

## Spanish citizens demand their government to adopt measures against animal cruelty

Last 26th of March 2012, after the 59 simultaneous demonstrations in different regions of Spain, where more than 100.000 people attended, representatives of the popular initiative "No to Animal Cruelty" presented 400.000 signatures supporting a petition at the Congress, according to the Petition Right recognized in the Constitution, to request the implementation of a real and effective toughening of the punishment for animal abuse contained in the penal code and also the adherence of Spain to the European Convention of the Protection of Pet Animals, developed 25 years ago by the European Council, that Spain, in spite of being a member of such Council, has not yet ratified.

"No to Animal Cruelty" was born as a non-hierarchy and non-profit popular initiative through the unification of anonymous citizens, helpless to see how everyday cases of animal abuse are not condemned to the extent they deserve.

What triggered this initiative was the case of Schnauzi. At just 2 months of age, Schnauzi was tortured for longer than 11 hours by an individual who recorded the torture and published it in internet.

In accordance with the punishment in the penal code, this individual could face a maximum sentence between 3 and 12 months in prison, and in case he has no criminal record, he would just have to pay a fine, as it happens with all the cases of animal cruelty in Spain.

The inflicted damage cannot be undone, but the purpose of punishment is to also prevent future crimes.

These individuals are not only dangerous for the animals, but also for the people, as several scientific studies show (animal abuse is a sign of psychiatric alarm).

Spanish citizens will keep fighting until the people elected to be their representatives in the legislative power listen to them, remember the meaning of representation in democracy and reform the laws considering what most people understand as essential: respect for the life of the animals that day after day are victims of abuse, as the Spanish animals are.

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