

International Organization for Animal Protection



Organizzazione Internazionale per la Protezione degli Animali - ETS

NGO associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Accredited at UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Accredited in the Register of Representatives of Interest of the European Commission

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Formal Objection – Stray Animal Management and Legal Amendments in the Republic of Kazakhstan

Dear Members of the Government of The Republic of Kazakhstan,

On behalf of OIPA (International Organization for Animal Protection), we express our serious concern and formal objection regarding the current cruel approach and practices implemented in the management of stray animals in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

OIPA is an international non-governmental organisation associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), holding consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and accredited to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and in the Register of Representatives of Interest of the European Commission, and is committed to promoting animal welfare and supporting humane and effective population management strategies worldwide.

Based on information collected through direct engagement with local stakeholders, we have obtained videos, images and testimonies documenting extremely violent and inhumane methods, including the shooting and poisoning of animals in public spaces. These practices raise serious concerns, in particular in relation to internationally recognized standards on animal welfare and population management.

In particular, such practices appear to be inconsistent with international standards, including the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Article 7.7), which promotes humane and science-based dog population management and does not support indiscriminate killing as an effective or sustainable long-term strategy. These standards are grounded in internationally accepted animal welfare principles, which recognize animals as sentient beings and emphasize the obligation to prevent unnecessary suffering and to adopt humane methods of population management.

These concerns also relate to the Republic of Kazakhstan's obligations under international law, particularly in light of the broader implications that current practices may have on public health, social well-being, and the protection of vulnerable groups.

In particular, under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 12), States are required to take necessary measures for the prevention, treatment and control of diseases and to ensure conditions that safeguard public health. In this context, the reported discontinuation of rabies vaccination programmes, combined with non-scientific and humane population control methods, raises serious concerns regarding compliance with these obligations.

Furthermore, the public nature of the reported practices, including the killing of animals in open and accessible environments, may expose children to acts of violence, which is inconsistent with the principles set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Articles 19 and 24), requiring States to protect children from all forms of violence and to ensure their right to health and well-being.

In addition, the reported intimidation and threats against individuals engaged in animal protection activities raise concerns in light of the principles reflected in the UN Declaration on Human Rights

Defenders, which recognizes the role of individuals and civil society actors in promoting and protecting fundamental rights.

In line with international best practices, we emphasize that animal indiscriminate killing has proven to be ineffective in the long term, often creating a “vacuum effect” that leads to the rapid repopulation of unvaccinated animals, thereby increasing health risks. This is further supported by the One Health approach promoted by the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health, which recognizes the interconnection between human, animal, and environmental health and highlights vaccination and coordinated disease prevention as essential tools to effectively control zoonotic diseases such as rabies.

Given the seriousness of the situation, we wish to emphasize our deep concern and strong objection to the continuation of practices that result in the mass killing of animals and involve methods that are widely considered inhumane and inconsistent with internationally accepted standards.

We further inform you that the situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan is currently being addressed at the international level, including through ongoing engagement with the United Nations system.

In this context, we trust in the willingness of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to demonstrate openness to international cooperation and to take concrete steps towards the adoption of more humane, ethical and effective approaches to stray animal management, which do not involve suffering or unnecessary killing, but instead rely on evidence-based measures such as vaccination, sterilization and responsible population control.

We also strongly encourage the initiation of a transparent and inclusive dialogue involving veterinary experts, public health professionals and animal protection organizations in order to identify sustainable and humane solutions.

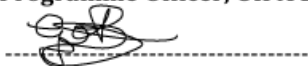
OIPA remains fully available for dialogue and cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. At the same time, we underline that the continuation of such practices is generating growing international concern and attention, and we trust that this matter will be addressed with the urgency and responsibility it requires

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Massimo Pradella
President, OIPA ETS



Ms. Greta Barbera
Programme Officer, OIPA ETS



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