



**DOG DESK
ANIMAL ACTION**

Global Stray Dog
Crisis Map Project

KAZAKHSTAN: KILLING AS POPULATION CONTROL

**HOW LAW 292-VIII CHANGED
THE FUTURE FOR STRAY DOGS**

Capture, Sterilisation,
Sheltering And The
Legalisation Of
Population Killing



Examining Kazakhstan's changing legal framework, the powers given to local authorities and the questions of implementation, transparency and accountability that now follow.



BRIEFING PAPER NO. 1

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dogdeskanimalaction.com

CRISIS COUNTRY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN POLICY

Kazakhstan has legalised the killing of stray dogs as a method of population regulation. Law No. 292-VIII creates two legal routes allowing local authorities to kill dogs in specific circumstances.

This law represents a fundamental shift from a framework that protected animals and promoted humane population management.

KAZAKHSTAN: AT A GLANCE



Map illustrative only. Not to scale.

KEY DATES



19 MAY 2026

LAW NO. 292-VIII ADOPTED

On 19 May 2026, Kazakhstan adopted Law No. 292-VIII "On amending and supplementing certain legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on issues of responsible treatment of animals".



20 MAY 2026

FIRST OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

The law is first officially published in the national newspaper.



COMMENCEMENT

THE LAW TAKES EFFECT

The relevant provisions come into force after the expiration of sixty (60) calendar days after the day of first official publication.



We refer to the law's commencement as "July 2026" throughout this briefing. The precise operative date is determined by the statutory commencement rule.

WHAT THE LAW NOW PERMITS



1 KILLING STRAY DOGS AS PART OF REGULATING THEIR NUMBERS (EXCEPT CATS)

Local representative authorities are authorised to determine the procedures and timing for regulating the number of stray animals (except cats) in their territory.



2 KILLING OF CERTAIN UNCLAIMED DOGS UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

The law permits the killing of ownerless (watchless) dogs (except cats) that enter shelters or temporary holding facilities where ALL of the following conditions are met:

- ✓ the dog is sick; OR
- ✓ the dog displays unjustified aggression;
- ✓ the dog is not placed (rehomed or adopted); AND
- ✓ the dog remains unclaimed after the applicable period set out in the Civil Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



These are permissive provisions. The law requires that killing be carried out in a way that avoids physical suffering and forbids cruel, inhumane or painful methods.

WHAT HAS NOT CHANGED



CRUELTY IS PROHIBITED

The law continues to prohibit cruel treatment of animals. Methods causing death through suffocation, electric current, thermal exposure, poisoning and other painful methods remain strictly forbidden.



HUMANE REQUIREMENTS

Killing must be carried out in accordance with the applicable veterinary and sanitary requirements and using methods that avoid pre-death physical suffering.



RESPONSIBLE TREATMENT

The principles of responsible treatment of animals continue to apply.



PUBLIC AUTHORITY

Implementation remains subject to the responsibilities and oversight mechanisms established by law.



OVERSIGHT DUTIES

Implementation remains subject to the responsibilities and oversight mechanisms established by law.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Kazakhstan's Law No. 292-VIII inserts a legal route for killing stray dogs as a population-regulation tool and allows the killing of certain unclaimed dogs in shelters under strict conditions. The law does not remove duties to act humanely, keep records and ensure accountability.



KEY POINTS



The earlier law prohibited killing for population regulation.



Law No. 292-VIII creates two legal routes for killing in specific circumstances.



An implementation order was issued on 1 July 2026.



Model rules were amended in August 2026.



Oversight and transparency are essential.

THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK: FROM PROHIBITION TO PERMISSION

Law No. 292-VIII has fundamentally changed Kazakhstan's approach to stray dogs. It replaced a system based on protection and population management through humane means with a system that permits killing in specific circumstances.



The law still prohibits cruel treatment of animals and requires that killing, where lawful, is carried out in a way that avoids physical suffering.

The line between legal euthanasia and unlawful cruelty must be clearly understood and upheld.

BEFORE: ANIMAL WELFARE LAW (EARLIER ARTICLE 25)



KILLING PROHIBITED FOR POPULATION REGULATION

It was expressly prohibited to regulate the number of stray animals through killing.

