



# ANIMAL MARKETS IN POLAND



ANIMALS' ANGELS

we are there with the animals

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**THIS REPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN POLISH.**

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N.B. While working on this report Animals' Angels was concerned by the following issue: Do we have the right to use pictures of animals in distress without their consent? Or are we violating their dignity? We have come to the conclusion that as an exception it is justifiable in this case.

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## Introduction

Over 12 years ago Animals' Angels started its work for the animals in Poland at the infamous market of Bodzentyn, one of the biggest horse and cattle markets in the country. Despite enormous efforts severe animal welfare problems remain at Bodzentyn up to today. To gain a more comprehensive understanding of Polish animal markets, our team has inspected 22 additional market locations across Poland from 2012 to 2016. The evidence gathered draws an alarming picture. Market users across Poland widely ignore Polish and European legislation while many market directors and authorities fail to ensure law and order and a respectful treatment of the animals.

Based on the evidence gathered, this report gives an insight into the weekly reality on Polish market grounds.





## I. Markets – what does this mean for the animals?

Animals' Angels has been monitoring animal markets for many years. Time and again we come across similar issues and problems, only varying in severity.

Experts on farm animals and studies on the topic confirm the existence of regularly occurring animal welfare problems on animal markets:

„I can't even imagine the suffering of animals during animal markets, when they are beaten or forced to stand out in the freezing cold for hours with no shelter or in burning sun with no drop of water, and when their journey to slaughterhouse is made many hours longer for the only reason for someone's profit being a few zloty higher. In my opinion, the only solution to this problem is a ban on animal markets, because an enlightened country must not allow for animals to be abused.“

Magdalena Zawilińska-Pankiewicz, veterinarian (2015), (Translated from Polish by Viva! Interwencje)

„At markets and fairs, animals are subjected to various stressors such as: Driving and handling; Unfamiliar surroundings, people, noises, smells; Mixing with unfamiliar animals.“

European Association of Livestock Markets (2014): Animal Welfare at Livestock Markets. Guide to best practice.

„(...) surveys in the UK (Jarvis and others 1995, McNally and Warriss 1996, 1997) have shown that the incidence and severity of bruising are higher in cattle that pass through a market before being sent to the abattoir, and similar results have been obtained in Australia (Eldridge and others 1984) and in the USA (Hoffman and others 1998). The possible causes include more frequent handling, both in comparison with cattle marketed direct from farms and with other species at auction markets, and mixing with unfamiliar animals. (...) Jarvis and others (1995) showed that cattle sold through markets were more thirsty and tired when they arrived at the slaughterhouse lairage than cattle sent direct from farms. Tired cattle may be less able to maintain their physical balance and be more prone to injury, particularly when they are being transported.“

Weets, et al (2002): Influence of the design of facilities at auction markets and animal handling procedures on bruising in cattle. Veterinary Record, p. 743.

„In Europe, selling livestock through auction markets (...) is losing favour with retailers and governments. This stems from four concerns. Firstly, it has been difficult to trace meat back to the farm of origin when animals have been sold through livestock markets. (...) this concern has been replaced by worries about transmission of disease within markets. This is supported by science-based risk analysis, and it applies particularly to contagious exotic diseases (Bigras-Poulin, Thompson, Chriel, Mortensen, & Greiner, 2006; Robinson & Christley, 2007; Schembri, Hart, Petersen, & Whittington, 2006). (...) The third concern about livestock markets is the effect it has on animal cleanliness. Putting cattle through markets can increase the risk of hide contamination with undesirable bacteria (Collis et al., 2004). The fourth concern is that the welfare of animals sold through markets is poor compared with animals delivered directly to abattoirs.“

N.G. Gregory (2008): Animal welfare at markets and during transport and slaughter. p. 10

„The welfare concerns with putting fat cattle through markets include fatigue, fear and distress, fasting, dehydration and injuries. It is well recognised that the prevalence of carcass bruising in cattle sold through markets is higher than for cattle sold direct to abattoirs, and this is cited as evidence that auction marketing is less appropriate than direct sale to abattoirs (Weeks, McNally, & Warriss, 2002). For these reasons, one of the major international restaurant companies no longer allows its European beef burger suppliers to source meat from cattle sold through auction markets.“

N.G. Gregory (2008): Animal welfare at markets and during transport and slaughter. p. 4-5

„Abuses of animals at auctions and slaughter plants occur often. Commonly observed abuses include the dragging of crippled animals, hitting, and excessive prodding of animals.“

Grandin, T. (2015): Behavior of Slaughter Plant and Auction Employees Toward the Animals.

„The place of livestock markets in society needs to be considered in an open-minded manner. Regional differences need to be taken into account as well as the role that livestock play in different communities. The need for traditional livestock markets is probably greatest in Africa. (...) Whereas, in other parts of the world there is the growing view that that fatstock markets are not essential to the meat and livestock industries.“

N.G. Gregory (2008): Animal welfare at markets and during transport and slaughter. p. 10

## II. Inspections of 23 Markets in Poland 2012 - 2016

Animals' Angels together with the Polish organisation Viva! Interwencje inspected numerous of Polish animal markets from September 2012 to February 2016. This chapter presents the evidence gathered and gives an insight into what animals are facing on Polish market grounds.



