

Letter to Turkish Parliament to Save 4 Million Stray Dogs from Being Killed

Dear Parliament of Türkiye,

We write to you with a deep sense of urgency. On Monday July 29th, the government of Türkiye passed measures that involve the killing of millions of free-roaming animals including dogs and cats.

We respectfully urge the Turkish parliament to reverse the law amendment that will see the "euthanizing" of stray animals in Türkiye and their isolation in confined spaces. The government should reconsider this course of action and explore humane alternatives.

Stray or free-roaming cats and dogs are common in most of the world. They are considered as welcome members of the families, neighborhoods and businesses near where they live.

The Call from Animal Welfare Organizations and others

Animal Welfare organizations and others around the globe are calling on Türkiye to halt the killing of stray dogs and cats. This plea is not only a matter of protecting animal lives but also a reflection of our shared humanity and ethical responsibilities.

The act of killing stray animals is inhumane, inefficient and counterproductive. It inflicts unnecessary suffering and fails to address the root causes of stray animal populations. Animal rights advocates in Türkiye have demonstrated that these so-called shelters are, in fact, death camps where animals are tortured and have been deprived of food and water. Now that the law is passed, sick dogs, banned breeds and physiologically impaired dogs will be euthanized and healthy, neutered/spayed and non-aggressive dogs could be killed without justification, to reduce their population. The Turkish Association of Veterinarians has verified that the short- and long-term cost of the "Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return" program is substantially lower than the euthanization program.

Why Killing is Not a Solution

Killing stray dogs is not a solution. Killing is a temporary and horrific measure that overlooks the more humane and effective alternatives available. Research and experience from other countries demonstrate that sterilization programs, coupled with the establishment and support of shelters, offer a sustainable and ethical solution. Sterilization prevents the birth of more animals and reduces the population. Well-managed shelters provide safe havens for stray dogs, offering them care and the possibility of adoption into loving homes. Türkiye has 1,403 municipalities; only 298 have shelters. If the 1,403 municipalities spayed/neutered just 4 animals a day, the problem would be resolved within 1 year.

Türkiye has for centuries has humanely cared for its free-roaming animals

People in Türkiye have been sharing their streets with dogs and cats for centuries.

Turkish law now supports "Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return" clause, which the new legislation would change. Catch-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return is a humane, cost-effective and constructive approach that can enhance the image of Türkiye on the global stage as a nation that values life and acts with compassion and wisdom.

Sadly, the law amendments do not ban the production and trade of animals, one of the main sources of population growth; and do not impose criminal sanctions for violence against animals.

A Call to Action - Stand United for a Compassionate Future

We call on the members of Parliament to reverse this horrific new law and instead adopt humane alternatives such as comprehensive sterilization programs and the development of well-resourced shelters.

Please support a future where the innocent stray and free-roaming dogs and cats of Türkiye continue to be cared for and loved by their human neighbors. Your actions today can pave the way for a society that honors life in all its forms and chooses compassion over cruelty.

With hope and solidarity,

Animal Save Movement
Animal Alliance Network
Animal Eden e.V.
Animal Justice Project, UK
Animal Project, Georgia
Animal Rights Initiative
Animal Rights Organization of Ghana
Animal Rights VZW
Animal Rising
Animal Save India
Animal Think Tank
Animalshield
Àrea de gossos Bdn
Associação Albergue da Toxa & C^a
Association Aid and Support of Creole Dogs
Association Stray Affection
BE YELLOW
Catholic Action for Animals
CDMX Animal Save
Christian Animal Rights Association
Cihangir Cool for Cats
Climate Action for Lifelong Learners
Climate Save Movement

COBASE (ECOSOC)
Development and Community
Empowerment Organization
DC Voters for Animals
DierAnimal
DifusionV
Earth Trek
Eco Space Foundation
Eğitim Sen Sendikası
Elegantly Papered Ltd
Fair Start Movement
Farmed Animal Rights Movement
Freedom For Animals
Fundación UVA Unión Vegana Argentina
Fur Seasons Dog Resort
Generation Vegan
Gerush92, Committee for Human Rights
GLOBISIS
GOCEK ANIMAL RESCUE
Green REV Institute
Green Islam
Griechische Fellnasen e.V.
Holiday Elite