Population regulation was to be achieved through:

- ✓ Sterilisation
- ✓ Placement (adoption)
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Public information

AFTER: LAW NO. 292-VIII (NEW PROVISIONS)



KILLING PERMITTED IN SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES

The amendments create two legal routes under which dogs may be killed.

These include:

- ✓ Population regulation of stray dogs (excluding cats) under procedures and periods set locally.
- ✓ Killing of certain unclaimed dogs that meet the statutory conditions after the applicable Civil Code period.

THE TIMELINE: HOW LAW NO. 292-VIII HAS MOVED INTO IMPLEMENTATION



UNTIL MAY 2026
EXISTING FRAMEWORK
Killing was prohibited as a method of regulating stray-animal numbers. The law required humane approaches such as sterilisation, adoption, education and public information.



19 MAY 2026
LAW NO. 292-VIII ADOPTED
The Parliament adopted the law, creating the legal basis that allows killing of stray dogs in specific circumstances.



1 JULY 2026
IMPLEMENTATION ORDER
The Prime Minister issued an order instructing the relevant authorities to amend:

- the national model rules for capture, temporary holding and killing; and
- the decisions of local representative bodies that govern these activities.



JULY 2026
NEW LEGAL PROVISIONS TAKE EFFECT
The relevant provisions of Law No. 292-VIII take effect after the expiration of sixty (60) calendar days after the day of first official publication of the law.
(Commencement date as provided by law.)



AUGUST 2026
MODEL RULES AMENDED
The national model rules are amended to incorporate the new killing provisions, including:

- population regulation of stray dogs (excluding cats) under locally determined procedures and periods; and
- killing of qualifying unclaimed animals entering shelters or temporary holding facilities.



THE LAW HAS MOVED INTO IMPLEMENTATION.

The August 2026 amendments to the national model rules move Law No. 292-VIII from legislative authority towards practical implementation.

The question now is how those powers will be used locally — and whether implementation will be transparent, humane and accountable.

UNLAWFUL CRUELTY REMAINS PROHIBITED



The animal welfare law prohibits cruel treatment of animals.

Cruel treatment remains prohibited and may give rise to legal liability.

Whether a particular breach constitutes a criminal offence depends on the applicable offence and the circumstances of the case.

ARTICLE 15: HOW KILLING MUST BE CARRIED OUT



Article 15 sets strict requirements to avoid pre-death physical suffering. It expressly prohibits methods that cause death through:



Suffocation



Electric current



Thermal exposure



Poisoning



Other methods causing pain

Killing must be carried out in accordance with veterinary and sanitary rules and technical standards.

KEY POINTS



The earlier law prohibited killing for population regulation.



Law No. 292-VIII created new legal routes for killing in specific circumstances.



An implementation order was issued on 1 July 2026.



Model rules were amended in August 2026.



Implementation is now underway. Oversight and transparency are essential.

WHAT LAW 292-VIII ACTUALLY ALLOWS

Law No. 292-VIII creates two legal routes under which dogs may be killed. These are specific, conditional and controlled by local authorities within the limits of the law.

KEY POINT



These provisions do not create a general permission to kill dogs. They apply only when the legal conditions are met and the procedures set by local authorities are followed.

THE TWO LEGAL ROUTES FOR KILLING DOGS



1 KILLING STRAY DOGS AS PART OF REGULATING THEIR NUMBERS (EXCEPT CATS)

Local representative authorities are authorised to determine the procedures and timing for regulating the number of stray animals (except cats) in their territory.

Key points:

- Applies to stray dogs (cats are excluded).
- Procedures and timing are set locally within the law.
- This is a population-regulation tool, not a general licence to kill.



2 KILLING OF CERTAIN UNCLAIMED DOGS UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

The law allows the killing of ownerless (watchless) dogs (except cats) that enter shelters or temporary holding facilities where ALL of the following conditions are met:

- ✓ the dog is sick; OR
- ✓ the dog displays unjustified aggression;
- ✓ the dog is not placed (re-homed or adopted); AND
- ✓ the dog remains unclaimed after the applicable period set out in the Civil Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



THESE ARE PERMISSIVE PROVISIONS.

The law requires that killing be carried out in a way that avoids physical suffering and forbids cruel, inhumane or painful methods.

IMPORTANT LIMITS THAT STILL APPLY



CATS ARE EXCLUDED FROM THESE TWO ROUTES

Cats are excluded from the population-regulation and qualifying unclaimed-animal killing provisions introduced by Law No. 292-VIII.



