

Filicaja, Christmas 2011

Dear Friends

An old farmers' tale narrates that during Christmas night, all animals will be able to talk to human beings. Thinking of this legend, I asked myself: if our horses could really speak, what would they tell us? Would they speak of their needs, of their dreams?



And my thoughts go back to the title of the course held at IHP in the month of June: the horse's dream. What is the dream of each horse? The ethologist Paolo Baragli believes that the dream of a horse is to have beside him human beings who can understand his mind and know how to interact with him correctly. On the other hand, looking at the various experiences we have had during the year, each horse expresses a different dream. Some horses' dreams have already come true, other horses hope we can do more to give them a better life.

You will all remember the story of Libero, his mother Pioggia and the other Agropoli horses, reported on the TV program "Striscia la notizia".

Pioggia's dream was to deliver her foal far away from the horrors she had experienced, and to give him the freedom she had not had. And her dream became real. Libero was born a few days after the arrival at Montaione of the confiscated horses and, despite some health problems soon after birth, he now lives, together with his mother, a serene life in one of our paddocks.



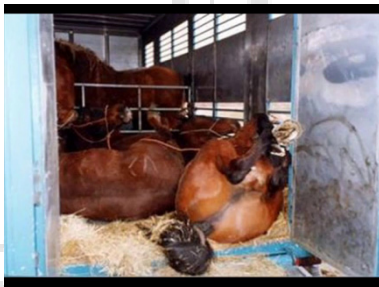
The foals confiscated in Trequanda were all dreaming they could find owners who would love them and respect their instincts. And their dreams as well have come true. Last February Olimpique, Principe, Spirit and Luna, the last of the foals to be placed, all found a good home.



ITALIAN HORSE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Small stories, big dreams that have become true. But how many horses are still waiting for a change in their life?

Rocket, the horse illegitimately declared equine anaemia positive, who wants to canter freely in a field, and is forced instead to live in a box. Foxy, who has found a good home at IHP, but is forced to live in isolation, away from the love and care of his owner.



How many horses, unknown and without a name, wish that the "8 Hours" campaign to limit transport time for animals sent to the slaughterhouse, endorsed by IHP as well as others, might finally be successful, eliminating once and for all useless suffering?

How many donkeys and horses dream of not having to race any longer in Palio races, risking their lives every time, and confide in us to put an end to this massacre?



We too, at IHP, have a dream: to give a better future to all those horses that are suffering and whose dignity is denied. But in order to do this we also need your help, because many stars together can brighten the night.

My very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy 2012!

Antonio Nardi-Dei da Filicaja Dotti
Presidente IHP

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE IHP

January: we enlarged the paddock of the horses with equine infectious anaemia. Nestore, Foxy, Rambo, Ringo, Cristal Sky, Solanos and Quercia form the only herd of EIA-positive horses living in liberty in Italy: as you will read below, **the IHP is waging a battle to change the existing laws about horses affected by this disease.**

Read the major news of January:

[Rocket, the tale of an injustice](#)

[Rocket, Infectious Anemia and logic?](#)

[Let's free Rocket!](#)

[A letter from Rocket's "mom"](#)

[Equine Infectious Anemia, another in-depth article, with a request of refutation](#)

February: we received a totally unexpected, marvellous gift from one of our supporters - a Land Rover, old but in perfect condition and which makes it so much easier for us to travel around our 250-plus acres of pastures. **Many heartfelt thanks to Monique!** We also rehomed the latest four young horses confiscated in May 2010 in Trequanda (Siena); we accompanied Olimpique, Luna, Spirit and Principe to their beautiful new home, where they now run free with 10 other horses.

Read the major news of February:

[A gift for IHP!](#)

[The last four yearlings sequestered in Trequanda have been adopted!](#)

March: four horses and one pony arrived from Agropoli (Salerno), confiscated following a report by Striscia la Notizia (an investigative TV programme - ed) broadcast on 10 October 2010. One of the mares was heavily pregnant, and barely one week after her arrival at IHP she gave birth to a splendid foal who we named 'Libero' (Free). The baby contracted an infection due to the poor condition of his mother, who was unable to provide him with the necessary immune defence system he needed. He needed nearly two months of intensive care, considerable cost, and a lot of help....but he is now in top form and growing before our very eyes!

Together with ENPA (Italian Animal Protection Association – ed) we reported the Mayor of Ronciglione and the organisers of an insane competition in which the horses were forced to gallop on wet asphalt and flagstones through the streets of the town in the pouring rain. Some horses suffered serious falls and one, Tiffany, lost her life in the most horrifying manner, spiked on a pole.

