

Statement on Global Donkey Skin Trade

Donkeys are essential working animals for millions of people in low-resource communities around the world, and in other regions, they are part of wildlife or valued companions. For many families, donkeys support agriculture, transport, household work, and daily livelihood. The loss of donkeys can have serious economic and social consequences for the families and communities that depend on them.

As part of the global veterinary community, WEVA has a responsibility to protect the health and welfare of donkeys and the equid-human bond. WEVA advocates for the **humane treatment and welfare of all equids throughout every stage of their lives**, including housing, handling, transport, trade, and end-of-life care.

Our Position

WEVA stands firmly against:

1. The illegal or unregulated trade of equids in all their forms, including the illicit sourcing and theft of donkeys from communities that depend on them.
2. Inhumane transport practices, including overcrowding, prolonged journeys without food, water, or rest, and handling that causes unnecessary pain, injury, or distress to donkeys.
3. Inhumane slaughter and euthanasia methods that do not meet welfare standards, including those set out by the World Organisation for Animal Health.

Call To Action

WEVA calls on governments, industry stakeholders, community members, and all participants in equid trade around the world to:

1. Ensure full compliance with international animal welfare and transport laws and standards.
2. Prevent and eliminate illegal sourcing, trafficking, and theft of equids, including donkeys, used for the skin trade.
3. Adopt and enforce humane slaughter and euthanasia practices consistent with WOAHA guidelines.

WEVA remains committed to the veterinary oath and to supporting veterinary professionals, welfare organizations, and policymakers worldwide through education, collaboration, and the promotion of the humane treatment of all equids.

This statement reflects WEVA's position on animal welfare and trade practices only, and does not represent any political, religious, or cultural stance.

WORLD EQUINE VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Approved by the WEVA Board of Directors