Im Associati SAS
INDICIOS
Institute for Animal Happiness
International Organization for Animal Protection (OIPA)
Kamala's Foods LLC
Love for all Uganda
Lucy Watson
Manchester Pig Save, UK
Manitoba Animal Save, Canada
Materialise Interiors
Meadowfields Farm Limited
Mecho and Friends, Bulgaria
Menschen für Tierrechte
Baden-Württemberg e.V., Germany
Middle East Vegan Society
Organisation for the Prevention of Intense Suffering (OPIS)
Our Planet. Theirs Too.
PARTIDO ANIMALISTA CON EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
PETA UK
Plantbased Dennis
Plant-Based Canada
Plant-based Health Justice
Plant Based Treaty
Plant-Based Universities
Sanctuary for animals
Shelter Transport Animal Rescue Team
Sociedade protetora dos animais
Sinergia Animal
Species Unite
Sportingclub FreeFitness BV
Stichting ActieZwerfhonden
Stichting Animal Rights
TierInsel-Umut Evi e.V.
The Black Cat Soap House
The Retreat Animal Rescue
The Vegan Publisher
Tree of Life Veganics
UnchainedTV
United Nations World Council Cultural Advisor
Vegan Easy

Vegan FTA
Vegan Georgia
Vegan Life
VegfestUK Ltd
Vibrant Vegan Society of Ghana
Vibrations
We Animals
We The Free
Wir retten Hundee.e.v
WWF
WWF Türkiye (Doğal Hayatı Koruma Vakfı)
XR Animal
Zvirata Nejime
Association stray Affection
TierInsel-Umut Evi e.V., Germany
MorphMedia.ai
CCCU, UK
From Joy to Animals, Nature, Earth, France
Raintree Foundation, India
Kastration von Streunern eV, Germany
Political party "PAN"
People-Animals-Nature, Portugal
Vanessa Hudson, Leader of Animal Welfare Party
Allaboutstrays, India
Coimbra Animal Save, Portugal
WOOPH PET SERVICES
Animal Cognition Network
One Kind World, USA
Petco Health and Wellness Company, Inc.
Further Everyday
Ethical Tee Company, UK
Samantha Willis Professional Trainer
Eko Straža, Belgrade, Serbia
Hundehilfe Konstanz, Germany
Cats on fire, Romania
Rewriting Earth, UK
Morassutti, Belgium
Cabaz Boemio LDA, Portugal
Shop Zero, South Africa
Earthypaws, Bangalore, India
Paul Adams Media LLC
Asociacion Civil Amparo Animal, Argentina
Impulse NGO Network, India

Faltoo Sey Paltoo, Pakistan
Dier&Recht, The Netherlands
Leave in Peace, USA
Horta Harmonia, Portugal
La Méduse Violette, France
Abhimanyu Memorial Animal Welfare
Foundation, India
Time Trivium India
Wagging Tails Street Buddies
Stacy Hope rescue, USA
Freedom and Respect for Every Earthling
(F.R.E.E.), Romania
Sinhgad Animal Welfare Charitable Trust,
India
SOS Coelhos Portugal
Os "Nossos" Miaus, Portugal
Midas - Movimento Internacional para a
Defesa dos Animais, Portugal
Pashu Sewa Dham Foundation, India
Federation of Turkish American
Associations, USA
Instituto Social Pandora, Brazil
No Kill Now, USA
Happy Dogs Koh Chang Dog Rescue,
Thailand
Listenhunde Nothilfe e.V., Germany
New Life 4 Spanish Animals eV, Germany
Freunde der Tiere e.V., Germany
The Buddy foundation, India
KURTARANEV, Turkey
Justice Advocacy Network, USA
PEOPLE—ANIMAL-NATURE (PAN) Party,
Portugal