



State of the Animals in Israel Report

2020-2021



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Foreword

Who knows what the real situation of animals in Israel is?

One of the goals of “Let the Animals Live” since its inception in 1986 was to raise public awareness to the importance of animal rights and prevention of their abuse.

In decades of activity on behalf of animals, in the field and versus the authorities, we have come to know that there is ambiguity and disinformation regarding their situation. In fact, there is currently no official document that gathers verified data on the attitude of Israeli society towards animals, not on law enforcement, nor on concern for the welfare and protection of the lives of animals.

Therefore, the report you hold in your hand is the first of its kind. Through intensive and lengthy work versus the authorities, the organization's legal department has compiled data that present a comprehensive picture of the situation of animals in Israel.

In recent years, we have collected data from hundreds of local authorities, government ministries, corporations, and public bodies through Freedom of Information requests, queries, and legal proceedings. We analyzed and gathered them into a document that brings together all the information we currently have on the subject.

Our goal is to make the knowledge we have collected accessible to the public and bring it to public awareness.

Unfortunately, the report's conclusions are not encouraging, to say the least. The situation is bleak in almost every area: the enforcement of animal protection laws, chief among them the Animal Protection Law, is almost non-existent; The numbers of wildlife and dogs shot by or under the auspices of the authorities are skyrocketing; The utilization of the designated budgets for animals is done partially and without any real plan; Darkness and mystery surround the entire field of animal testing in Israel. In general, proceedings are carried out in the dark, without transparency and public participation, by bodies that are in a conflict of interest with respect to the protection of animals, such as the Ministry of Agriculture.

It's time for us to start looking reality and animals in the eye and measure our attitude towards them as a society. We hope that the revolutionary report will create a reliable and accurate source of information, for the benefit of decision makers in Israel and all those who care about animals, in order to bring about the revolution so necessary for animals.



Mahatma Gandhi said: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress are measured not only by its attitude towards human beings, but also by the way it treats the animals within it".

yours and theirs,

Etty Altman, Founder of "Let the Animals Live"

Yael Arkin, CEO "Let the Animals Live"



Introduction

The preoccupation of the state of Israel and its authorities, as well as of the local authorities, with animals, is a daily and varied occupation: from monitoring the conditions of possession to approving experiments and live shootings of animals, from stray dogs to animals in industrialized agricultural farms.

“Let the Animals Live” follows and operates in all areas relating to the protection of animals, their well-being, their lives and their health. As part of this ongoing work, the organization receives a lot of information regarding the ongoing care and supervision of animals – dogs and cats, wildlife, and animals in laboratories, animal stores and farms. Part of the information comes to us in the framework of ongoing public and legal activity, and part in the framework of freedom of information requests that we submit to the various authorities, and legal proceedings in relation to them.

We submit hundreds of Freedom of Information requests every year to hundreds of different authorities. Many requests are submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, which is responsible for enforcing the Animal Welfare Law and its regulations, as well as on the treatment of animal diseases, the execution of the Rabies Ordinance, and the Law for Regulating the Supervision of Dogs. Other applications relating to wildlife are submitted to the Israel Nature and Parks Authority (applications have also been submitted to the Ministry of Public Security regarding the granting of licenses for the possession of firearms for harming animals). Applications relating to animal testing are submitted to the Ministry of Health, which is responsible for the field of animal testing, and within which the Council for Animal Experimentation operates. Applications relating to the authority kennels are submitted to both the Ministry of Agriculture and the local authorities themselves. Applications relating to the defence system's treatment of animals – in experiments or as part of their use in the military – are submitted to the Ministry of Defense and the IDF. Requests have also been submitted to the Milk Council and the Chicken Coop Council – with regard to advertising activities to promote the consumption of dairy products and products from the chicken coop industry, which also exposed advertising to children illegally.

In many cases, the authorities refuse to provide the information, or simply do not respond to our inquiries. In these cases, we submit complaints to the Government Freedom of Information Unit and petitions to the courts demanding that the information be obtained.

This report includes a comprehensive overview of the most up-to-date information we have regarding the condition of the animals vis-à-vis the Israeli authorities – information



from proceedings, publications and freedom of information requests. The information does not exist in an orderly manner in most authorities, and its analysis requires arranging and cross-referencing data from different authorities, and often from the same authority itself. In fact, the information we possess and its analysis paint the most comprehensive picture that exists in relation to issues related to the attitude of the authorities to animals in Israel.

We hope that this report will be able to provide background for those interested in the main issues relating to the authorities' treatment of animals in Israel, and would like to thank those who led the writing of the report and were involved in the collection and analysis work:

Adv. Erez Wall and Adv. Tamar Mayo, Legal Department, "Let the Animals Live"

Mr. Ran Vinner, gathering information from international bodies and a global review

The organization's employees, volunteers and supporters who allow us every day to do what is necessary for the sake of animals in Israel.



At the outset: The National Animal Protection Program

The national program that we are promoting for the protection of animals is an initiative that will enable cooperation between all government ministries, in order to regulate, ensure and protect the status of animals in Israel and to create, in practice, a fundamental change in the field, especially in non-urban areas where the condition of the animals is bad.

Each of the government ministries has its own unique angle when the entirety produces an effect that significantly affects the entire chain relevant to animals and their protection: their physical condition, the ability of associations and third sector organizations to assist mainly animals in distress (thereby reducing the number of animals in distress on a daily basis), creating vacancies in municipal kennels and closures and consequently reducing euthanasia, leading a national process of sterilization and neutering dogs and community cats in order to significantly reduce their numbers in the long term and reduce urban costs, increased enforcement of animal protection laws that will also lead to an increase in state and local authorities revenues and a significant reduction in national expenditure on this issue, and more.

Every year, the State of Israel invests huge sums in dealing with the damages and consequences of the lack of an orderly policy on animals. The bulk of the budget comes from the Ministry of Agriculture, which is responsible for the Animal Welfare Law, but at the same time, other government ministries, national bodies and local authorities are also required to spend millions of shekels that could have been saved if they would have planned the activity in a way that focused the financial investment on moves that would contribute and benefit the animals and humans from a long-term perspective.

We believe that such cooperation presented in this program, certainly when each of the government ministries is required for small and pointed actions, **can serve as an international example and exemplar for dealing with animal issues, and to make a huge difference for the better in the lives of hundreds of thousands of animals in daily distress.** Thus, for example, we initiated in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Security a mutual rehabilitation project in Hermon prison – the first project of its kind in Israel that connects abandoned dogs with prisoners in Hermon prison. The dogs undergo a full training process by the prisoners under the guidance of a professional trainer in order to assist in their physical and emotional rehabilitation, and the prisoners learn the training profession, acquire occupational habits and receive a place to express emotions and experiences. This is a very significant experience for them that benefits the process



of prisoner's rehabilitation. After the training process, the dogs are offered up for adoption and moved on to their new family.

The national program seeks to promote a variety of initiatives in cooperation with various government ministries, such as promoting plant nutrition in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, an educational program that promotes compassion for animals in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, training for judges on animal rights in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, and many other initiatives. **The program is based on a holistic view of the place of animals in the world – as an integral part of society and the environment.** The interests of the various animals should be perceived as necessary in examining the policy on every relevant topic – from nutrition to planning and construction, from scientific research to the climate crisis.



Part 1 - General

Utilizing the Ministry of Agriculture's budget to promote the protection of animals

In the years since the animal welfare law was enacted in 1994, the Ministry of Agriculture has avoided a real budgeting for the field of animal welfare. Thus, for example, in 2014 the Ministry reported the Knesset about an annual expenditure of NIS 1.6 million in the field of animal cruelty. According to the report, almost the entire amount (NIS 1.5 million) was allocated for the extraction and treatment of horses and donkeys. NIS 50,000 was allocated for the rescue and rehabilitation of dogs and NIS 50,000 for the rescue of dangerous dogs. Other issues have not been budgeted.

In comparison, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has allocated about NIS 6 million annually to the issue in recent years, out of the ministry's budget.

As a result, as part of Government Resolution 833, NIS 6.6 million was allocated to increase the Ministry of Agriculture's activities in the field of animal welfare, but this budget is partially utilized:

In a document submitted to the government, the Ministry of Agriculture claims that "funds have been allocated for the following purposes: supporting the establishment of authority kennels, animal rescue, establishment of a facility in veterinary services for the rescue of small farm animals, advertising and advocacy, training courses".

This information is inconsistent with data obtained by "Let the Animals Live" from the Ministry of Agriculture following a Freedom of Information Act request. Following this request, "Let the Animals Live" received an Excel table detailing how the ministry used the budget according to the government's decision in the years 2016 and 2017. The Ministry of Agriculture said that some of the 2016 budgets were implemented late (i.e. postponed to 2017). However, the amount spent, according to the table, in the two years combined, reaches NIS 13.29 million – approximately twice the annual amount of NIS 6.6 million as required by the government's decision.

However, a review of the table indicates that this is a concentration of expenditures from various sections, which were concentrated in the table until the Ministry of Agriculture was able to reach the amount determined by the government's decision. Excluding expenses related to other budgetary sections, it turns out that the **actual** expenditure on the issue



of animal welfare **was only NIS 1.43 million per year** – less than the annual expenditure announced by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2014. The only issue that was reinforced within the budget decided by the government is the budget for the establishment of new kennels – in this area almost NIS 5 million was invested within two years. "Setting up and renovating kennels" is just one of eight issues presented in the government's decision in an open list of issues on which the additional budget can be spent. Of these issues, the establishment and renovation of kennels is an unusual issue, since the kennels serve purposes that are not only related to animal welfare: promoting public health and preventing nuisances, and act in accordance with other laws on which the Ministry of Agriculture and local authorities are entrusted (the Rabies Ordinance and the Law for Regulating Dog Supervision). **The ministry, therefore, chose to allocate the bulk of the budget intended for the protection of animals, to promote other issues under its responsibility.**

A review of how the budget is allocated under Resolution 833 in 2018-2019 shows that the main expenditure is on funding the maintenance of animals in "protected facilities" – places set out in the Law for the maintenance of animals caught due to suspected animal cruelty offenses. Although the law allows the collection of maintenance costs in these facilities from the owners from whom the animals were caught, **the same owners who held the animals in conditions of neglect and abuse** – according to the Ministry of Agriculture itself, such collection is rarely made, and this policy was recently re-examined only following our application. Moreover, as a policy the collection is not carried out precisely in cases where the animals **are not** returned to the owners. The "Let the Animals Live" request on this issue demanding that the holding budgets will be collected from the offenders and not from the budget intended to serve the animals was only recently answered, after four months, and it was informed by the Department of Animal Welfare at the Ministry of Agriculture that the policy of non-collection had been changed. The Department also sought to clarify that the lack of collection in the past was not a "policy", but rather a situation on the ground that resulted from "technical difficulties and problems." It is not yet possible to know the results of this announcement by the Department actually in the field.

In 2020, less than **1%** of the budget was allocated for actions of promoting supervision and enforcement.

At the same time, the Department of Animal Welfare initiated two different actions intended to utilize the budget in a way that does not advance the original purpose of the budget, preventing animal cruelty. Both actions were halted following public criticism and



inquiries by “Let the Animals Live” association and “Animals” association on the subject. In one case, the Department sought to fund a study examining the holding of roosters in the meat industry in cages (as opposed to holding in cage-free coops, as is customary in the meat industry today), by the budget intended to promote the field of animal welfare according to Resolution 833. Finally, after heavy public criticism, the first part of the study was funded from another budgetary source, after which the second part was cancelled altogether. In another case, a call was issued that proposed funding costs for chemical castration of piglets in the meat industry, using the budget given under Resolution 833. As will be explained below, this is a procedure that its cost to the breeders is extremely low, and it is even more profitable than surgical neutering without anesthesia. That is, instead of outlawing the brutal practice of surgical castration, the ministry sought to fund the pork industry under the budget of 833. This step was also halted after public criticism.

