



FUNDACIÓN ANIMANATURALIS INTERNACIONAL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# 2023: A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

To those who make our mission in defense of animals possible, and to those who do not yet know us but would like to participate and join us in the commitment we are dedicated to, we present the 2023 REPORT of the AnimaNaturalis International Foundation.

This 2023 has been the most intense year in our history. We have kept our focus on industrial farms which, unfortunately, are the norm in Spain. We launched a shocking undercover investigation into rabbit farms for meat, shedding light on the precarious conditions in which these animals are raised in our country.

We challenged the controversial octopus farm project in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, the first in the world aiming to turn the breeding of millions of octopuses from larvae into a business. Additionally, we launched a new investigation to expose the horror hidden in 'monterías', one of the most brutal hunting practices with dogs in Spain.

We managed to get a debate on the prohibition of the most cruel forms of 'correbous' in the Parliament of Catalonia, continued with numerous street protests against bullfighting in major cities, and have not stopped reporting all cases of animal abuse we have encountered.

In light of the anticipated General Elections in June, we activated an important campaign to influence the political agenda and mobilize the vote, as it is one of our fundamental pillars: to impact policies and

legislative changes to build a better future for animals.

We are also proud to announce that we consolidated VegFest BCN, one of the most important festivals promoting veganism in Spain, attracting more than 3,300 visitors.

All this and what you will see in detail in our report, we could not have achieved without the warm support of our volunteer and activism teams, financial donors, and professional collaborators.

Thank you very much on behalf of AnimaNaturalis.

**Aïda Gascón Bosch**  
Director of AnimaNaturalis in Spain





# BULLFIGHTING

## FOR THE END OF CRUEL TRADITIONS

### Against Cruel Festivals with Bulls

We published the results of an exhaustive three-year investigation into the public money allocated to traditions featuring bulls and calves.

Each year, 1,820 municipalities spend at least 42 million euros of public funds on bullfighting events. Nearly 18,000 events are held annually.

Additionally, we documented up to five bulls with flaming balls on their horns in a single night in Sant Jaume d'Enveja (Tarragona), bulls at sea in Dénia, rope-tied bulls in Teruel, flaming-horned bulls in Morella (Castellón) and Pedrola (Zaragoza), and the horrific bull of Medinaceli.

On July 5th in Pamplona, we witnessed the inaugural bullfight of their bullfighting fair. The inexperience of the aspiring bullfighters caused great suffering to the animals. This pain is invisible to the media, but we managed to expose it on social media and to the public.

We also succeeded in denouncing a heinous bullfighting show called "Popeye Torero and the Little Sailors," involving people with achondroplasia, which is illegal.

We have protested alongside hundreds of activists in major cities across Spain, demanding an end to animal cruelty funded with public money.

### Towards the End of the Cruellest 'Correbaus' in Catalonia

AnimaNaturalis, as part of the Prou Correbaus platform, managed to get the Parliament of Catalonia to accept for processing the bill presented by En Comú Podem and the CUP, to debate the prohibition of three types of 'correbaus': bulls with flaming balls, rope-tied bulls, and bulls at sea.

The comprehensive amendment presented by Vox and the PP, which aimed to stop this modification, did not succeed thanks to 29 votes against and 82 abstentions, compared to only 19 votes in favor.

Thirteen years ago, the Parliament banned bullfighting in Catalonia but maintained the celebration of 'correbaus'. This proposal aims to modify Law 34/2010 regulating traditional festivals with bulls.

### Actions Against the Return of Bullfighting

We carried out impactful actions against bullfighting during the major festivals in Madrid, Torrejón de Ardoz, Valencia, Alicante, Barcelona, Seville, Bilbao, and Logroño. We successfully conveyed our message to the media, and through them, to society and the authorities.





# VEGANISM

## PROMOVIENDO ALTERNATIVAS AL CONSUMO DE ANIMALES

### VegFest Barcelona

On June 3rd and 4th, we organized the second edition of our charitable festival for animals and the promotion of veganism, VegFest Barcelona. It was the largest event in favor of animals, featuring music, 100% vegan food, talks, and much more.

