

**EU: APPROVE AN INTERNATIONAL LAW
FOR THE PROTECTION OF COMPANION ANIMALS
AND THE ETHICAL MANAGEMENT
OF STRAY DOGS AND CATS
ACROSS ALL MEMBER STATES**





REPORT

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FOR THE PROTECTION OF COMPANION ANIMALS
AND THE ETHICAL MANAGEMENT OF STRAY DOGS AND CATS
ACROSS ALL MEMBER STATES**



FUTURE 4 WILDLIFE

To the European Parliament
Chair of the Committee on Petitions
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REPORT

SPECIFIC EUROPEAN LEGISLATION IS NECESSARY

TO PREVENT THE MALPRACTICE OF

ABUSING,

NEGLECTING,

ABANDONING,

EXPLOITING,

TORTURING

OR

KILLING

COMPANION, DOMESTIC AND STRAY ANIMALS.



FUTURE 4 WILDLIFE

SCOPE OF THE REPORT:

A group of organizations worked together to offer the EU a summary of studies, facts and opinions from millions of European citizens, with the hope that the European Commission will consider the approval of legislation across all Member States, aimed at the prevention of poor welfare and abuse on pets and to mitigate the emergency represented by stray animals and their management in many European countries.

27th April 2018

INITIATIVE SUPPORTED BY:

Future 4 Wildlife



Lupo Liguria



Save Our Wolves International



Dog Village



Beauty Without Cruelty



Mauro Bassano ENCI Trainer



ANIMAL AID Italia



C.A.C.H.



EMS FOUNDATION



BAN ANIMAL TRADING



Vervet Monkey Foundation



ACTION FOR RHINOS



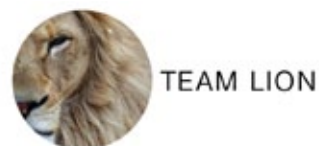
EXPOSE ILLEGAL TRAPPING



ANIMAL ADVOCACY



TEAM LION



M.E.T.A.



Wolfgate



KJ2 Fanclub



IRRIDUCIBILI



Gatti Non Parole



Il Nostro Canto Libero



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1. THE ISSUE

1.1 As Professor Broom indicates in his study for the Petition Committee “Animal Welfare in the European Union”, Broom 2017, EU surveys indicate that EU citizens are very concerned about animal welfare and animal management within and outside the EU.

He also observed that scientific evidence and data collected during investigations, as well as public opinion, are crucial when legislation and policies are formulated in the EU. At the same time, EU legislation has had a positive influence on animal welfare policies, legislation and codes of practice in other countries around the world.

1.2 However, most kinds of animals kept in the EU are not covered by legislation, leading to some of the worst animal welfare problems, so a general animal welfare law and specific laws on several issues are needed.

1.3 Broom also noted that animal sentience and welfare should be mentioned, using accurate scientific terminology, in animal-specific laws.

1.4 In 2018 there is no EU legislation for the protection of pets and stray animals, while the EU’s stray population is estimated at over one hundred million. Pets and stray animals are victims of mistreatment and cruelty in many Members States and may represent, in extreme cases, also a human health issue.

1.5 Even though clear guidelines were indicated in Councils and Conventions, the EU leaves to National governments the choice to adopt stringent rules and this creates a significant difference in animal welfare management across Member States.

1.6 Man has a moral obligation specifically towards pet animals who have a special relationship with humans and have being recognized in contributing to the quality of human life and health and have a consequent value to society. Dogs and cats need, as well as all domesticated animals, human company and depend on human care, therefore suffer if abandoned, neglected or while enduring their status of stray.

1.7 EU citizens find it unacceptable that domesticated animals, pets and strays in the EU are not protected by EU law **while we can call the situation of stray animals an emergency in many countries of South and East Europe.**

2. MILESTONES

2.1 1965: In the Brambell Report, the so called “Five Freedoms” were listed for the first time. They were developed by Professor Brambell, in response to the a UK Government report on livestock management, and were formalized in 1979 by the Farm Animal Welfare Council.

The Five Freedoms have been adopted worldwide by professional groups including Veterinarians and Organizations including the World Organization for Animal Health,

the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

2.2 The “Five Freedoms” were then included, in 1998, as follows, in the Council Directive 98/58/EC to regulate the protection of farm animals kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur.

- a. Freedom from hunger or thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
- b. Freedom from discomfort by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- c. Freedom from pain, injury or disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- d. Freedom to express normal behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind
- e. Freedom from fear and distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

However, a list of freedoms just provides a general guideline for non-specialists (Broom, 2017). Animals have many needs and these have been investigated precisely for many species. **Hence the rather general idea of freedoms is now replaced by the more scientific concept of needs.** The freedoms are not precise enough to be used as a basis for assessment of the welfare of a particular animal.

2.3 1987: the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals (CETS No 125) had set specific principles to improve and standardize the welfare of pet animals and ensure minimum standards for their treatment and protection, **including the keeping, the breeding, the training, the trading, the display in advertisements/ exhibitions/ competitions; for the regulation and limiting of surgical operations and other actions for modifying the appearance of a pet; for the humane and ethical management of stray dogs and cats through sterilization and identification; for the ethical reduction of numbers of stray dogs and cats and for a regulated and humane euthanasia only to end the suffering of sick or injured animals; for the implementation of educative programmes and training towards responsible owners and skilled operators in the sector of stray management.**

2.4 According to the same treaty:

- a. Nobody shall cause a pet animal unnecessary pain, suffering or distress.
- b. Nobody shall abandon a pet animal.
- c. Any person who keeps a pet animal or who has agreed to look after it, shall be responsible for its health and welfare.
- d. Any person who is keeping a pet animal or who is looking after it shall provide accommodation and shelter from heat, cold and wet weather, should provide care and attention which take into account the ethological needs of the animal in accordance with its species and breed, in particular give it suitable and sufficient food and water and provide it with adequate opportunities for exercise

while taking all reasonable measures to prevent its escape.

2.5 This treaty was signed and became effective on 1 May 1992, after most of the countries had ratified it. It was an open Treaty and was signed also outside Europe. **The signers were: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine; they all ratified it by 2014, while Netherlands and Spain never ratified the treaty.**

2.6 2009: The Article 13 of the Lisbon Treaty TFEU (2009) stipulates that, since animals are sentient beings, the Union and the Member States must pay full regard to their welfare requirements.

2.7 2010-2011: The European Parliament receives a large number of petitions with millions of signatures from EU citizens requesting the establishment of an EU legal framework for the protection of pets and stray animals.

In particular:

- a. petition 1613/2010,
- b. petition 1274/2011,
- c. petition 1321/2011,
- d. petition 1377/2011 and
- e. petition 1412/2011.

