

# International Organization for Animal Protection



Organisation Internationale pour la Protection des Animaux  
Internationale Organisation für Tierschutz



Organizzazione Internazionale per la Protezione degli Animali - Onlus

NGO associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)  
the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and accredited at UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)

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

Headquarters: Via Sant'Ambrogio 12, I-20816 Ceriano Laghetto MB (Italy) - Fiscal Code: 97310380155

Tel +39 02 6427882 - Fax +39 1782206601

[www.oipa.org](http://www.oipa.org)

OIPA International  
International Organization for Animal Protection  
International Relations Office  
[international@oipa.org](mailto:international@oipa.org)

Dubai Municipality  
Al Riga area, Deira  
POX 67, Dubai  
[info@dm.gov.ae](mailto:info@dm.gov.ae)

Milan, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

**Subject: Concern regarding the prohibition of feeding stray animals**

Dear Dubai Municipality,

I am writing as Head of International Relations Office at OIPA–International Organization for Animal Protection, a confederation that embraces more than 200 animal rights associations all over the world. We are an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and accredited at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP) as well as listed in The European Commission Register of Interest Representatives.

We express our deep concern regarding the recent facts that have come to light on media based on the Circular of Dubai Municipality, addressed to all residents and visitors, in which it has been stated that feeding of birds as crows and pigeons and stray animals as cats and dogs is strictly prohibited.

The Circular affirms that provide food and water to these animals create a favourable environment for the spreading and transmitting of diseases and help their growth and reproduction becoming a threat for the public health, safety and wellbeing of the community. Residents have received a warning notice stating that those found feeding stray animals would be fined with 500 AED and referred to the authorities for further action.

The prohibition involves also animal rescue groups and animal rights associations that, suddenly shut down and fined, are not permitted to help and take care of these poor animals that are starving to death because of this terrible and cruel suffering.

Many animals, especially cats, already died and, if they do not cruelly die for starvation, they are poisoned or caught and dumped in the desert by pest control companies under the guise that they are vectors of diseases. We came to know that already a considerable number of cats and dogs disappeared, included family chipped pets, and no one knows where they have been located and if they are still alive as rescue groups seems not to be permitted to work and verify their conditions.

As OIPA International, fully devoted to defend animal rights and protect them against any form of cruelty and abuse, we cannot accept these cruel and abhorrent methods of killing stray animals as it is against any kind of respect of the lives of any sentient beings, as anybody on this Earth deserve respect, love and protection.

Alternative and respectable solutions to solve the issue of the over population and the spreading of diseases, such as rabies, are available and we are confident municipality and local authorities will be willing to consider those virtuous methods and listen our voice and the voice of the citizens.

Dubai Municipality and local Authorities should consider the opportunity to actively cooperate with residents and animal rights associations as well as rescue groups in order to guarantee a TNR programme necessary to keep the over population of strays under control. Besides this, a vaccinations programme as well as the placement of clean feeding stations in several areas of each community could prevent the outbreak of possible diseases.

Your citizens are now asking for your help in the name of love and respect for animals.

We are sure you will be able and willing to follow the great example many countries all over the world and cities, such as Abu Dhabi a couple of years ago, already implemented in their policy.

I, therefore, would be most grateful if you could take into consideration this letter and sign an official promise of cooperation with animal rescue groups and residents in order to guarantee a better future to your stray animals.

Yours sincerely,  
Valentina Bagnato  
Head of OIPA International Relations Office

