



WORLD ANIMAL DAY

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World Animal Day Ambassadors, representing 62 countries throughout the globe, rebuke the Government of Ukraine in matters of Animal Welfare

4th October 2011

Dear President Yanukovych

On the occasion of World Animal Day (4 October) we, the undersigned, have taken the unprecedented decision to issue this open letter to the Government of Ukraine regarding its appalling record of wicked and wanton abuse of animals.

Since Ukraine gained independence 20 years ago, both national and international animal welfarists have sought to assist and support the country to reduce and end animal cruelty. Despite great attention given to the Ukrainian authorities by animal welfare organisations, including producing the first ever animal protection act to pass into Ukrainian law, the level of cruelty is today even worse than 20 years ago. It is even more widespread and endemic than ever before.

The never-ending barbaric, illegal poisoning and gruesome killing of stray animals by local authorities has caused outrage throughout the world. There is no place in the 21st Century for such brutal treatment of animals and should have been consigned to the history books long ago. As well as being totally ineffective in reducing the stray population, it is a complete waste of taxpayer's money. The fact that Ukraine has allowed it to continue unabated is an affront to all civilised societies.

Conditions for the animals at the national zoo in Kyiv are so bad that all international zoo associations refuse to allow membership to Ukraine. Kyiv Zoo is noted as being one of the very worst zoos in the world.

What makes the situation even more abhorrent is that the authorities are fully aware of modern, humane and effective animal welfare methods and are fully able to fund such activities, yet they choose to ignore and break even the Ukraine national law on animal welfare.

In addition, although Ukraine is a member of the Council of Europe, indeed it currently holds the presidency, it fails to adhere to the convention on stray animal control.

Likewise, as a member of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Ukraine fails again to give attention to the regulations of the OIE on animal welfare policies.

Mr President, as guarantor of Ukraine's constitution and in the interests of Ukrainian citizens, we ask that you take immediate action to address and resolve all issues relating to the cruel treatment of animals in Ukraine in a democratic and legal manner.

Yours sincerely

**Sixty-two (62) World Animal Day Ambassadors,
representing countries throughout the globe**

ASIA	Dr Jill Robinson MBE	Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Animals Asia Foundation
AUSTRALIA	Pam Ahern	Founder & Director, Edgar's Mission Farm Sanctuary
AUSTRIA	Steven Batchelor	President, Verein für gerettete Tiere
BAHAMAS	Stephen Turnquest	Executive Director, Bahamas Humane Society
BANGLADESH	Nurul Islam DVM	Bangladesh Society for the Protection of Animals
BOLIVIA	Liliana Téllez Flor	Founder & President, ADDA Bolivia
BULGARIA	Kristina Slavova	Intimate With Nature Society
CANADA	Sarah West	Founder & President, Canadians for Animal Welfare Reform
CANADA	Ericka Ceballos	Founder & President, Campaigns Against Cruelty To Animals
CAMEROON	Dr Ben Wara	President & CEO, Foundation for Animal Welfare
CHINA	Zhang Dan	Co-Founder, China Animal Protection Media Salon
CHINA	Irene Feng	China Doctor Dog Manager, Animals Asia Foundation
COLOMBIA	Gudrun Olaya	President, Fundación VIVATMA
COLOMBIA	Paulina Pulgarin	National Sub-Director, AnimaNaturalis
CONGO	Paul Lughembe	Project Co-ordinator, Safe Environment for All
COSTA RICA	Patricia Artimana	Founder & President, El Arca de Noe
COSTA RICA	Christine Bork	Director, Pets y mas. Founder & Director, Natz de la India
CROATIA	Marta Šušak	Animal Friends Croatia
CYPRUS	Stella Stylianou	Founder & President, Animal Rescue and Protection Assoc.
EGYPT	Amina Abaza	Founder & President, SPARE
ETHIOPIA	Tekelye Bekele	Society of Animal Welfare (SAW)
FINLAND	Hannele Luukkainen	President, Helsinki Humane Society
FRANCE	Anouk de Winter	Activiste indépédante pour les droits des animaux
GAMBIA	Heather Armstrong	The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust
GEORGIA	Teimuraz Tsikoridze	Chairman, GSPSA
GUATEMALA	Suzanne Rivera	Director, Asociacion de Amigos de los Animales
HONG KONG	Sandy Macalister	Executive Director, SPCA Hong Kong
INDIA	Ashima Sunil	President, PFA Ghaziabad
INDONESIA	Femke den Haas	Jakarta Animal Aid Network
IRAN	Fatemeh Motamedi	Founder, VAFA Animal Shelter
IRELAND	John Carmody	Founder, Animal Rights Action Network
ITALY	Judith Shahverdian	Author and Animal Advocate
IVORY COAST	Yao K S Novalis	Founder and President, Monde Animal en Passion
JORDAN	Dr Mustafa Ghazi	Director, SPANA Jordan
KAZAKHSTAN	Saule Rubinchik	President, Kazakhstan Animal Rescue & Education
KENYA	Marlen Enz	Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals
KOREA	Gina Moon	Founder, Moonbears.org
KURDISTAN	Dr Sulaiman Tamer	President & Founder, Kurdistan Org. of Animal Rights Prot.
LEBANON	Lana El-Khalil	President, Animals Lebanon
MALAYSIA	Shameem Siah Li Ming	The Bark-ery, Humane Education Co-ordinator
MAURITIUS	Meera Appadoo	Public Relations, Protection of Animals Welfare Society
MEXICO	Araceli Ferris	Asociacion Mexican por los Derechos do los Animales
MOROCCO	Nibani Houssine	Nibani Houssine, Président AGIR
NEPAL	Khageshwaar Sharma	Director, Himalayan Animal Rescue Trust
NEW ZEALAND	Fiona Maddison	Animal Advocate and Campaigner
NIGERIA	Steve Omoarukhe	Director, Ruvela Nigeria
PAKISTAN	Dr Waseem Shaukat	University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences Lahore
PANAMA	Patricia Chan	Founder & Director, Fundacion Spay Panama
PERU	Fernando Moreno	Campaigns Manager, Grupo Caridad
PHILIPPINES	Anna Hashim-Cabrera	Executive Director, The Philippine Animal Welfare Society
ROMANIA	Carmen Milobenzchi	Co-Founder, The Nature – A heritage for the Future Assoc.
SERBIA	Ivan Kurajov	Society for the Protection of Animals
SOUTH AFRICA	Joanne Lefson	World Woof Tour – Homeless Dog Awareness Campaign
SRI LANKA	Otara Gunawardene	Chief Executive Officer, ODEL & Embark
SUDAN	Mustafa Bakrawi	Founder & Chair, Sudanese Animal Care & Env. Prot. Org.
SYRIA	Dr Darem Tabbaa	Director, SPANA Syria
TANZANIA	Ali Abdalla Juma	Executive Director, Zanzibar SPCA
TAIWAN	Connie Chiang	Co-Founder & Executive Director, Taiwan SPCA
TAIWAN	Emily Chow	Help-Save-a-Pet Fund
TAIWAN	Lily Wang	Help-Save-A-Pet Fund
TURKEY	Ahmet Şenpolat	Attorney at Law, President, HAYTAP Animal Rights Fed.
UNITED KINGDOM	Ryan O'Meara	Founder, Pet Owners Parliament & K9 Mag. Ed. in Chief

A celebration of animals and their contribution to our lives

World Animal Day website created by Naturewatch. All queries relating to www.worldanimalday.org.uk should be directed to:

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