= Animal Markets





SŁUŻBA PORZĄDKOWA  
PLAC TARGOWY  
BODZENTYN

# 1. Problems and Violations Observed:

## a. Condition of the Animals

If an animal arrives at a market in bad shape, the animal will leave in a poorer general shape and the risk of her/him becoming seriously injured and suffering during transport is increased. **At several markets animals in alarming conditions have been observed.** Detailed information, photos, and reports can be obtained from Animals' Angels.

Animals' Angels and Viva! Interwencje observed:

- Downer animals (cattle, horses)
- Numerous emaciated animals, body condition score 1 or 2 out of 5 (cattle)
- Limping animals, sometimes animals with severe walking difficulties (cattle, horses)
- Animals with claw/hoof problems, e.g. overgrown claws/hooves (cattle, horses)
- Animals with injuries, wounds, and scratches on different parts of their bodies (cattle, horses)
- Animals with swellings on different parts of their bodies, e.g. swollen joints (cattle, horses)
- Animals with mastitis (cattle)
- Animals with diarrhoea (cattle)
- Animals with injuries from ropes and halters (cattle, horses) and bits (horses)
- Animals standing throughout the market in an unnatural position (cattle, horses)
- Animals with thick nose discharge (cattle, horses)
- Animals with curly coats, foam around their mouths (cattle)
- Animals with neglected, dirty coat (cattle, horses)
- Animals with dripping udders – symptoms of not having been milked for more than 12 hours (cattle)
- Animals with dripping vaginas, e.g. due to inflammation (cattle)

The legislation and guidelines cited in this report are:

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97: Referred to in the following as EC Reg 1-2005.

ROZPORZĄDZENIE MINISTRA ROLNICTWA I ROZWOJU WSI) z dnia 4 stycznia 2008 r. w sprawie szczegółowych wymagań weterynaryjnych dla prowadzenia działalności w zakresie organizowania targów, wystaw, pokazów lub konkursów zwierząt: Referred to in the following as Polish market regulation. (Translation from Polish by Viva! Interwencje)

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF LIVESTOCK MARKETS, 2014: Animal Welfare at Livestock Markets. Guide to best practice: Referred to in the following as AEMB, Market Guidelines, 2014.

## Examples:

### ANIMALS NOT FIT FOR TRANSPORT:

THE LAW REQUIRES: "... ANIMALS THAT ARE INJURED OR THAT PRESENT PHYSIOLOGICAL WEAKNESSES OR PATHOLOGICAL PROCESSES SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED FIT FOR TRANSPORT AND IN PARTICULAR IF: THEY ARE UNABLE TO MOVE INDEPENDENTLY WITHOUT PAIN OR TO WALK UNASSISTED..." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter I, Section 2 (a))



**LAGOW, 12.09.2012:** Downer cow Elsbietha has been dragged from one truck into another at Lagow market. We inform the police.



**RADZYMIN, 28.06.2013:** A truck with the downer cow Hope arrives at Radzymin market and is refused at the entrance. We inform the police. The truck returns to the farm of origin where Hope is pulled off the truck (see also chapter II.2b, page 46). Hope should have never been transported to the market.





**BODZENTYN, 06.07.2013:** The truck with downer cow Grace is parked on the market grounds. Grace remains on the truck throughout the market and is later transported to a nearby farm. We inform the police. Grace should have never been transported to the market.



**BODZENTYN, 10.03.2014:** We spot downer horse Brego lying in a horse truck parked on the market grounds. Brego lies in between the other horses. The driver manages to lift Brego with excessive force. The horse is standing on his legs weakly. The driver is loading the horses into the truck so tightly that Brego is squeezed from both sides and therefore remains standing. The truck is not equipped with dividers.



**SKARYSZEW, 18.02.2013:** The horse Maciek falls off a steep ramp during unloading at the market. He is unable to rise. Local animal welfare groups are organising an emergency transport to a horse clinic. In the clinic, Maciek is euthanised as his fall at the market caused a spinal cord damage.

**THE LAW REQUIRES:** "... ANIMALS BEARING SYMPTOMS OF DISEASES MUST BE ISOLATED..." (Polish market regulation, §4, Point 3)



**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:** Sick horse Emanuel with big swelling on face and white discharge running out of his nostrils. The horse suffers from overgrown hooves as well. He's panting. He should have never been brought to the market.



#### UNMILKED ANIMALS:

"MAKE SURE THAT COWS IN MILK HAVE BEEN MILKED BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE MARKET, IF MARKET STAFF SUSPECT THAT A COW HAS NOT BEEN MILKED FOR MORE THAN 12 HOURS, SEPARATION AND IMMEDIATE MILKING."

AEMB, Market Guidelines, 2014



**LAGOW, 12.09.2012:** A dripping udder of a cow that has been loaded at the end of a market day. Lactating cows often remain unmilked during market days.

#### FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT QUESTIONABLE:



**LAGOW, 12.09.2012:** The cow Carla keeps falling onto the ramp while several men try to drag her onto the truck. She is limping very badly.



**BODZENTYN, 20.09.2014:** Cow Marina fell off the ramp during loading. In order to get her up she is dragged over the tarmac flooring. (Photo taken by: Film team of TVP2 who accompanied our team).





**BODZENTYN, 06.07.2013:** Cow Kindness suffers from severely overgrown hooves. Her body shows scratches and excoriations.



**LAGOW, 12.09.2012:** Thin cow with severely overgrown hooves.



**LAGOW, 12.09.2012:** Cow Anna suffers from severely overgrown hooves, swollen joints and excoriations. Anna can barely walk.





