



Milan, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2015

Zotit Lulzim Basha  
Kyetar i Bashkise se Tiranes  
Sheshi Skënderbej  
Tirana 1000  
Albania

Dear Mayor Lulzim Basha,

We would like to bring to your attention to a deeply disturbing welfare situation relating to donkeys and other animals in Tirana Zoo.

It is alleged that the Zoo uses resident donkeys to feed carnivores such as lions, birds of prey, wolves and, hyenas. A single donkey is kept under appalling circumstances, often for many days, until it is fed live to the other animals.

In addition, a number of animals are kept in very small and cramped cages or enclosures which do not attempt to replicate a natural environment nor provide any kind of enrichment. Consequently the animals are unable to demonstrate any natural behaviour, exhibit stereotypical behaviour whereas others seem to be completely lifeless.

Recently we received a message from a reliable and longstanding associate, giving the following details:

'A donkey was given to the Zoo, malnourished and poorly, in order to get rid of him. He was kept in a trench, bound with all four feet together in a cruel and most painful position, no food no water, at least for two days, maybe longer. One visitor phoned a Swiss Lady who has shelter for dogs. She came and found the donkey as described. Under great difficulties, she bought the donkey and took him to her shelter. Whether he will recover is unclear. This is just one of many examples of eye witness to extreme cruelty.'

As you will appreciate we are very concerned by this report and would like to engage with the zoo to help improve the standards of animal welfare or better finding new locations for all animals as rescue centers.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Andrew Judge  
Head of Operations-Continental Europe

Reineke Hameleers  
Director Eurogroup for Animals

Elisa Norelli  
OIPA International Campaigns  
Director