Recently, and only after submitting a complaint to the Government's Freedom of Information Unit, another response was received in relation to the exploitation of this budget. To the trend of spending large sums to fund the possession of confiscated animals in protected facilities (without collecting expenses from the neglecters and abusers from which the animals were confiscated) – to which approximately NIS 4 million was allocated, research sections were added in the amount of NIS 2 million. It is not clear what studies are carried out here, but given the experiments in which the Animal Welfare Division supported in the past (such as examining the holding of chickens in the meat industry in caged coops) it can be assumed that at least part of the budget intended for the protection of animals is used for studies intended to promote the animal food industry. At the same time, we recently learned that the Animal Welfare Department intends to stop allocating budgets for the medical treatment of abandoned animals in the veterinary hospital. It should be noted that the public appeal called for support for studies to promote animal welfare, as well as to promote substitutes for animal food.



Supervision and enforcement under the Animal Welfare Law

The supervision and enforcement of the Animal Welfare Law (Animal Protection) 1994, has been found, since its enactment, under structured difficulty: the powers under the Animal Welfare Law were granted to the Ministry of Agriculture, which suffers from a built-in conflict of interest regarding law enforcement in agricultural farms. Indeed, almost every promotion of the issue of animal protection in the past has been carried out following legal proceedings, and **contrary** to the ministry's initial position. This is the case with regard to the fattening of geese, which was prohibited contrary to the ministry's position, and this is the case regarding the installation of various animal welfare regulations, such as the animal transport regulations and the pig holding regulations, which were installed following public struggles and legal proceedings in the High Court.

Government Resolution 833 of December 2015 established a number of measures that law enforcement agencies, especially the Ministry of Agriculture, must take to promote the welfare of animals in Israel. Among them are the formulation of various animal welfare regulations, the uniqueness of inspectors and animal welfare prosecutors, and more. A minority of these actions were actually taken, and the enforcement failures were broadly discussed in different frameworks and reports.

Information obtained by "Let the Animals Live" also points to serious failures in law enforcement and supervision. In relation to specific issues - such as the supervision of agricultural farms and animal corners - we will address extensively later.

In relation to the general enforcement actions: Apart from the minority of proactive inspections, the ministry's reports indicate significant under-enforcement. The main tool in the ministry's hands to deter offenders is the imposition of administrative fines - fines that can be issued immediately in relation to a long list of violations of the regulations. For example, in relation to keeping animals in overcrowded, without hiding places, without clean water and food, or while preventing medical treatment as required. Accordingly, the law lists **hundreds of administrative offenses** under the Animal Welfare Act and its regulations. However, every year **only a few dozen fines are imposed**, and the vast majority of them are not charged at all.

The following are the enforcement data of the Animal Welfare Law received by "Let the Animals Live" association from the Ministry of Agriculture as part of Freedom of Information requests:



שנה	מספר תלונות שנקלטו במוקד הפיצו"ח	מס' תיקים שהתקבלו במחלקת התביעות	מס' תיקים שנסגרו	מס' כתבי אישום	מס' קנסות מינהליים	סכום הקנסות המינהליים	גובה קנס ממוצע
2018	781	82	9	7	85	374,600	4,407
2019	530	103	23	9	85	342,000	4,024
2020	338 (עד יוני)	לא נמסר			117	לא נמסר	

In practice, complaints referred to the Ministry of Agriculture call center receive at most partial treatment. Many animal welfare applications are not handled at all, or directed at the veterinarians working in the local authorities, most of whom have no powers under the Animal Welfare Law, and none of them have the authority to impose an administrative fine. Conclusions from inspections conducted in various facilities – agricultural farms, animal corners, etc. – are also not transferred for further investigation, or for the imposition of an administrative fine. Administrative fines are imposed only after a full investigation is conducted, and after receiving the recommendation of the Ministry's Prosecution Department, contrary to the Attorney General's guidelines that in obvious and simple offenses the fine should be given on the spot, similar to fines on other matters.

Accordingly, in 2020, **only 117 administrative fines** were imposed under the Animal Welfare Law. A Freedom of Information petition filed by "Let the Animals Live" on the subject revealed that there is no record of the types of offenses for which the fines are issued, and only following the petition was the Ministry of Agriculture obligated to provide the segmentation of the fines according to the offense clauses. Five months after the verdict was handed down, and only after another "Let the Animals Live" appeal to the court, the segmentation of the fines in relation to 2020 was obtained (in relation to 2021 was "Let the Animals Live" forced to submit another petition awaiting clarification). The segmentation of the few fines indicates that they are mainly given for non-agricultural possession, and due to violations of animal welfare regulations for the transportation of animals, probably due to a petition submitted to the High Court by "Let the Animals Live" in relation to the documentation of the transportation of animals, in which updates were provided by the Ministry of Agriculture on enforcement actions carried out on the subject.

The data also revealed that not a single fine was given in relation to the holding of pigs in 2020, despite numerous violations observed in the farms, including in inspections conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture. Also, in relation to the possession of fish not a single fine was imposed (in relation to non-agricultural possession, no fines were imposed, and in relation to agricultural possession, animal welfare regulations regarding the conditions of the fish's possession have not yet been established). And also in relation



to the conditions of the transportation of poultry, individual fines were imposed – between 6 and 8 fines in all of 2020, when it comes to transporting hundreds of millions of birds each year.

Beyond that, even when the fine is already imposed, the actual collection figures for the fines are extremely low. Fines under the Animal Welfare Act are intended for the Fund for the Protection of Animals in the Ministry of Environmental Protection, but only a small minority of them reach it.



Part 2 - Domestic Animals

Supervision of the conditions of holding in the authority kennels

Every year, “Let the Animals Live” submits a Freedom of Information request relating to the Ministry of Agriculture's supervision of the authority kennels – the dog enclosures of local authorities, intended for stray dogs that have been caught and dogs in rabies quarantine. By law, any local authority must operate such an authority kennel or enter into an agreement with an external authority kennel that will provide it with quarantine services.

The information obtained on the subject from the Ministry of Agriculture turns out to be outdated and inaccurate in many cases. In the data received by “Let the Animals Live” many authorities do not appear at all, and in relation to others, the information regarding the kennel that serves them was inaccurate (as far as we know from the field).

Due to these discrepancies, “Let the Animals Live” appealed to all local authorities in the country for up-to-date information.

The answers received from local authorities indicate that apart from the out-of-date data in the Ministry of Agriculture, there are a number of authorities in whose field there is no authority kennel, and do not enter into an agreement with an external kennel: Shfar'am, Kfar Manda, Immanuel, Rahat, Sha'ab, Kseifa, Hof HaCarmel, Kiryat Malachi. This stands against the law, and particularly serious in the case of Rahat, where extensive shootings of stray dogs are carried out, which is supposed to be used (according to the Ministry of Agriculture procedure) as a last resort only (see data in the next chapter). **This means that the dogs and cats that roam the territory of those local authorities - are left untreated.**

The response also included data on the scope of employment of authority veterinarians in the various authorities. In many municipalities, veterinarians work on extremely limited levels of employment, raising doubts about their ability to perform their duties, which includes, among other things, a daily visit to the authority lair for monitoring and supervision. In 53 local authorities (out of about 200), the authority veterinarian works at a capacity of 33% or less.



There are currently 40 authority kennels in Israel (operated by the local authority) and 12 private kennels (operated by private entities) that serve as authority kennels. The kennels inspection reports carried out by Ministry of Agriculture officials in 2020-2021, present a problematic picture. **In 50% of the authority kennels – 20 out of 40 – deficiencies were found in the inspection**, including: poor cleanliness, lack of heating in winter and cooling in summer, veterinarians who rarely come to the kennel, lack of a medicine cabinet or refrigerator for carcasses, and more. The lack of supervision and enforcement is reflected in kennels where the condition of the dogs is dire. Even applications to the Veterinary Services Administration at the Ministry of Agriculture regarding kennels in which conditions are continuously poor (lack of a yard for physical activity, lack of a treatment room, lack of heating facilities, lack of full-time dog handler, etc.), did not help. **In some kennels you can see deficiencies that have been repeated time and time again, and yet - continue to act undisturbed.**

In relation to the private kennels, "Let the Animals Live" filed a petition to the High Court so that they would not continue to serve as authority lairs, in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture's commitment back in 2016. Although the Supreme Court rejected the petition, it noted its importance for regulating and supervising the field, including the manner in which the dogs were euthanized (by decision of an authority veterinarian only). In practice, many kennels do not follow this directive, and kill dogs without the decisions of the authority veterinarian and without proper follow-up. "Let the Animals Live" works to end this serious practice, which as aforesaid contravenes the High Court ruling and implements a policy of euthanasia without exercising discretion and examining alternatives by the local authority.

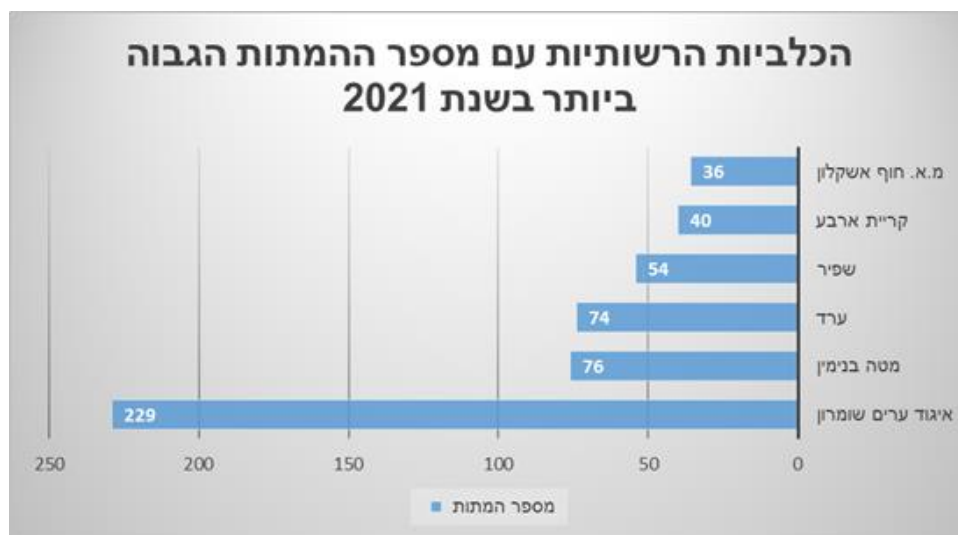
The summation of things – when it comes to the Ministry of Agriculture enforcement of the provisions of the Animal Welfare Law and the regulations in the kennels and the authority lairs, it is evident that this is a very partial enforcement. The inspections of kennels are carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture too rarely (only twice a year at most), repeated deficiencies are not treated and some of them do not appear at all in the inspection reports (although we have documentation of them). The scope of employment of authority veterinarians indicates a lack of professional supervision in kennels, and in the field of animals in local authorities in general.

Euthanasia of dogs in the authority kennels

As part of the applications submitted to the local authorities, information regarding all decisions for the euthanasia of dogs in the authority's kennels was also requested, and the reasons for these euthanasia (medical reasons, "lack of suitability for adoption", etc.),



after a “Let the Animals Live” petition to the High Court of Justice made it clear that the decisions of the euthanasia should be made in a reasoned manner by the authority veterinarian only. According to the response received, the local authorities that killed the largest number of dogs in 2021 are: the Samaria Cities Association, which includes 12 local authorities (229 killings), Mateh Binyamin Regional Council (76 killings), Arad (74 killings), Shafir Regional Council (which uses the services of the Be'er Tuvia kennels, 54 killings), Kiryat Arba Local Council (40 killings), and Hof Ashkelon Regional Council (36 killings). Such figures were obtained only by local authorities who responded to the Freedom of Information request, and therefore this is not exhaustive data. Thus, for example, no fewer than 50 dogs were killed in the Gush Etzion local authority in 2020, but in 2021 they did not deliver the mortality figure.



