

8th April 2009

RE: Horses of Vučijak farm, Prnjavor, Bosnia and Herzegovina

I am writing on behalf of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) regarding the horses currently being kept at Vučijak farm and the involvement of our valued member society: Društvo za Zaštitu Zivotinja (NOA).

WSPA is the world's largest alliance of animal welfare organisations, representing over 990 member societies in 155 countries. We partner with our member societies to develop animal welfare campaigns and projects, education initiatives and to provide relief to animals affected by disaster. As an umbrella organisation, we work to build and support a global animal welfare movement to reduce animal suffering worldwide.

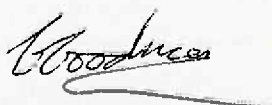
We are strongly supportive of NOA's work and in particular, what they have achieved with the horses of Vučijak. In fact, WSPA has supported NOA in this campaign from the beginning since May 2008 by providing a small grant for food and veterinary treatments. I know that NOA have worked extremely hard in order to obtain much needed food and medical treatments such as vaccinations, wormer and vitamin and mineral supplements for the horses and as a result the welfare of the horses is now much improved. NOA have also succeeded in raising public awareness on this matter.

WSPA have been informed that a decision is shortly to be made regarding the fate of the 91 horses residing at Vučijak. The Lipizzaner horses in question are recognised for their part in our European heritage, but more importantly, they like all other animals, are sentient beings capable of feeling pain and suffering. They deserve to receive proper care that meets their welfare requirements, from provision of adequate food and shelter and veterinary care to their social and psychological needs.

As I am sure you are aware, many organisations and individuals worldwide are concerned for the future of these animals and are eager for this situation to be resolved in a satisfactory manner. I am sure you will agree that the long-term welfare of these horses is paramount and therefore the correct decision must be made. WSPA strongly recommends that NOA is consulted and is influential in the decision making process.

I look forward to receiving news of your decision.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gemma Goodman', is written over a horizontal line.

Gemma Goodman
(Member Society Development Officer)