



April 13, 2026

Subject: Urgent Request to Align Draft Law 19-25 with Morocco's 2019 Humane Animal Management Commitment

His Excellency Abdelouafi Laftit
Minister of the Interior, Morocco

Your Excellency,

Representing two organizations actively involved in Morocco's animal welfare strategy, we are writing to express deep concern regarding Morocco's proposed **Draft Law 19-25** and its implications for the humane management of stray dogs and cats.

In 2019, four Moroccan government bodies (the Ministry of the Interior, the National Office of Sanitary Safety of Food Products (ONSSA), the Ministry of Health, and the National Order of Veterinarians) signed a partnership agreement committing to the nationwide implementation of humane Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) programs. This agreement established a clear and structured plan to humanely manage street animal populations while addressing public health concerns such as rabies.

The TNVR framework is a widely recognized public-health strategy: animals are humanely captured, sterilized, vaccinated against rabies, treated for parasites, registered, and returned to their original territories. This approach prevents population growth, maintains vaccinated animal populations, and reduces rabies transmission.

Scientific evidence shows that vaccinating dogs is the most effective way to control rabies, while mass removal of dogs often disrupts herd immunity and can worsen disease transmission. When vaccinated dogs are killed, vaccination coverage drops and new unvaccinated animals move into the area. This creates gaps in immunity that undermine public health goals.

Draft Law 19-25 contradicts many of the commitments outlined in the 2019 agreement and risks undermining both humane animal management and public health progress.

While it introduces some positive elements including criminal penalties for animal cruelty, veterinary oversight of care facilities, and recognition of TNVR as a methodology, Draft Law 19-25 also contains several troubling provisions that would significantly weaken effective humane programs.

First, Articles 5 and 44 would prohibit the feeding, sheltering, or treatment of stray animals in public spaces. This effectively criminalizes the very community caregivers who make TNVR

programs possible. Returned animals depend on community guardians for food and monitoring, and without them sterilized and vaccinated animals may suffer or starve.

Second, the draft law **lacks clear operational standards and oversight mechanisms for animal care facilities**. The 2019 agreement envisioned defined technical standards and accountability measures to ensure humane conditions. Without such safeguards, facilities risk repeating failures already documented in municipal pounds.

Third, the legislation **risks punishing animal welfare organizations, volunteers, and ordinary citizens who provide care to animals in their communities**. These individuals are essential partners in successful TNVR programs and should be supported and not penalized.

Finally, **Article 51** grants broad emergency authority without clearly defining the circumstances under which such powers may be used or establishing oversight.

We respectfully urge you to make the following changes to Draft Law 19-25 before passage:

- Amend Articles 5 and 44 to permit feeding and care of TNVR-managed animals by community guardians
- Add operational standards for care facilities with independent inspection provisions
- Create formal partnerships with animal welfare organizations and community caregivers as active participants in TNVR programs
- Clearly define emergency authority under Article 51 with appropriate oversight
- Commit to fully funding TNVR as a government responsibility

These changes would align the law with Morocco's 2019 commitments, international best practices, and the vision for humane governance that Morocco has already begun to build. Additionally, we recommend the language offered by FIFA and the IAWPC on revisions to draft law 19-25, found [here](#).

Morocco has veterinarians, advocates, and community members ready to support humane animal management. Working with these partners - not restricting them - will strengthen both public health and Morocco's global reputation for compassionate leadership.

Respectfully Yours,



Jennifer Skiff
Director of International Programs
The Center for a Humane Economy



Lori Kalef
Director of Programs
SPCA International

Historical Background of SPCA International and Jennifer Skiff's Work in Morocco

The international animal welfare community has been actively supporting Morocco's humane strategy for several years. SPCA International has funded and partnered with Moroccan animal welfare groups working to implement TNVR programs and improve care for street animals across the country. These partnerships have supported local organizations conducting sterilization, vaccination, rescue, and community education initiatives designed to reduce suffering and stabilize animal populations.

In Agadir, SPCA International partnered with local organizations and municipal authorities to improve shelter conditions and support spay-and-neuter campaigns aimed at reducing the number of animals entering municipal pounds while promoting humane management practices. These efforts were intended to demonstrate that humane solutions are both practical and effective for Moroccan communities.

Jennifer Skiff, Director of International Programs for the Center for a Humane Economy and Animal Wellness Action, has played a key role in advancing these efforts. An award-winning journalist and longtime international animal welfare advocate, Skiff has spent decades working with governments and NGOs to develop humane animal policies around the world.

In 2022, Skiff was invited by the office of Morocco's Prime Minister to provide guidance on a national initiative to address rabies using the TNVR model. Her work included advising on humane capture methods and helping connect Moroccan officials with global experts in animal population management.

This collaboration reflected the spirit of the 2019 partnership agreement: international expertise working alongside Moroccan authorities, veterinarians, and local advocates to build a sustainable and humane animal management system.

The Center for a Humane Economy is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(3) whose mission is to help animals by helping forge a more humane economic order. The first organization of its kind in the animal protection movement, the Center encourages businesses to honor their social responsibilities in a culture where consumers, investors, and other key stakeholders abhor cruelty and the degradation of the environment and embrace innovation as a means of eliminating both. The Center believes helping animals helps us all. <https://centerforahumaneconomy.org>

SPCA International is a global animal welfare organization with a mission that is simple, but vast: to advance the safety and well-being of animals. Through outreach, rescue and education programs, SPCA International spearheads lifesaving initiatives and assists grassroots animal activists worldwide. Visit us at <https://www.spcai.org/>

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