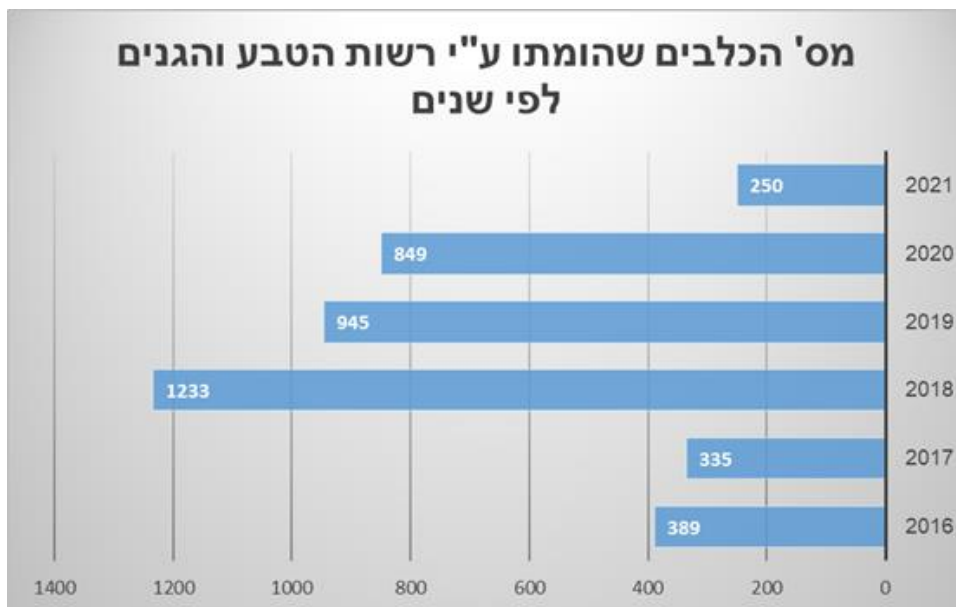
Many dogs are put to death in authority kennels as a first solution. In order to try to present a solution to the difficult problem, “Let the Animals Live” promotes a number of initiatives. Among them are the establishment of additional authority kennels, registration of a project of sterilizing stray dogs and returning them to the field, promoting bills to prevent the pairing and sale of dogs, and more.



Live shooting of stray dogs

Shooting by the Nature and Parks Authority

The Nature and Parks Authority is authorized by virtue of the Rabies Ordinance to shoot stray dogs "suspected of being carriers of rabies." In 2018, an appendix to the procedure was published that expanded the authority of the inspectors to fire "in all open areas in Israel and at the Nevatim base," instead of shooting only in nature reserves and their environs. Accordingly, the number of dogs shot by Nature and Parks Authority inspectors increased by hundreds of percent. Following a request by "Let the Animals Live" to the then Minister of Environmental Protection, the appendix was cancelled on 22.11.2021, and since then the shooting has been carried out only in the nature reserves and national parks and their environs. This is probably the reason for the significant decline in the number of dogs shot in 2021.

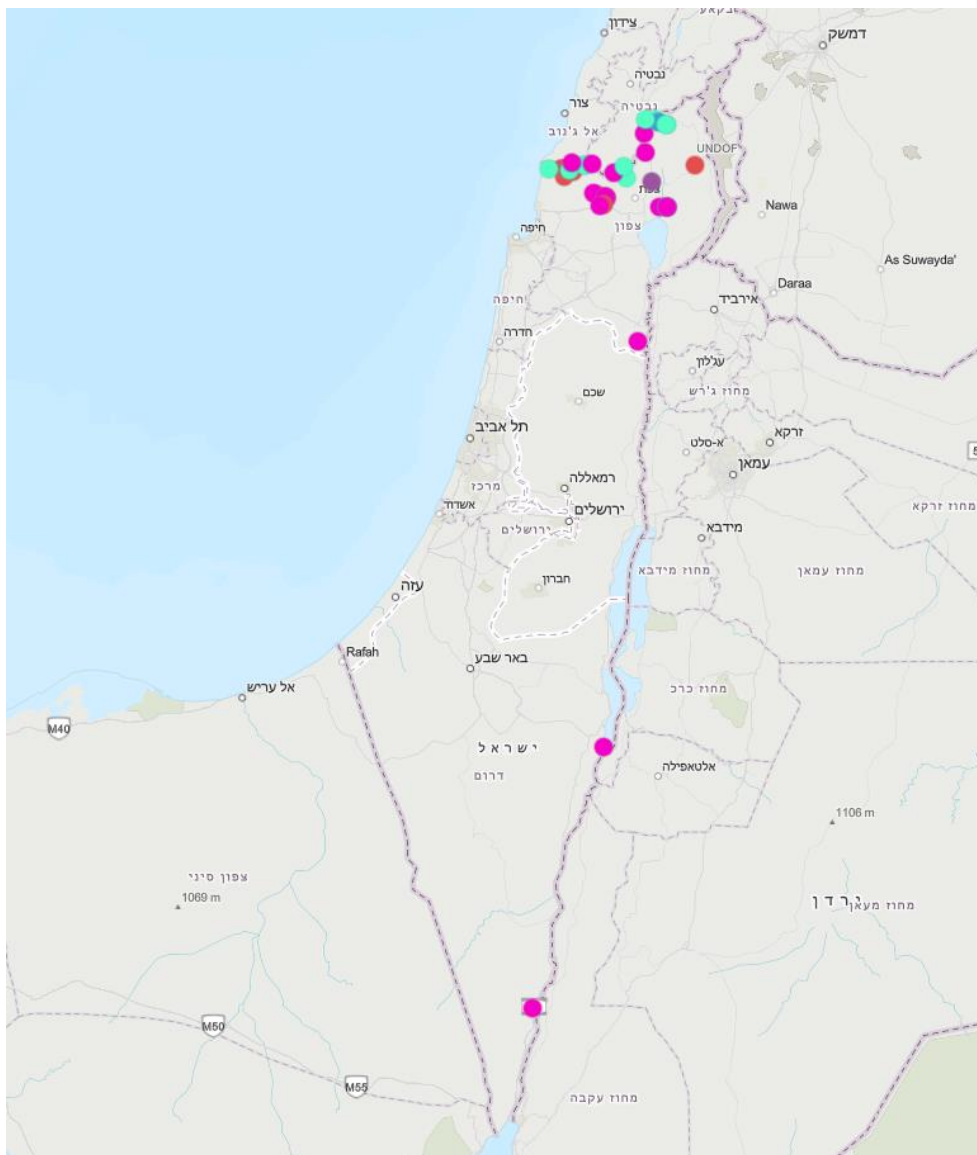


Although the stated purpose of the shooting is to prevent the rabies outbreak, the Shooting Data of the Israel Nature and Parks Authority from 2020-2021 paints a completely different picture. Thus, while rabies cases are almost entirely concentrated in the border area in the north of the country and the eastern border, **the Authority's shooting data indicate shootings throughout the country, regardless of the**



epidemiological map of rabies cases, or the risk areas established by the Ministry of Agriculture. Thus, for example, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority reports on shootings in the Ella Valley National Parks, Nitzanim Sands, Tel Arad, Be'eri Crater and more.

Map of rabies cases in Israel in 2021 according to the Ministry of Agriculture website



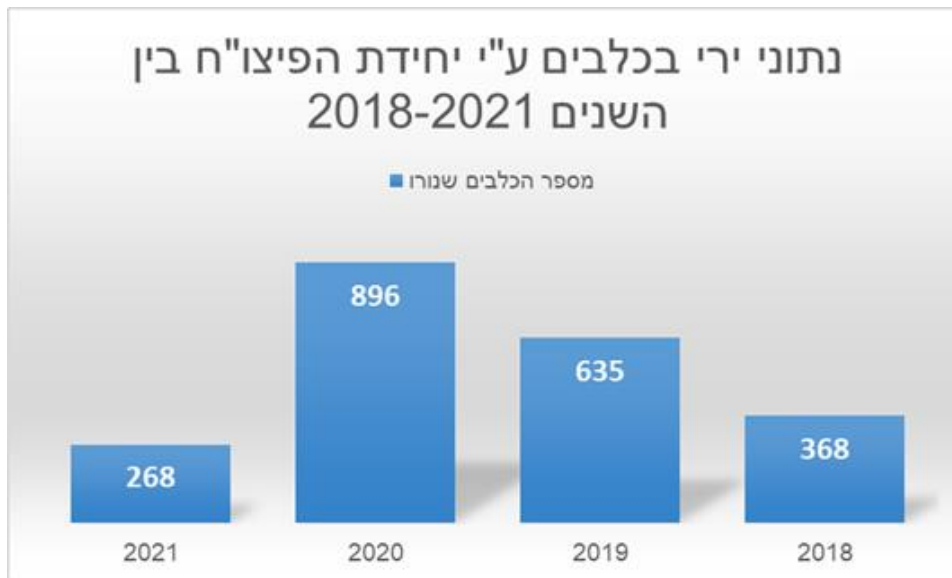


In addition, the data provided to the "Let the Animals Live" association show that **the Nature and Parks Authority did not collect the vast majority of the corpses of dogs that were shot during these years, despite the professional consensus that sanitation and collection of corpses are acute to prevent the transmission of diseases.** Leaving corpses in the field ensures the arrival of other animals in the area (especially stray dogs), and increases the chances of transmitting various diseases, including rabies. In 2021, 250 dogs were shot by the Authority's inspectors, a significant decrease compared to 2020, when a total of 758 dogs were shot by the Authority's inspectors, apparently due to the cancellation of the appendix. Contrary to the claims of professionals in the Ministry of Agriculture, the data show that in 2021, only 44 cases of rabies were recorded in Israel, compared to 46 cases in 2020. In other words, the Ministry of Agriculture's forecasts of a significant increase in the number of rabies cases due to the reduction in the shooting of dogs have not been realized.

The Nature and Parks Authority's shooting procedure, unlike other procedures, **does not require demonstration of any attempt to use alternative means** such as attempts to capture the dogs, and the Authority's inspectors are not trained or qualified to do so. The Nature and Parks Authority has confirmed to us that no such attempts are made by the Authority's inspectors before the dogs are shot.

Shooting by inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture's Supervision Unit

According to the data, in 2020, **896** dogs were shot by the Unit's inspectors, with the vast majority of these shootings carried out in the Negev region, where no rabies cases were recorded at all in 2020. In 2021, 268 dogs were shot by the Supervision unit, with most of the shootings carried out in the Rahat area. As noted in the chapter on dogs, the shooting of dogs in Rahat is carried out in the absence of alternatives, since Rahat does not operate a kennel and does not enter into agreement with another kennel. The quantities of dogs roaming this area and the lack of a response to the problem are due to longstanding neglect of the state.



Shooting poison arrows at stray dogs

In 2018, after sustained pressure from “Let the Animals Live”, the Director of Veterinary Services announced the cessation of the use of strychnine nerve poison baits on stray dogs, a poison that causes death in severe agony.

Currently the only use allowed in poison on dogs is in the arrows of the sukcinylcholine poison.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture's poison use procedure, veterinarians are required to obtain approval from the Veterinary Services Administration for its use, after demonstrating the exhaustion of capture attempts. They must also report to the Ministry of Agriculture every month about the use of the poison and its aftermath. In 2021, permits for the use of poison on dogs were granted to 14 authorities. “Let the Animals Live” requested from the Ministry of Agriculture the reports of the use of poison arrows on dogs, and learned that in practice there are no monthly reports of the use of the poison, and no proper monitoring by the Veterinary Services was carried out after its use. From 2017 to 2021, out of all the authorities that used the poison while killing thousands of dogs, or who received a permit and did not use it, **the Ministry of Agriculture had almost no information on monthly reports regarding the use of the poison, despite the requirement for such reporting in the ministry's own procedure.**



In 2021, permits for the use of poison on dogs were granted to 21 authorities. In Jerusalem, **419 dogs** were shot in succinylcholine arrows in 2021, and **665 dogs** in 2020. In Rahat, **217 dogs** were shot with poison arrows during 2021. As you may recall, in Rahat there is no solution of an authority kennel for dogs.



