

Content

Freedom for Animals (Svoboda zvířat)	A3
People in Freedom for Animals	A4
“Against the Hair” Campaign	A5
Campaign For Replacement of Animal Experiments	A6
Section for Protection of Cats	A8
Environmental Education Program	A8
Freedom for Animals Information Centers	A9
Membership in Freedom for Animals	A9
Financial Report	A10



Freedom for Animals

2008 Annual Report

Dear supporters of animal protection,

the Freedom for Animals civil organization has been operating in the Czech Republic for 15 years and belongs to leading animal protection organizations in our country. During the year 2008 we were fully engaged in animal protection. We also initiated change of Freedom for Animals' image and in April 2009 we presented our new image to the public. The change is obvious also in this annual report. It should express general professionalization of our organization and improved communication with public. We have been reporting about our activities in our bulletins and newsletters on a regular basis and here we present you the Annual Report of the year 2008.

Thank you for your support and we hope you will stay with us!



Tomáš Popp

chairman of the Freedom for Animals

Annual Report of the Freedom For Animals Civil Association

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Freedom for Animals

Freedom for Animals (Svoboda zvířat – Sz) is a nation-wide non-profit organization engaged in protection of animals and associating people who support its aims. Our mission is based on the idea that each and every life has its own unique value that should not depend on the momentary human judgement. Our organization was founded in 1994. Our efforts don't focus only on animal welfare (although from a short-term perspective we agree with this approach), the key aim is to change people's attitudes towards animals – for animals to be perceived as living beings of their own intrinsic value. The way people treat animals should not be based on possible benefits of the animals' use. Any activity of our organization is based on the idea of non-violence and respect for personal freedom of every earthling.

Freedom for Animals organizes workshops and expert conferences, discussions, exhibitions, information stalls, showing of documentaries, tasting of vegan food, etc. Within educational campaigns our organization issues leaflets, brochures, posters and produces film documentaries. Our campaigns focus on so called fur animals and replacement of animal experiments. Besides other activities Freedom for Animals also places emphasis on environmental awareness – successfully lecturing about animal protection in kindergardens, elementary as well as secondary schools. Within the campaigns we organize petitions, demonstrations, submit amendments and comments to drafts of legislation and governmental decrees concerning protection of animals, prepare suggestions and proposals on improvement of animal protection, cooperate with authorities and participate in administrative proceedings. In 2006, the Freedom for Animals opened new information centre in Prague 5 where it provides public with information from all areas of animal protection. Another information centre has been in operation since 2008 in Pilsen.



The organization cooperates with Czech and foreign animal protection organizations that have similar aims and missions. Within the scope of the international cooperation, Freedom for Animals is a member of RSPCA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals), Fur Free Alliance (international coalition that fights against fur fashion) and ECEAE (European Coalition to End Animal Experiments). Besides these, our association actively cooperates with other partner organizations in Europe (BUAV, CIWF, VIVA, IFAW) as well as in the USA (PETA, HSUS). Our work also includes discussions and cooperation with authorities engaged in animal protection – the Ministry of Agriculture and the State Veterinary Administration.

About 50% of the association's incomes are constituted by grants obtained for various projects from Czech and foreign foundations or from international organizations. Another 20% of incomes are constituted by contributions from foreign animal protection organizations (BUAV, ProTier, PETA), another 25% comprises of financial contributions from individuals, and the remaining 5% are obtained through selling of promotional goods and from beneficial events. Freedom for Animals does not accept money from corporations that make profit from animals by any means whatsoever.

During its 14 years history, the Freedom for Animals organization achieved many successes, such as enforcement of the ban on animal testing of cosmetics and cosmetic ingredients in the Czech Republic, closing down of the fur farm in Milevsko or participation in the implementation of cat and dog fur trade ban in the EU. However, the biggest success is a shift in public opinion towards apprehension of animals as sentient beings.

People in SZ



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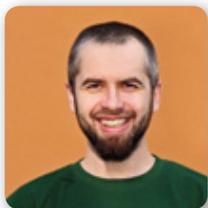


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“Against the Hair” Campaign

The aim of this campaign is to end the unnecessary suffering of animals being killed for their fur. One of the short-term aims is to ban fur farming in the Czech Republic. In 2008, we presented this campaign in Czech Television’s TV series “Chcete mě?”.

International conference

The main event of the year was international conference “Perspectives of Fur Farming in EU countries” we held in October in Prague under the patronage of the Ministry of Agriculture. The conference was attended by many respected experts in breeding of fur animals in Europe and by representatives of almost all Czech stakeholders (including breeders and state authorities). The overall message was clear – European countries have been gradually adopting laws banning fur farming or making breeding standards stricter.

