

# International Organization for Animal Protection



Organisation Internationale pour la Protection des Animaux

Internationale Organisation für Tierschutz

Organizzazione Internazionale per la Protezione degli Animali - Onlus

NGO associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)

the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and accredited at UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Registration in the Register of Representatives of Interest of the European Commission

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To the kind Attention of  
Mr. Andrej Plenković  
Prime Minister of the  
Government of the Republic  
of Croatia

[gradjani@vlada.hr](mailto:gradjani@vlada.hr)

Milan, 14 May 2021

Dear Prime Minister Mr. Andrej Plenković,

**Subject: Request to implement a legal provision under the Croatian Animal Protection Act to ban the keeping of dogs tethered on chain**

**OIPA International Organization for Animal Protection** is an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), accredited at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP). Our organization embraces more than 200 associations across the world and operates in defence of animal rights and for protecting animals against cruelty and abuse.

Through this letter, we appeal to your kind attention and we express our support to the national campaign “**Za Hrvatsku bez pasa na lancu!**” launched by several Croatian associations, included our member league’s Animal Friends Croatia, and supported by the vast majority of Croatian citizens, asking for a complete ban **on keeping dogs tethered on chain.**

We sincerely ask you to **implement a legal provision under the Croatian Animal Protection Act** that will clearly prohibit the use of this cruel practise and will impose severe punishments for those who perpetrate abuse and cruelty keeping animals in inhumane conditions. The provision will not only protect dogs from abuse but will demonstrate internationally the awareness and compassion of your Country in protecting the weakest that have no voice.

There are no reasons or justifications for keeping dogs tied on a chain. This practise does not only let dogs to **suffer physically** but also **psychologically**.

Dogs, especially in rural environments, are often tethered permanently or for much of their lives on a chain with the “excuse” of being dog guards.

A chain **limits dogs’ movements** and forces them to spend their lives in **miserable conditions**. They do **not practise adequate physical activity** and many times the same chain, **wrapping around objects**, can restrict even more the motion area. Dogs, while pulling the chain, can also **stumble upon their food or water bowls** and empty them, risking not eat or drink for many days.

Many dogs kept on chain are often **unable to protect themselves properly** from heat, rain, snow or other extreme weather, as they do not have adequate shelter. Moreover, they **do not have enough space** to eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in different and distant areas and are then easily **subjected to diseases** and constantly exposed to ticks, fleas and mosquitos.

The use of a chain causes, in many cases, **abrasions, wounds and severe cuts** to dogs’ neck and in the worst cases animals can even die for strangulation. In addition, they **cannot escape** from wild animals or even aggressive stray dogs in case of danger.

Many of them are left alone for days, months and even years without learning how to interact with humans and other conspecifics. They are **not socialized** animals, so they become **aggressive** and more likely to bite. They may **bark** continuously for boredom and **loneliness**. They become **frustrated**, sad, depressed and may show their discomfort with compulsive behaviours.

We trust that you will give this matter your urgent attention and consider our suggestions.

Yours Sincerely,

**Valentina Bagnato**  
**Head International Relations Office**  
**OIPA**



*Valentina Bagnato*