2.8 2012: The European Parliament calls on the European Union, the Council, the Commission and the Member States for the Establishment of an EU legal framework for the protection of pets and stray animals - P7_TA(2012)0291 (2012/2670(RSP)) (2013/C 349 E/08) **with the specific request to ratify the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals and to transpose its provisions into a national legal systems which would include:**

- a. rules for the identification and registration of animals,
- b. stray animal management strategies, including vaccination and sterilisation programmes,
- c. measures to promote responsible ownership,
- d. the prohibition of unlicensed kennels and shelters,
- e. the prohibition of the killing of stray animals without medical indication,
- f. information and educational programmes in schools on animal welfare,
- g. severe sanctions to be imposed on any Member State which fails to comply with the rules.

3. CIRCUMSTANCES AND FACTS

3.1 There are between 70 and 80 million abandoned animals in Europe.

Another fifteen million domestic animals per year are abused, neglected or left on the roads; if caught, they live the rest of their lives in cages at the shelters or are killed by the authorities; if not, they spend a life of hunger and neglect on the streets or are killed by road accidents or in the most barbaric ways by people who don't see them as companion animals but as vermin that anyone can mistreat, torture and kill without getting persecuted.

3.2 Most of these unwanted dogs and cats are caught every day by unskilled animal catchers who use the most brutal and terrifying methods, including beating, trapping and snaring. In some cases muscle relaxants are injected into the animals with weapons and some animals become so injured they die during the catching procedures or immediately after. Other times, strays become a nuisance or a shame, especially in the occasion of big international events and so the authorities proceed with the mass killing of animals on the streets, most of the time in front of horrified people and children.

3.3 This happens in many EU Member States including Italy, Spain, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Cyprus and Greece (European Society of Dogs and Animal Welfare ESDAW-EU)

3.4 About 50.000 dogs a year, then, enter the international market and are sent from South Italy towards North Europe's laboratories and towards East Europe, where dogs are killed and used as food for animals in Zoos and elsewhere.

3.5 In Spain there is a widespread hunting tradition that involves torturing and killing, by hanging, approximately 60,000 Greyhounds (Galgos) a year and another 15.000 dogs are abused on the streets (SPCA)

3.6 Strays do migrate in search of food and this can imply a danger for wildlife too. The predation of - or the hybridization with - protected species in certain areas are a reality (dog-wolf in Italy), while road accidents represent a risk for humans. Strays exacerbate also the human conflict and this leads to violence and the illegal killing of unwanted animals often witnessed by young people; **poison and traps are illegal solutions which represent a risk for children, wildlife and owned pets.**

4. PETITIONS TO THE EU

4.1 The European Parliament has received a large number of petitions with millions of signatures from EU citizens requesting the establishment of an EU legal framework for the protection of animals, pets, companion, domesticated and stray animals.

In particular, note

- 4.2** Petition 1613/2010,
- 4.3** Petition 1274/2011,
- 4.4** Petition 1321/2011,
- 4.5** Petition 1377/2011 and
- 4.6** Petition 1412/2011.

But also:

4.7 Petition to the European Parliament 0094/2015 by Pia Berrend, on the terminology used for stray domestic animals in the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Animal Health (COM/2013/0260).

4.8 For example, other petitions relative to animals welfare and protection, starting with petitions for Pets, are: (Source "Animal Welfare in the European Union):

4.9 Petition to the European Parliament 0227/2013 by Anita Willemse (Dutch), supported by 570 co-signatories, concerning the granting of a licence for a business in Cuenca (Spain) which kills dogs.

4.10 Petition to the European Parliament 0337/2013 by Lorenzo Croce (Italian) on the online sale of pets.

4.11 Petition to the European Parliament 1024/2013 by Aurore Bardeau (French) seeking provisions to regulate animal euthanasia.

4.12 Petition to the European Parliament 2218/2013 by C.J. (German) on banning the import of leather, leather goods and dog fur from China.

4.13 Petition to the European Parliament 0251/2014 by Pia Berrend (Luxembourg) on the mistreatment of stray dogs in Romania.

4.14 Petition to the European Parliament 1320/2015 by Susanne Prahm (German) supported by 8 co-signatories, on the ill-treatment of cats and dogs in China.

4.15 Petition to the European Parliament 1417/2015 by M.V. (Italian) on animal cruelty in China.

4.16 Petition to the European Parliament 0224/2016 by P.A. (Italian) on cruelty to dogs in China.

4.17 Petition to the European Parliament 0691/2013 by Julia Knorr Alonso (Spanish), on animal welfare in Spain and the European Union.

4.18 Petition to the European Parliament 1071/2014 by Linda Mäki-Sulkava (Finnish) on breeding of unhealthy traits in animals (dogs).

Plus a number of online national and international petitions directed to local administrations or governments, as for example:

4.19 STRAYS IN EUROPE

<https://www.change.org/p/treaties-must-be-followed-for-the-abandoned-animals-the-stray-dogs>

<https://www.change.org/p/stop-relocating-stray-dogs-from-the-campus-and-inhumane-treatment-towards-them>

<https://one-voice.fr/fr/petitions/mezilles.html>

4.20 STRAYS IN ROMANIA

<https://www.change.org/p/close-down-dogs-deathcamps-of-romania>

<https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:TbaGGRbMaOcJ:hhttps://www.change.org/p/stop-the-mass-killing-of-stray-dogs-in-romania-spay-neuter-instead+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=za>

<https://www.change.org/p/president-traian-basescu-of-romania-stop-the-mass-slaughter-of-stray-dogs-in-romania>

<https://www.change.org/p/romania-stop-euthanasia-of-stray-dogs>

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/56133>

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/837/788/002/stop-mass-killing-of-romanian-dogs/>

4.21 DOGS AND CATS IN ITALY, RACKET, ILLEGAL KILLING

<https://firmiamo.it/cani-randagi-di-sciacca--fermiamo-questo-sterminio>

<https://www.change.org/p/ufficiogabinetto-comunedisciacca-it-dimissioni-del-sindaco-di-sciacca-francesca-valenti>

<https://www.change.org/p/people-for-the-ethical-treatment-of-animals-peta-giustizia-per-i-cani-di-sciacca>

<https://www.change.org/p/mario-vegni-annullare-il-passaggio-a-sciacca-del-giro-d-italia>

<https://www.change.org/p/al-presidente-della-regione-sicilia-e-al-prefetto-di-agrigento-chiediamo-le-dimissioni-del-sindaco-valenti-di-sciacca>

