Stray animals in Brazil

Brazils is the fifth largest nation in the world and spans across approximately 3,286,000 square miles. The population of Brazil is about 188 million. Most people in Brazil speak Portuguese. The capital of Brazil is Brasília. It is a federation composed of 26 states, one federal district and municipalities, grouped into 5 geographical regions.

Major cities like the capital city Brasília, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro face the problem of large numbers of stray dogs and cats.

Only in Rio de Janeiro there are nearly 150,000 stray and unwanted cats and dogs. Many roam the streets sick and injured. Others live in animal protection shelters and local authority pounds.

There is a lot of cruelty with many dogs being poisoned, beaten, denied medical treatment and intentionally run over. People put dogs in plastic bin liners and leave them tied up in the bag to be run over or dogs are thrown out of the window of moving cars.

Animals are ruthlessly killed in municipal shelters and there are no public policies ensure them with any kind of proper treatment or spaying. There are insufficient laws to guarantee their lives and dignity.

There are no general spay and adoption campaigns. The government has no concern at all for their lives, even though a vast majority of the population claims for taxes to be employed in building ethical animal welfare policies.

In Brazil stray-dogs live near trash piles, tear up the bags containing rests of food. Many people consider them as a problem to the public health, but there is not much action being taken about it.

Officially, the municipal animal control unit should take care of those dogs but most of them end up being euthanized. The adoption centers, however enjoy a relative success and a lot of people start their own shelter organizations.

In the southern city of Caxias do Sul NGO Soama started a favela for dogs.
Legislation

There is a **Legal Structure for Animal Issues** in Brazil.

Since 1998 Article 32 of Federal Law No. **L9605/98** (Law of environmental crimes) provides a minimum protection for animals. This Article insures that crimes against animals are legally recognized and punished.

However, recently bill **PL 4548/98** was presented to the Congress. This bill intends to exclude sanctions against animal abuse. Animals will continue to be submitted to massive killing in the shelters and there will be no legal basis to run on their help. Domestic abuse will happen and its perpetrators will not be punished.

Although there is an article in Brazil’s Constitution (art. 225, paragraph 1, inciso VII ) that clearly states as a public obligation to ensure protection for animals against cruelty the State is its worst enemy. There are no public policies of spaying and insufficient laws to guarantee their lives and dignity.

Sao Paulo has a **State Law No. 12.916** concerning stray dogs and cats.
It becomes the first Brazilian state to enact a law banning the killing of stray dogs and cat as a population control practice.

For export and import of animals there are **Rules** in Brazil established by the **Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture,. Livestock and Supply**.

Traveling with cats and dogs requires an **International Animal Health Certificate** that is issued by the Office of International Agricultural Monitoring.

**Decree Law No. 24,645, July 1934**

**Law no. 4591/64 and art. 554 of the Civil Code**

**Sao Paulo Municipal law No. 13131/01 – Responsible ownership.**
Events

The 2014 football World championship will be held in Brazil.

2016 Summer Olympics will be held in Rio de Janeiro.
Brazilians involved in Animal Rights.

Silvana Andrade

Carlos A. Bedin Cipro

Bianca Salles Dantas

George Guimaraes

Lobo Pasolini
NGO’s

In Brazil there are several shelters and organizations for the protection of animals.

ABEAC
News Agency of Animal Rights

Angloinfo is a website that provides information about animals and pets for expats.

ANIMALLIVRE

Animal Support Organization

Associação de Amparo aos Animais in São Paulo is a non-governmental organisation for animals in need of a home.

APAA

ARCA Brasil
ARCA is an animal welfare organization that promotes ethical and humane treatment of animals for consumption. They do not collect animals in shelters nor do they offer animals for adoption. Knowledge and information are spread and responsible ownership is promoted.

Associação Natureza em Forma

Defensores dos Animais
WSPA and their member society Defensores dos Animais, opened a new clinic to treat animals from one of the poorest areas of Rio. It also aims to educate the public about responsible pet ownership.
Matilha Cultural (The Cultural Pack) is a cultural center and an independent non-profit located in downtown São Paulo which also offers dogs for adoption.

Dogs in Brazil

Janice Cabral runs a shelter in Rio. Joey, a German Shepherd is the blogger of this organization.

DOG'S TIMES

DR. PET (Cão Cidadão)
SOAMA
A shelter in Caxias do Sul.

SUIPA
A shelter that houses 3500 cats and dogs.
WSPA is active in Brazil and has its own office.