



Dorothea Friz  
LEGA PRO ANIMALE

Prof. Luigi Zicarelli  
Dean of the Veterinary Medicine Faculty  
of the University of Naples Federico II°



Prof. Adriano Mantovani,  
Dorothea Friz and Prof. Zicarelli

The Vice Prefect  
of the Province  
of Caserta,  
Dott. Vincenzo  
Lubrano





Dr. Elke Deininger  
Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V.



Esther Mechler  
SPAY/USA



Kelly O'Meara  
Humane Society International



Joy Lee - World Society for  
the Protection of Animals



Dr. Claudio Fantini



Susan Dale  
The Anglo-Italian Society  
for the Protection of Animals



Dott.ssa Rosalba Matassa  
Ministry of Health

Dott.ssa  
Marina Pompameo  
Veterinary Services NA-1



Dott.  
Salvatore De Micco  
Veterinary Services CE-2

Dott. Mario Campofreda  
President of the Veterinary Association  
of the Province of Caserta



## 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE SPAY AND NEUTER CENTRE FOR DOGS AND CATS RUN BY LEGA PRO ANIMALE AT CASTEL VOLTURNO/SOUTHERN ITALY

The fact that stray dogs can kill humans recently run through the world news; in Sicily a pack of dogs that escaped from a kennel killed a child and seriously injured a German tourist. The decaying dogs line the streets in southern Italy which are the evidence of collisions between dogs and cars that certainly can cause damage to vehicles and eventually even to humans. Public security is one of the reasons why the stray problem should be resolved. Dr. Vincenzo Lubrano, the vice prefect of Caserta, expressed this opinion during his short talk during the opening ceremonies of the conference titled: “**PREVENTION? YES, PLEASE!**” that took place on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Resort of Castel Volturno. Dr. Lubrano promised to increase the efforts of the police headquarters to help enforcing the laws to avoid further incidents with strays.

The founder and president of the animal welfare organisation LEGA PRO ANIMALE, German vet Dorothea Friz, had organized the congress and had invited speakers from all over the world who are somehow dealing with stray problems in other countries: **DEUTSCHER TIERSCHUTZBUND E.V., SPAY/USA, HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, THE ANGLO-ITALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS AND THE WORLD SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS.**

Other important people from local Authorities came to acknowledge the work of LEGA PRO ANIMALE and all of them agreed that finally a solution should be found for the enormous stray problem:

The chairman of the first session, Professor Dr. Adriano Mantovani, director of the Italian Collaboration Centre of World Health Organisation/FAO thanked Dorothea Friz for her untiring efforts not only in Italy, but even in other countries to resolve a public health problem.

Dr. Marina Pompameo represented the Government of Campania, the Public Veterinary Health Office. Dr. Rosalba Matassa of the Ministry of Health in Rome sent greetings from the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Health, Onorevole Francesca Martini. In her later presentation she gave an overview on the existing laws in Italy for the protection of animals, especially concerning the stray problem.

Dr. Serpe from the Zoonosis Control Institute of southern Italy in Portici mentioned the importance to reduce or eliminate the stray problem because of public health issues.

Dr. Luigi Zicarelli, the Dean of the Veterinary Faculty of the University Federico II<sup>o</sup> in Naples thanked Dorothea Friz for offering training to young vets.

At the beginning of the conference a letter from Wolfgang Apel, President of Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V. in Bonn/Germany, was read out as he was unable to attend for health reasons. Therefore Dr. Elke Deininger from the Akademie for Animal Welfare represented him. She is the contact for foreign animal welfare affairs. She introduced the Odessa Project in Ukraine that is based on the experiences of LEGA PRO ANIMALE in Italy.

Dorothea Friz gave a summary of LEGA PRO ANIMALE's work over the last 20 years. More than 40.000 dogs and cats had been neutered. Only in Castel Volturno nearly 3000 dogs and numerous cats have been caught and treated during the years 1995 to 2003. Foreign animal lovers took over the expenses for these treatments and surgeries.

Vets from the Public Health Offices in Naples (Dr. Marina Pompameo) and Caserta (Dr. Salvatore De Micco) presented their results with stray animals in their part of the Region of Campania. Dr. Claudio Fantini, a state vet from the town of Rome caused a passionate discussion when he talked about the problems coming up enforcing the law and especially how much the tax payer has to pay for this.

“Close the spigot” was the title of the second presentation of Dorothea Friz. She compared the “production” of dogs and cats with a water supply and a spigot that is not closed. If more water than you need is flowing out, the floor will be wet and somebody has to try all the time to clean up. If the spigot is completely closed, the problem is resolved and no more money needs to be spent.

Therefore, Dr. Mario Campofreda, President of the Veterinary Association of the Province of Caserta stressed that only “prevention” is the solution. Free neutering for dogs and cats, especially owned pets (the cause of problems with strays) should be offered. Most of the over 120 participants of the congress (animal protection people, state veterinarians and private practitioners, politicians, councillors of communities, and simple dog and cat lovers) agreed that the number of neutering has to be increased significantly and something has to happen to ensure that the laws will be enforced. Only a small percentage of dog owners know that their 4-legged family member has to be identified and registered. Nobody knows that the puppies of a litter of a pet have to be microchipped and registered before selling or donating them and that they have to report the data of the new owner to the authorities. Public knowledge needs to be increased, animal welfare teaching has to be introduced in schools and the media needs to get more involved.

Certainly one should not wait until other humans are killed or injured by straying dogs. And it is beyond the tax payer's means to finance the consequences. 26.400 dogs are recovered in kennels at the moment only in the Region of Campania for a total expense of over **20 million Euro per year** paid by communities.

**AND THE STREETS ARE FULL OF STRAYING DOGS.....**

**Dorothea Friz  
LEGA PRO ANIMALE**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF LEGA PRO ANIMALE, YOU CAN DONATE TO FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS:**

In Italy:

**LEGA PRO ANIMALE**

Conto corrente postale: 10973816  
Codice IBAN: IT81 Q076 0114 9000 0001 0973 816  
Codice BIC/SWIFT: BPPIITRRXXX

**In the UK mail your donation to:**

AISPA  
136, Baker Street  
London  
W1U 6DU  
Attn. Mrs. Susan Dale ([aispa@clara.co.uk](mailto:aispa@clara.co.uk))  
**Add: for LEGA PRO ANIMALE**