

# 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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Dear Sir or Madam,

The International Organization for Animal Protection (OIPA) wishes to express its growing concern regarding the current implementation of the national stray animal population management programme in Georgia.

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**. The organisation is committed to promoting animal welfare and supporting humane and effective population management strategies worldwide.

We acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the Georgian authorities, including the adoption of the **Law on Companion Animals (July 2025)** and related governmental decrees. However, based on consistent reports, briefing materials, and documented evidence reviewed by OIPA, we are increasingly concerned that the current implementation of these measures may not be fully aligned with both national legal obligations and internationally recognised CNVR standards.

In particular, we wish to highlight the following concerns:

- Reports that animals taken for sterilisation are not being returned to their original habitat, including cases where already sterilised and vaccinated dogs have been removed from their territory and not returned
- Documented instances where animals have been transported to shelters or relocated to unsuitable or uninhabited areas, significantly compromising their chances of survival
- Cases in which animals have been returned in deteriorated health conditions, raising concerns regarding the adequacy of care and disease prevention measures
- A lack of transparency concerning the whereabouts of animals taken by authorities, including the absence of clear information provided to caretakers
- Reported inconsistencies between official statements and observed practices on the ground, including the transfer of animals across different municipalities.

We further note that the situation has begun to attract growing international attention and concern, with reports and information circulating beyond the national context. OIPA has become aware of these developments through such international exposure, which underscores the importance of ensuring transparency and clarity regarding the measures currently being implemented.

We recall that the Law on Companion Animals establishes clear and binding obligations with regard to animal welfare and protection, including:

- **Article 4:** ensuring that animals have access to food, water, a safe environment, and appropriate disease prevention and treatment
- **Article 5:** explicitly prohibiting the abandonment of animals
- **Article 19:** prohibiting any form of cruel treatment causing suffering
- **Article 21:** strictly regulating the use of euthanasia, which is permitted only under

specific and limited conditions and must be carried out humanely by qualified veterinary professionals.

We further note that **Article 18** provides for the humane capture, sterilisation, and vaccination of stray animals in coordination with the National Food Agency. However, the current legal framework does not explicitly regulate the obligation to return animals to their original habitat, which is a key component of internationally recognised CNVR standards.

We also note that these concerns are reflected in a joint statement supported by a significant number of civil society actors, including over 40 organisations and approximately 40,000 citizens. The statement outlines key recommendations regarding the implementation of the programme, which we consider relevant to the present concerns. The full statement is available at the following link.

In this context, we would like to emphasise that transparency, accountability, and full compliance with national legislation are essential. We believe that the Georgian authorities have the responsibility and the opportunity to provide clear clarification regarding the implementation of the programme.

We therefore respectfully call on the competent authorities to:

- Ensure that all animals taken for sterilisation are returned to their original habitat, and that this process is documented through appropriate and verifiable means. This obligation should be clearly reflected in the legal and regulatory framework and effectively enforced in practice
- Avoid the capture and transfer of already sterilised animals, and prioritise on-site interventions, including vaccination and registration, where applicable
- Provide full transparency regarding the whereabouts of animals taken under the programme, including access to clear and documented information for concerned citizens and caretakers.

OIPA remains firmly committed to constructive dialogue and cooperation. We will continue to closely monitor the situation, including through our international network and Member Leagues.

We trust that the Georgian authorities share a genuine commitment to animal welfare and are willing to engage in a transparent and collaborative manner to address the concerns outlined above. We are confident that, through constructive cooperation, effective and humane solutions can be identified and implemented.

Should the situation further deteriorate or remain unresolved, the matter may require broader international attention, including being brought to the attention of the United Nations and other competent international bodies.

We thank you for your attention and remain available for further dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Massimo Pradella  
**President, OIPA ETS**



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Ms. Greta Barbera  
**Programme Officer, OIPA ETS**



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