As part of the attempt to deal with the problem of stray dogs without killing them, “Let the Animals Live” is promoting a bill based on **an initiative to sterilize stray dogs and return them to their living areas**. The project is based on several studies from around the world that prove the ineffectiveness of shooting stray dogs, which in practice does not reduce the number of stray dogs in the area over time. In contrast, **other studies show that extensive sterilization of the dog population in a particular area leads to a reduction in the population over time**. A bill on the subject is currently in the legislative process in the Knesset.



Utilizing the budget to reduce the reproduction of stray dogs

In a field study conducted by "Let the Animals Live" in 2017 in collaboration with the "Human Society International" organization, 32,820 stray dogs were documented in Israel, with 60% of these dogs found in the southern region.

<u>מחוז</u>	<u>קטנים</u>	<u>בינונים</u>	<u>גדולים</u>	<u>ענקים</u>	<u>סה"כ</u>
צפון	900	2,140	3,800	200	7,040
מרכז	130	480	490	820	1,920
חיפה	250	560	1,110	1,300	3,020
ירושלים	50	430	140	140	760
תל אביב	0	0	40	180	220
דרום	3,830	2,830	11,850	1,350	19,860
סה"כ	5,160	6,240	17,430	3,990	32,820

Recognizing the seriousness of the phenomenon of stray dogs in Israel, in 2017 an amendment to the Law for Regulating Dog Supervision was enacted, which allocates NIS 4.5 million annually to reduce the reproduction of these dogs. At first, the Ministry of Agriculture refrained from allocating the budget at all, and following a "Let the Animals Live" petition to the High Court of Justice found various uses for it. Many of these uses do not relate to reducing the **reproduction** of stray dogs – for example: the Ministry of Agriculture has allocated a large part of the budget to promote adoption days (which exist in abundance as a matter of routine), and to encourage the delivery of dogs from authority kennels after their sterilization and vaccination (as required by law anyway).

Although the amendment of the law is intended to provide means of **resolving the root cause of the problem** of the reproduction of stray dogs in Israel (when there are no sufficient means to provide adoptive homes for all of them), the Ministry of Agriculture

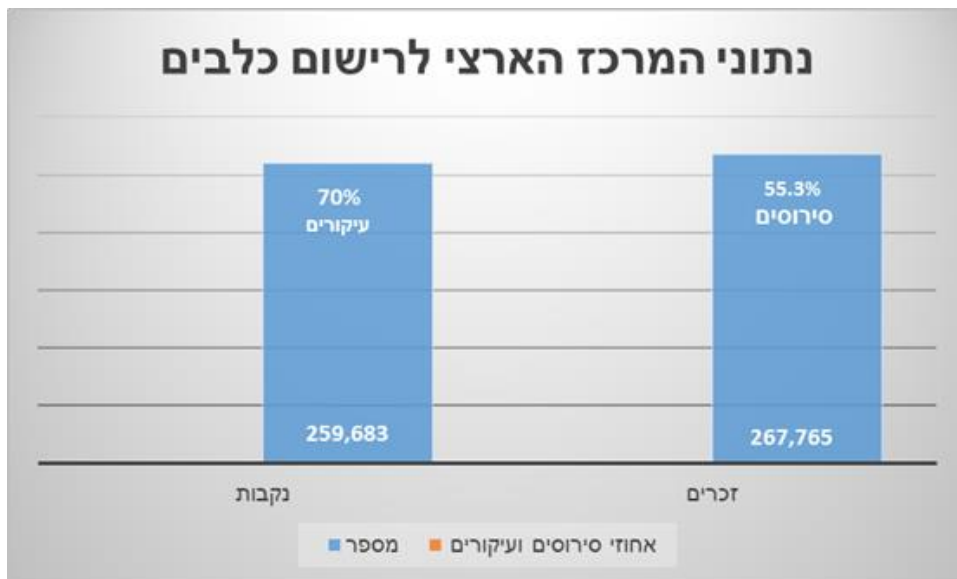


focuses precisely on the means it has chosen, while not promoting and even blocking measures that will promote the **required root solution**.

At the same time as the efforts of the "Let the Animals Live" organization to promote the spaying and neutering of stray dogs, it is agreed on all professionals that it is also necessary to limit the breeding of dogs defined as **owned dogs**. Nevertheless, bills initiated and promoted by the association on the subject: bills for prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats, and for taking additional measures to reduce their breeding (such as mandatory dog sterilization or a tax on litter), did not receive the support of the Veterinary Services in the Ministry of Agriculture.

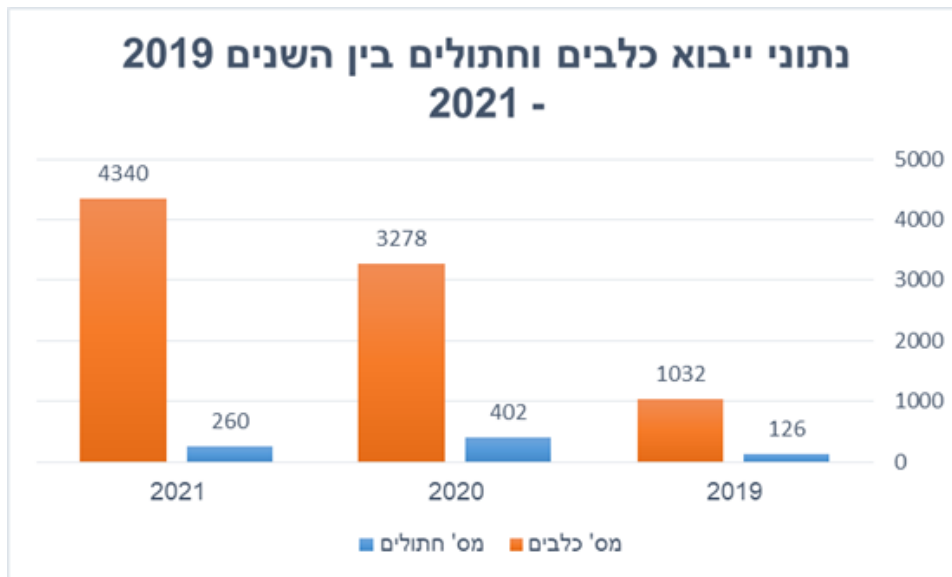
Importing dogs and cats

According to data from the National Center for Dog Registration in the Ministry of Agriculture, there are currently approximately 267,765 male dogs registered in Israel and 259,683 females. 70.0% of females are spayed and 55.3% of males are neutered.



Alongside the numerous shootings of dogs with live fire or poison arrows, which are intended to be an "end solution" to the great reproduction of dogs in Israel, and the

leakage of dogs from homes and communities into the wild, thousands of dogs and cats are imported into Israel every year. In this framework, we refer to "thoroughbred" dogs and cats sold for thousands of shekels, and their import is constantly on the rise: in 2021 there was an increase in the import to 4,340 dogs, while in 2019 only 1032 were imported.



While the authority kennels and shelters throughout the country are packed to the brim, and thousands of stray dogs are shot every year as the first outlet for the problem of over-reproduction of Israel's dog population, **the Veterinary Services at the Ministry of Agriculture enable the continued existence of the dog trafficking industry.**

As mentioned above, these are "thoroughbred" dogs and cats that are sold for thousands of shekels, and their import also raises problems when it comes to breeding pets as a whole. Most of the dogs and cats imported into Israel were created in a breeding process focused on creating special and popular breeds, and achieving the "perfect look". In recent years, the breeding industry has brought about the development of extreme phenotypic traits that harm the well-being and health of dogs and cats. In view of the development of these extreme characteristics, many states have begun to establish certain limitations on breeding pets, in a way that will maintain the appearance requirements but also ensure the health and well-being of the offspring, who are often affected by genetic deformities generated by the breeding process (in a way that causes them breathing difficulties, infections and early mortality).



Dogs and cats in Israel that are sold without a "pedigree certificate" do not receive any protective envelope to ensure the health and well-being of their offspring. Despite all this, and although the Ministry of Agriculture has the authority to regulate the field, the Veterinary Services at the Ministry of Agriculture have not established any real conditions and restrictions on the importation and breeding of dogs. As part of trying to tackle the problem, "Let the Animals Live" is promoting a bill that would ban the pairing and sale of dogs and cats.

Community cats spaying and neutering budget

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for a budget of NIS 9 million per year, which is intended to reduce the reproduction of stray animals, and which originates from legislative amendments initiated by Knesset members. Out of this budget, NIS 4.5 million was intended for dogs, and NIS 4.5 million for cats. Studies have shown that spaying and neutering community cats improves their well-being, reduces their disruption to the environment, and reduces their spread. NIS 4.5 million, allocated under Section 14A of the Animal Welfare Law, is used to spay and neuter community cats. The allocation of these budgets encounters serious problems, and to date no fewer than five petitions have been submitted to the High Court to ensure that these budgets are implemented properly and for the purposes defined in the law. Since the amendment of the law intended to ensure a budget for reducing the reproduction of community cats (in 2008), no organized work plan has been formulated, and as of today, the Ministry of Agriculture does not have data regarding the efficiency of budget utilization to reduce the reproduction of cats. Roundtables held on the subject over the past year have not yet resulted in any real changes. The field also suffers from a shortage of veterinarians and catchers who will be able to implement the capture and sterilization operations. Therefore, despite the budgetary addition granted by the Prime Minister's Office in 2020, and the budgetary supplement also given starting from 2021, there is no organized plan or a competent and suitable personnel to carry out effective and large-scale cat spaying and neutering operations in Israel.

Permanent tethering of dogs

Dogs are inherently social animals. The dogs are characterized by unique mental, behavioral and social needs, which each dog holder is required to provide. Keeping dogs



tied up for extended periods of time fatally harms them, both physically and psychologically, and constitutes severe mental abuse for them. Tethering is destructive to the natural qualities and the social nature of dogs. A tethered dog is a dog that is unable to realize its mental and social needs. Instead of living with other dogs or humans, he lives isolated, tied to a leash, sees the world pass by, without any possibility of frequent contact with other dogs or humans. A tethered dog that feels threatened becomes aggressive, because his existing fight or flight mechanism is routed to fight only – since he can't run away. In general, dogs that are kept tethered regularly tend to suffer a variety of serious injuries that characterize this condition, including mental and physical injuries and over-aggression.

Back in 1996, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) found it appropriate to ban the permanent tethering of dogs, in light of the cruelty involved in this practice. The American Veterinary Association (AVMA), the world's leading professional body in this field, also found it appropriate to recommend not to hold dogs tethered, including tethering on a running cable, in light of the severe psychological and physical injuries caused to the dogs.

Studies and data collected in the U.S. alone also point to the danger posed to the public by dogs being held tethered for extended periods of time: These dogs are 2.8 times more likely to attack humans than untethered dogs. This attests to the severe psychological damage caused by the isolation and the restriction of the dog's movement to a limited space for long periods of time, which is reflected in aggression and neuroticism. Children or people with mental or cognitive disabilities are mostly affected by that, since they are more likely to come close to the dog unwittingly and be attacked by him.

Permanent tethering of dogs in the IDF

For many years, the IDF has used dogs that are permanently tethered along the fences of certain bases, 24 hours a day for long periods of time (sometimes for the rest of their lives). In other words, the IDF ties these dogs **continuously and without any release from the tethering**, using a short chain attached to the cable, for days, weeks, months and often even many years.

The issue of permanent tethering of dogs provoked, among other things, a broad public struggle. The Knesset Education, Culture and Sports Committee also convened to discuss the issue of permanent tethering of dogs for guarding purposes, with an emphasis on the IDF. In this context, professionals criticized the manner of holding, and even its



effectiveness for security purposes – since dogs kept in permanent tethering, alongside their growing distress and aggression, **do not provide effective security at all**. At the same time, even if dogs are permanently tethered for "security" purposes (and, as noted, the effectiveness of the practice for these purposes is extremely limited), the military is still subject to the provisions of the Animal Protection Law and its regulations.

