



## **FOUR PAWS - FOUNDATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS** **PUBLIC BENEFIT ANNEX**

on the activities of FOUR PAWS - Foundation for the Protection of Animals (hereinafter referred to as Four Paws Foundation) **in 2017** pursuant to the right of association, non-profit status, and on the operation and support of civil society organization Section 28-30 of Act CLXXV of 2011

### **I. There are/have been on-going lawsuits against FOUR PAWS Foundation in Hungary since 2012, filed by Hortobágyi Lúdtenyésztő Zrt and Hungerit Zrt.**

1. Hortobágyi Lúdtenyésztő Zrt. filed a lawsuit against a partner organization of FOUR PAWS Foundation, FOUR PAWS International, which case was rejected by the Supreme Court in 2015, with a final and binding effect.

The Court stated that the compensation claims against FOUR PAWS International is unsubstantiated, the demand for meat resultant from live feather plucking dropped due to the German and Austrian customers conscious rejection and the Hortobágy Lúdtenyésztő Zrt. responsive business decisions. The loss of Hortobágy Lúdtenyésztő Zrt. referring to the live feather plucking was not caused by FOUR PAWS International.

2. The lawsuit filed by Hungerit Zrt against Négy Mancs Foundation, amongst others, is still on-going. On 25 September, 2014, the Municipal Court rejected in the first instance the complaint of Hungary's largest foie gras producer company, Hungerit Zrt. from Szentés, against the Four Paws Foundation. The Hungerit Zrt. sued our Foundation for violations of reputation and compensation, saying it was illegal to call their manner of production as an act of animal cruelty. On the contrary, the Court of First Instance confirmed that the Foundation "Négy Mancs" (Four Paws) – the party that succeeded in the lawsuit initiated against them, acted lawfully and proceeded in accordance with its purposes to protect the animals. The court emphasized that Four Paws did exactly what an animal welfare organization must do.

By order made after the appellate hearing on 13th October, 2015 the court of appeal, based on procedural shortcomings made by the court of first instance, ordered a repeated first instance trial, which is still ongoing. Within the repeated procedure of first instance, the court orders that warn the company "Hungerit Zrt." to detail the action at law, will be followed by the next court hearing in May 2018.



3. As a reminder: the Competition Authority in 2012 already investigated the activity of FOUR PAWS Foundation for half a year and they confirmed that the FOUR PAWS acted as animal protectors in the interests of animals, there was no trace of market manipulation and that they did not provide any foreign business interests.
4. No relevant objection was found by the prosecutor's office investigating the "FOUR PAWS" Foundation's operation in multiple rounds.

The winners of the decisions of authorities and courts in the completed trials, are the consumers, because the goal of FOUR PAWS Foundation's campaign was to discontinue the force feeding and live plucking of animals, reflecting the preferences of more and more consumers, who do not want to buy meat and feather or any other product made from them.

Many customers know what kind of suffering these production/keeping methods mean for the animals, and they avoid such products on the basis of a conscious decision. The more they know about it, the more they demand that only animal-friendly products should be placed on the store shelves.

Factory farming often very cruel to the animals, but it could be less cruel. Each of us has the opportunity and responsibility to decide, through our purchase decisions, whether or not we wish to strengthen with our money the cruelty and avoidable suffering rearing methods. The Four Paws Foundation is campaigning for replacing such cruel techniques with animal-friendly methods.

## **II. Outline of activity of VIER PFOTEN International organization and national offices**

### **III.**

### **Organization, guiding principles, objectives and responsibilities of VIER PFOTEN**

VIER PFOTEN (meaning: FOUR PAWS) operates at an international level, and has offices in a number of European Countries - Austria, Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the UK, Belgium (Brussels), in Hungary, the USA, South Africa (International Organization and National Offices altogether hereafter: VIER PFOTEN) Nevertheless, their activities are not restricted to these countries geographically.