<https://www.change.org/p/sergio-mattarella-movimento-degli-angeli-massacro-randagi-anche-a-licata-stop-all-olocausto-in-sicilia-2ce0093a-2b29-4b4e-b9c1-63f484fbc8d>

https://secure.avaaz.org/it/petition/A_tutti_i_sindaci_della_Sicilia_LA_STRAGE_DEGLI_INNOCENTI_IN_SICILIA/?ffHFPmb&fbogname=Angela&utm_source=sharetools&utm_medium=facebook&utm_campaign=petition-477030-A_tutti_i_sindaci_della_Sicilia_LA_STRAGE_DEGLI_INNOCENTI_IN_SICILIA&utm_term=fHFPmb%2Bit

<https://www.change.org/p/regione-sicilia-30-vittime-a-sciacca-poniamo-fine-al-randagismo>

<https://www.change.org/p/al-ministero-della-salute-stop-alle-staffette-della-morte>

4.22 DOGS IN SPAIN

<https://www.change.org/p/eu-spain-ban-legal-shooting-incl-dogs-cats-mass-murder-of-animals-headed-by-mar%C3%ADa-dolores-cospedal>

<https://www.change.org/p/congress-of-deputies-of-spain-stop-torturing-grey-hounds-galgos-in-spain>

<https://www.spcai.org/other-ways-help/sign-our-petitions/sign-our-petition/>

<https://www.animalstoday.nl/petition-ban-the-hunting-with-galgos-spain/>

<https://www.animalstoday.nl/petition-ban-the-hunting-with-galgos-spain/>

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/665/753/464/>

<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/135/113/040/stop-dog-torture-and-abuse-to-dogs-in-spain/>

<https://ladyfreethinker.org/sign-stop-mass-killing-spains-greyhounds-galgos-hunting-season/>

4.23 In general, European citizens are more and more concerned about animal welfare and see, despite the progression of the EU in terms of legislation for the protection of certain animals, huge gaps between norms and regulations, inside and even outside the EU (Broom 2017).

4.24 More petitions directed to the European Parliament regarding wellness of animals inside the EU are:

Petition to the European Parliament 0103/2013 by Joron Dominique (French), on

banning the use of animals in circuses in the EU.

Petition to the European Parliament 0210/2013 by M. N. (German) on inadmissible poultry breeding practices.

Petition to the European Parliament 0214/2013 by Ronald Schirmer and Annekatrin Pötschulat (German) on fur farming in Germany.

Petition to the European Parliament 0471/2013 by Gian Marco Prampolini (Italian), on animal testing and vivisection for cosmetic research purposes.

Petition to the European Parliament 1158/2013 by T.Ch. (Belgian), on Animal rights.

Petition to the European Parliament 1248/2013 by Pedro Pozas Terrados (Spanish) representing Projecto Gran Simio.

Petition to the European Parliament 1553/2013 by Diana Patricia Giraldo Tejada (Spanish) on the protection of animal rights in Spain.

Petition to the European Parliament 1619/2013 by C.J. (German), on a ban on hunting all songbirds and penalties for countries failing to comply.

Petition to the European Parliament 1690/2013 by Sylvia Van Atta - Many Tears Animal Rescue, on animal rights.

Petition to the European Parliament 1833/2013 by Gisela Urban and Gabriele Menzel (German), on behalf of several animal protection associations, bearing 7724 signatures, on animal testing and the REACH Regulation.

Petition to the European Parliament 2377/2013 by G.J. (German) on the use of ear tags for the identification of livestock.

Petition to the European Parliament 2391/2013 by C.J. (Dutch), on a ban on bird-cages containing zinc.

Petition to the European Parliament 0561/2014 by Sven Niederstrasser (German) on the abolition of the compulsory use of ear tags on free-range calves.

Petition to the European Parliament 0721/2014 by Joanna Swabe (British), on behalf of Human Society International, and two signatories, on the Routine docking of pigs' tails.

Petition to the European Parliament 1141/2014 by Fredrick Federley (Swedish), on the cutting of pigs' tails.

Petition to the European Parliament 1307/2014 by A. K. (German) bearing 582 signatures, on a ban on the use of ear tags for the identification of cattle.

Petition to the European Parliament 1546/2014 by R. P. S. (Spanish) against the immobilisation of horses with pliers.

Petition to the European Parliament 1560/2014 by Corinna Haussmann (German) on the use of helium in place of CO₂ for stunning animals for slaughter.

Petition to the European Parliament 2301/2014 by Moona Hellsten (Finnish), on the cruel treatment of animals in a zoo (Zoo du Mont) in Toulon, France.

Petition to the European Parliament 0216/2015 by Linda Manley-Bird (British) on the implementation of the TRACE system in Greece.

Petition to the European Parliament 0545/2015 by Dieter Soßna (German) on the transport of animals for slaughter.

Petition 0820/2015 by Annick Pillard (French) on prohibition of the glue traps to catch rodents in the EU.

Petition to the European Parliament 1336/2015 by Patrick Katzer (German) on a ban on scientific experiments on primates.

Petition to the European Parliament 1379/2015 by Gisela Urban and Gabriele Menzel (German) on behalf of several animal welfare organisations, supported by 4.680 co-signatories, on the protection of humans and animals against toxins and pesticides.

Petition to the European Parliament 2015 on the Welfare of Dairy Cows by 18 animal protection societies.

Petition to the European Parliament 0152/2017 by M. Giovannelli (Italian) Future4Wildlife on protecting the Italian wolf and the wolf-dog hybrid.

5. AN INTERNATIONAL LAW

5.1 An international law which protects and regulates, in an ethical way, the management of companion animals (pets) and strays, as well as domesticated and working animals inside the European Member States and which punishes transgressors is therefore, much needed.

5.2 Such law should include the implementation of services with the aim to “empty” shelter cages, also to protect pets and ethically reduce the number of strays on the streets and inside the shelters.

6. A DETAILED CLASSIFICATION OF ANIMALS

It is crucial to identify and categorize animals in:

6.1 Companion animals (pets) are dogs and cats and this include strays, who are simply those who weren't lucky enough to have a responsible guardian. **Cats and dogs, for their millenary relationship with humans and their progressive dependency from them, are all naturally relying on human care** and should be kept or intended to be kept or potentially kept in a no profitable way by man for private enjoyment and companionship. Even when they are used for work or in a farm they should be treated, by law, in respect of the nature and needs of the animal, who is recognized to have a special bond to humans and play an important role in human life.

6.2 Domesticated animals are for example, cattle, goats, pigs, sheep, chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, horses, donkeys, domesticated rabbits, guinea pigs, domesticated fox, domesticated hedgehog, domesticated turtles, domesticated rats, and domesticated mice. These animals are also kept for enjoyment and not for profit and must be treated in respect of their nature and needs for the course of their lives. These animals should be sterilized or their reproduction limited. The slaughter and the consumption of their meat or body parts should be clearly prohibited.

