

Uspostavljen je sustav zaštite ugroženih izvornih pasmina nekih vrsta domaćih životinja ("farmskih") u našoj zemlji. Za buduću aktivnost neophodna je smisljena organizacija koja usklađuje rad uzgajivača, stručnjaka, javnih službi, sponzora i svih ostalih kojima je stalo do hrvatske biološke baštine. U tom smislu objavljujemo tekst o početnim inicijativama u ovom području u susjednoj Italiji (SAVE report / autumn 2002).

Glavni urednik:  
*Pavo Caput*

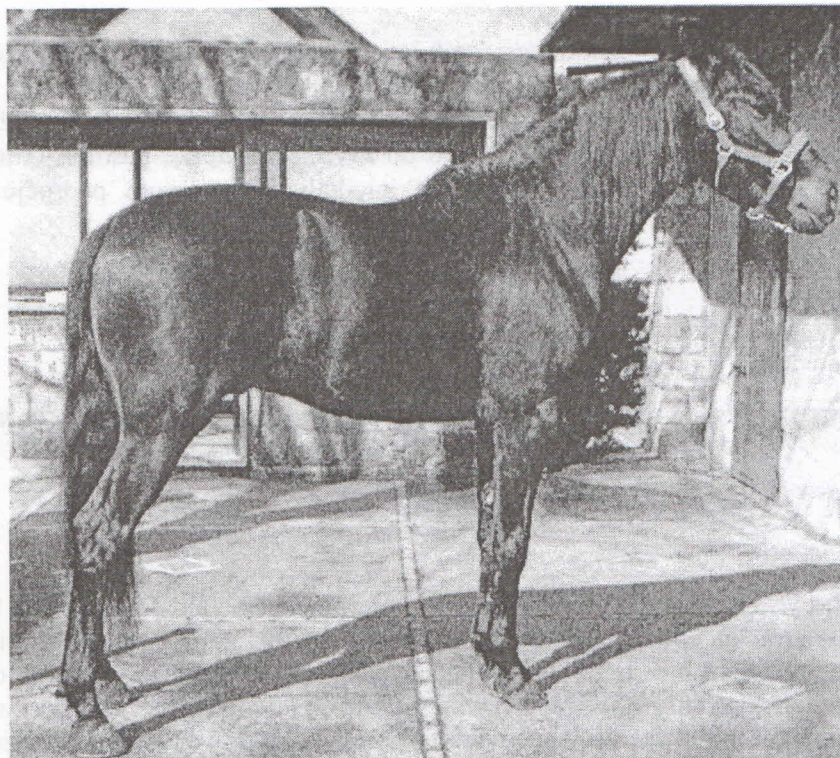
**R.A.R.E.: A PROMISING START  
A NEW ITALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR CONSERVATION OF  
ENDANGERED BREEDS**

**R. Fortina**

Few years ago some friends asked me to promote a national association for conservation of endangered livestock breeds. At that time i was collecting photos of Italian breeds for WWF and starting a rescue project of the Mora Romagnola pig (only 12 were left) with the University of Torino. Breeders and farmers i got in touch with while working at these two projects were enthusiast to support a national association for endangered breeds, so i finally decided to explain the idea to 9 friends of mine coming from different Italian universities and WWF offices. We met in Milano: it was spring 2001. The Association "R.A.R.E. - Razze Autoctone a Rischio di Estinzione" was born like this: a little of courage, some idealism and many ideas. Of course the SAVE Foundation was monitoring the steps: today i am sure that without its inputs and help nothing would have happened.

R.A.R.E. is the first Italian NGO totally dedicated to the conservation of local and endangered Italian domestic breeds for their scientific, cultural, economic and environmental role. It also promotes educational activities and divulge information on their numerical status. Obviously it is associated to SAVE Foundation, which has been actively working with our association, supporting our activities, even through the continuously exchange of information. Their members are currently working on conservation activities funded by regional or local administration. Universities, National or Regional parks or privates.