We published two versions of electronic book of speeches: Czech-English and Czech-German. They are available on Freedom for Animals’ official website.



Meeting of FFA member organizations

Immediately after the conference, Freedom for Animals hosted the Fur Free Alliance (FFA) meeting in Prague.

The FFA has 35 member organizations engaged in protection of so called fur animals from all around the world and their representatives meet on a regular basis twice a year. Freedom for Animals organized this meeting already in May 2007. This year, we discussed e.g. Design Against Fur contest and Fur Free Retailer programme – projects that have been successfully running in many countries across the world thanks to the FFA. Freedom for Animals is a respected member of this coalition not only because of the satisfactory organization of the meetings and the conference but especially because of its work in the field of animal protection.

Other activities

As a part of our campaign, we have issued a brochure for government representatives, which briefly and clearly summarises all information on breeding and keeping of so called fur animals and we also discussed the possibility of fur farming ban in our country with several Members of Parliament. Throughout the whole year we regularly informed the public not only about suffering of animals at Czech fur farms but also about seal hunting in Canada.

In 2008, we also issued a brief guide stating a few easy methods to recognize real fur from the artificial one.

In December, we started preparation works for a brand new project titled “Commercial Seal Hunting is Against the Hair to the European Public” in cooperation with IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare). The main aim of this campaign is to enforce adoption of a complete ban on trade in seal products in the EU .

For more information see the newly launched website: www.protisrsti.cz.

Design Against Fur, DAF

Design Against Fur (DAF) is an international student competition in poster designing and creation of flash animations. Students are to come up with original poster or animation speaking against fur fashion which could be consequently used by animal protection organizations in their anti-fur campaigns. In cooperation with FFA, Freedom for Animals has organised this competition in the Czech Republic since 2003. In 2008, we received designs from 70 students of 32 high-schools and universities from all over the Czech Republic. The winner of the Czech round of this competition was David Teocharis – student from the Secondary School of Multimedia and Advertising in Prague – with his polar bear on an iceberg. The second place was awarded to Bohumír Nowak from the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice and Anna Ulahelová, a student of the Secondary School of Industry and Arts in Opava, achieved the third place. Besides the three main awards there were two special prizes awarded by the jury.

As a background to the competition, we give lectures about fur animals in schools that join the competition. From posters received for the competition in 2008, we compiled a new mobile exhibition that we lend for free. The exhibition “DAF 08” consists of 15 posters (8 posters of A3 format and 7 posters of A2 format). It features winning posters of regional rounds as well as the world’s winning poster, Czech winning posters and other selected or awarded posters by Czech students.

For more information visit: www.dafcr.cz, or write to: lucie.moravcova@svobodazvirat.cz.



Fur Free Retailer

Fur Free Retailer (FFR) is another project that has been organized by Freedom for Animals in the Czech Republic in cooperation with Fur Free Alliance. The main aim is to support fur free fashion – from the very design to sale of finished products to customers. Retailers and designers who decide to join the program sign a contract binding them not to use or sell products made of or with real fur. The Fur Free Retailer website presents regularly updated list of these designers and retailers. Thus we help customers to find responsible and ethical retailers. Since September 2008, we have been offering an opportunity to sign an international online petition demanding retailers to go fur-free.

For more information see: www.obchodbezkozecin.cz, info@obchodbezkozecin.cz.

Campaign For Replacement of Animal Experiments

This campaign has been running for few years now and it is divided into three separate projects:

Beauty Victims – campaign against testing of cosmetics and household products on animals

Humane Education – for replacement of harmful animal use in education

Next of Kin – for ban on primate experiments in the EU

Within our projects, we cooperate with the European Coalition to End Animal Experiments (ECEAE) and with InterNICHE (International Network for Humane Education).

In 2008, we were also focused on the revision of the Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. We sent a letter to all Czech MEPs accompanied by a brief overview of the key points that should be embedded in the law. The first draft of the directive was rather a disappointment from the animal protection point of view as it failed to contain most of the proposals of animal protection groups which were supported by general public and even by a large group of politicians. Final vote concerning the revision of the directive will take place in 2009 – of course we continue with lobbying. If we succeed to incorporate at least the basic key points into the new directive (such as prohibition of experiments on primates, strategic plan for reduction of animal experiments and prohibition of certain types of research, etc.), it will be a significant progress in the protection of animals used for experiments.

During the year 2008, we attended several Czech and international conferences concerning alternatives to animal experiments, and meetings of ECEAE that are held on a regular basis (twice a year). These meetings are usually focused on strategy of further work concerning protection of animals used for experiments and current issues demanding increased attention in particular countries.