It is for more than 2 decades already that VIER PFOTEN has been persistently and successfully pursuing their objectives, namely the enforcement of the rights of animals abused for economic, scientific or other reasons, and the creation of livable, fair conditions for them. This is their guiding principle, and these are the objectives they pursue in their



work. They set actual goals for themselves, and strive to reach them through strategically planned, public work, PR activity and the enforcement of others' interests.

Their objective is to arrange for the fair treatment of animals. They act as a representative organization for the name and behalf of those, who cannot stand for themselves that is animals. The common ground for this comprises the respect that all living creatures deserve, and that they strongly believe that all living creatures have the right to be treated with respect, and live in equitable conditions satisfying their needs. Animals are sensitive creatures, and we, humans are responsible for them.

The protection of animals, humans and the environment are interrelated, and inseparable concepts. Therefore, VIER PFOTEN partner with all those, who express their voting for peaceful and respectful coexistence with others and the environment.

In Hungary FOUR PAWS- Foundation for the Protection of Animals works for the stated goals.

### **Aims of Projects**

Their national and international rescue missions are primarily designed to provide direct and quick assistance to animals in trouble. If needed, they also create living conditions for them, which are suited to their needs. Through their projects, VIER PFOTEN takes measures for the improvement of the legislative background, and thereby, the decrease of the suffering and defenselessness' of animals.

### **Aims of Campaigns**

The aim of campaigns is to promote, for farm, laboratory or wild animals, as well as pets, to create a decent living conditions of their needs and needs as necessary. Particular emphasis is placed on the improvement - justified by scientific research - of the rearing environment of farm animals; they endeavor to support through actual solutions and suggestions that the proper rearing of farm animals is both reasonable and economical.

They continuously fight against animal experiments, so as to achieve that the tests using animals can be replaced by the better, more modern and effective, and scientifically recognized method.

Last but not least, their aims also include the prohibition of fur farms in Europe, and of the rearing of wild animals by private individuals.



## **The Working Methods of VIER PFOTEN**

On long term, the best way to promote the interests of animals is to achieve the adoption of legislative changes. They endeavor to achieve this through direct actions, the enforcement of interests at both national and international levels, and the use of help from the public.

Comprehensive changes are based on wide social adoption. They wish to make changes in the social awareness through professional PR activities.

Their work is based on the collection of accurate and comprehensive information, and research. They act on scientific basis, in close cooperation with recognized experts from the areas of medicine, agriculture, biology and law. Paradoxical and unacceptable conditions are explored and explained, and then, they also identify the economic, political and social roots and reasons for the same.

Working together with their recognized partners active in the fields of economics, science and research, they develop constructive solution models, and then, put these in practice following the principles of animal protection, and providing guidelines by examples.

## **Some outstanding results of the work of VIER PFOTEN**

VIER PFOTEN cooperates at an international level with multiple organizations for the protection of animals, in order to achieve an international ban on force feeding and live plucking. These include the French organization L214 that also conducts a successful campaign in France against force feeding. One of the greatest discoveries of the year 2009 was the identification of a German goose producer that plucked thousands of geese live using a machine, which is otherwise used at slaughter houses after slaughtering. VIER PFOTEN managed to prove that this particularly horrifying torture resulting in the death of many geese right after plucking had been conducted for years by then. The owner of the large German company was prohibited from rearing animals.

In 2010, it was proved that many German feather processing companies were buying and processing live plucked feathers. Our discoveries induced intensive media reactions throughout the whole of Europe, and many companies refused to distribute such feather products in the future, which originated from the feather processing companies disclosed. (See: Amazon, Otto-Group, etc.)

In 2010, VIER PFOTEN canvassed for subscriptions against live plucking, as well as for the prohibition of all plucking methods in the EU. The petition was signed by more than 30,000 private individual at an international level. The petition was supported by the largest Hungarian and Polish goose meat producers, as well as goose meat producers from Germany and Austria. Besides, there were companies in the commercial sector as well that directly contacted the EU commissioner for the protection of animals telling that they wanted all



types of plucking prohibited throughout the EU for reasons related to both economics and animal protection. (Tchibo, Otto Group, Kaufland, Norma, Lidl, Tegut, Spar, Quelle, etc.)