The Animal Welfare Regulations (Protection of Animals) (Possession Not for Agricultural Purposes) 2009, establish the **minimum** retention conditions that must be granted to animals. Apart from general clauses, Regulation 8 establishes specific conditions in which animals are allowed to be tied up, and Regulation 8(d) establishes specific provisions regarding the permanent tethering of dogs. From the many documentations obtained by “Let the Animals Live”, it does not appear that the IDF provides these minimal conditions: in most cases, the dogs do not have shelter or shade, and it is not known whether they receive the required physical activity, sufficient food and water, or the space required by law. In the past, “Let the Animals Live” association was forced to appeal to the court over the manner in which guard dogs are kept in the IDF, where an order was issued instructing the IDF to **"refrain from keeping dogs permanently tied up along the fences of bases without providing them a shaded space of no less than three consecutive square meters, not including the area of the kennel"**. It appears that there is insufficient adherence on fulfilling the provisions of the order, the law and the regulations.

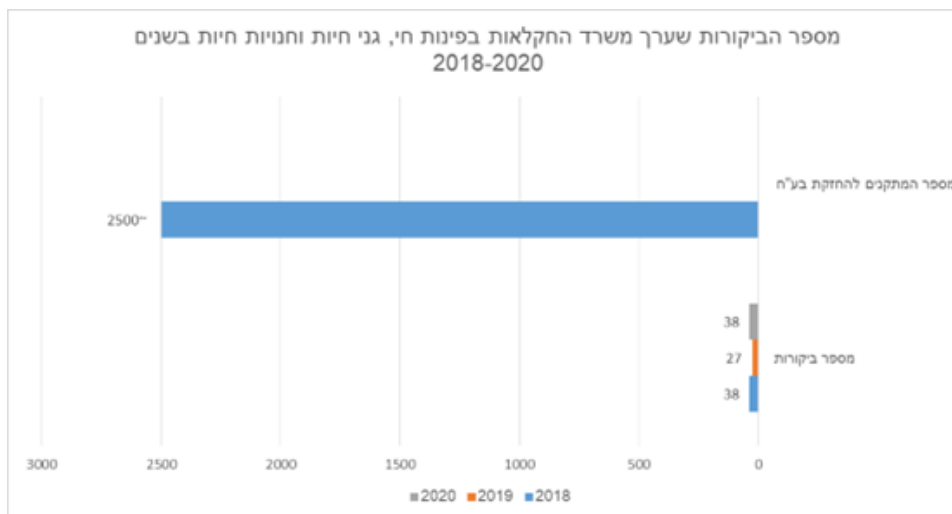
In light of the protracted public struggle led by “Let the Animals Live”, the practice of tethering dogs has been discontinued in most IDF bases, but it is still prevalent among private individuals, factories, guarding over communities, and more. Given the severity of the problem, “Let the Animals Live” is promoting a bill that seeks to limit the number of hours per day in which a dog is allowed to be kept tied up, thereby aligning with the global trend that prohibits the tethering of dogs for extended periods of time, and prevents the severe physical and mental harm caused to these dogs as a result of this practice.

Supervision of animal corners, pet shops and zoos

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for enforcing the Animal Welfare Law and its regulations, including regulations relating to the "non-agricultural keeping" of animals in homes, animal corners, zoos, pet stores, and breeding houses. The Ministry is supposed to conduct inspections in order to monitor the conditions of holding in these places, but in practice - the amount of inspections does not correspond to the number of facilities.



In October 2019, “Let the Animals Live” requested a summary of the inspections conducted in 2018-2019. At the beginning of 2020, all the inspections conducted by the Ministry during these years were received as follows: in 2018, 38 inspections were conducted, and in 2019, 27 inspections were conducted, most of them in animal corners – while the number of animal corners in schools alone, according to data from the Ministry of Education and local authorities, stands at least 1,000. Even in 2020, only 38 inspections were conducted, which were received only after filing a petition with the court. Only one inspection focused on a pet store, despite the fact that during visits by “Let the Animals Live” to such stores, violations were found in dozens of them. It should be noted that in some authorities the inspections are conducted by the municipal veterinarian (although most municipal veterinarians have no powers at all under the Animal Protection Law, and none of them have the authority to impose fines for violations). In the same year, **only 38 administrative fines were imposed** in relation to these facilities, despite the multiple violations that have come to the attention of “Let the Animals Live” in many facilities.



In Israel, there are at least **thousands of facilities that keep animals that are not for agricultural purposes**, including animal corners, pet stores, breeding houses, zoos and more. The number of inspections conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture – a few dozen a year – does not provide a real response for the need to monitor the conditions in which animals are kept in these facilities. Indeed, the inspections conducted, as expected, found many violations: lack of medical care and vaccinations, lack of necessary reports on the



medical condition, dirt, lack of environmental enrichment measures and hiding places, etc.

In many cases, “Let the Animals Live” has contacted the Ministry of Agriculture and the authority veterinarians regarding complaints about harsh conditions of possession that have reached it, and a significant portion of these inquiries have not been addressed. In other cases, “Let the Animals Live” has appealed to the courts for orders to improve the conditions of possession. **In practice, the thousands and tens of thousands of facilities are not subject to effective supervision and enforcement, and the animals in them often suffer from harsh conditions of possession, neglect and abuse.**



Part 3 - Animals in Agriculture Farms

Animal welfare inspections in the animal food industry

Government Decision 833 of 2015 on animal welfare imposed on the Veterinary Services the writing of procedures and checklists for animal welfare inspections in all areas of responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture – including on farms that raise animals.

Since the first Freedom of Information request submitted by “Let the Animals Live” in January 2019 (for 2018), requesting to receive the data from the inspection reports on the farms, the association has submitted requests for the inspection reports every year. Out of these requests, “Let the Animals Live” has had to petition the court twice in order to receive the required information.

The response that was finally received in relation to 2018 indicated that the implementation of the checklists and the inspections on the farms was very partial – with the exception of one inspection conducted according to the checklist in a dairy farm, all the reports received were in relation to the inspections of the egg-laying coops and the meat breeding coops.

These reports were also filled out in an unprofessional manner, which is inconsistent with what is known about what is happening in these chicken coops: in terms of diseases, physical injuries to chickens, and the breeding methods used in the various types of chicken coops. Thus, for example, the reports do not record a single case of damage to the feathers of poultry or parasites on the bodies of poultry, despite the fact that these are common phenomena in the industry. In nine out of ten reports, it was noted that there are "egg-laying cells" in battery cages, dense cages that by definition do not include such cells.

As a result, “Let the Animals Live” contacted the Director of Veterinary Services and the Commissioner under the Animal Protection Law, demanding that the necessary measures be taken to ensure that the use of checklists is properly implemented, and in accordance with the professional standards required in all types of animal welfare inspections on farms. In response, the manager replied that the comments made by “Let the Animals Live” had been forwarded to the professionals, and that the assimilation of using the checklists continues to be implemented.



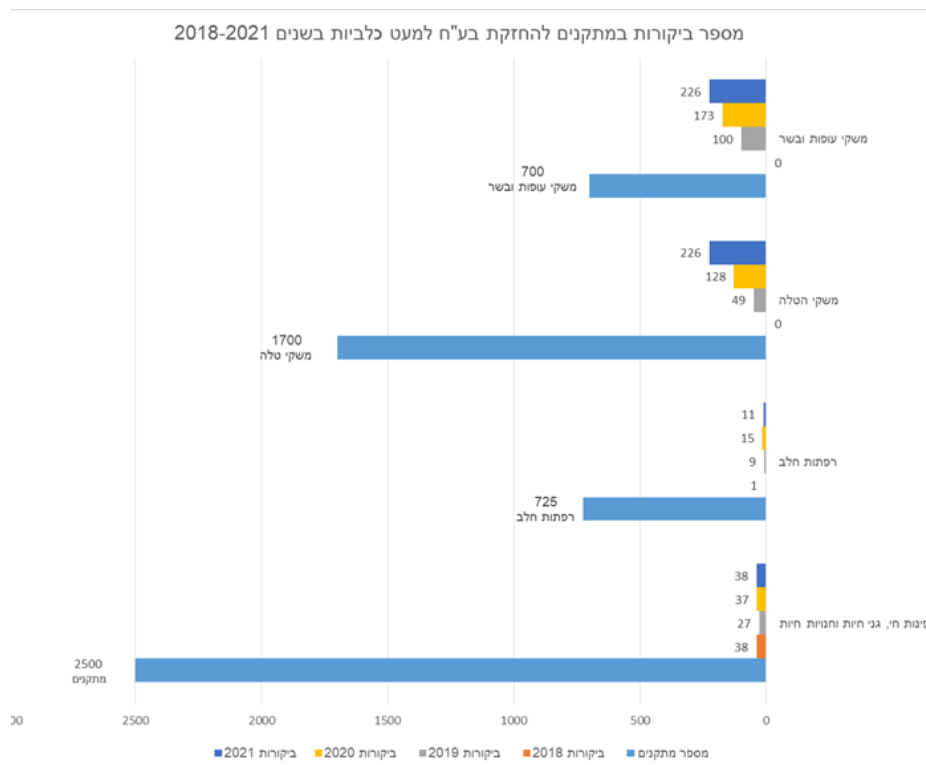
In 2020, a total of **10 inspections** were carried out on calf feedlots, herds of sheep, goats and cattle. There is no estimated number of feedlots and herds in Israel, but it can be assumed that these are hundreds and thousands. In dairy cowsheds, a total of **15 inspections** were carried out. According to data from the Dairy Council, there are about **725 dairy farms** in Israel – on average, this is therefore a **cow welfare inspection once every 48 years**. In egg-laying hens' coops and poultry coops in the meat industry, **301 inspections** were carried out in 2020, with the total number of chicken coops estimated, according to data from the Chicken Coop Council and in response to our Freedom of Information requests, at about **2,400 chicken coops** - that is, an **inspection once every 8 years** (and it should be noted that in the meat industry, the poultry are slaughtered at the age of 6 weeks, and in the egg industry, the chickens are killed after a laying cycle of between one and two years).

In 2021, the number of inspections decreased even more: in herds, feedlots, and dairy farms, a total of 11 inspections were carried out (compared to 25 in 2020). In egg-laying hens' coops and poultry coops in the meat industry, a total of 226 inspections were carried out (compared with 301 in 2020). Here, too, the inspections pointed to unreliable findings, according to which there are no lameness and plumage problems, which are common in poultry farms used in the meat industry.

In the fish industry, no checklists have yet been formulated at all, despite the fact that in Israel there are about 100 fish ponds, where serious cases of abuse have been exposed. Although there has been some improvement in the level of inspections following “Let the Animals Live” petitions, their scope and frequency still indicate a lack of real oversight.

מספר מתקנים	2021	2020	2019	2018	סוג ביקורת
1500-3000	38	37	27	38	פינות חי, גני חיות וחמויות חיות
~100*	0	0	0	0	מדגים
?	11	10	1	0	מפטמות ועדרים
~725**		15	9	1	רפתות חלב
~1700***	226	128	49	?	משקי הטלה
~700****		173	~100	?	משקי עופות לבשר

נתוני הביקורות מבוססים על בקשות חופש מידע שהוגשו בנושא
 *לפי דו"ח רשימת המתקנים המאושרים ע"י השו"ט
 **לפי שנתון מועצת החלב לשנת 2019
 ***לפי מענה לבקשת חופש מידע מאוקטובר 2020
 ****לפי "מידע ונתונים על ענפי הלול" באתר המועצה לענף הלול





Due to the fact that regulations regarding the conditions of keeping animals on farms have not yet been formulated (with the exception of regulations for the keeping of pigs and regulations for the transportation of livestock and poultry, which were enacted after legal proceedings and our public struggles), there are no effective administrative enforcement measures of imposing fines for holding in conditions contrary to the law.