6.3 Working animals are normally dogs or horses but are raised with the purpose to serve a function. In addition to what protects their rights as pets or domesticated animals and their natural behaviour, they should be target of specific legislation only to limit abuse.

- a. The Five Freedoms and the Sentient Being concept should be kept in mind by legislators.
- b. For police or military dogs, hunting dogs, racing or sport dogs and horses, truffle dogs, snow dogs, post-disaster, search dogs, anti-drug, all different tasks should be object of specific basic study. Regulation relative to different species and breeds which have different limits should be clear.
- c. Working time-tables and hours should be recorded and standardized.
- d. Legislation should include the ethical end of career through proper non-abusive retirement and should forbid the killing or the sale of the animals for slaughter and meat (horses and racing dogs) or punishment (hunting dogs) and the exportation of the animals towards countries with poor or inexistent animal welfare.
- e. Working animals should also be protected from danger and injury by specific limitations and protective equipment, for example, dogs which dig in earthquake rubble to find survivors should wear specific shoes, harness and protective glasses as they already do in certain countries.

6.4 Farm animals can be kept for work, for meat, milk, eggs and body parts production, like skin and fur. They have been object of EU legislation but there are still some huge gaps and many animals are not included in any normative and are object of abuse, mutilations without anesthesia, cruel procedures and practices. For example, rabbits, trouts and salmons, ducks, geese and turkeys do not appear in any EU normative (Broom 2017).

6.5 Wild animals should never be kept as pets and in enclosures, cages, ponds, for human entertainment. Wild animals should rather be left free and considered for their nature and needs, for example, birds, if not permanently injured, have the primary need to fly and should never be kept in cages as pets, nor captive bred. It is important to notice that a certain amount of animals considered pets around the world are in fact wild animals as, for example, birds and reptiles which don't choose to remain in human company but are instead kept in captivity and in poor conditions, for human enjoyment.

Some wild animals should be left free to develop a relationship with humans if this happens but they should also remain free to return to their environment.

6.6 Laboratory animals have been object of EU legislation; we will treat this issue in chapter 18 and 19 of this work.

7. THE WORDING OF EU LEGISLATION

7.1 As Lundmark noted, (Lundmark 2013, 2014, 2016) the interpretation of terms such as "unnecessary suffering" and "natural behaviour" used by policy-makers has varied hugely across different countries in the EU. It is clearly desirable that terms are used in a precise way so that they correspond with scientific meanings and reduce the likelihood of variation in interpretation.

7.2 It is therefore essential to categorize and clearly specify in the legislation which strategies, procedures, techniques, devices, environments, spaces and tools are

- a. permitted,
- b. restricted,
- c. prohibited,

species by species and according to the best standards available internationally (Boel Smuts 2012).

7.3 Conceptually, all the EU legislation should refer in an accurate way to Animal Sentience and the Five Freedoms (Broom 2017).

7.4 In addition, in order that welfare can be good rather than poor, it is important to know what are the needs of specific species of animals are. These needs depend on the biological functioning of the animal and therefore vary hugely from species

to species. **Most accounts of the welfare of a particular kind of animal must consequently start with a summary of their needs.**

7.5 As pointed out by the Study financed by the European Commission, on the Welfare of Dogs and Cats Involved in Commercial Practices (Wageningen University & Research Centre -WUR), according to the EU legislation dogs and cats are still considered 'goods' and the people who purchase them are the 'owners'. This clashes with the concept of animal sentience and science-based animal welfare indicators. Man should be seen as a carer, a legal guardian, the person who takes responsibility for the wellness of the animal.

The term "guardian" should substitute the word "owner" and this would help improve the enforcement of legislation and the general approach to the health and welfare of animals.

When purchasing and, in consequence, adopting an animal, the public can be woefully lacking in knowledge about the level of responsibility they are about to undertake and are unaware of the costs, often significant in the long term, of keeping an animal. Less than 20% of purchases or adoptions are reported being accompanied by information about animal welfare and health.

Documents such as self-assessment tools, checklists and guidelines for all EU citizens would encourage guardians to provide better animal care and responsible foster approach.

The legislative wording should conceptually shift from "ownership" and "possession" to "responsibility" and "care".

8. THE MANAGEMENT OF STRAY ANIMALS

8.1 Education, Information and Campaigns

- a. The policy of providing educational information, programs, services and campaigns about not only animal welfare but animal value to our society, would be a great benefit for pets, domesticated animals and strays' well being.
- b. It would also help the EU in political discussions and in promoting the reputation of the European Commission and the EU as a whole, as a centre of civilised activity.
- c. Animal welfare enforcement and education could also be promoted by exchange of information on the internet through the Animal Welfare Science Hub. In fact, industries, animal protection groups and policymakers share the view that animal welfare legislation and policy should be based on science (Broom 2017).

8.2 Stray reduction of numbers

Specific laws for the ethical reduction of strays, when this becomes a problem, are essential to regulate all Members States with strategies aimed to solve, not only the immediate emergency but also the long term issue, through sterilization and, in absence of licensed shelters able to accomodate all the strays, sterilization-identification-and-release. Strategies must not cause avoidable pain, suffering or distress and must not include the killing of strays with the scope to reduce numbers. Such strategies shall, instead, include:

- a. **Education Programs, advertising, anti-abandonment campaigns**
- b. **Sterilization** of all cats and dogs, both strays and adopted pets, excluding the pets of licensed breeders, for reducing the unplanned breeding of companion animals (See paragraph 8.5)
- c. **Rescuing**, through the collaboration of the public, encouraged to report the presence of strays to competent authorities. The public can rescue an animal if the animal is in direct danger and then report the rescue to the competent authorities.
- d. **Capture**, done with the minimum of physical and mental suffering appropriate to the animal, performed exclusively by trained and licensed operators.
- e. **Identification**, with dogs and cats to be permanently identified by some appropriate means which causes no enduring pain, suffering or distress as for example microchipping, method which takes seconds, is fast and cheap and requires no shaving of an animal to identify. It is important to record the numbers in a register together with the names and addresses of the guardians, if the stray is then adopted (See paragraph 8.5).
- f. **Rehabilitation**, see paragraph 8.6
- g. **Adoption**, see paragraph 8.7
- h. **Euthanasia**, only when the captured animal is very sick or badly injured, according to the Veterinary decision (See paragraph 8.9).

8.3 The Shelters

- a. As exposed by ESDAW in many reports from 2012 to 2016), millions of dogs and cats spend many years inside the thousands of shelters around Europe and suffer in those prisons until they die.
- b. In many countries of South Europe, the municipal enclosures are warehouse built with the only scope to permanently store unwanted animals away from the

sight of tourists and citizens.

