

NSPCA PLEADS WITH MOROCCO TO END THE INHUMANE KILLING OF DOGS AHEAD OF 2030 FIFA WORLD CUP

The National Council of SPCAs (NSPCA) is deeply disheartened to hear that Morocco intends to continue with the cruel slaughter of thousands of stray and community dogs in “preparation” for their hosting of the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

Despite Morocco’s official statements of its commitment to animal welfare and a nationwide ban on animal culling, which was included in its bid to co-host the 2030 FIFA World Cup, the country’s government has continued with this mass killing strategy. In an effort to disguise their deplorable actions, Moroccan authorities have justified their killing sprees as an attempt to control the spread of rabies.

Numerous videos taken by community members as recently as December 2024 show government-employed workers brutally rounding up and killing dogs. In some cases, dogs are poisoned and left to suffer prolonged, agonising deaths. In others, dogs are badly wounded by gunshot and abandoned to die from their injuries. In many instances, dogs are trapped and transported to facilities where they are starved before being beaten to death or electrocuted. Sadly, many of the dogs collected for killing are wearing collars, which means they have owners or are being cared for by the community.

Witnesses to the effects of this mass culling describe the devastating effects it has had on Morocco’s homeless children. These children often forge strong bonds with stray dogs, who provide them with the love, comfort, and emotional connections they may be missing.

The NSPCA unequivocally stands with international organisations, such as the International Animal Welfare Protection Coalition (IAWPC), the International Animal Management Coalition (IAMC), the European Link Coalition (ELC), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), and Dogs Trust in the UK in expressing our horror at this inhumane practice.

We are profoundly disturbed that Moroccan authorities have blatantly lied to both FIFA and the public in an attempt to win its bid to co-host the FIFA World Cup. We have to question the morality and values of a country that prioritises money and fame over the welfare of its human and animal citizens.

A recent report by the IAWPC warns that over three million dogs could be slaughtered in preparation for the FIFA World Cup. The NSPCA implores Moroccan authorities to immediately cease the inhumane killing of the country’s stray and community dogs, and appeals to FIFA to hold Morocco accountable for its actions. Humane and sustainable solutions to manage stray dog populations exist that reflect the compassion and dignity expected of a modern society. The NSPCA publicly extends its support to all organisations and individuals taking a stand against these practices.