



World Society for the Protection of Animals

26th November 2007

Brigadier Mustapha Al Zaabi
Ministry of the Interior
Kuwait

Dear Sir

Stray animal control - Kuwait

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) is an international animal welfare organisation, with its headquarters here in London and with 14 other offices worldwide. WSPA has consultative status with the United Nations and the Council of Europe and works in conjunction with the World Health Organisation (WHO) with its humane stray animal control programmes.

WSPA currently works through 854 Member Societies in 150 different countries. One of those organisations is Protecting Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) Kuwait. I have visited Kuwait on a number of occasions holding meetings with PAWS and with the Kuwait Environmental Protection Society (KEPS) and offices of the Kuwait government, namely PAAAFR.

It is of great and growing concern to the international animal welfare community to hear of the recent introduction of the shooting of stray and unwanted dogs in Kuwait. Although WSPA has been aware of the problem concerning stray animals in Kuwait for the past 2 years, it is still alarming to hear of the introduction of such a inhumane and indiscriminate programme. WSPA in conjunction with our local Kuwaiti member society PAWS have attended meetings with PAAAFR and offered free of charge to Kuwait a full training programme through theoretical and practical training workshops and programmes to explain the alternative methods of controlling the stray dog population humanely, safely, and effectively.

However, to date, this training and recommendation has not been taken up by PAAAFR. The shooting and poisoning of companion animals does little to enhance the reputation of Kuwait and does indeed prompt tourists to Kuwait to contact WSPA and other international animal welfare societies to take some action.

I would like to offer the services of WSPA to return to Kuwait to meet with yourself and/or the appropriate decision makers in the Ministry to discuss the humane alternatives to the current programmes. We would also be willing to assist and work with the Municipality to train individuals and departments into the modern safe and humane catching and handling techniques and latest veterinary surgical techniques for spaying/neutering and where necessary euthanasia of stray animals.

I stress that this training would be free of charge and carried out by professionals who have introduced similar programmes throughout other parts of the Gulf region and the Middle East generally.

I believe that this is an opportunity for Kuwait to take a pioneering role in this matter and to effectively show to many prospective tourists and political bodies that the country has the pro-active initiative and ability to undertake what is after all an act of humanity and kindness.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

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