- c. **In those enclosures, unwanted dogs and cats live trapped, often without veterinary care and on the verge of starvation. Other times, they are deliberately starved to death, by the shelter management, with the purpose to save money and increase profits.**
- d. Almost none of the dogs caught by governments become neutered and returned to freedom. **Almost none are adopted.** When local laws permit it, they are euthanized within one or two weeks from the date of the capture.
- e. Puppies, small and large unneutered dogs are often kept together inside enclosures. The weak ones are the first victims of bullying, fights and competition for food.
- f. When citizens are allowed to visit the enclosures, it is only in specific selected parts of the facility. In some Member States, an application must be made, which can take weeks to get approved. In the majority of the government shelters, though, **it is totally forbidden to visit the facility and see how the animals are treated.** Most pictures and videos are filmed with hidden equipment to show the world what's happening behind closed doors.
- g. The dogs are often living in cages with urine and feces and are fed three times a week or less. **The buildings are generally uninsulated and uncovered and the animals are exposed to rain, snow and ice.** In winter dogs can even die of dehydration when the water in the bowls freezes to ice and nobody notices. When covered, enclosures are unheated. In summer there is no ventilation and when the sun burns the tin roof, dogs and cats can die of heat stroke.
- h. The animals are also treated rudely with kicks and punches in the enclosures by the ignorant, untrained, unqualified staff; these subjects become more and more traumatized.
- i. What is very important to notice, is that **since local government enclosures receive municipal and state grants on capturing and storing animals, the management of stray dogs has become a business** in many of the Member States.

8.4 It is therefore crucial to:

- a. **Allow only registered, licensed and periodically monitored centres to operate.** Informal shelters should be banned and occasional foster homes should not be financed by external bodies nor private fund-raising.
- b. **The EU, in collaboration with governments should finance stray rehabilitation and services inside shelters rather than permanent storage of animals.** Reward turn-over of dogs, with documented procedures performed



by qualified operators, as capture, rehabilitation, sterilization, identification and relocation / adoption. **Promote services (adoptions, education, training, licensing of operators) versus plain animal detention.**

- c. **Regulate shelter buildings and room**, in accordance to the animals' necessities, their rehabilitation, weather protection, hygiene, safety. Ensure that shelters, sterilization facilities and places where a stray domestic animal is held whilst awaiting and following, neutering or spaying, meets good care standards to include a suitable environment where they are able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; where they are housed with or apart from other animals dependant on animal/breed type and behaviour exhibited; where they are protected from pain, suffering, hunger, injury and disease.
- d. **Spacing:** Specific sizes should be specified in normatives to regulate cages and enclosures. For example dogs should stay in pairs in a cage not smaller than 3x4 metres and should access at least 4 times a day a common area not smaller of 10x10 metres where maximum 10 dogs at a time do some exercise or single dogs do rehabilitation.
- e. **Make cameras compulsory inside shelters**, allow public to access or occasionally inspect the facilities for animals.
- f. **Create an international registry of animal abusers for either public or operators and punish the perpetrators.**
- g. **Promote a policy of sterilization-and-release in known or safe areas for feral animals in particular cats**
- h. **Feral animals should not be permanently held captive if not in sanctuaries and only when they represent a physical danger for humans or other animals or are themselves in direct danger.**

8.5 Sterilization / Identification

- a. It is essential to start an overall neutering program for stray dogs and cats. To also introduce laws requiring obligatory neutering for pets and strays, except for licensed breeders.
- b. All neutering and identification of pets and domesticated animals should be free for citizens and paid by the State - by earmarked EU subsidies. All identification details should be recorded onto a database
- c. Neutering and spaying must be undertaken with due care, with humanity and by a qualified veterinarian.
- d. No stray domestic animal can be released without being fully recovered from neuter/spay procedure. The release must not be done before the wound is

- e. healed or in adverse weather conditions and cold/wet season. Promote census, registration, control and monitoring of strays.
- f. Promote census, registration, control and monitoring of shelters.

8.6 Rehabilitation

- a. Dogs and cats are often held for prolonged periods inside shelters where they are deprived of their basic needs and sometimes abused. They can be traumatized by a life of neglect the moment they enter the shelter but even when they are not, they slowly lose trust over humans and learn wrong habits inside their permanent enclosures, losing any chance to be adopted in the future.
- b. A law should impose shelters to promote rehabilitation programmes relative to socialization with peers, manipulation and contact with man, eating and sleeping habits and hygiene. The rehab programs should always be conducted by qualified, licensed staff with the purpose to save animals instead of condemning them to a life of imprisonment.

8.7 Adoption Procedures

- a. The institution hosting the pet to adopt must be able to record and screen the behavioural profiles of both animals and potential guardian and must be able to evaluate the compatibility between pets and man prior the adoption. In certain countries animals are chosen according to their aspect, breed, first reaction and then up to 60% adopted pets are returned to the shelter within the first few weeks because behaving differently from what expected by the new guardian, or simply behaving “badly”.
- b. The institution must provide a brief course on how to take care of the newly adopted animal, giving precise indications on the profile and needs of him/her and on the guardian’s responsibilities. Instructions on how to introduce different pets, domesticated animals, according to species and breed, to the new home and other animals, how to take care of him, should be available in printing or in digital format at any shelter and should be handed over prior the adoption. The pet animal can be adopted only after sterilization and identification.
- c. The pet animal can be adopted only after sterilization and identification. In the case of baby animals being adopted the sterilization is not recommended. In fact, premature sterilization can affect the animal health in the long term, even with serious and lethal complications. To avoid this, the adoptive person should be charged with the sterilization expenses at the moment of the adoption, to return for the procedure when the animal is ready, normally between 6 and 12 months but according to the animal species.

- d. The institution must check the suitability of the guardian's property to make sure injury, death, escape of the pet are prevented and welfare guaranteed.
- e. The institution must send a licensed inspector after a few weeks or months, to the guardian's property and evaluate how the adopted pet has settled in the new environment.
- f. The EU should promote the creation of national or regional call numbers where qualified operators can give free advice on how to deal with behavioural issues or emergencies related to companion and domesticated animals or wildlife in danger.

8.8 Trapping and poisoning

- a. There is a widespread habit of capturing birds with nets for food or to use as pets; carnivore mammals are often trapped with snares or killed by poison, while rodents and reptiles are trapped and often slowly killed by glue traps.
- b. These methods, together with any leghold trap, are cruel, indiscriminate systems and companion animals, as well as non-target wild animals or children, can incidentally fall victims of these devices.
- c. There are plenty of alternatives on the market and such devices should be explicitly prohibited across the EU, in favour of non invasive catch and release procedures.
- d. The development of specific licensed staff for the safe capture and release of certain animals should be promoted.