## b. Handling of the Animals

**DURING EVERY INSPECTION AT EACH MARKET A NUMBER OF ABUSIVE BEHAVIOURS TOWARDS THE ANIMALS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED.** Detailed information, photos, and reports can be obtained from Animals' Angels.

**"WHEN ANIMALS ARE UNDER STRESS IT IS LIKELY THAT THEIR HEALTH BECOMES COMPROMISED AND THEY BECOME PRONE TO DISEASE."** (AEMB, market guidelines, 2014)

Animals' Angels and Viva! Interwencje observed:

- Downer animals being dragged (cattle, horses)
- Fallen animals being dragged, hit, and kicked (cattle, horses)
- Animals being hit with sticks and ropes (cattle, horses)
- Animals being kicked; including sensitive body parts (cattle, horses)
- Tails being twisted (cattle)
- Excessive use of electric prods, including highly sensitive body parts (cattle)
- Animals sold and transported in sealed bags or potato bags risking death of suffocation, fractures and other injuries as well as pain and distress (poultry, piglets)
- Animals remaining loaded during the market, which can cause stress and suffering and rules out any potential veterinary check-up (cattle, horses, pigs)
- Animals kept in tiny cages unable to stand in natural position (poultry)
- Animals kept in cramped, overcrowded conditions (poultry, piglets)
- No water offered to the animals (particularly serious during the summer months) (cattle, horses, pigs, poultry)
- Animals tethered by the horns (cattle)
- Animals tethered by a nose ring (cattle)
- Animals tethered too shortly, impeding their lying down or reaching water/feed (cattle, horses)
- Animals tethered too close together causing fights, increased risk of injuries, and distress (cattle, horses)
- Animals of different sex not separated or hindered from copulating (cattle, horses)
- Animals forced to walk and to stand on extremely slippery flooring (cattle, horses)
- No bedding used (especially inappropriate for the animals staying at the market overnight)



## Examples:

THE LAW REQUIRES: "IT SHALL BE PROHIBITED TO LIFT OR DRAG THE ANIMALS BY HEAD, EARS, HORNS, LEGS, TAIL OR FLEECE, OR HANDLE THEM IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE THEM UNNECESSARY SUFFERING." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.8 (d))



**LAGOW, 12.09.2012:** Downer Cow Elsbietha has been dragged from one truck into another.

THE LAW REQUIRES: "THE USE OF INSTRUMENTS WHICH ADMINISTER ELECTRIC SHOCKS SHALL BE AVOIDED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. (...) SHOCKS SHALL NOT BE USED REPEATEDLY IF THE ANIMAL FAILS TO RESPOND." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.9)



**LAGOW, 12.09.2012:** Cow Carla has fallen. She gets kicked and prodded excessively and repeatedly. She eventually drags herself on her feet again.

THE LAW REQUIRES: "IT SHALL BE PROHIBITED TO APPLY PRESSURE TO ANY PARTICULAR SENSITIVE PART OF THE BODY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE THEM UNNECESSARY PAIN OR SUFFERING." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.8 (b))



**LAGOW, 12.09.2012:** Cows' tails are sensitive body parts. We can hear the cracking of the bones when this man is twisting the tail during loading.

THE LAW REQUIRES: "IT SHALL BE PROHIBITED TO STRIKE OR KICK THE ANIMALS." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.8 (a))



**RADZYMIN, 10.09.2013:** Kicking a bull in the groin while loading.





**RADZYMIN, 10.09.2013:** This bulls repeatedly slips on the floor during loading and falls to the ground. He is kicked excessively until he gets up again.

THE LAW REQUIRES: „ALL HOOFED FARM ANIMALS, EXCEPT PIGLETS UP TO 18 MONTHS, MUST BE UNLOADED FROM THE MEANS OF TRANSPORT AFTER HAVING ARRIVED AT THE MARKET.” (Polish market regulation, §4, Point 2)



**NOWY TARG, 28.11.2013:** Horses remaining loaded during the market. The trailer is parked next to an empty holding shelter with plenty of space.



**KOZŁOW BISKUPI, 17.10.2014:** Calves covered up by plastic canvas. They remain loaded during the entire market.

THE LAW REQUIRES: "ANIMALS SHALL BE HANDLED AND TRANSPORTED SEPARATELY IN THE FOLLOWING CASES: ANIMALS HOSTILE TO EACH OTHER." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.12 (f))

THE LAW REQUIRES: „AGGRESSIVE ANIMALS MUST BE ISOLATED." (Polish market regulation, §4, Point 2)



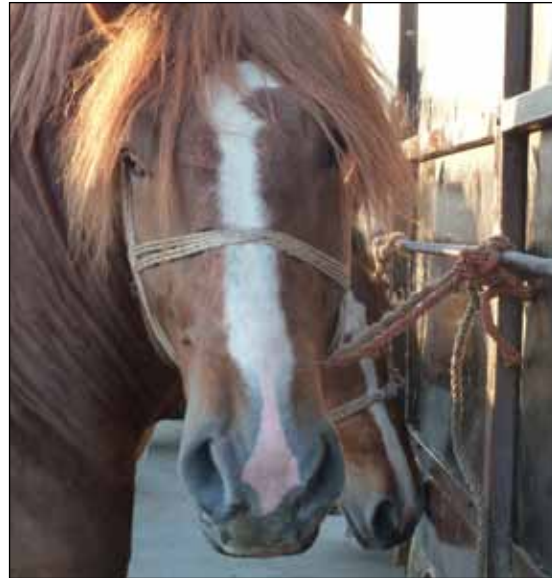
**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:**

These horses are tied up too close to each other. They keep fighting during the whole market time. Neither the owner or the officials interfered. Extreme risk of serious injuries.



