



Letter to Editor

Evidence for the existence of the distinct Alia camel breed contributes to the conservation of dromedary camels in Europe

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Haddad et al. (2025) showed that the Alia camel should be reclassified from a camel type—based on species and natural characteristics (AlAskar et al. 2020)—to a distinct breed (the result of selective breeding within a species to emphasize specific traits) as they convincingly showed that this camel type is genetically diverse from other camel types.

The lack of evidence that camel types can be genetically distinguished from each other has resulted in the keeping of camels being prohibited in the Netherlands. There is a danger that this will happen in other European countries too (Smits et al. 2022, 2023). In the Netherlands, highly domesticated animal species automatically are allowed to be kept. However, according to the Dutch government, the dromedary camel is not highly domesticated (Stalman et al. 2022). The evidence for the existence of a distinct dromedary breed will lead to the recognition that the dromedary is highly domesticated and consequently can continue to be kept in the Netherlands and probably also in the rest of Europe. So the publication of Haddad is important for the preservation of not only the Alia camels, but also for the preservation of European Camels.

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