CONDITIONS MUST ALL BE MET

For Route 2, every condition must be satisfied. If even one condition is not met, the dog cannot be killed under this provision.



HUMANE AND SANITARY REQUIREMENTS APPLY

Killing must be carried out in accordance with applicable veterinary and sanitary requirements and using methods that avoid pre-death physical suffering.



OTHER LAWS AND RIGHTS STILL APPLY

General legislation, including animal welfare law and the Civil Code, continues to apply and may provide additional protections.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Law No. 292-VIII does not require dogs to be killed. It allows killing in two clearly defined circumstances only, when strict legal conditions are met and local authorities follow the procedures they have set within the limits of the law.

i KEY POINTS



Two legal routes allow killing dogs in specific circumstances.



Cats are excluded from these two routes.



Strict conditions must be met before killing is lawful.



Humane, veterinary and sanitary requirements are mandatory.



Local authorities have power, but not unlimited discretion.

THE POPULATION-CONTROL QUESTION: WHAT ACTUALLY REDUCES STRAY DOG NUMBERS?

Law No. 292-VIII allows the killing of stray dogs as one element of population regulation. But long-term reduction in stray dog numbers requires addressing the drivers of their populations.



The law still prohibits cruel treatment of animals and requires that killing, where lawful, is carried out in a way that avoids physical suffering.

The line between legal euthanasia and unlawful cruelty must be clearly understood and upheld.

REMOVAL ALONE DOES NOT RESOLVE THE PROBLEM

Where food, shelter, abandonment and reproduction continue, removed dogs may be replaced through births, abandonment or movement from surrounding areas.



FOOD AVAILABILITY

Uncontrolled food sources support overpopulation.



SHELTER & SPACE

Places to shelter allow dogs to survive and breed.



ABANDONMENT

Ongoing abandonment replenishes stray dog populations.



REPRODUCTION

Early breeding and large litters drive rapid population growth.



MOVEMENT

Dogs may move in from nearby areas filling the space left behind.



EVIDENCE FROM DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONALLY SHOWS:

- Sustainable reduction relies on prevention, responsible ownership and high-coverage sterilisation.
- Roaming dog populations are dynamic and respond to local conditions.
- Healthy, sterilised and vaccinated dogs living in their communities are less likely to breed, fight or spread disease.
- Data-driven, humane programmes cost less and achieve more over time than repeated removal and killing.

WHAT KILLING STRAY DOGS MAY ACHIEVE



SHORT-TERM REDUCTION IN A GIVEN AREA

Numbers may drop briefly where dogs are removed or killed.



PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF ACTION

Visible action may be seen as addressing the issue.



POTENTIAL REDUCTION IN INCIDENCES*

Removal of aggressive individuals may reduce some incidences in the short term.

** Record-keeping and data collection are essential to understand any true impact.*



WHAT IS NEEDED FOR SUSTAINABLE REDUCTION



SUSTAINED, HIGH-COVERAGE STERILISATION

Targeted to local population dynamics and maintained over time.



RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP & ENFORCEMENT

Identification, registration, licensing and enforcement of abandonment and breeding laws.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EDUCATION

Promoting coexistence, feeding management and reporting of unowned dog litters.



ADEQUATE SHELTER & REHOMING OPTIONS

Humane shelters, adoption pathways and support for returned dogs.



DATA, PLANNING & TRANSPARENCY

Local data collection, monitoring and public reporting to guide effective programmes.

THE REAL QUESTION



WHAT KIND OF FUTURE IS KAZAKHSTAN CHOOSING?

A future based on removal and killing alone will require constant repetition.

A future based on prevention, sterilisation, responsible ownership and humane management can create lasting change and healthier communities.

KEY ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE POPULATION MANAGEMENT

- ✓ Prevention of abandonment
- ✓ Early-age sterilisation
- ✓ Vaccination and disease control
- ✓ Humane catch–sterilise–vaccinate–return where appropriate
- ✓ Responsible community feeding
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation
- ✓ Cooperation between authorities, professionals and communities
- ✓ Transparency and public accountability



CONCLUSION: A BALANCED, HUMANE AND EVIDENCE-LED APPROACH

Killing stray dogs may be permitted under Law No. 292-VIII, but it is not a solution on its own.