The festival became a meeting point for vegans and those transitioning to veganism, as well as many people interested in reducing their meat consumption and trying new gastronomic proposals. It was also a space for learning and inspiration through informative talks.

We significantly exceeded attendance compared to the first edition, reaching 3,300 entries. Additionally, we doubled the funds raised compared to the 2022 edition, reaching 12,000€, which will be used to enhance AnimaNaturalis's awareness, outreach, and advocacy campaigns.

### Vegan Caldereta in Logroño

In September, during the San Mateo festivities, we served nearly 300 portions of our 100% plant-based and locally sourced version of potatoes "a la riojana" in less than an hour, accompanied by a good Rioja wine. Thanks to our volunteers, we were able to raise funds while demonstrating that a plant-based diet is just as delicious, healthy, more environmentally sustainable, and respectful of animals.

[www.veg-fest.org](http://www.veg-fest.org)





# FARMED ANIMALS

## CAMPAIGNS THAT WILL CHANGE THE LIVES OF ANIMALS

### Discovering What Happens Inside Fur Farms

In January 2023, we revealed a new investigation after documenting five Spanish fur farms in Galicia and Castilla y León. We found minks suffering from high levels of stress due to confinement, polluted streams, and stagnant, putrid waters. Additionally, we exposed a mink slaughter using a gas chamber, recorded with a hidden camera.

However, we didn't stop at just exposing these conditions. We leveraged our presence in the Eurogroup for Animals coalition to improve European legislation and put an end to this cruelty.

On March 1, 2023, we concluded the **European Citizens' Initiative Fur Free Europe**, exceeding the required one million signatures by a wide margin: 1,701,892

people from across the EU signed in favor of ending the breeding of animals for their fur. In Spain, AnimaNaturalis was one of the driving organizations behind this initiative.

### Challenging the Installation of the World's First Octopus Farm

The controversial project of the octopus farm in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has faced a dual threat: financial issues and strong opposition from animal rights activists. Our campaign **#BanOctopusFarming** gained momentum throughout 2023, gathering over 160,000 signatures.

We also conducted various protests in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Madrid, in front of the Congress and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food. Additionally, we filed an administrative appeal to understand the status of the procedures for the construction of the farm.

[www.banooctopusfarming.org](http://www.banooctopusfarming.org)





# RABBIT FARMS

## EXPOSING WHAT THE INDUSTRY HIDES

In October, we launched a revealing undercover investigation into these farms, shedding light on the extremely precarious conditions in which rabbits are bred for meat in Spain. This investigation highlighted a dreadful reality that demands an immediate response.

Rabbit meat production in the European Union is primarily concentrated in the Mediterranean region, with Spain leading the way. Rabbits are the second most farmed and slaughtered animals for human consumption in the EU, with 180 million rabbits.

In 2020, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) raised concerns about rabbit farms in Spain, denouncing the use of the worst possible production system in terms of animal welfare. These farms face alarming mortality rates, with 20% of rabbits dying before reaching the slaughterhouse.

The images obtained during AnimaNaturalis' investigation revealed the unimaginable suffering of rabbits at all stages of produc-

tion: from maternity and breeding to fattening. This harsh reality was documented in 10 farms in some of the regions with the highest rabbit populations in Spain, such as Castilla y León, Catalonia, Aragon, and Castilla-La Mancha.

The shocking images show live rabbits sharing space with corpses, animals crowded into cages turned into mass graves, crushed baby rabbits, agonizing animals, neglected and filthy facilities, and more. Lack of medical attention, deformities, stress, and nutritional deficiencies are commonplace.

This investigation was a powerful reminder of the urgent need to reform rabbit breeding practices in Spain and throughout the European Union. Rabbits deserve respect and welfare, and it is everyone's responsibility to work towards a future where animal suffering in the name of meat production is not tolerated.