Case Study - Conditions of keeping pigs on farms

In 2015, following a long-standing struggle and a petition filed by “Let the Animals Live” to the High Court of Justice, the Animal Welfare Regulations regarding the breeding of pigs on farms were enacted.

However, since 2017 the Ministry of Agriculture has not employed a veterinarian responsible for pigs, and accordingly, as of 2017 inspections of pig farms have been completely stopped until the second half of 2019. As a result, “Let the Animals Live” conducted a lengthy petition in the High Court of Justice, which was eventually dismissed, while the court recognized its importance in promoting the ministry's supervision and enforcement activities.

In a Freedom of Information request filed by “Let the Animals Live” in July 2019, we asked for an update on the existence of inspections in pig farms. From the response received, we learned that **from 2017 until the date of the response (in September 2019), only four inspections were carried out according to the regulations**, despite the planning to carry out a larger amount and despite the fact that in Israel there are 25 pig farms. The Ministry of Agriculture has argued several times in the High Court of Justice that the inspections are prevented due to the outbreak of epidemics on the farms, even though this is not an unusual or unexpected phenomenon.

In addition to the insufficient number of inspections, there is a difficulty in the manner in which the inspections are carried out – the inspection reports indicate that their performers do not understand the provisions of the regulations, in a way that puts the validity of the inspections in question. For example, **in three of the four inspections**, the performers of the inspection did not know what the term "environmental enrichment" means – a requirement for materials and objects that allow the pigs the tinkering, burrowing and playing they so desperately need. Therefore, they indicated in this line that



the nursing mothers receive the addition of fiber in the food, which, of course, has nothing to do with environmental enrichment.

Following the "Let the Animals Live" procedure in the High Court of Justice and other legal proceedings we conducted directly against the pig breeders, there was an increase in the number of inspections, but the conditions of holding reflected in these inspections and the visits and documentation of the association in the framework of the legal proceedings, indicated that even seven years after the regulations were enacted and a decade after the conditions of holding were determined in the Ministry of Agriculture procedure, the vast majority of the farms still do not comply with the elementary provisions of the law. Accordingly, almost no farm has effective environmental enrichment that matches the professional knowledge regarding the needs of pigs.

In the last request for information by "Let the Animals Live" in 2021, we were not given the inspections without any explanation. It was only after we petitioned to the court that the Ministry of Agriculture announced that the reason for this was legal proceedings taken by "Let the Animals Live" against pig farms that were found to be in serious violations of the law. In a recent hearing, the court clarified to the Ministry of Agriculture that there is no justification for not providing the organization with the reports, even if it uses them for legal proceedings. The court clarified to the Ministry of Agriculture that it must encourage such procedures, which are carried out by animal welfare organizations in order to advance the objectives of the Animal Welfare Law.

The information provided (while the Ministry omits data from it, contrary to the ruling given in the petition), indicates that the inspections still reflect professional gaps of their performers. Thus, for example, enrichment measures were favorably noted that do not correspond at all to the scientific consensus regarding the stimuli required for pigs. The data also indicated that no real enforcement action is taken when serious and deliberate violations of the law are detected. The data also showed that despite the Ministry's declarations of ongoing inspections of all pig-breeding farms – in some farms, including those for which it emerged from past inspections that severely violated the regulations, there have been no inspections since 2020.

Moreover, in the proceedings conducted by "Let the Animals Live" versus the pig farms, the Animal Welfare Department stood by the breeders who violated the law. In many cases, the department tried to assist the pig farms by providing legal materials (partial and misleading) that were supposed to assist in the proceedings. In other cases, the breeders reported that officials in the Ministry of Agriculture ordered them to ban our entry into the pig farms, contrary to court rulings. In one case, the Ministry of Agriculture



submitted an affidavit of testimony on behalf of the director of the Animal Welfare Department, stating that **she had instructed the breeders to violate the provisions of the judgment given in the proceedings against them, as well as explicit provisions set forth in the regulations.**

In discussions held in the Knesset's Interior and Education committees, officials from the Animal Welfare Department announced that they do not believe that cruel practices of cutting tails and teeth and neutering piglets without anesthesia, as well as of keeping nursing mothers in restraint cages that do not allow them to move, can be prohibited.

The officials from the Animal Welfare Department clarified to the Education Committee that the minimum holding conditions required for this purpose are not met, and even stated that they lack the interface knowledge required to enforce the existence of the regulations. However, they continue to stand by the law-breaking breeders in the "Let the Animals Live" proceedings against them, and have even submitted legal positions (which have been repeatedly rejected by the courts) aimed at preventing "Let the Animals Live" from taking these proceedings.

Case Study - Failures and Violations of the Law at the Haifa Slaughterhouse

Following an investigation by "Animals" association, which exposed severe abuse at the Haifa slaughterhouse in 2017, "Let the Animals Live" is working through a number of legal channels, including a petition to the High Court of Justice and a demand for criminal prosecution. Among other things, in September 2017, "Let the Animals Live" contacted the Ministry of Agriculture, requesting information about the slaughterhouse and about the inspections carried out in it by the Ministry of Agriculture.

More than six months later (in April 2018), the Ministry of Agriculture categorically refused to provide the information, claiming it was information that could have been used by the ministry in a criminal investigation, even though a criminal investigation had already been conducted by the Israel Police at the time.

In May 2018, "Let the Animals Live" petitioned the court to order the provision of information about the slaughterhouse. Shortly after the investigation file was closed by the State Attorney's Office without indicting anyone, the Ministry of Agriculture provided "Let the Animals Live" with some of the information requested. The Ministry of Agriculture refused to provide "discrepancy reports" – reports of the supervising veterinarian detailing



violations of the provisions of the law in the slaughterhouse. The Ministry of Agriculture's argument was that the provision of this information would lead to the situation that supervising veterinarians, public servants subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture, would provide incomplete or laconic information in their reports. After the District Court criticized this claim, the Ministry found a new claim – according to which the impairment of the functioning of the supervising veterinarians stems from threats to their lives, work and families, **by the supervised entities themselves**. The Ministry of Agriculture listed cases in which, it claimed, slaughterhouse officials threatened veterinarians, and there were even cases of live shooting. The Ministry of Agriculture's solution to this is to refrain from disclosing information requested at a Freedom of Information request, even though it itself does not establish any connection between the threats and the publication of the information. On the other hand, the ministry refused to elaborate on administrative and criminal measures taken in the wake of these threats.

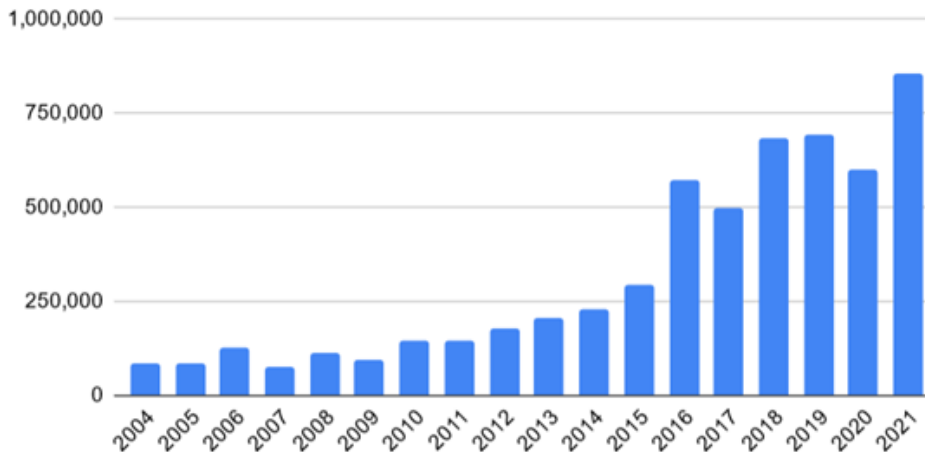
The summation of things - the Ministry refuses to provide information about slaughterhouses due to the violent and criminal conduct of these bodies. This indicates a problematic perception of supervisor veterinarians of themselves as trustees of the enterprises they are supposed to supervise. Indeed, cases of severe abuse that have not been reported or enforced by the appointed veterinarians are repeatedly exposed. The District Court recently accepted the Ministry of Agriculture's arguments on the matter, despite the fact that these were based in large part on erroneous and irrelevant reports. The case is currently being appealed to the Supreme Court.

Live Shipments

Every year, hundreds of thousands of calves and lambs from Europe and Australia are transported to Israeli ports for fattening and slaughter. Over the years, the volume of live shipments has increased, reaching a peak of 856,630 lambs and calves in 2021 – an increase of about 42% compared to the same period last year. In comparison, throughout 2017, 499,265 lambs and calves were transported to Israel, and in 2013, 206,771 animals were brought on the live shipments' ships.



Import of cattle and sheep to Israel's ports, 2004-2021



The animals endure a long ordeal on overcrowded ships (some of them outdated and damaged), suffer great distress, heat and suffocation, and often bask in their own and their friends' excrement. Many of the animals on the overcrowded ship suffer from respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases, eye infections, and injuries caused by the ship's shaking. Some of them choke to death before the ship reaches its destination. In such cases, their corpses are often thrown into the sea, and sometimes even drifting to Israeli shores. The State Comptroller's report from 2020 strongly criticized the conditions of transportation on ships and recommended to promote prioritization of the import of chilled meat from abroad, instead of the import of livestock, in view of the severe harm to the welfare of animals in these transports.

Professional and governmental bodies around the world (including the Scientific Committee of the European Union, the European Veterinary Federation, etc.) **have repeatedly stated that the transport of animals should be as short as possible, and that the transport of meat should be preferred over the transport of animals**, both due to the severe harm to animals and due to risks to public health. Meat trade reduces the risks of spreading diseases, compared to importing livestock on contaminated ships. In Israel, the Government Advisory Committee on Cruelty to Animals issued a statement stating that "the international transportation of animals inherently involves harming the welfare of animals, and it is better, in this respect, to raise and slaughter the animals near their birthplace and to import meat."

A survey conducted in June 2018 found that the majority of the public supports the cessation of live shipments: 86% of respondents support the proposed law, 91% believe



that live shipments are animal abuse, and 90% believe that live shipments are against the Animal Protection Law.

However, the professionals in the Veterinary Services continue to insist on the need for live transports, and to express skepticism about the broad scientific consensus regarding the suffering involved in transporting animals on long sea voyages, and regarding documentation that reveals the difficult conditions during the transportation. This is actually one of the main reasons for the lack of progress in legislation designed to prohibit the continuation of live shipments. Despite the many obstacles along the way, “Let the Animals Live” continues its important struggle to end the terrible practice of live shipments.

Environmental enforcement in the animal food industry

The State of Israel is a developed country, characterized by high consumption figures, a small geographical area, a high rate of population growth, and polluting industry. These figures increase the environmental risks and challenges facing Israel, and require leading and implementing policies that will deal with them. An effective enforcement system of environmental protection laws is an important and necessary element in the implementation of environmental policies that are supposed to reduce environmental risks and damages. Environmental enforcement in Israel is carried out by various law enforcement bodies, including the Ministry of Environmental Protection and local authorities. **A significant part of the water and air pollution is due to the animal food industry.** This pollution harms humans, nature and wildlife, alongside the animals kept on these farms.

Agricultural waste

Agricultural waste in the animal food industry is diverse and includes organic waste: animal manure, carcasses, plant waste, surplus food, and inorganic waste: plastics of various types, packaging of pesticides, cartons, etc. This agricultural waste can cause environmental, health and landscape hazards: severe pollution of air, soil and water, greenhouse gas emissions and landscape hazards.



Examples of environmental hazards from animal farms:

- The live shipments - besides the pollution of the sea, hazards at the quarantine stations and feedlot - water and air pollution and severe odor nuisances.
- Duck farms - ongoing offenses of poor waste treatment and the discharge of leachates into the environment.
- Fish ponds - hazards of waste and pollution of streams. In a number of cases, the throwing of fish corpses and live fish in the wild has been documented, causing great suffering and pollution of the environment.
- Air and water pollution in pig feedlots and farms - many complaints come to us about odor hazards and water pollution from these farms. In a number of cases, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has taken action against pig farms that caused water pollution, and even led to their closure.

