

International Organization for Animal Protection



Organizzazione Internazionale per la Protezione degli Animali - ETS

NGO associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Accredited at UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Accredited in the Register of Representatives of Interest of the European Commission

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Request for information and dialogue regarding the welfare of stray dogs in Türkiye

To the competent authorities of the Republic of Türkiye,

On behalf of **OIPA – International Organization for Animal Protection**, we would like to respectfully draw your attention to concerns that have been brought to our organisation regarding the management and welfare of stray dogs in Türkiye, particularly following the amendments to **Animal Protection Law No. 5199 through Law No. 7527**.

OIPA is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to animal protection and the promotion of animal welfare worldwide. The organization is associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), holds consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), is accredited to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), and is registered in the Transparency Register of the European Union.

Over recent months, OIPA has received communications from individuals and animal-protection advocates expressing concern about the conditions in which stray dogs are being collected, transported and accommodated in certain areas of the country. Some of these reports also refer to possible shortcomings in shelter conditions and raise questions regarding the fate of animals following their collection.

We fully recognise the complex challenges faced by public authorities and municipalities in managing large populations of stray animals, as well as their responsibility to protect public health and safety. At the same time, we believe that effective stray-animal management can and should be implemented while ensuring appropriate animal-welfare standards and preventing unnecessary suffering.

We are aware of the current legal framework governing the management of stray dogs in Türkiye, as well as the decision of the Turkish Constitutional Court concerning the amendments to Animal Protection Law No. 5199.

In this context, OIPA would greatly appreciate receiving further information regarding the practical implementation of the legislation and the measures adopted to ensure appropriate welfare standards throughout the process of collection, transportation and sheltering of stray animals.

In particular, we respectfully encourage the competent authorities to continue strengthening measures aimed at:

- ensuring that animals are captured and transported using appropriate methods that minimise fear, stress and suffering;
- maintaining adequate veterinary care, hygiene, food, water and living conditions within shelters and other facilities;
- ensuring appropriate registration and traceability of animals following their collection;
- guaranteeing that decisions concerning euthanasia are taken exclusively within the circumstances established by the applicable legislation and following appropriate veterinary assessment;
- maintaining effective monitoring and inspection mechanisms for facilities housing stray animals;
- supporting preventive and sustainable population-management measures, including sterilisation, vaccination, identification, responsible ownership and adoption programmes;
- encouraging constructive cooperation between public institutions, veterinary professionals, municipalities and animal-protection organisations.

We would also be grateful for any available information or official data concerning the implementation of the current stray-animal management programme, including the number of animals collected, sterilised, vaccinated, sheltered and adopted.

OIPA strongly believes that dialogue and cooperation between institutions and civil society can play an important role in identifying sustainable solutions that protect both communities and animal welfare.

Our organisation remains available to engage constructively with the Turkish authorities and local stakeholders, share experience and support initiatives aimed at promoting humane and effective management of stray animal populations.

We would therefore sincerely appreciate any clarification or update that the competent authorities may be able to provide on the current situation and on the measures being implemented to ensure the welfare and protection of stray dogs throughout the country.

Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration. We look forward to the possibility of constructive dialogue on this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

Massimo Pradella

President

OIPA – International Organization for Animal Protection

Milan, 8th October 2026