[www.farmedanimals.org](http://www.farmedanimals.org)





# MONTERÍAS

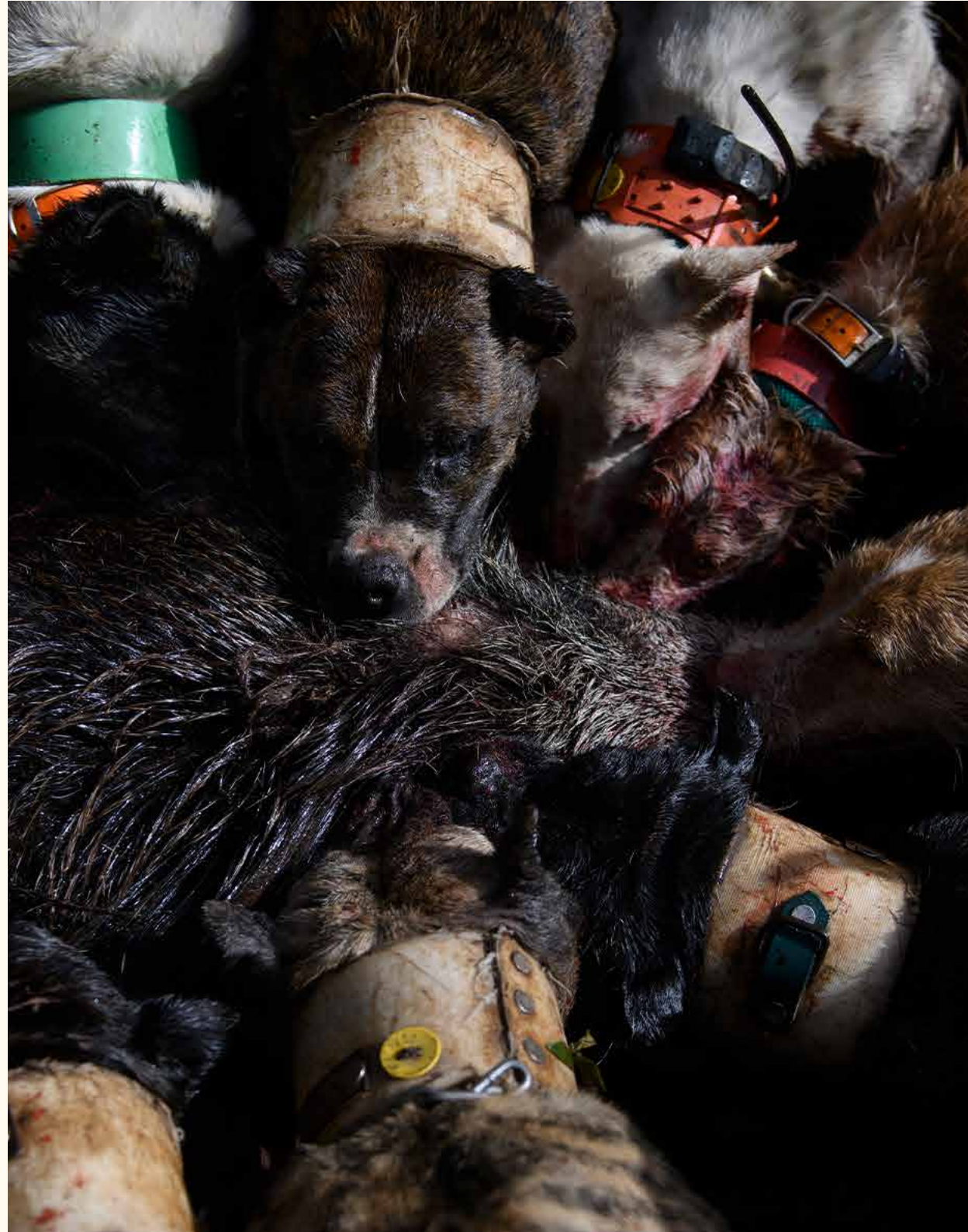
## EXPOSING THE HORROR OF HUNTING WITH DOGS IN SPAIN

In April 2023, we revealed a new investigation to expose the horror hidden in “monterías”, one of the most characteristic and perhaps brutal forms of hunting in Spain. The use of dogs in this activity is prohibited in almost the entire European Union.

