

# AnimaNaturalis' Accomplishments (2016-2017)

January 1, 2016 to August 10, 2017

Brief summary of the most important activities of AnimaNaturalis for the period 2016-2017. Some statistics of social networks, mailing lists and visits to our websites have also been included.

## **SPAIN**

In order to be more efficient in our work for animals, we have decided to join forces with other groups in coalitions that have proven to be very successful. The most relevant are InfoCircos and SOSDelfines, against the use of animals in circuses and entertainment with marine mammals respectively.

### **Campaigns**

#### [InfoCircos](#)

In 2015 we decided to unite our campaign against the use of animals in circuses to the coalition InfoCircos, which today has AnimaNaturalis, FAADA, ANDA, Primadomus AAP and BornFree U.K.

Since January 2016, over 300 cities and four autonomous communities (Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Galicia, and Murcia) have declared themselves free of animal circuses. Taking advantage of our political contacts from our campaign against bullfighting in the Balearic Islands, we also got that community to declare itself free of animal circuses in July.

#### [SOSDelfines](#)

The biggest success of this campaign, which we did together with FAADA, is the end of dolphin shows at the Barcelona zoo. There has been a commitment made to find a better location for the animals, but no transfer has been made yet.

More information can be found on the [campaign website](#).

#### [Mallorca Without Blood](#)

We launched this campaign in 2014, together with CAS International, to end the bullfighting in the Balearic Islands. After convincing 25 important cities to declare themselves free of bullfighting, on July 30, 2015 the provincial capital Palma de Mallorca was added. We continued to work, and in February 2016 we obtained an agreement among most political parties to declare the abolition of any show that mistreats animals on the islands, but the declaration of the Constitutional Court of October 21, 2016 blocked the final vote.

We tried another strategy, which was to regulate bullfighting to limits that make it impossible to practice. On July 24, 2017 this was done, approved by a majority. If there are no new efforts

on the part of the central government, there will be no more bullfighting in the Balearic Islands anymore.

We also gathered more than 166,000 signatures from our website *Mallorca Sin Sangre* (*"Mallorca Without Blood"*). Together with others obtained by Humane Society International, we reached a total of 350,000 signatures.

### **Sanfermines Without Blood**

We have been protesting for 14 years in Pamplona the day before the Sanfermin confinement begins. So far, the politicians who governed did not allow us to dream of more profound changes, but in 2015 the mayor changed, along with the configuration of the town hall. Since 2016 we have been working on another strategy. We gathered more than 160,000 signatures to generate public debate and we interviewed with each political group to propose eliminating bullfights from celebrations, as well as to begin a debate to eliminate the enclosures in the future. The problem here is that the municipality gives very few resources to support these shows, which are primarily organized by a Catholic foundation called Casa de la Misericordia. We are looking for several strategies to follow next year.

### **Fallas Without Blood**

Every year, during the Fallas festival in Valencia, one of the most popular bullfighting fairs in Spain is celebrated. For more than a decade we have protested during these festivities, but the right-wing government did not allow any kind of dialogue. In 2015 the political configuration changed, and since 2016 we have been in conversation with different authorities to reduce or eliminate public aid to bullfighting, to remove official support, and other measures that allow us to weaken this practice. Nothing concrete has been achieved yet, but we are on the right track.

### **San Mateo Without Blood**

As in Pamplona and Valencia, in the city of Logroño bullfights are only held during their annual festivals. We have been working in the city for 14 years, protesting with marches and actions for the media. With the political changes of recent years, in July 2017 we succeeded in having a political group bring our proposal to debate: the elimination of public money to subsidize bullfighting. This is the best approach, since bullfighting can not be banned outright because of the Constitutional Court statement. This time, we failed to pass the proposal, but it is a first step.

### **Bulls Used in Entertainment (Correbous)**

This campaign has focused on documenting as many shows as possible, denouncing transgressions in court, working with the press, and lobbying politicians. In addition, a collection of signatures is maintained on the [website](#). During this period, investigations have been carried out in Amposta, Deltebre, Sant Jaume d'Enveja and a dozen other towns in southern Catalan, and 12 judicial complaints have been filed. During the documentation of the bulls of Mas de Barberans, two of our volunteers were attacked by fans. We were lucky enough to record the aggression, which allowed us to begin a media debate about violence related to cruel animal shows.