We cooperated with authors of articles on animal experiments published in magazines Týden, Mladá Fronta and Dívka. Also one of the episodes of the TV series “Chcete mě?” (broadcasted in December) offered a closer look on cosmetics not tested on animals.

In November, the long awaited Czech version of ECEAE website has been launched (www.cs.eceae.org).

Beauty Victims

In 2008, we have launched the Humane Cosmetics Standard (HCS) and the Humane Household Product Standard (HHPS) in the Czech Republic. These standards guarantee that neither the products nor their ingredients were tested on animals. On the occasion of launch of the HCS/HHPS in the Czech Republic, we organized information meeting with few Czech cosmetics manufacturers and a press conference.

We were very pleased to approve under the HCS the first Czech company that fulfilled the criteria – the company’s name is Manufaktura and it produces skin-, body- and bath-care products .

We have issued an up-to-date list of cosmetics and household products not tested on animals and an overview of various cosmetics certificates appearing on products on our market. We have also issued information leaflets and brochures about cosmetics testing and a list of internet and retail shops where products not tested on animals are available.

In July 2008, the new website www.netestovanonazviratech.cz was launched. This website informs about cosmetics and household products not tested on animals.

Humane Education

Within the project Humane Education we attempt communicate and cooperate with secondary schools and universities in the Czech Republic.

In the Anglo-Czech Grammar School in České Budějovice we introduced a computer program that enables students to perform virtual dissection of a frog and we also presented other alternative methods for biology education. We started negotiations with the 3rd Medical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague regarding possible replacement of experiments on animals by alternative methods. We also led discussions with the Medical Faculty of the Charles University in Pilsen, Pedagogical Faculty of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Pedagogical Faculty of the University Hradec Králové and Grammar School of B.Balbín in Hradec Králové. We have provided grammar schools with computer programs ProDissector Frog which enable students to perform virtual frog dissection. We introduced alternative methods in life science education to university students and their lecturers. The students then had an opportunity to try some computer programs replacing animal experiments. We have provided each of the institutions with pharmacology and physiology educational software (available free of charge as a part of our project).

We have advertised another year of international grant program – InterNICHE Humane Education Award 2008 – in the Czech Republic. This program is designed to support the best proposals for replacement of harmful animal use (animal experiments and dissections of purposely killed animals) in life science education.



Next of Kin

We have produced Czech version of the film “Next of Kin” about experiments on primates in European laboratories. We have also issued a report on alternatives to experiments on primates (in electronic form only).

Together with other ECEAE members, we supported campaigns for humane solution of the problems with overpopulation of macaques in Malaysia, India and Japan. This issue is often resolved by selling the monkeys to research laboratories which is ethically unacceptable but also a short-term solution only. On behalf of our organization, we sent a request for adherence to the statutory prohibition of export and sale of monkeys for experiments or to be held in captivity to ambassadors of these countries. The letter was accompanied by a brief overview of humane solutions to this issue written by a well-respected veterinarian who has good knowledge of the local conditions. In Malaysia, the appropriate measures were already adopted – thus our activities contributed to a successful solution of this situation.

For more information visit: www.pokusynazviratech.cz or write to: alternativy@svobodazvirat.cz, pokusy@svobodazvirat.cz.

Section for protection of cats

Activities of this section can be divided into two main areas – ongoing activity and single events. During the year 2008, we have managed to get subsidies for 2 projects: “Development of temporary homes for stray cats” and “New home” (project the aim of which was to organise an exhibition of stray cats in order to find new homes for them). The subsidy from the Municipality of the City of Pilsen for the project “Development of temporary homes for stray cats” enabled us to contribute to volunteers temporarily taking care of stray cats towards the costs related to cats’ veterinary treatments and cat-food .

Ongoing activity

The ongoing and in fact everyday activity is running of the temporary homes for stray cats where they are taken care of. These temporary homes are represented by households, weekend houses and cottages of our members and supporters where cats are taken care of and cured, getting used to living with humans.

Another ongoing activity is searching for new homes for these cats (advertisements, websites, transport of cats, etc.). The outcome of these activities in 2008 were new homes for 65 cats and kittens (this number does not include cats re-homed through the exhibition).

For cats living outside we make thermally insulated kennels, feed them and attempt to facilitate their life outside. We also capture stray kittens.

Single events

In September, 2nd till 30th, 2008 we had an exhibition of photos of rescued cats in Pilsen – Doubravka.

18 October, 2008 we organised the 6th allocation exhibition of stray cats in Pilsen attended traditionally also by exhibitors from other towns and cities. From the total number of 53 cats, 43 found their new homes (81%).

