



PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

PETA  
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His Excellency Fadil Novalić  
Prime Minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Fahrudin Solak  
Director  
Federal Department of Civilian Protection

15 April 2020

Via e-mail: [info@fbihvlada.gov.ba](mailto:info@fbihvlada.gov.ba); [coronaupiti@fucz.gov.ba](mailto:coronaupiti@fucz.gov.ba)

Your Excellency and Mr Solak,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA Germany – an affiliate of PETA US, which is the largest animal rights organisation in the world, with more than 6.5 million members and supporters worldwide – to ask that you use your authority to stop the killing of homeless animals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and instead mandate the use of animal-friendly alternatives.

PETA Germany has received several eyewitness reports, with photos and video footage, informing us about the slaughter of homeless dogs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to these reports, local authorities throughout the country have either ordered the killings or turned a blind eye to them. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "Possible animal sources of COVID-19 have not yet been confirmed."<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the killing of harmless animals needs to end now and animal-friendly alternatives should be used instead, including neuter-and-release programmes, which WHO recommends in its "Guidelines for Dog Population Management".

Employing such alternatives is scientifically sound, since "human to human transmission remains the main driver" of the pandemic.<sup>2</sup> We understand and appreciate that protecting the nation's residents is your top priority and that the situation caused by COVID-19 calls for unusual measures. However, any actions taken should be humane with respect to both humans and animals.

We understand that local authorities in Lukavac, Živinice, and Orašje have all ordered the humane removal of homeless dogs. When untrained individuals catch these dogs, the animals are sometimes subjected to avoidable pain, suffering, and distress, and the situation is exacerbated by inadequately equipped shelters that cannot guarantee legally required humane housing for them.

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<sup>1</sup>World Health Organization, "Q&A on Coronaviruses (COVID-19)," WHO.int, 8 April 2020 <<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>> (accessed 14 April 2020).

<sup>2</sup>World Health Organization.

PETA Weltweit

- PETA UK
- PETA US
- PETA France
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Schweiz
- PETA India
- PETA Australia
- PETA Asia-Pacific
- PETA Latino
- Animal Rahat

Spendenkonto

GLS Gemeinschaftsbank eG  
Konto: 78000 78000  
BLZ: 430 609 67  
IBAN: DE71 43060967 7800078000  
BIC: GENODEM1GLS

Als gemeinnützig und besonders  
förderungswürdig anerkannt.  
Eingetragen im Vereinsregister beim  
Amtsgericht Stuttgart, VR 202128.



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Issuing orders to kill homeless animals also violates the legal protections that they have in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, we urge you to use your authority to prevent further killings of homeless dogs, stop untrained individuals from catching animals, and help ensure the humane treatment of homeless animals.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We hope to hear from you soon and look forward to discussing this subject with you.

Yours sincerely,

Harald Ullmann  
Vice President  
PETA Germany

### Further Information

World Health Organization and World Society for the Protection of Animals,  
"Guidelines for Dog Population Management", May 1990

[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/61417/WHO\\_ZOON\\_90.166.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/61417/WHO_ZOON_90.166.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y).

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