



HAL
open science

Opinion of the French Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (FRCAW) on the initial actions to be taken within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Domestic Carnivores (OCAD)

Camille Bezançon, Nadia Haddad, Agnès Tiret, Geneviève Aubin-Houzelstein, Caroline Gilbert

► To cite this version:

Camille Bezançon, Nadia Haddad, Agnès Tiret, Geneviève Aubin-Houzelstein, Caroline Gilbert. Opinion of the French Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (FRCAW) on the initial actions to be taken within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Domestic Carnivores (OCAD). 6th Annual Meeting of the European Veterinary Congress of Behavioural Medicine and Animal Welfare, Oct 2024, Paris, France. hal-04713605

HAL Id: hal-04713605

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-04713605v1>

Submitted on 29 Sep 2024

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Opinion of the French Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (FRCAW) on the initial actions to be taken within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Domestic Carnivores (OCAD)

Camille Bezançon¹, Julia Souyris^{1,2}, Nadia Haddad², Agnès Tiret¹, Geneviève Aubin-Houzelstein^{1,3}, Caroline Gilbert^{1,2}

¹ French Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (FRCAW), 147 rue de l'Université, 75338 Paris CEDEX 07, France

² EnvA, National Veterinary School of Alfort, 7 avenue du Général de Gaulle, 94700 Maisons-Alfort, France

³ INRAE CODIR - Collège de Direction, National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE), 147 rue de l'Université, 75338 Paris CEDEX 07, France

Presenting author email: camille.bezancon@inrae.fr

Preferred stream and preferred format of presentation: AWSEL, Oral (long)

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

The fight against animal abandonment figures as a major societal concern in France. In 2021, the Observatory for the Protection of Domestic Carnivores (OCAD) was implemented in order to create an interdisciplinary collaboration to generate and communicate knowledge on the protection of dogs and cats and to propose pathways for improving public policy.

The French Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (FRCAW) is the expert body of OCAD, its primary mission was to carry out an analysis of the current information on dogs and cats abandonment in France, and: i) to propose hypotheses on the causes and consequences of abandonment, ii) to suggest additional data to be collected, iii) to suggest actions to be carried out by OCAD members.

In 2021, a total of 206,907 abandonments could be calculated from the French National Identification Register for Domestic Carnivores (I-CAD), comprising 147,547 cats and 59,360 dogs. The majority of these abandonments (84%) concerns unidentified animals.

Nevertheless, as abandonment is a complex and multifactorial subject, it appears necessary for further work to establish a precise definition of the term 'abandonment' and the categories of animals it includes. OCAD should therefore establish its own database with data inputs from its members, so that abandonments can be calculated more accurately (without focusing solely on identification status).

The FRCAW provides advice to the OCAD on the actions to be taken both upstream of abandonment to avoid overcrowding in shelters and save the animals avoidable stress, and downstream to ensure the best possible care for abandoned animals.