The handling of environmental violations in livestock farms is under-enforced and lacks deterrence. The Ministry of Environmental Protection, the main body responsible for environmental enforcement, does not attach sufficient importance to the treatment of environmental hazards resulting from animal farms, and there is a shortage of manpower in the field. The officials at the head of the Ministry of Environmental Protection's enforcement system agree that there are large gaps between the great responsibility imposed on the Ministry and the resources available to it to fulfill its tasks, and that the situation is particularly grave in the field of environmental enforcement. One of the most prominent failures in the Ministry's enforcement activity is the **scarcity of criminal enforcement and the sufficiency of regulating the hazard and limited administrative enforcement**, and therefore the chances of a polluter being severely punished are low. The low fines imposed on polluters are an effective and cost-effective violation of the law for them. Many cases of flows from fisheries to streams without authorization orders are not handled, and entire livestock industries (including cattle and sheep) are not required to report emissions. All of these severely undermine deterrence against environmental injustices, and send a negative message to the public that those harming the environment (if detected) do not properly bear the consequences of their actions, which increases the profitability of polluting.



Part 4 - Education and Shows

Use of animals in the education system

Thousands of animal corners operate in schools and kindergartens, most of them without permits as required by law, and even more so not in accordance with the holding regulations and the Animal Protection Law. In many schools and kindergartens, there are also "animal classes" – external operators that bring various animals, including protected wild animals, in order to "teach" the children and students about them. These animal classes also often operate not in accordance with the provisions of the law, and photographs obtained by "Let the Animals Live" and even published by the operating companies and educational institutions prove this.

The cross-referencing of Freedom of Information requests submitted by "Let the Animals Live" to the Ministry of Education and local authorities, indicates that there are hundreds of animal corners that were not reported to the Ministry of Education, and thousands of animal corners that were not reported as required by law to the authority veterinarian. The Director General's circular of the Ministry of Education warns against the transfer of animals to educational institutions because of the suffering caused by it to animals, and on the face of it prohibits it (with exceptions). The circular also emphasizes that the animal corners can operate only when given professional and proper care, but **in practice the animal corners and animal classes operate without any supervision by the Ministry of Education or any other entity.**

The Ministry of Education's response to the request submitted by "Let the Animals Live" on the subject in October 2019, also indicates that the Ministry of Education does not maintain any control over what happens in the animal corners and animal classes. **The Ministry of Education has only one animal corners referent, which works one day a week and does not conduct initiated inspections.** Regarding the animal classes, the Ministry of Education did not provide any information, and it is clear that there is no monitoring of what is happening in them. The Ministry of Education's training programs for those responsible for animal corners are voluntary, and in 2020, a single-digit number of animal welfare inspections was carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture in educational institutions.

It is clear that the Ministry of Education is not prepared and does not attempt to conduct an effective supervision of the treatment of animals in its frameworks. The Ministry of



Agriculture also does not carry out any real enforcement of the Animal Protection Law in educational institutions. **In practice, the animals in animal classes and animal corners are left without any protection.**

The instructional value of using animals in educational institutions is controversial at best, and the educational value of causing distress to animals in order to teach or amuse children in kindergartens and schools is negative. The Ministry of Education does not enforce the field adequately, and therefore there is room to stop these activities – to prohibit the establishment of new animal corners and the purchase of additional animals to the existing ones, and to stop animal classes, businesses that move many animals between educational institutions and cause them great distress. There are real educational alternatives that teach about animals, **and also teach empathy and respect for them, instead of exploitation and use of them.** Such programs were proposed in the past but were abandoned due to pressure exerted by companies operating the classes.

Recently, the Advisory Committee on Animal Welfare at the Ministry of Agriculture, which includes representatives of veterinary unions, animal welfare organizations, and representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, recommended updating the Circular of the Director General of the Ministry of Education to prohibit the existence of animal classes and limit the establishment of new animal corners, in recognition of the suffering caused to animals and the problematic educational message. The Ministry of Education has announced that it is taking action on the issue, but no updates have yet been provided. The Minister of Education has not responded to the "Let the Animals Live" request on the matter since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, and as of this day, no visible steps have yet been taken to advance the amendment of the Director General's circular.

Permits for shows with animals

In order to hold a show with animals in Israel, a permit from the Commissioner of the Animal Protection Law at the Ministry of Agriculture is required.

Every year, dozens of "shows" permits are issued, mostly for the use of animals in commercials and television series. At the same time, "Let the Animals Live" association receives numerous reports of performances with animals - whether by animal classes in educational institutions, or commercial performances at birthdays, commercial centers and more - held without a permit as required by law, or contrary to the conditions of the



permit granted. The inevitable result is severe suffering caused to the animals used for amusement and "education" in these shows, without real supervision, and without taking any real enforcement action. A good part of these shows is openly advertised on the Internet. In the past two years, "Let the Animals Live" has submitted a significant number of complaints to the Ministry of Agriculture's call center regarding the use of animals in shows without a permit or in violation of the conditions of the permit, but in the vast majority of cases, nothing has been done in relation to these complaints.



Part 5 - Wildlife

Wildlife hunting

Nature and Parks Authority inspectors and other authorized officials kill tens of thousands of wildlife every year. According to the Nature and Parks Authority, hunting stems from the need to "dilute" the number of animals, which is required to preserve nature and ecological balance, prevent diseases, and prevent agricultural damage - the goals set forth in the Law for the Protection of Wildlife. While these are the stated objectives of the shooting, in practice there are cases in which wild animals are shot for many other reasons, which are unjustified or legal, and often with the approval of the Nature and Parks Authority. In addition, the provisions of the Wildlife Protection Law and the Animal Welfare Law require the examination of alternative means for killing of animals, even when it comes to the purposes permitted by law. **Killing and harming animals should be used as a last resort only. In practice - in many cases they are the first and only solution examined.**

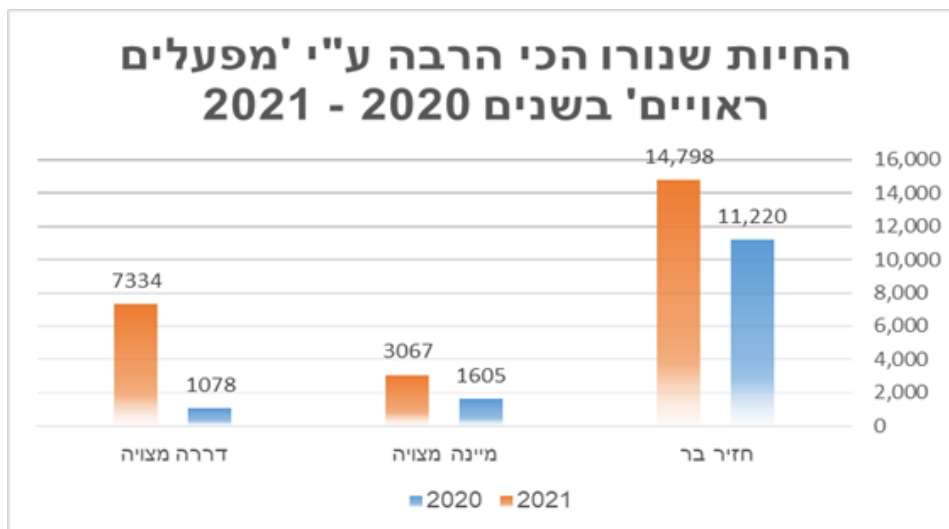
The Nature and Parks Authority grants permits and hunting licenses to additional entities - sport hunters with hunting licenses, and bodies known as "worthy enterprises", private business entities operating by virtue of hunting permits. Such hunting permits can be issued on a specific basis, but many of them are general permits. For example, the Nature and Parks Authority annually issues general permits for the hunting of wild boars, mynas, crows, monk parrots, rabbits and more. These permits are not subject to restrictions that apply, for example, to sport hunting (in the Wildlife Protection Law) such as prohibiting the use of certain hunting tools or limiting hunting to the period of the hunting season only. Indeed, much of this hunting is done through the use of cage traps and foot traps, by dogs, and by killing animals caught by shooting and suffocation.

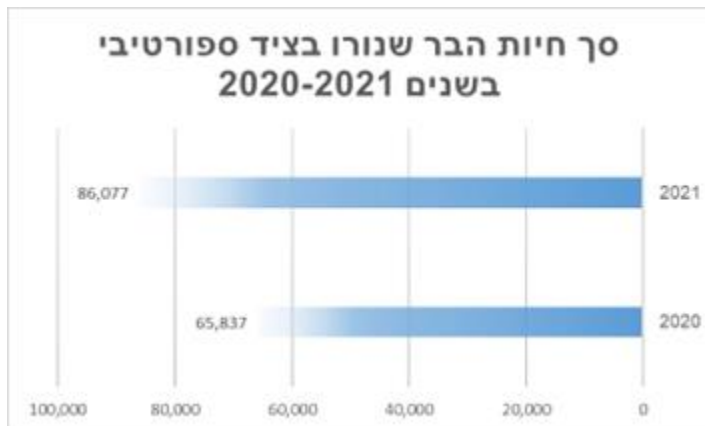
Most of the animals that are hunted, are hunted by private entities - hunters and "worthy factories". For example, **8,402** animals were hunted by Nature and Parks Authority inspectors in 2021, and **11,890** animals in 2020. At the same time, one can see data on large-scale shootings carried out by hunters and those with hunting permits. For example, in 2021, **14,798 wild boars, 3,067 common mynas, and 7,334 common parakeets** were shot by hunting permit holders. In 2020, **11,220 wild boars, 1,605 mynas, and 1,078 common parakeets** were shot by permit holders. In total, no less than 44,100



animals were shot as part of hunting by permit holders in 2021. This is compared to 26,135 animals shot by permit holders in 2020 – an increase of 68%.

Hunting, commonly known as "sport hunting," is carried out by hunters with a hunting license during the hunting season. Despite its nickname, this hunting is not a sport but rather a violent act with severe environmental consequences, and some of it takes place in violation of the law. The data on amateur sport hunting, which are often perceived as a marginal phenomenon, also present a rather bleak picture: in 2019, 2020, and 2021, hunters shot **49594, 40,970, and 36,321** rock pigeons respectively. In 2021, they also shot **34,110** domestic pigeons. In total, no less than **86,077** animals were shot in 2021 as part of a **lawful** sport hunt, and an unknown number of animals were shot as part of an illegal hunt. This represents an **upward trend of 31%** compared to the already high total shooting in 2020, when **65,837** animals were shot as part of a sport hunting.





As can be seen, wildlife is hunted every year by various entities, including private individuals who have received a hunting permit from the Nature and Parks Authority. It is not clear what the criteria for shooting, and if there are any at all, and the shooting reports in many cases are not the same as those from the field. For example, in November 2021, peacocks were shot in a kibbutz area by a man who had received a hunting permit from the Nature and Parks Authority. The reason to the shooting was apparently disturbance to the residents (which is not a reason which allows harm to protected wildlife, such as peacocks), and it was even carried out in a populated area without prior notice to the residents, in violation of the law. The shooting of peacocks was reported by residents of the kibbutz who strongly opposed the killing of peacocks, **but was not reported to “Let the Animals Live” by the Nature and Parks Authority as part of the shooting data of permit holders for 2021, even though the Nature and Parks Authority informed that it was a lawful shooting that was given a permit.** It can therefore only be assumed that in addition to the data held by “Let the Animals Live”, many more shootings occur every year illegally and away from the eyes of the authorities and the public, including shooting that is backed by the Nature and Parks Authority but is not reported.

The "dilution" of wild animals is supposed, so to speak, to be used primarily to maintain ecological balance in nature, and to prevent the approach of wild animals to populated and agricultural areas. However, it is important to understand that this balance was damaged in the first place as a result of damage to the habitat of animals by humans, or the importation of certain species, which led to a change in the ecological balance and to the definition of the animals that reproduced in the country as "invasive species". Dilution is proven in most cases to be ineffective, and cannot be a substitute for a sustainable



policy of sharing space with the animals around us. A bill was placed on the table of the Knesset regarding the prohibition of sport hunting.

