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January 12, 2024

Senator Alex Padilla

Hart Senate Office Building

331 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Sent via email to: senator_padilla@padilla.senate.gov

RE: Sulala Animal Rescue

Dear Senator Padilla,

Please accept this message from the San Francisco Commission of Animal Control and Welfare on behalf of Sulala Animal Rescue in Gaza, the sole animal rights organization in the Gaza Strip.

Our Commission would like to bring to your attention the dire situation faced by Sulala Animal Rescue in the midst of the ongoing conflict.

Since October 9th, the Gaza Strip has faced a complete restriction on the entry of animal food, leaving millions of animals in desperate need. Sulala Animal Rescue, which has been distributing food to displaced individuals with pets during the conflict, had to halt operations in mid-December due to depleting stock.

As of the beginning of January, Sulala Animal Rescue has only two bags of food left for the 120 cats and 30 dogs (including 20 disabled ones) under their care. Simultaneously, the animals' lives are in peril due to ongoing bombings, and Sulala Animal Rescue is struggling to find a secure location to protect them.

Many animals were abandoned in the north when their owners fled south. Sulala Animal Rescue receives reports on a daily basis about animals starving and wounded in the northern area of Gaza - which is currently prohibited for Palestinians to access.

Sulala Animal Rescue has asked for assistance in bringing awareness to what they feel is needed to continue their work. We request your assistance in addressing these three critical issues that are being requested by Sulala Animal Rescue:

- **Entry of food for all animals:** Sulala Animal Rescue is requesting the Israeli government to allow multiple trucks of animal food through the Kerem Shalom crossing. In coordination with donor organization Animals Australia and



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Israeli animal rights organizations, Sulala Animal Rescue has arranged for trucks filled with animal food to go to the Kerem Shalom checkpoint and is requesting a guarantee that they be able to enter.

- **Designation of a safe area for animals:** Sulala Animal Rescue is asking the Israeli army's cooperation in designating a safe area within the Gaza Strip where Sulala Animal Rescue can take the animals, ensuring their safety and well-being.
- **Permit for rescue operations in the North:** Sulala Animal Rescue is seeking a permit to access north of Gaza to rescue starving and wounded animals.

We respectfully request your support by encouraging the Israeli government to address the needs of Sulala Animal Rescue. Any support that you could provide in communicating this urgent matter to the relevant officials will significantly help to alleviate the suffering of these animals and those who care for them.

Thank you for your consideration and potential assistance in this urgent humanitarian cause.

Sincerely,

Michael Angelo Torres
Chair, San Francisco Animal Commission – Commission of Animal
Control and Welfare

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