

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)

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Milan, 25th August 2026

To the Competent Authorities of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan,

OIPA ETS (International Organization for Animal Protection) wishes to respectfully bring to your attention serious concerns regarding reports and supporting documentation concerning free-roaming dogs currently present in remote desert areas of Jordan, particularly in the **Safawi area, Mafrqa Governorate**.

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 weeks, OIPA International has received audiovisual material, testimonies and information from local sources and animal-welfare organizations active in Jordan. Before addressing the competent authorities, we sought to cross-check the information received through multiple sources.

The information and supporting material available to OIPA indicate the presence of a substantial and difficult-to-quantify number of dogs across a vast desert area in Safawi, where environmental conditions are particularly severe and access to water, food and routine veterinary care is extremely limited.

Recent audiovisual material also documents the presence of dogs in the area and ongoing efforts to provide them with basic assistance.

Of particular concern are consistent reports indicating that **free-roaming dogs may have been removed from urban and residential areas and transported to remote, uninhabited locations, including desert areas, as part of local dog-population management interventions**.

OIPA fully recognises the complexity of managing free-roaming dog populations and the responsibility of public authorities to protect communities from rabies, zoonotic diseases and other public-safety concerns. At the same time, relocating dogs to areas where reliable access to water, food, shelter and veterinary assistance cannot be guaranteed risks exposing them to dehydration, starvation, disease and preventable suffering, without addressing the underlying causes of the problem.

For this reason, OIPA would be grateful to receive clarification as to whether the relocation of free-roaming dogs to remote desert areas forms part of any officially authorised municipal or national dog-population management policy and, if so, under which legal, veterinary, public-health and animal-welfare framework such interventions are carried out.

We would also appreciate information regarding the authorities responsible for authorising, supervising and monitoring any such operations.

A further concern relates to access to water. According to information received from local sources and animal-welfare organizations, efforts were made to establish a more stable water supply for dogs in the Safawi area. OIPA has been informed that this installation was subsequently required to be removed by local authorities.

Given the climatic conditions of the area, we would respectfully welcome official clarification regarding the circumstances surrounding this decision and encourage the competent authorities to facilitate safe and appropriate initiatives aimed at ensuring reliable access to drinking water for animals currently present in the area.

OIPA believes that the challenges associated with free-roaming dog populations can be addressed most effectively through a **One Health approach**, recognising the close relationship between human health, animal health and the environment.

We therefore respectfully encourage the strengthening of humane and sustainable measures including rabies vaccination, sterilisation, veterinary care, epidemiological surveillance, responsible ownership, prevention of abandonment, community awareness and cooperation between municipalities, veterinary authorities and animal-welfare organizations.

We understand that **Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR)** programmes are already being implemented by animal-welfare organizations in parts of Jordan, despite limited resources. Such initiatives demonstrate the importance of investing in preventive and long-term population management rather than repeatedly relocating animals without addressing reproduction, vaccination, abandonment and community-level management.

In light of the information and documentation received, OIPA International respectfully urges the competent Jordanian authorities to:

- reviewing the reported relocation of dogs to the Safawi desert and clarifying the authorities and procedures involved;
- ensuring that dogs are not transferred to locations where their basic welfare needs cannot reasonably be met;
- facilitating reliable access to water and appropriate emergency assistance for animals currently present in the area;
- strengthening vaccination, sterilisation and veterinary programmes as long-term population-management tools;
- promoting transparent cooperation between municipalities, veterinary services, local communities and animal-welfare organizations;
- continuing to develop a sustainable strategy capable of protecting **public health, community safety and animal welfare together**.

Our intention is not to underestimate the challenges faced by Jordanian authorities, but rather to encourage constructive dialogue and support solutions that address the causes of the issue while avoiding preventable animal suffering.

A separate documentation dossier containing audiovisual material and supporting information will accompany this communication. Where appropriate, identifying information concerning local sources has been limited in order to protect individuals and organizations contributing information from the ground.

OIPA remains fully available for constructive dialogue and would welcome the opportunity to cooperate with the competent Jordanian authorities, veterinary institutions and other relevant stakeholders in identifying humane, evidence-based and sustainable solutions.

We would be grateful for any clarification or information you may be able to provide and thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Massimo Pradella
President, OIPA ETS