THE LAW REQUIRES: "ANIMALS SHALL NOT BE TIED BY THE HORNS, THE ANTLERS, THE NOSE RINGS NOR BY LEGS TIED TOGETHER." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.11)

THE LAW REQUIRES: "ROPES, TETHERS OR OTHER MEANS USED SHALL BE SUCH AS TO ALLOW THE ANIMALS, IF NECESSARY, TO LIE DOWN AND TO EAT AND DRINK AND DESIGNED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO ELIMINATE ANY DANGER OF STRANGULATION OR INJURY, AND SO AS TO ALLOW ANIMALS TO BE QUICKLY RELEASED." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.11(b, c))



**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:** Horses tied up too short and unable to lie down or reach water.



**BODZENTYN, 06.07.2013:** Cows tied up too short and by their horns. The animals are too close to each other and unable to lie down.





**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:**  
This horse is tied up only with a rope around his neck, causing a risk of injury and panic.



**BODZENTYN, 20.07.2013:**  
Cow Carla is tied up too tight with only a thin rope around her neck.

THE LAW REQUIRES: „SUFFICIENT SPACE SHALL BE PROVIDED INSIDE THE ANIMALS’ COMPARTMENT AND AT EACH OF ITS LEVELS TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS ADEQUATE VENTILATION ABOVE THE ANIMALS WHEN THEY ARE IN A NATURALLY STANDING POSITION, WITHOUT ON ANY ACCOUNT HINDERING THEIR NATURAL MOVEMENT.”

(EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter II, Section 1.2)

THE LAW REQUIRES: „MEANS OF TRANSPORT, CONTAINERS AND THEIR FITTINGS SHALL BE DESIGNED, CONSTRUCTED, MAINTAINED AND OPERATED SO AS TO PROTECT THE ANIMALS FROM INCLEMENT WEATHER, EXTREME TEMPERATURES AND ADVERSE CHANGES IN CLIMATIC CONDITIONS” (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter II,

Section 1.1 (b))



ZYCHLIN, 17.09.2015



SKOCZOW, 25.07.2013



LACKO, 14.08.2013



KOZLOW BISKUPI, 07.10.2014

THE LAW REQUIRES: "ANIMALS SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO WATER." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.10)

At none of the 23 market locations water is offered to the animals. This is particularly alarming during the hot summer months. A bull will drink up to 40-50 litres of water per day, cows in lactation double that, pigs have difficulty regulating their body temperature and rely on water, as well as adequate ventilation to survive in very hot temperatures. It is not acceptable that water is kept from the animals for such long periods of time, particularly as the market environment is stressful enough.



LAGOW, 12.09.2012: No water.



BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013: No water.





SKARYSZEW, 08.03.2014: No water.

## c. Market Infrastructure

**The infrastructure of Polish markets and its technical condition often lack practicality and put the safety and welfare of the animals at risk.**

At some markets in Poland some improvements have been observed in terms of newly built infrastructure. However, inspections have shown that the animals rarely benefit from these changes as the newly built facilities remain unused and/or are often insufficient or unsuitable for the animals sold at the market.

Problems regarding infrastructure at Polish markets:

Well-built infrastructure  
remains unused

Unsuitable or  
broken infrastructure

Lack of infrastructure  
or no infrastructure

Animals' Angels and Viva! Interwencje observed:

- **Lack of sealed, non-slip flooring**

Several market grounds do not provide hard surface, which contributes greatly to the risk of big animals slipping and collapsing in the mud. Regardless of the type of surface, the weather conditions in winter cause extremely slippery conditions as many market grounds are not adequately maintained, by e.g. not adequately removing snow and ice.

- **Lack of adequate shelter**

A number of animal markets do not provide shelter for the animals. Some market grounds provide shelter. However, the existing shelters do usually not provide adequate protection from sun, wind, or rain in any of the inspected markets as either their capacity is far too small for the number of animals in the market or they remain unused by market users.

- **Lack of sick pens**

Pens for sick, young, or aggressive animals are either not provided or remain unused even when sick, young, or aggressive animals are present at the market grounds.

- **Lack of water supply**

During all market inspections at 23 market grounds the team observed no single fact of watering an animal.

- **Lack of bedding**

No bedding is used for cattle or horses. The animals are forced to stand or lie on plain soil or concrete for several hours.



- **Lack of rails and unused rails**

Tether rails are provided at many market locations. However, the vast majority of animals are still tethered to trucks.

- **Unsuitable ramps and unused ramps**

Loading ramps are provided at the majority of inspected market locations. However, we observe a number of problems:

- at some market locations the ramps do not provide enough space for the amount of vehicles and animals
- at some market locations the ramps are not suitable for all truck sizes as the ramps are not adjustable in height
- at all market locations with a ramp only a small number of market users are actually using the ramp
- at several markets the ramps look unused. They are overgrown by grass, covered in snow, and sometimes located in corners of the market that are difficult to access.

