



28 January 2025

His Excellency Youssef Amrani

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco

Embassy of Morocco to South Africa

Pretoria, South Africa

Per email: embassy.morocco.pretoria@gmail.com

Dear Sir,

CONDEMNATION OF THE ONGOING KILLING OF DOGS IN MOROCCO IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2030 FIFA WORLD CUP

1. The National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) of South Africa writes to express its deep concern and unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing inhumane killing of stray and community dogs in Morocco. Reports from credible sources, including the International Animal Welfare Protection Coalition (IAWPC), reveal an alarming increase in the brutal methods used to eliminate these animals, methods that include poisoning, shooting, and inhumane trapping.
2. These actions are not only profoundly cruel but contravene internationally recognised animal welfare standards set by organisations such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The unnecessary suffering inflicted upon these animals is compounded by the psychological trauma inflicted on Moroccan children who witness such violence. This is a clear violation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically Article 19, and General Comment 26, which call for the protection of children from all forms of violence, including violence against animals.
3. Morocco's commitment to animal welfare, as stated in its bid to co-host the 2030 FIFA World Cup, rings hollow when contrasted with the evidence of continued mass killings. Claims of nationwide bans on animal culling and government support for humane animal management programs have proven to be false, undermining public trust and the credibility of the Kingdom's promises to the global community.
4. We urge the Moroccan government to immediately cease these killings and implement a comprehensive and humane dog population management program. Such a program, including Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Release (TNVR), community education, and stricter enforcement of animal welfare laws, has been successfully adopted in other regions and aligns with international best practices.



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5. The NSPCA joins the IAWPC and other global animal welfare organisations in calling for accountability and transparency in Morocco's handling of this issue. The ongoing killings tarnish the spirit of unity, respect, and inclusion that the FIFA World Cup represents and undermine Morocco's standing in the global community.
6. Your Excellency, we implore the Kingdom of Morocco to take immediate and meaningful steps to address this crisis. The NSPCA calls for the humane treatment of all animals, which reflects the compassion and integrity that should be central to any society.
7. We hope for a swift and positive response that reflects Morocco's commitment to both human rights and animal welfare.

Sincerely,



MARCELLE MEREDITH
Executive Director

cc: International Animal Coalition (IAWPC)



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