

NEWS RELEASE



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WORLD'S CHIEF VETS URGED TO HELP STOP MASS SLAUGHTER OF PIGS IN EGYPT

Compassion in World Farming, the international farm animal welfare charity, will step up pressure at The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) General Assembly in Paris tomorrow (Wednesday 27 May '09), and call for an immediate stop to the appalling mass slaughter of pigs in Egypt due to swine flu (A/H1N1).

Compassion in World Farming will urge National Delegates from all 174 Member countries to use their influence to end the horrific and barbaric killing of all the nation's pigs - which is in clear breach of the OIE Guidelines on the Killing of Animals for Disease Control Purposes.

Every day for the past two weeks, thousands of pigs in Egypt have been killed using horrific methods that include being dumped alive and fully conscious on top of each other in open-topped trucks where they writhe as they fight to breathe, before being driven alive to mass graves. The pigs are then often covered in chemicals before being buried alive, screaming in pain until they die about thirty minutes later. (View video footage <http://www.ciwf.org.uk/egypt>)

Philip Lymbery, Chief Executive of Compassion in World Farming said: "Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, has rightly described the culling of Egypt's 300,000 pigs as unjustified, pointless and unacceptable. We strongly urge the Delegates attending the OIE Assembly in Paris, particularly the representative from Egypt, to take immediate and urgent action and force the Egyptian Government to abide by the OIE Guidelines (which Egypt endorsed in 2005) and demand a halt to this horrific inhumane practice."

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Notes to Editors

Guidelines for the Killing of Animals for Disease Control Purposes, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Available at
http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.7.6.htm#rubrique_abattage_a_des_fins_prophy lactiques