Examples:

**EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE REMAINS UNUSED:**



**ZAGOROW, 08.04.2015:** The animals stay on board of the trucks while the pens remain unused.

According to local press (such as: *Poznanskie-Nieruchomosci* on 14.10.2013), the market in Zagorow was modernised in 2014 by public subsidies, through a project 'Mój Rynek' run by the Ministry of Agriculture. However, the inspection team found that the newly built market infrastructure is not used. Our team witnesses that the market users leave their animals loaded on the truck throughout the entire market. The animals are unloaded at the very moment they are sold, and walked to another truck or outside the market. While animals are weekly sold at the market location, the pens for cattle bear no signs of having ever been used since their construction. The market operator does not seem to intervene to change this practice.



**NOWY TARG, 28.11.2013:** A horse remains onboard the truck parked next to an empty shelter during the entire market.



**NOWY TARG, 28.11.2013:** Loading ramp covered in thick snow and being located in the corner throughout the market.



**Golub-Dobrzyń, 30.08.2014:** Unused ramp overgrown with grass.



## LACK OF SUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE:

THE LAW REQUIRES: "MARKETS OR ASSEMBLY CENTRES SHALL PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR TETHERING ANIMALS." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.10)



**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:** Animals tied to trucks. A common sight at every market.



**Stary Sącz, 27.11.2013:** Animals remain loaded on a newly built, EU-funded market, which accepts too large number of animals and lacks space to tether them.

## UNSUITABLE INFRASTRUCTURE:

THE LAW REQUIRES: "FACILITIES FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING, INCLUDING THE FLOORING, SHALL BE DESIGNED, CONSTRUCTED, MAINTAINED AND OPERATED SO AS TO:

- A. PREVENT INJURY AND SUFFERING AND MINIMISE EXCITEMENT AND DISTRESS DURING ANIMAL MOVEMENTS AS WELL AS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE ANIMALS. IN PARTICULAR, SURFACES SHALL NOT BE SLIPPERY AND LATERAL PROTECTIONS SHALL BE PROVIDED SO AS TO PREVENT ANIMALS FROM ESCAPING;
- B. BE CLEANED AND DISINFECTED." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter III, Section 1.3)



**KOZLOW, 26.11.2013:** The height of the rails is unsuitable for the animals. They are too low for the bigger horses as well as too high for the ponies.

## d. Means of Transport

Animals' Angels and Viva! Interwencje observed:

Animals transported in unsuitable means of transport, such as:

- regular cargo trucks lacking ramps or air vents (cattle, horses)
- ramps of trucks that are too steep (cattle, horses)
- ramps of trucks that lack lateral protection (cattle, horses)
- cages that are too small to allow standing in natural position (poultry)
- potato sacks and plastic bags (poultry, piglets)

Examples:

### **UNSUITABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORT:**

THE LAW REQUIRES: "MEANS OF TRANSPORT, CONTAINERS AND THEIR FITTINGS SHALL BE DESIGNED, CONSTRUCTED, MAINTAINED AND OPERATED SO AS TO:

- A. AVOID INJURY AND SUFFERING AND TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE ANIMALS;
- B. PROTECT THE ANIMALS FROM INCLEMENT WEATHER (...);
- C. BE CLEANED AND DISINFECTED;
- D. PREVENT THE ANIMALS ESCAPING OR FALLING OUT AND BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND THE STRESSES OF MOVEMENTS;
- E. ENSURE THAT AIR QUALITY AND QUANTITY APPROPRIATE TO THE SPECIES TRANSPORTED CAN BE MAINTAINED;
- F. PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE ANIMALS TO ALLOW THEM TO BE INSPECTED AND CARED FOR;
- G. PRESENT A FLOORING SURFACE THAT IS ANTI-SLIP;
- H. PRESENT A FLOORING SURFACE THAT MINIMISES THE LEAKAGE OF URINE OR FAECES;
- I. PROVIDE A MEANS OF LIGHTING SUFFICIENT FOR INSPECTION AND CARE OF THE ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT." (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter II, Section 1.1)





**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:** Steep ramp without lateral protection.



**BODZENTYN, 18.01.2016:** Horse Kali is pulled up a truck while several men hit him from the back. The ramp of the truck has no lateral protection. The men do not use the loading ramp of Bodzentyn market. Horse Kali keeps slipping off the side of the ramp.



**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:** This truck of horses is destined for a slaughterhouse in Italy. Horses have to be transported in individual stalls. This truck has no dividers between the horses.

THE LAW REQUIRES: „MEANS OF TRANSPORT SHALL BE DESIGNED TO AVOID INJURY AND SUFFERING AND TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE ANIMALS.” (EC Reg 1-2005, Annex I, Chapter II, Section 1.1 (a))



**BODZENTYN, 26.04.2014:** A calf is loaded on a truck into a metal frame and completely covered by plastic canvas. The incident is happening openly in front of the market grounds. Nobody of the market staff interferes.

THE LAW REQUIRES: "WHEN MOVING UNWEANED CALVES, LAMBS, GOAT KIDS AND PIGLETS, THE GREATEST POSSIBLE CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN AT ALL TIMES." (AEMB, market guidelines, 2014)



**NOWY TARG, 28.11.2013:** Piglets are sold in plastic bags.



**NOWY TARG, 18.07.2013:** Piglets carried to a vehicle in sealed bags.





**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:** Birds are sold in onion nets, potato sacks and plastic bags. They are transported in trunks of cars and even on board of horse trucks.