Read the major news of March:

[Horror in Ronciglione – Request of explanations to the Authorities](#)

[Palio of Ronciglione – IHP and ENPA file charges against the event's organizers](#)

[Ronciglione: the organizers' unbelievable declarations](#)

[Libero has come to the world, now we are trying to save his life](#)

[Libero's condition is improving!](#)

April: for the very first time, IHP was represented at a national public event, RomaCavalli, where we had our own stand, giving us very positive publicity. In the course of the same few days, Striscia La Notizia (see above – ed) broadcast the film, edited by Edoardo Stoppa, of the arrival at Filicaja (IHP) of the Agropoli horses. On the subject of videos, IHP produced a documentary about the truth of EIA in Italy, deploring the disinformation about this disease and underlining the need for new regulations which would put an end to the totally unjustified slaughter or isolation of perfectly healthy horses. And last but not least for April, **IHP declared its full support for the '8-hours' Europe-wide campaign to limit the journeys of animals destined for slaughter.**

Read the major news of April:

[The horses of Agropoli and Striscia la Notizia](#)

[IHP joins the european campaign for an 8-hour limit to live animal transport for slaughter](#)

[Equine Infectious Anaemia, an Italian story](#)

May: we made public the difficulties we are experiencing in our work of protecting mistreated animals: we wrote to the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice as well as MP Martini, asking to clarify the policy of funding of the associations which receive confiscated animals, and the reimbursement of costs which the Public Prosecutor's Office is supposed to guarantee during the time the animals are being held pending judgements. To date we have not had a reply to our letter and nothing has changed: **we do not receive state funding, we pay out of our own limited funds for all animals confiscated and entrusted to us, and we receive partial reimbursement from the Public Prosecutor only after considerable delays.**

Read the major news of May:

[Bill about palios](#)

[IPH writes to Ministers Alfano and Fazio and to Undersecretary Martini: the law regarding animal mistreatment is de facto unapplied if associations aren't given their rightful resources](#)

June: we put our first IHP logo clothing on the market, **you can now support us by purchasing sweatshirts, teeshirts and caps.** On the 25th and 26th June we organised our first course: "The horse's dream", given by Prof Baragli of Pisa University, in which he spoke about the cognitive psychology of the horse. The course was a great success and will inspire further similar events.

Read the major news of June:

[IHP t-shirts, caps and hoddys!](#)

[Disturbing Statements by Undersecretary Martini about the Bill about palios](#)

[Equine Infectious Anaemia, an Italian story](#)

July: IHP signed an agreement with the University of Parma whereby their students will be able to spend time in study and work experience at IHP. This recognition of our Association can only add to our general standing.

Read the major news of July:

[Agreement between IHP and University of Parma](#)

August: we renewed our collaboration with AISPA (The Anglo-Italian Society for the Protection of Animals), which, after the excellent results achieved in the first year, will enable IHP to now consolidate its growth and development, and to continue on its path of becoming an established and effective point of reference for the protection of horses in Italy.

Read the major news of August:

[Sign the petition to limit animal transportation!](#)

[Remove the animals from the Palii](#)

[IHP invites Minister Scaletti to lead a cultural progress in Tuscany.](#)

[AISPA and IHP still together by the horses' side](#)

September: Antonio Nardi Dei da Filicaja, President, and IHP's organisational director Sonny Richichi took part in a Class Horse TV programme, bringing to the public notice, for the first time in a programme dedicated to equestrian sports, the battle for the rights of equines.

Read the major news of September:

[Life is not disposable](#)

October: we organised a stand at the show 'Cavalli a Milano' (Horses in Milan) and used that occasion to launch our new **"nopalio" campaign to ban the use of animals in street races** (Palio), which is an online petition www.nopalio.it subscribed to by many Italian and foreign associations. The petition will remain active until April and there will be other supporting events to promote it.

Also in October, and thanks to the help of AISPA, we managed to complete the installation of hay racks in all our paddocks, **which will considerably cut wastage of the hay we feed our equine friends.**

Read the major news of October:

[IHP launches an international petition to ban the use of equines in the palii](#)
[The Palio of Siena is trying to censor IHP](#)

November: we ran a stand at the Verona Fieracavalli show. The only animal protection association represented at the show, we spoke out in defence of equines in a world which all too often considers them as means to an end rather than as living beings.

We are very proud and pleased to have been selected to host part of the Master in Equine Behaviour, organised by the University of Pisa, starting in 2012. This recognition of our Association is very rewarding

Read the major news of November:

[IHP at Fieracavalli, Verona](#)

[IHP to host a Master's Course in Equine Behavior](#)

In **December** we will renew our efforts to help Rocket, the mare who was declared to have equine anaemia positive by non-recognised tests, and who since August 2010 has lived isolated in a stable in the Rome area. Up to now, the authorities have not listened to our case, but **IHP is determined to battle on until she is freed.**

Your help is very important! Help us to help them:

Become a supporter, participating more actively in the association, **make a distant adoption of a horse**, **send us a donation** or **purchase an IHP T-shirt, sweatshirt or cap!**

[Click here to become an IHP supporter!](#)

[Click here to choose one of our guests for a distant adoption](#)

[Click here for donating](#)

Or [purchase an IHP T-shirt, sweatshirt or cap!](#)

Send us material necessary for the care and maintenance of horses. To agree upon the delivery, please contact us at our addresses: E-mail: ihp@horseprotection.it – Telephone: +39057169075 – Fax: +39057169518 – Mobile: +393286229264

Become a volunteer, helping in the daily management of horses on site or dedicating your time to fundraising.