VIER PFOTEN achieved huge success in 2013, because since 2013 Europe can no longer market cosmetics, which have been tested on animals. What is more, the ingredients of cosmetics in the future nor could be tested on experimental animals. The day of prohibition, 11th March, 2013, therefore is a historic day in the life of VIER PFOTEN!

### **Financing**

**VIER PFOTEN** and **FOUR PAWS** Foundation in Hungary are independent organizations in both political and financial terms.

The operations of VIER PFOTEN and its national offices are funded using donations only; this is the only way to preserve their independence and freedom of decision.

Donations form the basis for their organization, and ensure its continuous operation. The achievement of their goals is supported by the donors in terms of not only finances, but principles too.

We are aware of our liability towards our donors, whereby we use all grants in an efficient way transparent to anyone.

### **Associates, Professionalism, Efficiency**

We are convinced that the professional working methods increase the efficiency of our activity, which also serves the interests of animal protection. The training of our people, as well as the establishment of a proper working environment and atmosphere are recognized as part of our obligations.

### **The Activities of FOUR PAWS Foundation in Year 2017 in Hungary**

The Hungarian **FOUR PAWS** – Foundation being part of the international **VIER PFOTEN** network, has set the above described goals upon its foundation in 2005, and continued to pursue such goals until the above named two companies filed a lawsuit against it, due to an alleged infringement of economic interests, as part of a large scale smear campaign, unfortunately also supported by the Hungarian government. **In the following years the**



Foundation's domestic work in terms of animal welfare became mostly impossible and in 2017, as well as the previous five years, a new campaign or project could not be undertaken to protect the animals, but also seeks to continue the work started earlier, to maintain the results already achieved.

In the following, we show the results, present status of activities for animal welfare started in the previous years:

### **Campaign against force feeding and live plucking**

The conditions in Hungary are perfect for the production of quality geese for meat in a free range rearing, without all kinds of force-feeding and feather plucking. The goose and duck stuffing or feather plucking in most European countries is considered animal torture and therefore banned activity.

### **Fur campaign**

In Hungary, we believed that the amendment of the Act on Animal Protection could provide an opportunity for the prohibition of the operation of fur farms. As a result of the preceding international campaigns, it is now forbidden by law to export product made of dog or cat fur - articles of clothing, accessories, toys - in the European Union.

### **The Real Price of Rabbit Meat**

Our aim in this topic was to achieve free range rabbit farming.

At industrial rabbit farms, one rabbit has less space than the A4 sheet size. In the steel cages, rabbits cannot even stand up on their hind legs. Their sensitive soles are hurt by the sharp wiring. Due to stress and the lack of space, cannibalism is an everyday phenomenon. The use of antibiotics is inevitable, and hormones and other drugs used for the promotion of fattening are also frequently used. Bloody, bitten ears, purulent eyes, bodies injured or dead rabbit, these are all everyday phenomena with caged rabbits. The rate of animals dying before being slaughtered can easily reach 25%. Particularly the western consumers increasingly demand to be able to make informed purchases, and therefore they buy only the meat of rabbits in barns. In 2010, VIER PFOTEN achieved that 6 large European rabbit producing companies started their shift to the so-called "group housing", where a group of rabbits is kept in barns. In Hungary, one company shifted partly to "group housing". There is an increasing demand in the commercial sector as well for rabbit meat produced this way.



## **Illegal trading of puppies**

In 2017, in Hungary, we no longer campaigned for the abolition of illegal dog trades because, due to the series of attacks against our Foundation in Hungary, our activity in Hungary was largely impossible.

But we continue to believe that this is a unethical trade, where young cubs are handled as goods. Puppies separated too early from their mothers are kept by the “dog manufacturers” without sufficient water, food, vaccination or any veterinary care, so that they can earn big profit later by selling them. These dogs may become mentally damaged, prone to sicknesses, or aggressive even. Their certificates of vaccination and herd books often turn out to be false. FOUR PAWS International organization continues to fight for the abolition of illegal breeding farms all over the world! Unfortunately, Hungary is one of the biggest dog trading centers in Europe.