8.9 Euthanasia

We intend the concept of euthanasia as the practice of intentionally ending the life of an animal, only to relieve him/her pain and suffering, if sick or injured. No healthy animal should be euthanized (CETS 125).

It is important to notice that:

- a. All euthanasia, surgery or medical treatment should be carried out with due care and humanity by a qualified veterinarian.
- b. Definition of the most 'humane' method of euthanasia should be based on methods used in countries with advanced animal welfare protection legislation and should ensure this method is used in all cases of euthanasia, preventing unnecessary suffering to the animal.

- c. The suppression of strays as a method to control the number of animals on the streets should be banned. In case of overcrowded shelters, the sterilization-and-release procedure should be allowed.
- d. The method chosen for the euthanasia, except in an emergency, shall either cause immediate loss of consciousness and death, or begin with the induction of deep general anaesthesia to be followed by a step which will ultimately and certainly cause death.

8.9.1 The following methods of killing shall be prohibited:

- a. Gassing
- b. Drowning and other methods of suffocation if these techniques are not following general anaesthesia.
- c. Electrocuting, if these method is not following general anaesthesia.
- d. The use of any poisonous substance, if not following general anaesthesia.

8.9.2 The person responsible for the euthanasia shall make sure that the animal is dead before the body is disposed of.

9. EDUCATION

9.1 The EU should promote, develop and fund the production of common educational material and school books across Member States, on the subject of environmental education and animal welfare. This project should include:

- a. The study of symbolic and representative animals and icons of each country.
- b. Projects should teach the respect for nature, environment and animals while promoting skills to recognize local flora and fauna and manage in a proper way the occasional encounter with wildlife.
- c. The importance of handling in an appropriate way pets and domestic animals, according to their needs and emphasizing their qualities and peculiarities, should be taught in a fun and playful way in pre-primary and primary school, through the encounter of live ambassador pets or domesticated animals strictly managed and supervised by qualified and licensed operators.
- d. Such ambassadors can be working dogs/horses/donkeys or rescue animals of all ages, often old and calm animals but always with specific personalities: they must be able to naturally deal with or enjoy contact, noise and confusion, travelling and handling by strangers.

- e. The diversity and incompatibility between domesticated animals and wild animals or between wild animals and man must be emphasized.

10. HYBRIDATION BETWEEN STRAYS AND WILD ANIMALS, THE CASE OF THE ITALIAN WOLF

10.1 This is a phenomenon which can and does occur, as for example between the Italian wolf and errant local dogs (strays, hunting or shepard dogs). Plans to permanently hold hybrids have been made by the Italian Government but there is no local regulation to protect these unfortunate wild exemplares who, are then left inside permanent enclosures until they die (Wolf hybrids have been object of a **Petition to the European Parliament 0152/2017**)

10.2 At the same time, we can say the hybrids are nothing less than wild animals. In the specific case, wolf hybrids are protected by the EU legislation as much as pure wolves. In fact, they grow inside mixed pack and behave like pure wolves and play an important role in the ecosystem.

10.3 If left alone, they have been estimated to return to pure breed within four generations.

10.4 Also, wolves do not discriminate hybrids; the pack follows precise behaviour which is not related in any way to the authenticity of the breed. Dismembering packs can lead the survivor exemplars towards aggressive behaviours and this will exacerbate the conflict with human activities, putting the wolf at risk.

10.5 When hybridization between domestic and wild animals is identified as a problem for protecting a wild species, the solution is the massive sterilization of domestic animals and strays.

10.6 The only removal of hybrids, on the contrary, will not solve the genetic issue; in the specific case of the Italian wolf, all errant dogs on the Italian territory should be sterilized, including strays, guard and hunting dogs, which are often left to roam for a long time.

11. REGULATIONS ON PETS AND DOMESTICATED ANIMALS

11.1 Institution of precise Regulation and of an International Animal Abuse Registry

It is important to implement a Registry for Animal Abusers, where a person who abandons, causes suffering, physically abuses, sexually abuses, neglects, tortures, starves, alienates or kills pets, should have a lifetime ban on taking care of other animals and a significant term of imprisonment. This should be valid whether the

abusive action is perpetuated by general population or by governmental employees / contractors.

- a. **Pets should be allowed by their guardians to behave according to their nature and needs, including the need to exercise and socialize.**
- b. **Because of the abuses committed on companion animals by youngsters** in certain countries of the EU and considering the link, indicated by many scientific studies, between violence over animals and future crimes on humans, the law should pay particular attention to animal abuse perpetrated by minors and should consider preventative and disciplinary actions towards youngsters and in particular teen-agers.
- c. **Examples of abuse are abandonment,** ill-treating, neglecting, shooting, stabbing, beating, kicking, poisoning, mutilating, torturing, engaging in any sexual activity, enraging or terrifying, throwing, drowning, burning, poisoning, forcing to ingest alcohol or other substances, strapping fireworks on or near the animal, running over the animal with any vehicle, causing unnecessary suffering through transportation, facilitating dog fighting or baiting, suffocating, hanging, painting, applying chemicals, locking the animal inside appliances, mutilating, skinning, dragging behind vehicles, clubbing, spinning.
- d. **Keeping companion animals isolated and at the chain should be forbidden.**
- e. **In Hungary, Romania and Finland BESTIALITY is still legal.** Many animals are hurt or severely injured during the sexual act but the perpetrators are not punished. In Finland reports are showing that 17% of animals brought to the vet were sexually abused by humans. Romania and Hungary are very famous because of popular animal brothels. **There are actually existing “erotic zoos” where sex tourists can lend out animals. Horses, dogs and even cats are used. Sheeps’ teeth are removed from their mouths and metal blockades applied for oral sex. Bestiality should be specifically banned across all Member States.**
- f. Injured / dead domestic animal should be taken to a certified veterinary practice where the deaths or injury of all domestic animals **including the reason for death should be recorded onto a database.**

11.2 Breeding /Trading of pets and domesticated animals

This subject has been widely studied and reported to the European Commission in 2015 with the research “Welfare of Dogs and Cats Involved in Commercial Practices” (Wageningen University & Research Centre -WUR) so we won’t explore this matter any further.

