

UNICEF and ORCA fighting animal cruelty in schools

The Professional Team of UNICEF's programme "School Without Violence" has supported ORCA's activities in schools in Serbia, **understanding that violence to animals is an important indicator of violent behaviour in children and youth, and recognising the importance of preventing animal abuse.**

The programme "School Without Violence" is being carried out by Serbian UNICEF office in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Serbia and other relevant ministries.

ORCA is active in schools through its strategic platform "ORCA Education" with the aim to support the state institutions and schools in integrating animal welfare education into educational programmes and schools' everyday work. An important part of the programme "ORCA Education" is dedicated to preventing animal abuse and animal murder, which are unfortunately quite often committed by children.

Based on the recommendations of UNICEF's Professional Team we invited the schools included in the programme "School Without Violence" to join us in:

- 1. Developing Annual School Programmes for the 2011/2012 schoolyear in order to develop in students a sense of respect and care, and a responsible relationship to animals;**
- 2. Developing protocols for reaction to cases where students get injured by animals, or are being violent to animals;**
- 3. Training teachers and school councilors through the programme "Animal Welfare and Us", for integrating animal welfare education into educational programmes and other school-related activities;**
- 4. Providing advisory assistance to teachers and school councilors.**

We hope that schools will respond to this invitation and that we will jointly contribute to preventing violence and better education for our children.