For more information visit: www.kocici.cz or write to info@kocici.cz.

Environmental Education Program

Environmental Education at Schools

We launched newly prepared environmental awareness and educational programs at elementary schools in Pilsen. Since April 2008, we have been distributing leaflets advertising our environmental education programs to elementary schools in Pilsen and the Pilsen Region in general. We have 3 programs for younger school children and 3 programs for older pupils of elementary schools – all aimed at animal protection. Particular environmental awareness programs (“Animals in our homes”, “Ideal farm”, “Animals in various cultures”, “Humans and animals”, “What does ORGANIC stand for?” and “Mysterious forest”) are supported by work-sheets that make children think about the issue and lead them into discussions about it. Children are provided with animal masks (dog, cat, cow, pig, owl and rabbit) that can be coloured and used also in other lessons.

Each program takes two standard lessons – i.e. 90 minutes. 2008 between May and December, we realised more than 116 programs.



Organic fair

This event took place on June 11th 2008 in Pilsen. It was accompanied by the campaign “What does ORGANIC stand for?” and the offer of information materials, environmental education games and competitions.

The main stage hosted a program for children – presenter Petr Vacek interviewed Lenka Sehnalová from PRO-BIO league. This was followed by cooking with organic products and subsequent tasting. All the food was served on dishes made of biologically degradable materials. This event was attended by 250 students of secondary and elementary schools and by about 200 other people.

For more information write to: ekovychova@svobodazvirat.cz.

Freedom for Animals Information centers

Information center in Prague

Animal protection information center in Prague 5 was opened in 2006. In 2008, we had about 30 visits there. However, people mainly contacted us by electronic mail (approx. 150 people). Majority of the people were interested especially in information materials (leaflets, posters, books, badges, etc.). They also wanted to know how to get involved in the Freedom for Animals' activities and projects. The information center is attended by Freedom for Animals representative once a week and it is also possible to arrange an individual meeting with us at different time. Information center was repeatedly used as a place for interviews with media and meetings with other organizations engaged in animal protection.

Address: Mozartova 6/1976, Prague 5, 150 00

Phone No.: +420 777 835 651

Opening hours for public: every Thursday, 4 pm to 7 pm

For more info write to: infocentrum@svobodazvirat.cz.

Information center in Pilsen

Since 1998, Pilsen has been the main seat of Freedom for Animals. The main distribution of information and promotional materials is done there. The office also serves as information center. During last year, we responded to more than 400 inquiries – personal, telephonic or e-mail.

Address: Koterovská 84, Pilsen, 326 00

Phone No.: +420 377 444 084

Opening hours for public: every Wednesday 2 pm to 6 pm and every Thursday 3 pm to 6 pm.

Inquiries and information materials: info@svobodazvirat.cz, promotional materials: e-shop@svobodazvirat.cz.

Membership in the Freedom for Animals

Everyone can join Freedom for Animals as the membership in our organization is not limited by age. Currently, we have more than 380 members and about 1000 supporters.

Besides payment of the membership fee, the members of the Freedom for Animals have no other obligations. It is up to them to what extent they want to participate in our activities. Members are regularly provided with up-to-date information on activities as well as with news from various areas of animal protection. One of the benefits of the membership is a free of charge printed bulletin issued quarterly, an e-mail newsletter every 2nd month and 10% discount in our e-shop.

Membership fees (CZK 300 per calendar year) are to be paid in advance for the next calendar year. Those who are interested in joining Freedom for Animals during the year pay a partial membership fee (on a pro rata basis – i.e. CZK 25 per month) only. The membership fee may be paid by bank transfer to the following bank account: ČSOB Pilsen 152049858/0300 or by post money order.

For more information write to: clenstvi@svobodazvirat.cz.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Incomes in 2008

	CZK
Czech-German Fund	63.000
Animal Protection Foundation	15.000
“Green Treasure” Foundation	35.000
Statutory City of Pilsen	194.000
ECEAE	9.371
Fur Free Alliance	10.378
Individual donations	510.927
Other incomes and interests	491.262
Total incomes	1.328.938

Expenditures in 2008

	CZK
Printing of information materials	419.603
Other services (promotion, advertising)	434.494
Expert literature	4.979
Travel costs	78.382
Copying and photographic	10.579
Refreshment at events	140.045
Office supplies	6.868
Lease of equipment	43.757
Postage	34.836
Telecommunication fees and charges	60.372
Rent and energies	136.838
Accounting services	17.000
Salaries	305.928
Expert and lecturers' works	14.000
Other materials (cat-food, cat-litter)	202.320
Bank fees and charges	18.617
Total expenditures	1.928.618