## **The horse project**

At the end of 2006, the physical and mental rehabilitation of Csuti, the horse rescued from the private farmer in Budapest ended. Unfortunately, however, adoption has still not taken place, due to the lack of a reliable new owner. Csuti is living at Bottyan Equus Foundation at present close to Budapest and probably he is going to stay there permanently. Our foundation undertook to take care of him until his death, pay for all the feeding and medical costs. But at the same time, this task was taken over by Verein PFOTENHILFE, another partner of our VP-Foundation Network.

The aim of this foundation is to take care of injured, sick or tormented horses.

On 23 August 2010, our Foundation took back the horse called “Tobi”, which was purchased in Rétság on 30 October 2007, and adopted in 2009. Jeddi Farm was entrusted with caring for the horse. The owners of Jeddi Farm undertook to take care of the horse until the cooperation lasts. On the other hand, FOUR PAWS undertook to fully pay costs of the horse, while it is in their possession.

We were pleased to report that Tobi was helped to find a new owner by the help of Hungarian Foundation from the 1st of November 2012, although our happiness proved to be too early. As of November 2013 the foundation actually managed to find a responsible farmer for Tobi, a person who in the past 2 ½ year has proven to be a true, loving, permanent owner to Tobi. Due to unexpected financial difficulties occurring in the life of the new owner, Four Paws Foundation has agreed to an additional 1 year of support - until December 2015 - so the horse can remain with his new owner.



Ever since we monitor the life of the horse and we are delighted about the lucky encounter of horse and his master.

Our Foundation continues to provide help in the rescue of sick or troubled horses, in cooperation with the authorities, in order to promote the development of a proper and sustainable solution for ensuring better living conditions for horses in Hungary.

Accordingly, FOUR PAWS Foundation undertook the support of the horse "Jake", in cooperation with Bottyán Equus Foundation dealing with horse rescue, whose sin was that in Romania he grazed on a meadow that he should not have, and therefore the owner of the meadow cut his tongue out. Thanks to medical assistance Jake recovered and now he can spend happy days at his new master, because in August 2015 we found for him a caring and loving owner.

In addition, our Foundation arranged the transportation of three ponies to Austria in the summer 2015. These ponies arrived to Hungary 4-5 years ago from Romania, where they lived with an animal lover person. She moved away, so these ponies needed to find immediately a new owner, which was accomplished. The new owner lives in Austria, she has undertaken each of the three horses, so the three devoted to one another ponies have been transferred to the new owner together.

### **Further cases**

We did our best to help the animal loving public, as well as animals in trouble during 2017 as well. Our colleague was eager to answer all reports from the public related to the torturing or protection of animals, and did her best to find solutions for all problems involving the competent authorities and the other animal protection organizations.

### **Donations**

Despite the attacks against our Foundation in 2017 we still had supporters. By the end of the year, we received a total of **HUF 30.000.-** contribution from our animal-friendly donors to our activities. In 2017 our Foundation did not participate in any tender. From the freely allocated **1%** of the personal income tax, we collected **HUF 241.539.-** in 2017. We received no other cash donation from either natural or legal persons.



## **STATEMENT OF SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM CENTRAL BUDGETARY AUTHORITIES**

In 2017 the Foundation received no budgetary support.

## **VALUE OR SUM OF BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SENIOR OFFICERS**

The curator of the foundation does not receive remuneration for her work from the Foundation, she performs her job as social work.

## **STATEMENT OF BENEFITS BY TARGETS**

Out of the total amount of HUF 241.539.- received in the form of 1% personal income tax designation to charities, the Foundation purchased a tangible donation for the Animal and Environment Protection Association "Animal and Human."

This Annual Utility Report is accepted by the curator.

Budapest, 22. March, 2018.

  
Katalin Dávid  
curator



**NÉGY MANGCS  
ALAPÍTVÁNY**  
H-1034 Budapest,  
Bécsi út 120. IV. em.  
Adószám: 18187953-1-41  
-1-