We are also part of the coalition of groups that have presented a Popular Legislative Initiative against bullfighting festivals in Catalonia.

We have advised the political parties that have ended these type of festivals in various towns in Catalonia and Valencia—including the capital of the latter, which banned such festivities in early 2017.

### **End the Cage Age**

We join the Compassion in World Farming campaign to regulate the production of rabbits in the E.U. Until this time there were no animal welfare regulations for rabbits, and they are the second most bred animal for consumption on the continent. We lobbied with the Spanish MEPs, collected support signatures [on the web](#) (“conejos” means “rabbits”) and sent children’s drawings to politicians, with the theme “Imagine a better future for rabbits.” We achieved the goal of ending the use of breeding cages for rabbits throughout the E.U.

### **Without Fur**

Our campaign against the use of fur is limited to the performance of a high impact media campaign every December. The different editions can be seen at [the website](#) (“sin piel” means “without skin”). Every year we get the most important media in the country and a lot of foreign press to publish the action and to allow us to talk about the state of animals in the industry. Spain is one of the largest fur producers in Europe. We are currently in talks to join the [Fur Free Alliance](#) coalition to implement its Fur Free Retailer campaign in Spain.

### **Veganism**

During the period 2016-2017 we have distributed about 30,000 leaflets on veganism and made a dozen talks about taking the first step—in addition to holding vegan cooking workshops. Mainly, our veganism campaign has focused on spreading our website [Hazte Veg](#) (“make yourself veg”) and its social networks. In the last year (from August 17, 2016 to August 17, 2017) the website has received 1.2 million unique visitors and 3.4 million page views. Our [Hazte Veg Facebook](#) brings together 1.2 million people, and we have 39,300 [Hazte Veg Twitter](#) followers and 23,100 [Hazte Veg Instagram](#) followers. We have not done any paid promotional campaigns or publicity.

### **Fairs, Workshops, and Talks**

Since 2016, we have participated with informative tables and stands in practically all Spanish fairs with a vegetarian theme: BioCultura de Barcelona, Fira per la Terra, Vegan Fair in Alicante, Vegan Fair in Valencia, VeggieWorld in Barcelona, and VeggieDay in Valencia. Attendance figures for each fair vary, but none have fewer than 10,000 visitors.

We have also held effective activism talks at several of these fairs. Our director in Spain, Aïda Gascón, has given talks on this subject in our area, where she has been invited by social groups and to speak at fairs. The average attendance has been about 40-60 participants.

We have also organized at least 6 Vegan Cooking Workshops in our location since 2016. The average attendance has been about 20 participants.

## **Other activities**

We have participated in numerous marches for animals in various cities of the country, to support the work of local groups and in order to generate debate in the media.

We organized the biggest march ever against bullfighting in Madrid, on May 13, 2017, which brought together more than 30,000 people under the slogan "[Tauromaquia is Violencia](#)" ("Bullfighting is Violence").

In this period we have attended the annual march against bullfighting in Zaragoza, and animal rights marches in Bilbao, San Sebastian, Huesca, Madrid, Mallorca, Valencia, Alicante and Barcelona.

We are one of the participating organizations of the Municipal Council of Animal Protection of Barcelona, and we are consultants of the Animal Welfare Counselor in Valencia and Alicante.

## **MEXICO**

### **Campaigns**

#### **Zero Sacrifice**

Mexico ranks third in animal abuse worldwide. The street population of dogs and cats amounts to approximately 19 million homeless animals. Every year hundreds of thousands of animals are killed in anti-rabies centers and pounds. In Mexico City alone, about 180,000 animals die annually. Against this backdrop, AnimaNaturalis filed an indirect amparo ("protection") against the Canine Control Center *Dr. Alfonso Angellini* (dependent of the Ministry of Health of Mexico City), in order to prohibit the slaughter of healthy animals that could be placed for adoption, and against the Federal Secretary of Health responsible for issuing a sanitary regulation that ordered the slaughter of healthy animals in anti-rabies centers and pounds.

