

# 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. Qasym-Jomart Toqayev  
President of Kazakhstan  
[press@akorda.kz](mailto:press@akorda.kz)

Milan, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear President of Kazakhstan Qasym-Jomart Toqayev,

**OIPA - International Organization for Animal Protection** – is a non-governmental Organization that operates worldwide in defence of animal rights and for protecting animals against any form of cruelty and abuse. Our organization embraces more than 200 animal rights associations across the world. We are member accredited at the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP) as well as recognized as non-profit tax-exempt 501(c) (3) charity.

We are highly sensitive to the issue of how **stray dogs and cats** are treated around the world and how their population is monitored in different countries. Our aim is to promote the implementation of a **strays' control programme**, which is ethical and humane and can provide a long-term result without hurting animals and, at the same time, we encourage to educate local community about responsible ownership, animal care and protection ensuring that animals are treated with kindness, respect and understanding.

Stray dogs and cats should be consider a plus and not “something to feel ashamed of”. They are sentient beings, as we are, who can suffer, feel emotions and deserve care and attention. The number of animal lovers has increased significantly and more individuals are concerned about the topic. People use to collect information about the condition of strays in each specific country start avoiding those where animals are not respected and protected.

You have the opportunity, as President of Kazakhstan, to make the difference for your Country, your citizens and your animals as well. You can make Kazakhstan a positive example for all the surrounding countries, a place where humans coexist pacifically with animals.

We are suggesting based on our long experience, an effective **dog and cat population control programme** that can be carried out for managing better your street animals:

- Stop killing and abusing on stray dogs and cats: How?
- Implementing a permanent **TNVR programme (Trap-Neuter/Spay-Vaccination-Release)** aimed at lowering the number of strays, creating a sterile population of dogs and cats in the long term and preventing the outbreak of possible diseases without the need of hurting and killing animals;
- Monitoring **the presence of strays** on the territory with the introduction of **ear tags** for street dogs **already sterilized and vaccinated** as well as a **canine municipal registry** both for owned and street dogs;
- Microchip or tag for **owned dogs** for punishing owners in case of abandonment;
- Improving **community awareness** and **responsible pet ownership** for **preventing abandonment** and encourage vaccination and sterilization activities which are one of the main reason of the increase in stray population;

- Educating citizens about **animal care, respect and protection** for reducing the high number of episodes of animal cruelty in your country
- Passing a **national law and local regulations** on animal rights and animal protection for punishing who is guilty of cruelty and abuse and guarantee the transparency of funds and activities carried out by each Animal Control Centre in charge of stray animals' control.
- Inspecting the **conditions and treatment** of animals in each Animal Control Centre and apply an immediate suspension in case of violations
- Closing permanently the "killing" centres
- Establishing a **close cooperation and rehoming schemes** with your local animal rescue and animal rights associations, international organizations and volunteers that can provide knowledge and share expertise on the matter.

With the right combination of all these factors, a positive change will be possible.

We have received many evidence that animal cruelty in Kazakhstan is a common occurrence and we are worried about the treatment reserved to **stray animals** and the methods used for monitoring local stray dogs and cats' population in your **20 Animal Control Centres** placed all over the country. The worst is that **even citizens cruelly abuse** on animals. There are videos posted on social media showing animals purposely **mistreated and killed**, even if in front of children: **hanged, beaten** to death, set on fire and **burned** alive. Stray dogs and cats – including kittens and puppies – are daily **shot** by the **Animal Control Department's staff** and whoever survives to the shooting is caught, transferred to one of the **20 animal control centres** and **got murdered within a few days**. Considering that the number of animals brought daily to each killing centre could be as many as 50 dogs and 100 puppies, this means that **hundreds of stray cats and dogs** are definitively killed in these centres every day.

The range of methods used to kill animals by residents and authorized personnel are wide: **hang, strangulated, set on fire, beaten, shot** with gun or with poisoned darts amongst many other ways. The **conditions of the centres** where animals are forced to live awaiting for their death are simply **horrific and abhorrent**. Dogs and cats are kept in **crumbling, unhealthy and dirty boxes**. They often **get infected** with viruses, they have **no repair** from extreme weather conditions and **no** one provide them **food or water**. The defenceless animals are tortured, beaten, starved and frozen to death. One way or another, the outcome for them is a certain death.

Animal Control Centres use **ovens** as method specifically designed for burning to death stray dogs and cats. Often animals are fully **conscious** when thrown into the ovens to be burnt and many times other animals assist terrified to this terrible procedure. Some of them are placed so closed to the ovens waiting for their turn that can die suffocated from the smoke. Shockingly also microchipped animals with collars are caught. According to the law in Kazakhstan, **caught animals should be kept alive for 60 days** and, if the owner is not found, they officially gain an unwanted/unclaimed status becoming a possession of the Animal Control Organisation who makes a final decision on animals' life. The reality is that, if the "property" is not claimed within two or three days, the animal is finally murdered savagely.

We sincerely ask you to consider our proposal of implementing ethical alternatives, which exist and are much more effective rather than an approach that is cruel and heartless and that promotes and justifies animal cruelty amongst your citizens.

Make your country a place that **cares about the less fortunate** and that would be a virtuous example for many others.

We trust that you will give this matter your urgent attention and we remain available to discuss with your team further.

Sincerely,

Massimo Pradella  
OIPA – Chairman

*Massimo Pradella*



Valentina Bagnato  
OIPA – Head International Relations Office

*Valentina Bagnato*