

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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Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Animal Welfare and Stray Animal Management in Albania

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Organization for Animal Protection (OIPA ETS) wishes to express its profound concern regarding a series of deeply troubling reports emerging from Albania, particularly from the Municipality of Tirana, concerning the treatment and management of stray animals.

OIPA ETS is an international non-governmental organisation associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), holding consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and accredited to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and in the Register of Representatives of Interest of the European Commission, and is committed to promoting animal welfare and supporting humane and effective population management strategies worldwide.

Over recent months, we have received extensive information, documentation, media reports, and testimony regarding alleged cases of animal poisoning, the discovery of numerous deceased dogs discarded in public waste containers, concerns relating to the management of municipal shelters, and reports of inadequate conditions affecting hundreds of animals currently housed in public facilities.

Particularly alarming are the reports concerning the discovery of multiple dog bodies found discarded in public waste bins, as well as allegations that additional deceased animals were being stored within municipal facilities.

OIPA ETS is also aware of reports currently under investigation concerning the alleged poisoning of community dogs, including cases in which video footage reportedly shows the involvement of municipal personnel. While these allegations remain subject to ongoing investigations and must be assessed by the competent authorities, they further contribute to the serious concerns surrounding the management and welfare of stray animals in Tirana.

These reports have generated widespread concern among animal welfare organizations, volunteers, citizens, and public representatives, and have become the subject of significant public debate and institutional discussion within Albania.

We note that formal complaints have reportedly been submitted to the competent authorities and that investigations have been initiated. We welcome these developments and strongly encourage the continuation of a thorough, independent, and transparent investigation capable of establishing all relevant facts and responsibilities.

OIPA ETS also welcomes the recent parliamentary attention given to issues relating to stray animal management and animal welfare in Albania. We view such institutional engagement as an important opportunity to strengthen dialogue, promote accountability, and advance humane, sustainable, and science-based approaches to animal population management, including sterilization, responsible ownership measures, and the effective implementation of existing animal welfare legislation.

At the same time, OIPA ETS cannot ignore the broader pattern of concerns repeatedly raised over recent years regarding the treatment of stray animals in Albania. Reports of poisonings, killings, inadequate shelter

conditions, and insufficient implementation of humane population management measures have generated growing concern among the international animal welfare community.

We therefore respectfully urge the Albanian authorities to:

- Ensure a full, transparent, and independent investigation into all reported incidents involving the deaths of stray animals;
- Publicly communicate the findings of such investigations and any measures adopted as a result;
- Strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms concerning municipal shelters and animal management facilities;
- Ensure that all stray animal management policies are implemented in accordance with humane, science based, and internationally recognized principles, including sterilization, vaccination, identification, responsible population management, and the development of effective and coordinated long-term strategies at both local and national level;
- Take all necessary measures to prevent acts of cruelty, unlawful killings, poisoning, or neglect of animals.

OIPA ETS firmly believes that Albania has the opportunity to demonstrate leadership, transparency, and commitment to animal welfare by addressing these concerns decisively and in accordance with both national legislation and internationally recognized standards.

As Albania continues its important path towards European integration, OIPA ETS believes that the transparent and effective handling of animal welfare concerns represents an opportunity to further demonstrate the country's commitment to accountability, good governance, and the progressive implementation of internationally recognized animal welfare standards.

We are confident that the relevant authorities will recognize the importance of addressing these concerns openly and constructively, in a manner that strengthens public trust and reflects Albania's ongoing efforts to align with broader European values and expectations.

OIPA ETS will continue to closely monitor developments related to this matter and remain engaged with relevant stakeholders at both national and international level. We sincerely hope that the concerns raised will be addressed through transparent dialogue, effective action, and constructive cooperation between institutions and civil society.

OIPA ETS remains ready to engage in constructive dialogue and cooperation with Albanian institutions and stakeholders in support of humane and sustainable solutions for stray animal management.

The protection of animals is not solely a local issue. It reflects the values of a society and contributes to the international reputation of institutions entrusted with upholding the rule of law, transparency, and public responsibility.

We trust that the competent authorities will treat these concerns with the seriousness they deserve and we look forward to receiving information regarding the actions undertaken in response to these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Massimo Pradella President OIPA ETS

Massimo Pradella