We want to briefly point out the following:

- a. Many European citizens have expressed concerns about the welfare of companion animals, for example the **continued production of dog breeds with harmful defects (Petition 1071/2014) and the production of puppies in inhumane conditions (Petition 1690/2013) and puppy farming.**
- b. There is the issue of informal / unlicensed / uncontrolled / unregulated and **amateur breeding and a strict correlation with deformities and alteration of breeds and a link between illicit breeding and the presence of too many strays.**

11.3 Purebred trading and strays excess

To reduce the presence of unwanted animals and guarantee good practice standards in the trading of purebred pets, it is therefore essential to regulate the industry as follow:

- a. Implement taxes for the commercial breeding, selling of purebred pets.
- b. Responsible guardians must otherwise have the obligation to sterilize their pets.
- c. All commercial breeders must be licensed and registered on an international board following professional training and must adhere to strict regulation and ethical standards, common to all Member States.
- d. Unlicensed breeding must be outlawed and fined.
- e. All trading of companion animals must be licensed and animals must be identified and, as soon as possible sterilized, except in contexts where further licensed breeding is planned.
- f. No pet animal shall be sold to persons under the age of sixteen without the express consent of their parents or other persons exercising parental responsibilities.
- g. The creation of a databases for matching the profiles of strays and their possible guardians, shared between licensed pet shops and shelters, is essential to facilitate adoptions.
- h. The creation of databases linking identification numbers of domestic animals with the name of their guardians, after the adoption must become compulsory.
- i. Any person who selects a pet animal for breeding shall be responsible for having regard to the anatomical, physiological and behavioural characteristics which are likely to put at risk the health and welfare of either the offspring or the female parent.
- j. All breeding facilities must also be licensed including a description of the

premises and equipment used or to be used in a way that complies to the best standard.

- k. The breeder must submit a breeding program which specifies the species of pet animals which are involved or to be involved.
- l. The breeder must allow public and clients, on request, to inspect all part of the breeding facility
- m. The competent authority shall, in accordance with national legislation, supervise whether or not the above-mentioned conditions are complied with.

11.4 Training

Legally, all trained animals should have the same rights of untrained animals of their species.

No animal shall be trained in a way that is detrimental to his health and welfare, especially by forcing him to exceed its natural capacities or strength or by employing artificial aids which cause injury or pain, suffering or distress.

11.5 Formal training for working animals:

- a. All trainers should be licensed.
- b. Specific limitations should be drawn in legislation to regulate the limits of different animals according to
 - 1. species,
 - 2. breed and
 - 3. task.
- c. Standardized training timetables, methods, hours, should be indicated in precise legislation and parameters for equipments, tools and facilities, should be specified.
- d. The techniques should be thought to be perceived by the animal as pleasant interaction and should never involve abuse, punishment, neglect, and deprivation of the Five Freedoms. **For example, shock collars should be explicitly banned across all Member States.**

11.6 Formal training for pets and companion animals, usually dogs

This is normally behavioural training and is conducted by licensed operators in a way that should be pleasant or playful, with the support of the animal guardian and the objective to modify or correct the attitude or actions of a companion animal and should never involve abuse, punishment, neglect and deprivation of the Five Freedoms.

11.7 Informal training for pets and domesticated animals, usually made by the guardian

This can happen in any home and must be allowed by legislation only when it is limited to pleasant and playful interaction between the animal and its guardian and must never involve abuse, punishment, neglect, and deprivation of the Five Freedoms. It is notable that amateur and pleasant training at home has been successful with dogs and equines and, at times, even with cats, ducks, pigs, sheep and rodents.

11.8 Surgical Operations

- a. Surgical operations for the purpose of modifying the appearance of a pet animal, as the docking of tails, the cropping of ears, devocalisation, declawing and defanging or for other non-curative purposes shall be prohibited. Also tattooing as a method for identification should be banned in favour of the micro-chipping system, which is internationally recognised to identify domestic animals and a far more reliable, efficient and less invasive procedure.
- b. Exceptions to these prohibitions shall be permitted only if a veterinarian considers non-curative procedures necessary either for veterinary medical reasons or for the benefit of any particular animal or to prevent reproduction.
- c. Operations in which the animal will or is likely to experience severe pain shall be carried out under anaesthesia only by a veterinarian or under his supervision.

12. PROCEDURES/LEGISLATION FOR THE HANDLING OF COMPANION ANIMALS, PETS, DOMESTICATED ANIMALS AND STRAYS

12.1 It is essential to regulate, with precise legislative wording, normative and licensing for the phases of handling and transportation and in particular:

- a. The capture, immobilization or cage trapping procedures, species by species
- b. The competent handling, of the target animal.
- c. The careful and appropriate use of drugs or anesthetics when necessary to help the animal.

- d. The implementation of the most suitable transportation code, which would include spacing, ventilation, insulation to protect the animal from excessive cold and heat, the maximum load possible to avoid overcrowding and safety procedures.
- e. The housing criteria, species by species.
- f. When applicable, the deployment / release of stray or feral animals, in a safe and known space to be done exclusively by licensed operators. All phases must be specifically regulated and undertaken with humanity and should not expose the animal to injury, to suffering, to danger or stress.

12.2 To avoid interpretations and misinterpretations of terms across different Member States, it is also essential to categorize and clearly specify in the legislation which strategies and devices are:

Permitted
Restricted
Prohibited

This should include categorization for different species or groups of species; the procedures indicated as permitted or restricted should be updated to the least invasive standards available internationally.

12.3 Travelling and access to public buildings, facilities and services, specifically for dogs but not only

- a. **Working dogs, in particular guide dogs for blinds or dogs for saving or protecting people / animals / the environment, play an important role to society** and are already allowed by some national and international laws (**Reg. CE n. 1107/2006**) to enter public buildings and access facilities and public services, **without muzzle**, in order to accompany the disable or to achieve their working tasks as rescuers or protectors. Despite this, many countries totally ignore this legislation and, for example, the blind find it very difficult to travel since facilities and services are simply not equipped to accept dogs and the owners of businesses feel to have the personal right to refuse customers with dog. **In order to protect the human right to move, live, or even survive, a law to guarantee free mobility for working dogs should be implemented in details across all Member States.** Simple spaces and services for accommodating the basic needs of working dogs should become compulsory for all public spaces, structures and services inside the EU. The above should include, for example but not only, taxis, trains, airplanes, ferries, boats (services for which the working dog should never pay ticket or fee) hotels, petrol stations, police stations, shops, theatres, cinemas, malls, schools, museums, beaches, hospitals and working places. This should clearly be specified in regulation, **transgressors of which should be sanctioned.**