On October 18, 2016 a final judgment was handed down and the amparo and protection of the Federal Justice was granted to the association against the claimed acts attributable to the aforementioned authorities for the following purposes:

*"The responsible authorities Head of the Canine Control Center Dr. Alfonso Angellini de la Garza and Head of the Epidemiological Surveillance and Intelligence Division, both attached to the Public Health Services of the Ministry of Health of Mexico City do not apply Mexican Official Standard NOM-042-SSA2-2006 relating to the slaughter in either the present or the future, until it is modified significantly. That is, it is invalid to sacrifice healthy animals that have the possibility of being claimed by their owners, even if they are caught on more than one occasion and it is invalid to apply the electrosensitization method to kill animals."*

Likewise, in the preamble to the judgment, the judge pointed out that Articles 4.2.14, 4.2.15, 4.2.17 and 4.2.18 of Official Mexican Standard NOM-042-SSA2-2006 are unconstitutional, because they contravene the provisions of Article 16 of the Constitution as they violate the fundamental right to legality in light of the principles of proportionality and legal reasonability since the said Official Standard, even though it is suitable for the achievement of the legitimate purpose of health protection, is unnecessary. In that sense, he said:

*"The determination is not necessary. If it is taken into account that necessity is the sub-principle of proportionality by which it is analyzed that the measure that is going to imply protection for one right and one "affectation" for another, is the one that less distorts the second of the rights, it must therefore be concluded that the so-called "humanitarian sacrifice" of dogs and cats for the causes and method set out below are not the least disturbing of the legal right of animals to have a dignified life and death, methods that are considered less burdensome for the legal rights of animals and could be equally effective in achieving the objective of the standard."*

With this unprecedented resolution it has been shown that the jurisdictional way is the way to end this systematic form of animal abuse in Mexico. AnimaNaturalis continues to work to extend this resolution throughout Mexico City and in the rest of the country. To give more visibility to this campaign, which is mobilized almost exclusively in courts and thanks to our legal team, we created the website [Sacrificio Cero](#) ("zero sacrifice") to gather signatures and offer information.

### **Adopt, Care and Sterilize**

This was a sterilization campaign in Michoacán during the month of February 2017. This campaign had a scope of 66 companion animals. There was a local media presence (television and print), which allowed the message to be transmitted to several people, with emphasis on the benefits of sterilization and adoption.

AnimaNaturalis makes a donation to a shelter in Mexico City. The volunteer brigade of the organization donated their time and 200 rugs obtained through an alliance with a major television program in the country "To whom it corresponds." The donation was awarded to Omeyocan, A.C., which has a population of 450 dogs.

In May 2017 we held an educational and informative event where we held awareness talks about responsible animal rights. There was a collection of medicines, raincoats, and food for the Oceanican shelter which has 300 dogs.

There was also a sterilization campaign in Zamora, Michoacán during the month of June, 2017. AnimaNaturalis, together with the local organization AMICHAA (Association of Michoacan Friends of Animals, AC), carried out a campaign of sterilization and awareness with the aim of reducing the population of street animals. This is a permanent campaign in the state of Michoacán.

### **Dolphinariums**

On August 1, 2017, we achieved unanimous approval of the proposal to eliminate all marine mammals exhibits in Mexico City, which means the closing of two dolphinariums. We were promoters of the law and consultants of deputy Xavier López of the Green Ecologist Party of Mexico (PVEM), who presented the project.

### **Wildlife**

AnimaNaturalis—in conjunction with Sea Shepherd and Tierra de Animales—requires local authorities in Quintana Roo to inspect and implement measures to guarantee the welfare of catsharks in Isla Mujeres (Cancun) through a media campaign on social networks. A hidden camera investigation helps us to support the report of illegal capture of these animals.