Sustained, high-coverage sterilisation targeted to local population dynamics, combined with responsible ownership, community engagement and transparent governance, offers the only realistic path to long-term reduction in stray dog numbers.



COMMENCEMENT OF THE LAW

Law No. 292-VIII was adopted on 19 May 2026 and published in the national newspaper on 20 May 2026.



THE LAW TAKES EFFECT

The relevant provisions come into force after the expiration of sixty (60) calendar days after the day of first official publication. The precise operative date is determined by the statutory commencement rule.



WHO DECIDES WHICH DOGS DIE?

Law No. 292-VIII gives significant decision-making power to local authorities. They decide when the conditions for killing are met, how the procedures are carried out and which dogs are subjected to these provisions.

KEY POINT



The law sets the legal framework. Local authorities decide how it is implemented in practice — and their decisions directly affect which dogs live and which dogs die.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN:



Determine the procedures and timing for regulating the number of stray animals, as provided by law.



Decide how goodwill and complaint evidence is collected and assessed.



Assess whether all legal conditions are met for killing unclaimed dogs under Route 2.



Ensure records are kept in accordance with the law.



Inform residents about local procedures and timeframes.

WHAT THIS MEANS



Different local authorities may apply different procedures, timing and interpretations.



The same law can lead to different outcomes for dogs in different areas.



Oversight, transparency and accountability are essential to ensure these powers are used lawfully and humanely.



Without strong oversight, these decisions can result in unnecessary suffering and unlawful killing.

THE LEGAL BASIS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY POWERS

Article 15 sets out the circumstances in which animals may be killed, including the provisions concerning stray-dog population regulation (Route 1: except cats) and qualifying unclaimed animals (Route 2), together with the safeguards that must be observed.



Article 26 requires animal shelters to maintain documentary records of animals entering and leaving, including individual characteristics sufficient for identification.



IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUMENT

The model rules for carrying out activities related to the capture, temporary holding, identification, accounting and placement of animals were amended on 27 August 2026.

Implementation of Law No. 292-VIII began under **Prime Minister's Order No. 109-r of 1 July 2026.**



KEY POINTS



Local authorities have significant powers under the law.



Their decisions determine which dogs are killed and which are not.



Oversight and accountability are essential.



Transparency protects dogs and the public interest.

WHAT **MUST** BE RECORDED?

Article 26 of Kazakhstan's animal welfare law requires animal shelters to keep documentary records of animals entering and leaving, including identifying information.

KEY POINT



Records and data are the foundation of oversight, accountability and public trust.

EXISTING LEGAL REQUIREMENT — WHAT ARTICLE 26 REQUIRES



Article 26 requires animal shelters to maintain documentary records of animals entering and leaving, including individual characteristics sufficient for identification.

THIS INCLUDES:



Animals entering the shelter



Animals leaving the shelter



Individual characteristics sufficient to identify each animal



Implementation details for record-keeping are set in the model rules approved under Prime Minister's Order No. 109-r of 1 July 2026.

DDAA TRANSPARENCY STANDARD — WHAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE



For transparency and accountability, Dog Desk Animal Action believes the following information should be routinely collected and published by all shelters and holding facilities.



Where animals were captured or found (location)



Dates — capture/intake date and outcome date



Animal identification — species, breed type, colour, sex, approximate age, and any identification (microchip, tag, etc.)



Outcome for each animal — reclaimed, adopted, transferred, released, died (natural causes), killed/humanely euthanised, other



Reason for each outcome (including reason for killing/euthanasia where applicable)



Regular summaries — total numbers and outcomes over time



This transparency standard goes beyond current legal requirements to ensure the public can see what is happening and hold authorities accountable.



KEY TAKEAWAY

The law requires shelters to keep basic records of animals entering and leaving, including identifying information. We believe the public has a right to see more complete and consistent data so that every dog's journey is visible and accountable.



KEY POINTS



Article 26 requires records of animals entering and leaving shelters.



Identify each animal through individual characteristics sufficient for ID.



Implementation details are in the model rules (Order No. 109-r).



Transparency builds public trust and enables meaningful oversight.



More data means better protection for dogs and better accountability.

TRACEABILITY: FOLLOWING EACH DOG'S JOURNEY

Traceability means every dog can be followed through the system from the moment it is captured or found to its final outcome.

This depends on accurate records, consistent data and clear accountability at every stage.