**ZAGOROW, 08.04.2015:**  
Ducklings in potato sacks.



**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:** Chicken sold and carried in onion nets.

## 2. Lack of Enforcement by Authorities and Market Operators

The presented evidence in chapter 1 highlights the existing problems and the lack of enforcement of animal protection legislation on Polish markets.

To ensure compliance with the statutory minimum standards on Polish animal markets, the presence of authorities who are doing regular inspections are an urgent necessity. But the probability of a trader, farmer, or driver being inspected with regard to animal protection and held responsible for a breach of legislation on the majority of Polish animal markets is extremely low. At most market grounds our team sensed a lack of respect towards the binding legislation and towards authorities who try to enforce the mandatory rules.

### a. Market Operator

THE LAW REQUIRES: "OPERATORS OF ASSEMBLY CENTRES SHALL ENSURE THAT ANIMALS ARE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TECHNICAL RULES SET OUT IN CHAPTERS I AND III, SECTION 1, OF ANNEX I." (EC Reg 1-2005, Chapter II, Article 9, Section 1)

Animal markets in Poland are usually organised by the local authority, mainly the city council. The market operator is legally obligated to prevent any cases of law violation on the market grounds. Animals' Angels/Viva! Interwencje observations have shown that the market operators at Polish markets regularly do not fulfil their duties seriously and sufficiently. In many cases the duties are not fulfilled at all.

Animals' Angels and Viva! Interwencje observed:

- Inadequate or lack of over-all presence of authorities  
At many inspected markets, there has been no presence of authorities at all, while at other markets authorities have only been present at the beginning of the market.
- Lack of intervention when law is violated on the market grounds
- Lack of thorough entrance checks



Examples:

#### LACK OF THOROUGH ENTRANCE CHECKS:



**BODZENTYN, 22.04.2013:** Collection of fees at the market entrance but no check of animals.

Animals' Angels has witnessed time and again that city council employees are only collecting entrance fees and allowing vehicles and animals onto the market grounds that violate the market legislation. The lack of thorough entrance checks is a failed opportunity to check if the vehicles and condition of the animals are in accordance with the relevant legislation.

#### LACK OF INTERFERENCE IN ILLEGAL TRADING:



**DOBRIŃ, 04.07.2013:** Weekly illegal animal market.

One of the inspected markets, Dobrin, is illegal, not meeting any legal requirements regarding infrastructure and lacking veterinary supervision. The fact of this market being held is considered common knowledge and without any difficulties the team found out the market days and located the market grounds. This market takes place on a weekly basis without interference of local authorities. Only after we have informed the police, the illegal traders have been disbanded. According to our recent inspections, the market is no longer held.

**LACK OF INTERFERENCE IN VIOLATIONS NEXT TO THE MARKET GROUNDS:**



**BODZENTYN, 03.11.2012:** Kicking a cow during illegal loading outside the market.



**BODZENTYN, 06.07.2013:** A young calf is tethered under a truck outside the market grounds.

At a large number of markets, animals are loaded, unloaded, and sometimes even traded outside of the market grounds. This happens in sight of authorities and other market users. All activities outside the market premises are undertaken without veterinary and market operators' supervision.

## b. Veterinary Supervision

It is the responsibility of the Veterinary Service to supervise animal markets and enforce the animal protection act's regulations. In case of infringements, the veterinary service has to take all necessary measures to enforce the legislation and fine the contravention. Animals' Angels/Viva! Interwencje observations have shown that the veterinary services at Polish markets regularly do not fulfil their duties seriously and sufficiently. In many cases the duties are not fulfilled at all.

**"A VETERINARIAN WHO CAN ATTEND THE ANIMALS AT SHORT NOTICE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE. VETERINARIAN PRESENT DURING MARKET DAYS: EITHER DESIGNATED BY THE MANAGER OF THE MARKET OR BY THE VETERINARY SERVICES."** (AEMB, market guidelines, 2014)

At most market locations, the market supervision is carried out by private practice veterinarians. These private veterinarians are hired by the veterinary service for the market days and are expected to supervise and discipline farmers and traders. On an everyday basis, however, the same private veterinarians are performing paid veterinary care at local farms. These two roles of private veterinaries obviously lead to a clash of interests. Therefore, the criminal prosecution of violations at animal markets may be personally difficult or possibly have dire consequences for the private veterinary.

To ensure a professional monitoring and proper enforcement of animal markets, the market supervisors have to be objective, well trained and preferably not part of the local farming community. A responsible choice of personnel to perform this duty is therefore crucial.



Animals' Angels and Viva! Interwencje observed:

- **Inadequate or lack of over-all presence of veterinary service**

At some of the inspected markets, there has been no presence of veterinaries at all, while at some other markets veterinarians have only been present at the beginning of the market.

- **Lack of thorough entrance checks**

Official veterinarians supervising animal markets in most cases do not carry out detailed, if any, entrance checks.

- **Lack of inspections on the market grounds**

If veterinaries are present at the market, Animals' Angels/Viva Interwencje observe that many of them do not walk around the market premises to inspect the condition of the animals, the handling of animals and the vehicles used for animal transport.

- **Lack of interference when problems occur**

Official veterinarians often do not intervene even in cases of obvious infringements.