### **Veganism**

Campaigning for veganism in Mexico consists of handing out leaflets (120,000 during 2017), holding talks and doing media action on the annual Meatless World Day (March 20) to keep the debate going about animals that are used for eating. In addition, we have a strategic alliance with Vegan Outreach, to offer their material at universities in Mexico.

### **Fairs, workshops and talks**

During the month of August 2017, talks were held for children in school. The organization gave talks to raise awareness in schoolchildren, and to create empathy and show the importance of being respectful of animals.

During 2016 and 2017, the founder of AnimaNaturalis, Dr. Leonora Esquivel, has offered several conferences in Universities, Congresses and in the Parliament of the Deputies. The theme of these conferences has always been to explain why we think that animals should have rights, and to say that to stop eating them is the best way to respect them and develop empathy as a tool to achieve that change.

In 2017 alone, the director of AnimaNaturalis in Mexico, Israel Arriola, has done at least 40 talks, workshops and interviews on the subject of veganism from a nutritional and ethical point of view.

### **Other activities**

We are finalizing the process of alliance with the [Museum of Memory and Tolerance](#) of Mexico City, through its project Social Action Movement whose purpose is to give the visitor the necessary tools to become an agent of change.

Monthly we have a [page](#) written by Dr. Leonora Esquivel, founder of the organization, whose monthly circulation is 50,000 copies. We also have a space in the Huffington Post Mexico for her to publish articles for animals.

We maintain a strategic alliance with the "Lush" brand of cosmetics and personal hygiene products, together creating a media campaign in commemoration of World Animal Day in Laboratories in order to highlight the benefits of purchasing products not tested on animals,

as well as to demonstrate that there are currently alternatives for testing that are more accurate, safer, and without cruelty.

We are consultants in Mexico of Cruelty Free International, and we are offering our own [local certification](#) for products not tested on animals.

We are representatives in Mexico of the Open Wing Alliance, which negotiates with companies to replace the use of eggs produced in intensive farms by those qualified as free-range.

## COLOMBIA

**January 2016 - August 2017** Published more than 50 op-eds about animal welfare in nationally circulated newspapers and magazines such as Publimetro Colombia, El Palpitar, El Espectador and Revista Semana.

**January 2016 - August 2017** Informative lectures on animal rights in secondary schools, technological institutions, and the universities of the cities of Bogotá and Medellín.

**January 2016 - August 2017** Approximately 40 media interviews for the different activities we carry out and news events related to animal abuse and advances in animal protection.

**January 2016 - August 2017** About 20 interviews of undergraduate and master's students who are doing their thesis on subjects related to the treatment to the animals.

**February 2016** Talks with academics and experts to understand the scope of law 1774 of 2016 penalizing some cruelty behavior against animals in Bogotá.

**March 2016** Animal intervention in the forum on animal experimentation for the construction of legislation on the subject, at the invitation of the National University of Colombia.

**March 2016** Carrying out activities in the streets commemorating the "Meatless Day" in front of the National Congress of Colombia in Bogotá, urging lawmakers to present an initiative that formally establishes "Meatless Monday" in public institutions.

**May 2016** Collaborative work with the CES cats team, in attention to vulnerable street fauna and rescue activities of 69 cats from a social conflict zone in Bogotá that was intervened in by the local government.

**June 2016** Participation as experts, through written concept, in a new litigation on bullfights, at the request of the Constitutional Court of the Constitution.

**June - December 2016** Collaborative participation in the panel of experts for the formulation of CONPES (national public policy) on protection of domestic animals of the National Planning Department based in Bogotá.

**September 2016** Performing a day of sterilization of 30 animals in the peripheral zone of Bogotá with a high problem of canine and feline population; Thanks to the resources obtained through the 2nd Concert for Animals, organized by AnimaNaturalis and the Responsible Fenalco Foundation.

**October 2016** Organization and realization of the "Fifth donation for homeless dogs and cats in Bogotá" thanks to which resources were provided to approximately 150 shelters and homes in Bogotá and Cundinamarca. Economic resources were also collected to sterilize 47 females in Guajira and Cartagena, and we sent in-kind aid to the animals of Carabobo-Venezuela.