The footage from the investigation comes from 11 driven hunts across various provinces in Spain, 1 breeding facility, 2 hunting dog kennels, and a game meat processing plant, all documented between 2021 and 2023. The footage shows injured dogs, instances of stabbing, hunting animals in agony, hunters suturing their dogs' wounds without veterinary supervision, and even the use of illegal medications.

This campaign was supported by various street protests featuring large signs that exposed the horror of driven hunts.

[www.savehuntingdogs.org](http://www.savehuntingdogs.org)





# SAME DOGS, SAME LAW

## LET'S NOT LEAVE ANYONE BEHIND

Throughout 2023, we did not want to forget the campaign to denounce the exclusion of hunting dogs from the animal protection law, and we continued to apply pressure on the streets and social media for the Spanish government to rectify their serious mistake.

In February, we joined mobilizations in over 45 cities in Spain and 18 in Europe to express our rejection of hunting and the exploitation of dogs to kill other animals.







# LOBBY

## POLITICAL ADVOCACY IN SPAIN

### **Law 7/2023, of March 28, on the protection of the rights and welfare of animals**

During 2023, the year the law was finally approved, we continued to analyze and disseminate all possible information about the law, participating in debates and interviews on TV, radio, and mainstream press.

### **Opposition to the reform of the Catalan Animal Protection Law**

On March 10, 2023, a modification of the Catalan animal protection law was approved, exempting facilities that house fewer than 15 animals over 3 months old from the obligation to have a zoological nucleus. This reform, clearly tailored for hunters, led to various meetings and protests at the Department of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda of the Generalitat of Catalonia, along with several animal protection organizations.

### **We influenced the political agenda in Spain**

In anticipation of the General Elections in June, AnimaNaturalis launched an important campaign to influence the political agenda in Spain and mobilize voters.

There was a lot at stake in these elections, as the outcome would significantly impact animal protection policies. Spain faced a major challenge to continue progressing or risk losing all the work done and regressing in its rights, as we were already seeing in many autonomous communities and municipalities.

We presented the key issues to all political parties with representation potential for the 2023-2027 term to advance towards a future that takes into account the needs of animals within the Government of Spain, aiming for them to sign achievable commitments for the upcoming legislature.

The campaign was a success, as over 12,000 people signed it, and we achieved commitments from ERC, SUMAR, PACMA, CUP, and Junts to adopt most or all of our proposals.

Additionally, more than 70 animal protection entities supported the campaign.

[www.agendanatural.org](http://www.agendanatural.org)





# IN THE COURTS

## WE TAKE ANIMAL CRUELTY TO JUSTICE

### Participation of Minors in a Bull with Balls in Náquera

We successfully ensured that the organization responsible for the bull with balls event in Náquera (Valencia) in August 2022 was fined €6,000 for allowing minors to participate. Additionally, the three individuals responsible, including the parents of the minors, were fined €4,000 each.

### Use of a Bull Not Meeting Legal Conditions in l'Aldea

We managed to have the Town Hall of l'Aldea (Tarragona) fined for an irregularity during the 'correbaus' festivities. The town's festival committee allowed the participation of an animal that did not meet the legal requirements. This violation is considered serious and could result in a fine ranging from €601 to €60,000, along with a ban on organizing bull-related events for up to two years.

### Foundation of the First National Network for Animal Advocacy

Around fifty lawyers specializing in Animal Law from across the country, including our lawyer Cristina Ibáñez, gathered at the Granada Bar Association from June 15 to 17 to attend the First National Meeting of Animal Advocacy. This specialized event aimed to analyze and discuss the most common issues in this legal field, provide theoretical and practical tools for professional practice, and promote updates in this discipline following recent legislative reforms.

### Denouncing a Grotesque Bullfighting Spectacle Involving People with Achondroplasia

In July 2023, we witnessed another case of abuse and ridicule in Teruel: the so-called "Popeye the Bullfighter and the Little Sailors." This is not only morally unacceptable, but it also contradicts the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Since May 2023, this law prohibits shows or recreational activities that involve people with disabilities "to provoke mockery, ridicule, or derision from the audience in a manner contrary to the respect due to human dignity."

