

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

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To the kind Attention of
Mr. Imran Khan
PRIME MINISTER
Prime Minister's Office
Islamabad
Pakistan
info@pmo.govt.pk

Milan, 01 April 2021

Dear Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan,

Subject: Mass culling of stray dogs in Pakistan. Proposal for alternative and ethical methods

I am writing on behalf of **OIPA International Organization for Animal Protection**, an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), accredited at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP). OIPA embraces more than 200 animal associations across the world and operates in defence of animal rights and for protecting animals from cruelty and abuse.

We appeal to your kind attention asking to consider our proposal of employing ethical and humane methods to keep under control the overpopulation of stray dogs in the country and to prevent the spreading of diseases such as rabies.

Your government has recently planned and started to cull 25,000 stray dogs. More than 50,000 dogs are killed every year on the streets of Pakistan and it is hurting to know that the government itself orders the mass killing and poisoning of animals in almost every city of the country.

It is not acceptable that Pakistan, a country actively engaged in the United Nation, still uses in 2021 cruel and barbaric methods against innocent sentient beings and involves in the killings its own citizens instead of educating the community to a pacific coexistence with animals.

It is time for Pakistan to be compassionate with all living beings and make the difference for animals and for your Country.

We suggest, based on the experience carried out in dog population control programmes over the years that the increase of stray dogs can be controlled with a specific TNVR (trap-neuter/spay-vaccination-release) programme aimed at creating a sterile population of dogs in the long term, monitoring their local presence and finally making the country Rabies free.

You might not see any immediate change in the short term, but in the mid-long term no more puppies will be born and thus the dog population will begin to decrease in a sustainable and ethical manner. Furthermore, stray dogs, caught and released back to their area, will have been ear tagged, spayed and neutered, but also vaccinated against dangerous diseases to guarantee the safety and security of local communities.

Sick and injured stray dogs should be treated in proper facilities and those completely recovered finally released. The treatment can be conducted with the help of veterinarians in shelters built with a room dedicated to perform surgical operations, vaccinations, neutering/spaying and a post operation room for animals' recovery.

A TNVR programme has to go along with the improvement of community awareness achievable through educational and training activities such as responsible pet ownership to prevent abandonment and reduce the increase of strays animals, correct treatment and behaviour people should have with animals, pacific coexistent with strays, good waste management, just to make some example. In the future, also owned dogs should be ear-tagged in order to easily find their owners in case of abandonment and punish who is found guilty of mistreatment and animal abuse.

We would also recommend establishing a cooperation with volunteers, local and international animal welfare organizations and animal rescue groups that can bring expertise, care and resources and have extensive networks and experience with the matter and can support.

With the right combination of a TNVR programme, a local and international cooperation amongst institutions, associations, volunteers and citizens, the construction of shelters properly managed, the increase of community education and awareness, it will be possible to bring a positive change for your actual and coming generations and largely eliminate the problem without hurting animals anymore.

The Government of Pakistan should amend and update the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (1890) and create a regulatory body to ensure protection from all types of harm and violence for all animals and to set new anti-cruelty measures in conformity with the current animal welfare. Pakistan is also a signatory to OIE, which provides stray dog population guidelines that should be implemented all across the country.

We trust that you will give this matter your urgent attention and consider our suggestions.

Yours Sincerely,

Valentina Bagnato
Head International Relations Office
OIPA



Valentina Bagnato