KEY POINT



Traceability is essential for oversight, accountability and public trust. Without it, dogs can disappear into the system without anyone knowing what happened to them.

EXISTING LEGAL REQUIREMENT — WHAT ARTICLE 26 REQUIRES



Article 26 requires animal shelters to maintain documentary records of animals entering and leaving, including individual characteristics sufficient for identification.

THIS INCLUDES:



Animals entering the shelter



Animals leaving the shelter



Individual characteristics sufficient to identify each animal



Implementation details for record-keeping are set in the model rules approved under Prime Minister's Order No. 109-r of 1 July 2026.

DDAA TRANSPARENCY STANDARD — WHAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE

For true traceability and accountability, the following information should be routinely collected, retained and published by all shelters and holding facilities.



CAPTURE / INTAKE

Where and why the dog was captured or found.



DATE

Date of capture / intake.



IDENTIFICATION

Microchip or tag number, or other identifier, plus key physical characteristics.



LOCATION HELD

Which shelter or holding facility the dog was placed in.



OUTCOME

Reclaimed, adopted, transferred, released, died (natural causes), killed / euthanised, other.



REASON

Reason for outcome (including reason for killing / euthanasia where applicable).



SUMMARY DATA

Regular summaries — total numbers and outcomes over time.



This transparency standard goes beyond current legal requirements to ensure the public can see what is happening and hold authorities accountable.

THE TRACEABILITY CHAIN — FROM CAPTURE TO OUTCOME



1. CAPTURE
Dog captured or found.



2. INTAKE & RECORD
Details recorded in the shelter system.



3. SHELTER / HOLDING
Dog placed in a shelter or holding facility.



4. DECISION & ACTION
Conditions assessed. Decision made and action taken.



5. OUTCOME
Dog leaves the shelter through a defined outcome.



6. RECORD
Data retained as part of the animal's traceable record.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Traceability is not just about records. It is about every dog having a visible, accountable journey from capture to outcome — so no dog is lost in the system.

KEY POINTS



Article 26 requires basic records of animals entering and leaving.



Complete traceability means more data at every stage.



Accurate data protects dogs and supports lawful decisions.



Transparency builds public trust and enables oversight.



Every dog's journey should be visible and accountable.

CONCLUSION:

POWER, RESPONSIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY

Law No. 292-VIII gives local authorities the power to kill dogs in two specific ways. That power must be used lawfully, humanely and transparently — with strong oversight and public accountability.

KEY POINT



Power must be matched by responsibility. Transparency and oversight protect dogs and build public trust.

DDAA CALLS TO ACTION

1 PUBLISH LOCAL PROCEDURES AND TIMEFRAMES



We call on every relevant local authority to publish the procedures and timeframes it applies for regulating stray-animal numbers and for killing in the cases permitted by law.

2 RECORD AND PUBLISH DATA



We call on all shelters and holding facilities to keep complete records as required by law and on local authorities to publish summary data regularly.

3 ENSURE HUMANE, LAWFUL PRACTICE AND OVERSIGHT



We call on all authorities to ensure all actions are humane, lawful and subject to effective oversight, with consequences for unlawful or cruel conduct.

WHY TRANSPARENCY MATTERS



OVERSIGHT

Without clear information, it is impossible to know whether the law is being applied correctly and humanely.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Public data enables communities, media and oversight bodies to hold authorities to account.



PUBLIC TRUST

Transparent systems build confidence that decisions are fair, lawful and in the public interest.



BETTER OUTCOMES FOR DOGS

Evidence-based, humane approaches protect animal welfare and are more effective in the long term.

THE WAY FORWARD



The law now gives local authorities significant power over how stray-dog population regulation is implemented. Those decisions can determine which dogs are subjected to killing provisions and which receive another outcome.

Evidence from dog-population management internationally shows that humane population management requires sustained prevention, monitoring and responsible ownership—not removal alone.

Sustained, high-coverage sterilisation programmes designed around local dog-population data remain the most effective, humane and accountable way to reduce suffering and manage numbers over time.



Power over life and death demands the highest standards of transparency, accountability and compassion.

i KEY POINTS



Law No. 292-VIII creates two specific routes for killing dogs.



Local authorities implement the law within the limits set by legislation.



Records and transparency are essential for lawful and humane practice.



Public oversight protects dogs and the public interest.



Humane, evidence-based solutions work better for everyone.