Despite this, the show went on as usual, and AnimaNaturalis took action to document the events and file a complaint with the Territorial

Delegation of Teruel against the City Council of Teruel, the Provincial Council, and the organizers.

### Case of the Donkey Dragged by a Van

The horrific images of a donkey being dragged by a heartless individual in Corbera de Llobregat (Barcelona) went viral. AnimaNaturalis located the court handling the case and was able to participate in the proceedings.

The Local Police confiscated the donkey and alerted the Regional Environmental Unit of the RPMS, which took immediate action. URMA officials initiated proceedings for animal abuse and reported the alleged driver of the vehicle, thanks to videos and statements provided by witnesses.

The donkey received prompt attention from veterinary services and was transferred to a horse rehabilitation center.

Our involvement in the case has allowed us to be part of the prosecution, learn all the details of the case, and demand the maximum possible penalty for the driver.



# CHARITY

## 7 CHARITY EVENTS FOR ANIMALS

Charity events are a wonderful way to raise funds to strengthen our projects while connecting people who share a common interest: defending animals.

In total, we managed to raise 14,029 euros, with a total of 4,000 attendees across the VegFest in Barcelona and charity meals in Barcelona, Madrid, Vigo, and Valencia.





# ACTIVISM

## 39 STREET ACTIONS

In total, we carried out and participated in 39 protest actions across Spain related to the fight against bullfighting, intensive farming, hunting, and the use of dogs for hunting.

In these actions, we mobilized nearly 4,700 people in Barcelona, Seville, Madrid, Logroño, Pamplona, Valencia, Alicante, Palma de Mallorca, Zaragoza, and San Fernando de Henares.





## OUR STRENGTH

### UNITED FOR ANIMALS

In 2023, we worked in collaboration with national and international organizations to achieve the best results for the benefit of animals, especially to end cruel animal festivals alongside CAS International. Additionally, we continue to be an active part of the Eurogroup for Animals coalition.

Within the Eurogroup for Animals coalition, we advocate for changes at the European level alongside 88 other organizations dedicated to animal welfare. In the Open Wings Alliance, we strive to improve the lives of millions of hens and chickens worldwide. In the Aquatic Animal Alliance, we fight internationally for the moral consideration of fish and other ocean creatures.

**4,700**  
people

have participated in actions and protests.

**4,000**  
people

have attended fundraising events.

**16**  
people

were part of our team of coordinators.

**818**  
people

have contributed financially with regular contributions as supporting members; in addition, we have had 1,250 "teamers" contributing €1/month and received 937 one-time donations.



## ONLINE PRESENCE

**3.548.715**

page views on [www.AnimaNaturalis.org](http://www.AnimaNaturalis.org)

**1.407.296**

page views on [www.HazteVeg.com](http://www.HazteVeg.com)

**f 618.287**

total followers on Facebook [AnimaNaturalis](#) is Spain.

**f 1.100.160**

total followers on Facebook [HazteVeg.com](#).

**@ 96.029**

total followers on Instagram [@AnimaNaturalis](#).

**@ 52.495**

total followers on Instagram [@HztVeg](#).

**X 119.572**

total followers on X [@AnimaNaturalis](#)

**X 39.551**

total followers on X [@HazteVeg](#).

**@ 10.887**

total followers on Threads [@AnimaNaturalis](#)

**T 4.125**

total followers on TikTok [@AnimaNaturalis](#)

**Y 12.231**

total followers on YouTube [@AnimaNaturalis](#)

**2.061.265**

total followers on Facebook, Instagram, X, Threads, TikTok, and YouTube.

# PEOPLE

## ALLIANCES FOR ANIMALS

We have achieved these results thanks to the tireless work of an efficient professional team of 6 people and 16 volunteer coordinators responsible for the Local Action Groups. We have permanent groups in 8 cities across Spain, with a total of 118 activists and volunteers. Additionally, our internal communication channels have 711 people ready to take action.

A total of 3,005 people have supported us financially this year, with 818 of them contributing monthly as members.





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