOZ. Further, we take part in other events, too, e.g. agricultural exhibitions such as PragAgro, "Země živitelka", events organized by various nongovernmental organizations.

We take part in actions for public, every year:









Events for public we have participated in, in 2006, for example:

- Our exhibition and the Galery Krasova street
- Stand at the event by magazine Planeta zvirat: Sen zvířat
- Harvest celebration of Country Life Ltd., September
- Festival of the Environment, historic centre of Prague, September
- World Vegetarian Day: at the Prague ecological centre
- World Animal Day: at the Prague ecological centre
- Conference "Animal Welfare", at the Veterinary University in Brno, like every year with an active contribution and contributions for the collection (Welfare of Broilers, Keeping the ban on cages, Ciwf Trust Good agric. practice in Pig Production, CD Rom Ethology and welfare of Farm Animals.)
- participation at the VGT conference in Vienna, October





Společnost pro zvířata – z. o. ČSOP Society for Animals

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