Case Study – Nature and Parks Authority’s use of foot traps

Foot traps are traps that lock around the legs of animals, often causing physical injury, and always causing mental distress and a sense of helplessness.

In January 2020, a response was received to a Freedom of Information request by “Let the Animals Live” (from November 2019) regarding the use of foot traps at the Nature and Parks Authority. From this answer we learn that the authority recognizes the inherent damage of these traps, and therefore in the procedure for capturing animals this means should be used only when it is not possible to use other means, such as cage traps.

The data obtained show that these traps are widely used: **in 2017-2019, over 500 animals were caught in foot traps**, the vast majority of which were jackals which were killed after. Killing of Jackals due to fear of a rabies outbreak is carried out despite the existence of an alternative to this killing, in the form of oral rabies vaccines for jackals scattered throughout the territory.

It can also be seen that the Nature and Parks Authority uses padded traps, which are designed to reduce the damage that the traps cause to the animals' feet, but these do not appear to be traps that inform the user about capturing an animal, so that the leg can be released quickly. Instead, the Nature and Parks Authority's procedure instructs to lay the foot traps before dark, and to open them only the next morning. Although the procedure recommends checking the traps during the night, this is not a binding recommendation and it is probably not implemented in most cases. Therefore, the animal may wait helplessly for an entire night with its legs trapped, and in many cases it will be killed afterwards.

In a recent discussion in the Knesset Education Committee, representatives of the Nature and Parks Authority expressed recoiling from the use foot traps by illegal hunters because of their significant cruelty. However, the vast majority of the hunting, including hunting in traps and the killing of captured animals, is carried out under the auspices of the Nature and Parks Authority and even on its own initiative.



Killing of smuggled animals carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture

Recently, "Let the Animals Live" received information that a number of canaries smuggled into Israel via Allenby Bridge were seized by the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Director of Veterinary Services ordered their execution. On the same day, the association petitioned the District Court to stop the killing of the canaries. It was only following the petition that the association learned that the policy of the Veterinary Services in the Ministry of Agriculture is **to immediately kill any animal that has been smuggled into Israel and cannot be returned to its country of origin.**

As part of the procedure, the Ministry of Agriculture presented a variety of "potential" diseases that might be spread by the smuggling of animals, and refused to make any real reference to the possibility of keeping the animals in isolation in order to test the diseases and prevent their spread. The ministry even admitted during the proceedings that it does not hold the seized canaries in solitary confinement conditions at all, in contravention of the court's instructions on the matter.

The proceedings were postponed in the District Court and are currently being appealed to the Supreme Court. In the meantime, on the basis of the Ministry of Agriculture's unsubstantiated reports on the matter, the Supreme Court judge decided not to issue a temporary injunction in the case, and the canaries were put to death. At the same time, "Let the Animals Live" received reports of other birds that had been killed, contrary to the opinion of the Nature and Parks Authority and the facilities that absorbed them.

A Freedom of Information request filed by "Let the Animals Live" regarding the killing of smuggled animals and other killings of animals under the Animal Diseases Ordinance was answered with a considerable delay. According to the data in 2021 alone nearly 400 animals smuggled into Israel were killed, including 56 birds and 330 crustaceans.



Part 6 - Animals in the Experimental Laboratories

Supervision of the approval and execution of animal experiments

The Animal Welfare (Animal Experimentation) Law, 1994 (the "Experimentation Law"), regulates the conduct of animal experiments in Israel. Supervision of compliance with the provisions of the law rests with the Council for Animal Experimentation in the Ministry of Health.

In a Freedom of Information request filed by "Let the Animals Live" in November 2019, it sought the list of alternatives acceptable to the Experimental Council, as well as the decisions to reject requests to conduct experiments in cases where there was an alternative acceptable to the Council.

The association also requested to receive the inspection reports of the council's veterinarians regarding the supervision of the treatment of animals kept in the animal houses of the experimental laboratories, and in relation to the conditions of keeping and caring for these animals, and their work plan with regard to the supervision.

In order to facilitate the delivery of the information, it was agreed to receive it while omitting the identifying details of the researchers and institutions carrying out the experiments.

In response, the Ministry of Health provided incomplete information, blackening many parts of it. The response indicates that many inspections are carried out orally, and only in cases of repeated violations is a written inspection carried out. It also indicates that no punitive measures were taken against experimenters, even in cases of experiments carried out without a permit – a criminal offense under the Experiments Law. In fact, the supervisory bodies in the Ministry of Health are not given criminal enforcement powers, so in practice such enforcement (which the police can carry out) does not exist at all.

The nature of the inspections also raises questions regarding the work of the supervising veterinarians – according to the fact that in 2019, all the inspections at Tel Aviv University were surprise inspections, while at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem all the inspections



were coordinated in advance with the institution. Due to the lack of transparency regarding the implementation and supervision of animal experiments, in the council and the internal committees of the institutions, it is difficult to understand what these differences mean.

From all of this, **the importance of transparency in the work on animal experiments is once again raised**, in order to enable public criticism and reduce the number of experiments conducted, many of which with doubtful scientific value.

An up-to-date request for information that we submitted in relation to the years 2020-2021 received a response about six months after it was sent. This time too, the Ministry of Health provided incomplete information, and blackened the names of the research institutions in the correspondence it conducted with them in relation to the inspections carried out. Thus, it can be seen that in one of the correspondences with the research institution, it was noted by the supervisory official from the Ministry of Health, that in one institution about 40 puppies were unnecessarily born and the puppies were subsequently put to death. This also demonstrates the lenient supervision on research institutions in conducting experiments, which often leads to unnecessary killing of animals.

Experiments at the Volcani Institute in the Ministry of Agriculture

The Volcani Institute (or "Agricultural Research Organization") is a research unit within the Ministry of Agriculture, whose stated purpose is the promotion of agriculture, the environment quality and industries related to them. In this framework, the Institute conducts many experiments on animals, especially animals used in animal food farms.

As part of a Freedom of Information request submitted by "Let the Animals Live" in July 2019, we requested data on the activities of the committee approving animal experimentation at the Volcani Institute, in which sit, among other, researchers from the Institute itself.

The Ministry of Agriculture refused to provide us with the requests to conduct the experiments, the committee's decisions regarding to them, and the protocols of the committee in the application hearings, even though similar information was provided to applicants in the past. The refusal was made on a number of grounds relating to various sections of the Freedom of Information Law. It is argued, for example, that the information relating to the studies of the public body intended to promote agriculture is a "trade



secret". The information that was submitted after all, revealed that in 2019 (up to August) more than 5,000 animals were experimented, and around 4,000 of them were used in experiments that caused ongoing pain and suffering and were killed at the end of the experiment.

Because the reasons for not providing the information were unfounded, and were based in part on a misinterpretation of the Supreme Court's ruling, "Let the Animals Live" petitioned the court in October 2019 to order the disclosure of the information. The Ministry of Agriculture's response to the petition indicated that the committee does not convene at all to examine applications, and the decisions are made in email correspondence (which the Ministry of Agriculture also refuses to disclose, even though they are supposed to deal with purely professional issues). In its response to the petition, the Ministry also argued that disclosing information about the experiments would cause the researchers to report false reports to the committee.

In the end, after the hearing on the petition, the information was provided with significant omissions.

This is yet another example of the extreme lack of transparency when it comes to animal testing in Israel. Institutions **systematically** refuse to disclose information about animal experiments, many of which are unnecessary or repetitive.

Following another Freedom of Information request submitted by "Let the Animals Live" in November 2021, information was received on agricultural experiments carried out on animals at the Volcani Institute during 2020. **The experiments were carried out on 14,583 animals, of which 4,831 were killed after the experiment. Among other things, experiments were carried out on 10,361 fish, 2,338 cows and 530 mice.**

During 2021, **17,558 animals were tested at the Volcani Institute – a 20% increase in the number of experiments since 2020, of which 9,633 animals were killed after the experiment. Among other things, experiments were carried out on 6710 fish, 8925 poultry and 1774 cows.**

In the case of the Volcani Institute – a public body whose stated purpose is to promote public knowledge on agricultural issues, in the ministry that is supposed to be responsible for enforcing the laws on cruelty to animals – **the lack of transparency and conduct raises significant difficulties.**



It is important to note that the experiments conducted at the Volcani Institute on tens of thousands of animals a year are agricultural experiments, many of which deal with "improving agricultural produce." They are not life-saving medical or scientific studies.

Animal testing in the security system

The subject of animal experiments in the State of Israel is under constant fog, stemming from the reluctance of the institutions conducting these experiments to disclose information about their quantity, manner of execution and purposes, under the grounds of "trade secrets".

The fog surrounding animal testing in the security system is naturally even heavier, and relies on "national security" arguments. The Experiments Law establishes special arrangements with respect to the supervision and performance of animal experiments in the security system, and they are subject to the Ministry of Defense's Experimentation Council, instead of the Ministry of Health's Experimental Council.

In November 2021, "Let the Animals Live" association contacted the Ministry of Defense with a request for information about the experiments carried out there. Among other things, we asked for data on the number of experiments and the number of animals in which experiments were carried out between 2020 and 2021. We also demanded to know from where the animals were purchased or accepted for experiments.

The response, received at the beginning of February 2022, provided a very partial answer. All the answers were obtained only in relation to the experiments defined as "unclassified", and accordingly the number of animals involved was much smaller than what is known about the **total scope** of experiments in the security system. Even in relation to the experiments classified as "unclassified", partial information was provided – the number of approved experiments and the number of rejected experiments were not provided, and no information was provided on the number of breeding houses and animal houses. The failure to provide the information was done on the grounds of "fear of harm to the state security," even though it is not clear how the number of unclassified (or classified) experiments that have been approved, or the number of breeding houses, may be detrimental to the state security.

From the information that was provided, it turned out that experiments classified as "unclassified" at high levels of suffering (**level 3 or level 4** out of 5) are carried out on **hundreds of animals a year**, including pigs, a variety of rodents, sheep, goats and dogs.



The number of animals in which classified experiments are also carried out is probably much higher.

In fact, until 2009, the quantities of animals that were experimented and reported by the Ministry of Defense, were in enormous and much higher scopes of **tens of thousands of animals a year**. In 2001, **18,310** animals were experimented, including 153 monkeys and 42 dogs. In 2002, **22,735** animals were experimented, including 73 monkeys and 99 dogs. In 2006 - **38,058** animals, of which 41 were monkeys. The last year for which there is real data is 2009, when **27,774** animals were used for experiments.

What is the reason for the drastic decline in these quantities since 2009? As of that year, the main mass of the experiments was transferred from the Ministry of Defense to the Biological Institute in Ness Ziona, which operates under the Ministry of Defense, and in relation to which no information was provided in response to our requests. According to estimates, about 99% of the experiments in the security system are currently carried out by the Biological Institute, and do not appear in the ongoing reports of the Ministry of Defense. The experiments at the Biological Institute in Ness Ziona are carried out with a lack of transparency, are not exposed to the public eye, and are not even subject to the approval process of the experimentation committee established by law, but to an internal committee of the Institute which may sometimes be motivated by extraneous considerations, such as among other things different economic interests.



Afterword

The 2022 Report Review of the Condition of Animals in Israel was compiled over the past three years by “Let the Animals Live” legal team, based on hundreds of Freedom of Information requests, and dozens of court petitions (some of the Freedom of Information requests were rejected or ignored by the authorities and received a response only after going to court).

We in “Let the Animal Live” believe, as the Supreme Court has said in the past, that sunlight is the best antiseptic, and we hope that the public and decision makers will make proper use of the report and the data that emerges from it and work to promote the welfare and rights of animals wherever they are.

We will continue even more vigorously in the coming years to flood and present the true condition of animals, so that together we can bring about the long-awaited change.