

## Rescue 6 Romanian horses

In the end of April 6 abused and neglected horses from Slatina (Romania) arrived in Holland. Volunteers of the Dutch foundation DogsAdoptionsHolland found the horses near the dog killing pound in Slatina. Nathalie Klinge coordinated the rescue again and Lieke Geefshuysen found adoption families. Ton van der Hel, chairman of DogsAdoptionsHolland, financed the rescue operation.

The horses were abandoned by gypsies and brought to a field full of bones near the killing pound of Slatina. Municipal workers tied the horses on ropes without any food or water and left the horses there to die. Due to EU regulation horses and carriages are no longer allowed on main roads. Horses are now being dumped on a large scale. Foals are roaming in city centres and often hit by cars.



This rescue was extremely difficult. The men at the killing pound deliberately obstructed the rescue continuously. The DSV (Romanian Food and Consumer Product Safety Department) in Slatina was not very cooperative either. The horses were moved to an equine collection centre in Buzau. 3 Of the horses were moved with a small Romanian approved truck. The truck broke down and the 3 other horses were moved with a pig truck.



The DSV in Buzau was also difficult to work with. Both DSV departments have no knowledge of the European law about transporting horses other than for slaughter. The DSV didn't agree on the Dutch modern horse truck. This truck has a levelled floor which means that no matter what pothole the truck hits, the floor stays levelled. The horses are monitored fulltime with cameras, the temperature is regulated and there is an automatic water system.

After 5 hours of debating, the DSV vet finally let the Dutch truck go.



After a long journey the truck arrived in Holland. It was very touching to see how the Dutch drivers handled the horses.



After arrival we gave the horses one night stable rest and the next morning the adoption families came to collect their horses.



Murg, now called Liber, after arrival. Very skinny.



Romanov, in the Romanian horse truck.



Soare, horse on the left, found herself a new boyfriend in Holland!



Romanov in Holland, unrecognisable after being washed.



Soare and Liber.



Sylvester eating a sugar cube for the first time.



Again a successful rescue. Of course we realise this is no solution to the horse problems in Romania, but with the help of the media we hope some politicians in Brussels and Strasbourg will wake up one day and will help to solve the problem at the root cause.

Kind regards,

Nathalie Klinge (Holland) volunteer for SOSDogs ([www.sosdogs.ro](http://www.sosdogs.ro))

## **This rescue has succeeded because of the wonderful cooperation of animal lovers in several countries.**

### **Special thanks to:**

#### Holland

Alphons van der Leeuw : driver horse truck  
Family Berkhof : arrival station in Holland where the horses spent 1 night  
Bianca Smit : volunteer DogsAdoptionsNederland  
Eelco Goverse : sponsor small expenses  
Frans : driver horse truck  
Joyce : adopted 2 horses  
Kennard Buisman : owner of BS-Horse service which transported the horses  
Lieke Geefshuysen : found adoption families  
Linda : adopted 2 horses  
Mariska Schrieken : adopted 1 horse  
Marja Keijzer : offered stables  
Mina Bejinariu : translator  
Sanne : adopted 1 horse  
Ton en Annie van der Hel : sponsors  
Wim : business partner of Kennard Buisman

#### Romania

Aurelian Stephan : veterinarian  
Gratiela Ristea : owner dog shelter Slatina  
Pepe Stephan : veterinarian  
Silvia Enescu : employee equine collection centre Buzau  
Teodora Ristea : owner dog shelter Slatina

#### U.K.

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