Examples:

**NO VETERINARY PRESENT WHILE A DOWNER COW GETS DRAGGED INTO A TRUCK:**

THE LAW REQUIRES: „ONLY ANIMALS FIT FOR TRANSPORT AND SALE SHALL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MARKET. LIVESTOCK ARRIVING UNFIT AT THE MARKET SHOULD BE ACCOMODATED IN SEPA- RATE PENS, WAITING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE VETERINARIAN.” (AEMB, market guidelines, 2014)

THE LAW REQUIRES: “IF FOR WELFARE REASONS THE ANIMAL CANNOT BE SENT BACK: ISO- LATION IN THE DESIGNATED HOSPITAL PEN AND TREATED. IF, ACCORDING TO VETERINARY ADVICE, TREATMENT IS NOT POSSIBLE: THE ANIMAL MUST BE HUMANLY SLAUGHTERED, ON SITE.” (AEMB, market guidelines, 2014)



**MARKET LAGOW, 12.09.2012:** Downer cow Elsbietha is dragged from one truck into another.

Downer cow Elsbietha has been brought to the market of Lagow. There is no veterinary present at the market while Elsbietha is dragged from one truck to another. We receive the information that the veterinary has been at the market only early in the morning and then left.

Neither the market operator nor the veterinary service personnel on-site at Lagow market have been in control of the legality of the trade of animals at their market location. Animals' Angels and Viva! informed the police and the veterinary service. The authorities sent the truck with downer cow Elsbietha to the nearest slaughterhouse for emergency slaughter.

**VETERINARY ENTRANCE CHECK DETECTS DOWNER COW BUT TAKES  
NO FURTHER MEASURES:**



**MARKET RADZYMIN, 28.06.2013:** Downer cow Hope is dragged off the truck on a farm after having been rejected at the entrance check of Radzymin market.

During a detailed entrance check, a downer cow is detected on a truck at the gates of Radzymin market. However, the veterinaries who found the downer cow are not taking any further measures. The truck is simply turned away and not allowed into the market grounds. Our team informs the municipal guard. In the course of events, the truck with the cow on board is brought to the driver's farm nearby. In the presence of the municipal guard and a veterinary inspector of Warsaw County Veterinary Service, the downer cow is dragged from the truck. The veterinary inspector does not want to euthanize her. She dies later that day. *Animals' Angels / Viva!* Interwencje reports the driver to the prosecutor and hands in a complaint about the County Veterinary Service.



## VETERINARY ENTRANCE CHECK ALLOWS DOWNER COW ON MARKET GROUNDS:



**MARKET BODZENTYN, 06.07.2013:** Downer cow Grace passed vet entrance check into market grounds.

Our team spots a truck with a downer cow on board at Bodzentyn market. We inform the police as well as the veterinary service and follow the truck with the cow Grace on board from the market to the owner's yard.

### **The information gathered during the intervention reveals that:**

The truck with the downer cow on board has been inspected in the morning when it was entering Bodzentyn market. The veterinarian that carried out the check made no remark about any irregularities or violations in the official document.

The same veterinarian is present during the police inspection. His examination of the cow reveals that she is suffering from a rotten rear hoof and she is weak and emaciated. Grace is euthanized by the veterinarian. The police started a prosecution against the driver.

As a consequence, the County Veterinarian in Kielce revoked the driver's licence to transport "livestock". According to our knowledge, no steps have been taken towards the veterinarian in regards of allowing a downer cow into the market grounds.

### CATTLE TRADED WITHOUT PASSPORT:



**SKIERNIEWICE, 17.12.2013:** Police together with our team inspects a cattle truck from Kozlow Biskupi market. One cow on board does not have any passport.

Together with the police, our team arranged an inspection of a transport which had left the market in Kozlow Biskupi. On board of the truck was a cow who has been bought at Kozlow Biskupi market but who lacked passport documents. The police issued a fine against the driver and owner of the animals.

Neither the market operator nor the veterinary service personnel on-site at Kozlow Biskupi market have been in control of the legality of the trade of animals at their market location.

## VETERINARY ADMITS NOT TO PUSH FOR 100% COMPLIANCE:



**Nowy Targ, 14.09.2014:** County Veterinarian states that she will “minimize” failures.

Viva! Interwencje receive a letter from the County Veterinarian of Nowy Targ. The letter is a response to our complaint letter informing the authorities of observations of violations at Nowy Targ market. The County Veterinary states that the observed problems can only be addressed by the construction of new infrastructure. However, until the infrastructure is constructed, “the observed failures will be minimized”.

## VETERINARIES STATES HELPLESSNESS TOWARDS MARKET USERS:



**Pajęczno, 09.05.2015:**

Market veterinary interferes in cruel loading – and states a feeling of helplessness.

At Pajeczno market, our team witnesses the veterinarian intervening drastically in several loadings where horses have been whipped and beaten. When one drunken man is constantly whipping a horse, the veterinary resorts to use force to stop the man from beating.

In a conversation with our team, all five veterinarians supervising the market state that their interventions take no significant effect on drunken animal traders who lack knowledge on handling their animals. According to the veterinarians, they feel that they have no real means to deter market users from their wrong-doings.



## c. Communication with Authorities

"ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME TO LIVESTOCK MARKETS BUT THEY SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT ANIMAL WELFARE IS IMPORTANT TO ALL USERS OF THE MARKET, BUT SO TOO IS PERSONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY." (AEMB, market guidelines, 2014)

From 2012 to 2016, Animals' Angels/Viva! Interwencje sent letters to each of the **23 market operators**. In Poland, this is generally the city councils of the towns where the market is held. In the letters, we inform the city councils of all law violations observed at the given market.