**November 2016** Collaborative work in the formulation of a bill for the protection of animals in Colombia, authored by Senator Nadia Blel Scaff in Bogotá.

**December 2016 - January 2017** In partnership with the Fundación Fenalco Responsible Bogotá, an AnimaNaturalis info booth was established in a high-traffic shopping center in the city of Bogotá (Unicentro).

**January 2017** Thanks to the complaint made by AnimaNaturalis Internacional, government authorities canceled cruel and illegal activities with animals such as the "race of cats and pigs" in eastern Colombia.

**January - February 2017** Performing peaceful protests against bullfights on public thoroughfares in Bogotá and Medellín.

**February 2017** Joint organization with the Fenalco Foundation Responsible for canine and feline adoption and collection of financial and in-kind support for homeless animals, in which 24 animals were adopted and funds were collected to complement the sterilization day in the island region of Colombia.

**April 2017 - August 2017** Development of pilot certification program for cruelty-free cosmetic companies and products of animal origin.

**June 2017 - August 2017** Development of pilot certification program for 100% vegan products.

**July 2017** Organization and collaborative work with the International College of Dentists (ICD), a day of oral health for human beings, to collect supplies and food for the health and feeding days of homeless animals in Bogotá.

**August 2016** Development of a bill for the formulation of incentives for companies and producers of "cage-free" eggs.

**January-April 2017** Denunciation of cases and activities and shows with animals on public roads, covered by law 1774 of 2016.



## **VENEZUELA**

In spite of the socioeconomic crisis that the country has been facing since 2014 and the intensification of political controversy in the country, the team of AnimaNaturalis has not ceased its work in the defense of animal rights in Venezuela.

A petition by AnimaNaturalis and the government's foundation, Misión Nevado al Poder Moral Constituido, made it possible for the Ombudsman's Office to open spaces for the defense of animal rights, and also for the Attorney General's Office to open a citizen's center to receive complaints of animal abuse.

Among the important advances is the fact that AnimaNaturalis as an organization that is part of the National Human Rights Commission has proposed conscientious objection as a fundamental right in the National Human Rights Plan promoted by the Vice Presidency of the Republic, which allows university students to refuse to participate in animal testing even if required by the chair of studies. Additionally, entry to bullfights has been prohibited for children under the age of 18.

On that last point, AnimaNaturalis has been involved in all the municipal judgments that have resulted in a ruling against the participation of minors in bullfighting shows. 57 municipalities have taken the measure at the judicial level.

In collaboration with the council of the municipality Libertador of the Capital District the prohibition of ritual sacrifices was obtained.

AnimaNaturalis, together with the organizations Matar No Es Arte and Colectivo Nevado Zulia, lodged an appeal for protection in the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice against bullfights in Maracaibo, which can be extended throughout the country. Final judgment is still awaited.

Thanks to the Municipal Council of San Cristóbal, it was possible for their city to ban circuses with wild animals under an ordinance reform.

An intensive campaign of AnimaNaturalis got the government of Aragua state to give up its intention to bring new animals to the Las Delicias de Maracay Zoo.

After a year and a half working with the Metropolitan Cabildo, the five municipalities that make up the Metropolitan Area of Caracas prohibited animal exhibits—which include animal circuses, bullfights, bull captures, cock fights, dog fights—and the use of pyrotechnics.

Currently, AnimaNaturalis is preparing a national road education program to reduce the number of animals hit on freeways.

## **ARGENTINA**

We are reforming our team since 2016, and this year we are beginning to resume the campaign to end the use of animals in traveling shows throughout the country. We are working with a very capable legal team and with some nearby senators.

We were also part of the coalition of organizations that managed to end greyhound racing across the country in 2016.

## **CHILE**

Our team in Chile has just reformed and has not yet started a campaign properly. During the fires that ravaged Chile in late January 2017, our team set up a veterinary campaign center to care for animals affected by fire and smoke. Hundreds of domestic and wild animals were taken care of.