



PRESS RELEASE

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ORGANISATIONS FUNDED BY PUBLIC CHARITY

ANIMAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1989, the Animal Assistance Foundation defends and protects 1800 animals, through a network of 18 clinics, shelters, and retirement homes. With 16 million euros collected in 2019 in the form of donations, bequests and gifts, it draws almost all of its resources - around 96% - from public generosity. The previous audit by the Court of Accounts, carried out in 2016, gave rise to a declaration of non-compliance of expenditures with regard to the objectives pursued by the call for public generosity, due to “multiple failures in the governance, organisation and management of the foundation.” The current audit, which covers the financial years 2015 to 2019, shows some progress, particularly in the preparation of the financial statements and in the communication to donors. These improvements therefore lead the Court this time to issue an opinion of compliance with reservations. Indeed, governance rules and practices have changed little and remain very below the standards of good management. Furthermore, the foundation lacks rigour in the management of its activities.

Foundation accounts and financial communication: insufficient progress

Five years after the publication of the Court’s previous report on the foundation, progress has been made, both in general accounts keeping, in the construction of the use of resources statement, and in the dissemination of financial information to the public and donors.

However, these advances are only partial and points of dissatisfaction remain, particularly in financial communication, which does not give a true and comprehensive reflection of the use and destination of public generosity resources.

By making the choice to dedicate a significant share of the funds from public generosity to the acquisition of related real estate, and by maintaining a high level of reserves (they still represent more than 4 years of operating expenses in 2019), the foundation neglects the priority that must be placed on actions aimed at improving the quality of its establishments and developing its social missions.

In 2019, with the significant increase in resources collected from the public, nearly €1.3 million in donor revenues remained unused (i.e., 7.3% of the total), increasing the reserves of the



foundation, without this situation being clearly disclosed, either in the notes to the annual financial statements or in the activity report.

Governance rules and practices within the foundation: an unjustifiable *status quo*

Despite the commitments made in 2016 by the foundation to both the Court and the departments of the Ministry of Budget, no change has been found in the governance principles and practices.

The foundation remains deeply marked by a management that is hardly collegial. The lack of renewal and openness of its deliberative bodies and the persistence of operating habits attest to a lack of transparency and professionalism.

Such operating habits are detrimental to the foundation's financial interests and the best use of donor resources.

Strategy and organisation: a lack of professionalism that compromises the foundation's capacity for action

With a strategic plan adopted in 2018 in response to the Court's recommendations, the foundation committed to continuing the development of its network of establishments in the regions and gradually reducing the excessive level of its reserves. The results recorded are unconvincing, as the network of establishments has finally experienced a more modest than expected development. Failing in the conduct of the development of the network, the foundation also lacks rigour and professionalism in its operational management, as well as in the management of activities. Finally, its human resources management is chaotic.


To remedy all of these shortcomings, this report makes six recommendations.


[Read the report](#)


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