

PRESS STATEMENT FROM A GROUP OF MOROCCAN ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS

Kingdom of Morocco, May 02nd 2023

WITH THE SUPPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

The group of the Moroccan animal welfare organizations, expresses deep shock and outrage at the current action being taken on stray animals in our Kingdom.

Despite the High Instructions from His Majesty King Mohammed VI, may God assist Him, and the Framework Convention signed in 2019, under the aegis of the Ministry of the Interior, the TNVR program (capture, sterilization, vaccination and release to their initial environment) to put an end to diseases such as rabies and other zoonoses, has still not been put into practice.

This lack of implementation leaves room for **brutal and inhumane operations of capturing and culling animals** (including puppies and kittens) **throughout the country**, including those already sterilized, vaccinated and identified which is currently happening.

Furthermore, the action gives a totally degraded and depreciated image of our country in the eyes of those who witness it:

Firstly, our most vulnerable citizens in particular, the children who witness it are traumatized by the scenes of extreme violence.

Secondly, visible to everyone, these scenes are also shocking to tourists who are, in spite of themselves and more and more often frightened and indignant spectators. They then echo negative sentiments when interviewed by international media who denounce, the situation.

This is doing considerable harm to our country, to its tourist attendance and to the vision of modernity in which it is part.

The group of Moroccan animal welfare organizations, jointly denounces the misappropriation, in both letter and spirit, of the contractual clauses of the 2019 Agreement, in particular with regard to the delegated management of the TNVR program to inexperienced associations with no work history whose creation is unjustified or to private companies with no experience in the field of animal welfare and canine or feline knowledge.

These scandalous practices undermine the very foundation of the TNVR program and do not respect any of the five (5) individual freedoms of animals welfare (captured puppies and kittens included).

We strongly disavow the inadmissible abuses of culling these stray animals, either by killing them through poisoning, by shooting them with live ammunition, by letting them die of hunger and/or thirst, or by capturing them in an inhumane way.

These barbaric killings are, moreover, totally ineffective in controlling the canine and feline population. **'Studies by the World Health Organization (WHO) confirm, that any reduction in the canine or feline population through mortality is quickly offset by better reproduction and a better survival rate.** In other words, when dogs are removed from a territory, the life expectancy of the survivors increases, because they have better access to resources.

The group of Moroccan Animal Welfare organizations jointly asks:

- The immediate cessation of capture and killing operations of stray animals, in all cities of the Kingdom,
- The application of the TNVR program following recommendations of competent institutions such as WOAHA, FAO and WHO, which are radically opposed to the extermination of dogs and cats as a means of protecting Public Health and controlling the feline and canine population, considering that the TNVR is the only reliable and proven method at the

international level, to protect in an ethical way, all the citizens of the Kingdom,

- The integration of the official, experienced and established animal welfare organizations, in the whole process of the TNVR program, in a transparent way.

In doing so, we demand, urgently, the immediate dissolution of all fictitious private or organizations entities, which would not be authentic animal welfare organizations that ingrain humane practice in the field.

The group also calls for respect for Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the rights and protection of children and vulnerable members of society against the devastating psychological impact caused by violent and disturbing scenes on stray animals.

The group urges the Moroccan government to clearly and urgently include animal welfare and the "One Health" approach in the objectives of sustainable development (SDGs) both in its national government agenda and in the environmental agendas of the UN in 2030 and the African Union in 2063, in order to guarantee the sustainability of ecosystems, protect biodiversity as a whole, guarantee the dignity and health of all animals and promote inclusive economic growth that respects the environment.

Put an end to violence against stray animals and making the systemic culling illegal would end 60 years of killing - which has been a major failure in eradicating Rabies and other zoonoses - and protecting Human Public Health.

Stopping the violence would undoubtedly contribute to developing empathy not only towards animals but also between human beings themselves.

It is at this price to be able to create a fairer, more ethical, more inclusive society that would better protect the physical and mental health of each citizen.

The protection of citizens and animals is, in 2023 and more than ever, the moral responsibility of everyone. Let's take up this challenge together and initiate a major change. Morocco has the capacity and the means to make a positive impact on our people and animal lives.

**#stopkillingdogsinmorocco #strayanimals4life #stopdogsgenocideinmorocco
#justice4moroccandogs #protectmoroccandogs #stopmoroccananimalsabuse
#nomoremoroccandogskilling #savemoroccandogs #moroccoanimalsrights**

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Les Associations Signataires :

Le Cœur Sur la Patte – CSP

Jarjeer Mule And Donkey Refuge

Sanctuaire de la Faune Tanger (SFT)

RAPAD MAROC

Société Protectrice des Animaux du Maroc

Cœur & ACT – RANCH BELDI

ADAN / ADAN Bouarfa / ADAN Essaouira / ADAN Casablanca -Settat
Association Irham pour la Protection Animale et l'Environnement

Morocco Animal Aid

Le Phénix pour la Protection Animale et de l'Environnement

Association OMAM

Comme Chiens et Chats Maroc

Association Arahma de Protection Animale

Unis Pour Créatures

Animals Pawsprint APH

Association ARAHMA de protection animale

Espace de Solidarité et de Coopération de l'Oriental

Association de Zoothérapie AZ-MCTH

Association Marocaine pour la Protection des animaux et de l'environnement

Ecolo Plate Forme du Maroc du Nord

Association Ecologiste Avenir - Tounfite Avenir du Cèdre et du Mouflon

Association des Amis et de l'Environnement Oujda

Association BENI OUKIL pour l'Environnement et le Développement

Association Zaio pour le Développement durable et le Tourisme

Association MOBADARA de Zaoi

La Siesta pour la Protection de l'Environnement

Association Homme et Environnement