Many replies that we received have been general in tone and did not address the individual problems that our team had raised. The majority of responses implied that no changes are to be expected at the market grounds. Only in two cases (Nowy Targ, Golub-Dobrzyn), the city council gave the prospect of constructing new infrastructure.

Three city councils, Bodzentyn, Skaryszew, and Zwolen, did not reply to any of the letters sent to them (up-to-date, March 2016). Bodzentyn and Skaryszew have been strongly criticized time and again by Polish and international animal welfare groups over several years.

Letters have also been sent to most of the **county veterinarians** responsible for supervising the inspected markets. In response we received letters very general in tone that either generally promised improvements in the future or assured us that everything is under control.

### Example: Horse and Cattle Market Bodzentyn

Animals' Angels has been trying to improve the situation for the animals at Bodzentyn horse and cattle market since 2003. Time and again, violations have been reported to the authorities. Countless meetings with the market operator and the veterinary service took place. But up to today severe animal welfare problems remain. In 2012, Animals' Angels has joined forces with the Polish organisation Viva! Interwencje and together we have kept monitoring the market in Bodzentyn. Again, violations have been found and reported to the authorities. In 2013, the then-mayor of Bodzentyn addressed the market users in an article in the local newspaper. Instead of reminding them to obey the law on the market grounds, he is warning his market users of animal welfare groups:

Article on Bodzentyn in a local newspaper, Starachowice, 5th August 2013:

„BODZENTYN: VIVA FOUNDATION IN THE TOWN

VIVA HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR FIGHTING TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OF POLISH HORSES AND CROSSING THEM OUT OF THE LIST OF SLAUGHTER ANIMALS. LATELY, MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION HAVE BEEN SEEN IN THE STREETS OF BODZENTYN, THE TOWN KNOWN FOR ITS HORSE MARKET WHERE THE ANIMALS WERE NOT ALWAYS TREATED WELL BY SOME OF THE OWNERS. THE MAYOR OF BODZENTYN IMPORED HIS PEOPLE TO STAY ALERT. – (...) THEY WANT TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE HORSE MURDERERS. THEY WALK AROUND OUR TOWN AND RECORD PEOPLE WITH HIDDEN CAMERAS. LET’S BE CAREFUL - SAYS MAREK KRAK, THE MAYOR OF BODZENTYN.”

Source: TYGODNIK STARACHOWICKI, 5th August 2013

(Translated into English by Viva! Interwencje)

**The lack of interest of Polish authorities to enforce legislation at Polish animal markets creates an alarming situation in which legislation is widely ignored and criminal offences are not penalized. The victims of this legal vacuum are animals, the local communities, consumers and the Polish tax payer.**

## III. Conclusions and necessary measures

Demands by Animals' Angels & Viva! Interwencje:

This report shows grave animal welfare infringements at Polish animal markets and a serious lack of enforcement by authorities.

**There is an urgent need for action.**

**ON BEHALF OF THE ANIMALS OFFERED AND SOLD AT POLISH ANIMAL MARKETS WE DEMAND THAT...**

... **POLITICIANS** ensure that **AUTHORITIES AND MARKET USERS RESPECT AND OBEY LEGALLY BINDING LEGISLATION** at animal markets and that animal welfare is granted the standing it deserves.

... **MARKET OPERATORS** take **ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO REMEDY THE ENGRAINED SHORT-COMINGS** – if necessary to **CLOSE THE MARKETS**.

... **VETERINARIANS** meet their **DUTY OF CARE** and their function as **GUARANTORS FOR ANIMAL PROTECTION** by **EXHAUSTING ALL LEGAL REMEDIES** for violations of the law at animal markets.

... **TRANSPORTERS** comply with the **PROVISIONS OF EU COUNCIL DIRECTIVE (EC) 1/2005** and the **POLISH ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT**.

... **FARMERS** and **TRADERS** grant their animals the **5 FREEDOMS**:

1. freedom from hunger and thirst
2. freedom from discomfort
3. freedom from pain, injury and disease
4. freedom to engage in their normal behaviours
5. freedom from fear and suffering

... the **MEDIA REPORT ON THE TRUE CONDITIONS** at Polish animal markets, including the silent suffering of tired and thirsty animals.

... **CONSUMERS** **GIVE UP THEIR NOSTALGIC VIEW OF FARMING**, **SYMPATHIZE** with the fate of 'farm' animals and **CHANGE THEIR CONSUMER BEHAVIOUR**.



**It is the responsibility of politicians and authorities to remind a profit-oriented farming industry that their animals are fellow creatures that are capable of suffering and that their rights are enshrined in the European and Polish legislation and must be respected.**



This is Carla, a Polish 'dairy' cow.

On a cold September morning Carla has been unloaded at a cattle market. She gets tied up by her horns. She is standing on her overgrown and tired hooves. Her overfull udder is dripping as she hasn't been milked. Carla is in pain, thirsty, and tired. After many hours she is walked onto a loading ramp. Carla is too weak. She collapses. Electric prodders and sticks force Carla to rise back on her hooves. Carla will collapse three more times before she is finally limping onto the truck.

Carla has spent her whole life on a Polish dairy farm. Her body is tired and emaciated. She will be killed in a slaughterhouse in a few hours.

A loud, smelly, frightening day at a cattle market is not what she deserves.

Not only are we responsible for our actions, but also for the things we accept without a word of protest.





**ANIMALS' ANGELS**

we are there with the animals



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