**Riccardo Fortina, R.A.R.E., Italy.**



*Equus Napoletano*

*Photo: R.A. R. E.*

*R.A.R.E. - Razze Autoctone a Rischio di Estinzione*

*President Riccardo Fortina*

*Tel. 0039 011 67085 80*

*Fax 0039 011437 39 44*

*e-mail: fortina.wwf@libero.it; assodazionerare@yahoo.it*

*Membership fee: 10 Euro (ordinary) or 25 Euro or more (donors).*

*Payments must be done to:*

*R.A.R.E. - Razze Autoctone a Rischio di Estinzione*

*Cso Agnelli 32 - 10137 Torino, Italy*

*Postal account n° 21786397*

*Ordinary members and donors receive a membership card, the R.A.R.E. logo, a newsletter and information on Italian rare breeds upon request*



Cattle breeds involved into projects are the Agerolese, a dairy cattle bred near Salerno and Naples (less than 200 animals surviving), and the Tortonese-Ottonese, a breed from Piemonte, Lombardia, Liguria and Emilia Romagna Appennine, once bred for milk and meat production and today nearly extinct (about 30 animals surviving). Josephine Errante from the University of Torino and Vincenzo Peretti from the University of Napoli and WWF Campania are coordinating the activities; their jobs (in both cases supported by the local breeders association) are aimed to promote purebreed reproduction and marketing strategies of the typical cheese made up with their milk.

Endangered goats are particularly monitored on the Alps, where a specialist group is working on the Vallesana, Alpina, Lariana, Valdostana and Bionda dell'Adamello breeds; again J. Errante with Michele Corti and Luigi Andre Brambilla from the University of Milano are preparing a map of their distribution and collecting data on their characteristics, numerical status and trend which will be soon available. Also in Southern Italy, in the Vesuvio National Park, a project for conservation of the Napoletana goat has successfully started thanks to the help of Vincenzo Peretti.

To sheep breeds are dedicated the efforts of Emilio Pastore and Roberta Leonarduzzi, again with the help of M. Corti, J. Errante and L. A. Brambilla. This group is working mainly on sheep of the central and eastern alpine regions (Lombardia, Veneto, Trentino-Alto Adige and Friuli Venezia Giulia), and in particular on the Varesina, Padovana, Brogne, Lamon, Alpagota and Carsoli-na sheep. Contacts with colleagues from Austria and Slovenia have helped to evaluate the genetic distance among some sheep breeds of the eastern Alps.

For pig breeds I have accepted to coordinate the projects at national level together with Daniele Bigi, from the University of Bologna and WWF Emilia Romagna. While going on successfully with the Mora Romagnola (the number of animals bred has risen from 12 to nearly 100 in few years), a new project is starting with the Casertana, the most endangered of the last 5 surviving Italian pig breeds.

For horses and asses, actions have been taken for the Norico breed by Carlo Tamanini, of WWF Trentino Alto Adige (who is also working on the cultural role of local breeds) and for the Napoletano horse breed by V. Peretti and Cataldo Dario, from the University of Bari. But new members from Lazio and Sicily are promoting initiatives for the pony dell'Esperia, the Purosangue Orientale horse and the Ragusano ass. In the next years, R.A.R.E. will keep on working on specific conservation projects, but also will start to create a national network of "caretakers" among owners of endangered Italian breeds, namely the "allevatori custodi" network. The projects has been illustrated to the Italian Ministry of

Agriculture with the help of WWF and will hopefully be funded at the beginning of 2003.

R.A.R.E. has a website hosted by SAVE ([www.save-foundation.net/RARE](http://www.save-foundation.net/RARE)) where it is possible to get information and news on activities and projects.

Contact: R.A.R.E. -

Razze Autoctone a Rischio di Estinzione

President: Riccardo Fortina

Corso G. Agnelli 32

I-10137 Torino

e-mail: [fortina.wwf@libero.it](mailto:fortina.wwf@libero.it);

[assoziazionerare@yahoo.it](mailto:assoziazionerare@yahoo.it)



Capra Bionda dell'Adamello

Photo: R.A. R. E.