- b. Also normal pets, in particular dogs but not only, have a special relationship with humans and have been recognized in contributing to the quality of human life and health. **In particular, it has been observed they are playing an essential role in the life of homeless citizens, they have a special purpose for lonely, traumatized or terminally ill people.** Specific legislation should allow these important pets to follow their guardians and be accepted in hospitals, shelters, dormitories. After-disaster procedures should guarantee survivor pets to not be separated by their guardians only because shelters are not equipped to accommodate animals.
- c. The **EC Regulation n. 998/2003** (and subsequent amendment March 30, 2004) of the European Union establishes that **dogs, cats and ferrets traveling across the European Union must have a passport.** The identification document must contain the number in which the animal has been registered (microchip) and personal data of the guardian, must certify vaccinations made to the animal and compulsory vaccination against rabies at least twenty one days before departure. Twenty-four hours before departure the veterinarian must also certify, with a stamp on the passport, that the animal is in good health condition for the trip. **With this document pets are allowed to access public transport and cross borders.**
- d. **Pets should be allowed to travel nationally, across cities or natural environments (except where this represent a danger for wildlife), on the lead, with a simple Travel Card released by specific bodies before departure and attached to their collar, containing name and identity details of pet and his guardian, the guardian's mobile phone number, a stamp certifying good health and a stamp rating the social behaviour of the animal.** According to their social conduct, pets must wear a muzzle or not. The behavioural rating can be changed after specific training, if wanted. All pets wearing a Travel Card should be allowed to use all recreational public spaces, structures and services linked to recreational activities inside the EU, including but not only taxis, trains, airplanes, ferries, boats, hotels, petrol stations, police stations, shops, theatres, cinemas, malls, museums and beaches. Simple spaces and services for accommodating the basic needs of travelling animals should become compulsory for all public areas, structures and recreational services inside the EU.
- e. **Incentives and deductions** could be planned to facilitate public structures, services and businesses to update spaces and create activities to accommodate pets, their needs and their guardian's necessities during the holidays or simple travelling. Ad example, hotels could organize services of **dog sitting, entertainment, training** and could charge the customers. Considering the number of pets inside the EU, pet corners can surely develop and flourish into new jobs.
- f. **Travelling for recreation, also for small distances, is currently a nightmare for pets and their guardians. Animals are denied the access to most**

places and represent a big obstacle for travellers. A simplified mobility for them, which should allow them to travel only and strictly with their guardians for recreational purpose, would drastically reduce the cases of abandonment.

12.4. Repeated vaccinations on pets

- a. **Vaccinations are essential for the wellness** of pets and domestic animals and humans around them, therefore vaccinating is important. **However, how often do dogs and cats need the injection? Which shots are essential and which are not very necessary? Is the current law requiring to over vaccinate pets?**
- b. **In the past years, vaccinations for all sorts of diseases were recommended to be given annually, year after year.** That protocol was followed by veterinarians because they were told to do so by the vaccine manufacturers in order to ensure optimal immunity for as many pets as possible.
- c. **If a veterinarian independently decided not to follow the label recommendations on the vaccines** and an animal subsequently developed a disease that the veterinarian decided vaccination for wasn't needed, the veterinarian was vulnerable to being sued. Ethically and legally the veterinarian must follow label recommendations for the administration of biologicals.
- d. **In recent years, the vaccine manufacturers have been under some pressure to show data that truly demonstrates a need for annual vaccinations for dogs and cats.** Part of the drive for reconsideration of vaccine protocols has been coming from veterinary practitioners, many of whom believe that repeated vaccinations diminish the animal's immune resources and can actually create disorders such as degenerative joint diseases and immune mediated disorders such as Lupus.
- e. EU legislators should consider this issue and allow veterinarians to limit vaccinations to what is really necessary, according to the results of the immuno tests available on the market; vets should be allowed to do the immuno tests prior vaccinations in order to confirm, or not, the good immunization of the animal and avoid unnecessary repetitions.
- f. The results of such immuno tests should be legally recognised for animals who travel.

13. EXHIBITIONS

13.1 The use of wild animals for Advertising, Entertainment, Exhibitions, Competitions,

should be explicitly prohibited by the EU legislation. The digital technology allows us to replicate similar scenarios without the use of real animals.

13.2 Pets, companion, domesticated, farm, working and sport animals shall not be used in advertising, entertainment, exhibitions, competitions and similar events unless:

- a. The organiser has created appropriate conditions for the animal to access accommodation, care and attention which take in account the ethological needs of the animal, in accordance with its species and breed, including the access to food, water, exercise and social interaction,
- b. the rights of the animal are respected,
- c. the performance should never clash with the animal's needs and nature,
- d. the animal is protected by dangers and stressful agents as noise, contact, crowd and overstimulation.

13.3 No substances shall be given to, treatments applied to, or devices used on the animal for the purpose of increasing or decreasing its natural behaviour and level of performance.

13.4 Considering all the above, no animal fighting performance shall be allowed inside the EU.

14. TRADITIONS AND ANIMALS

- a. This issue does not intend to be the focus of this study **but about 60.000 animals are killed in European festivals and traditions every year and atrocities as well as abuse are still widespread in many nations with Spain leading the the list of cruel countries in regards to traditions against animals, including companion and domesticated animals.**
- b. **Bull fights, Bull tormenting, Bull burning, Bull mobbing and killing, wild horse mobbing and shaving, Baby quail catapulting and shooting, Goose decapitation, Throwing of a goat off a building, Throwing of a donkey off a cliff, Donkey stoning and killing, Duck drawing at the beach are among the cruelest Spanish traditions where animals are killed or permanently injured for fun and no other meaning.**
- c. It might be thought that **directive 98/58 would prevent the practice of bull fighting but it does not** and this tradition carries on with European funds in Spain but also in France and Portugal and against the will of millions of European taxpayers.

- d. In Spain also about **60.000 Greyhounds per year are tortured and killed as part as a hunting tradition, normally by hanging.**
- e. Dogs are also victim of the horrifying **Dog spinning tradition in South Bulgaria**, where stray dogs are spinned to the point of nearly lose consciousness and then dropped, while confused in the icy water of a river, in front of a laughing crowd.
- f. **In Italy, during the Palio di Siena**, race horses die every year in front of an exalted audience, while a few other equine and cattle races are scenario of mistreatment or injury.
- g. Ignoring the fact that antiquity of an abuse should never be justification for its continuance (S.Johnson), cruel traditions carry on, violating all the codes of practice regarding animals.
- h. **The EU should ultimately regulate traditions involving live animals in respect of their rights and in consideration of their sentience and according to the Five Freedoms. The EU should clearly ban traditional practices where animals are pushed beyond their limits and natural behavior and endure discomfort, fatigue, pain, fear, distress, temporary or permanent injury or death.**
- i. **Traditions should be guided by the EU legislation towards applying safety measures or replacing live animals with symbolic items.**

15. CIRCUSES

15.1 Despite the fact that certain domesticated animals are used in circuses, including dogs and although circus trainers are recognized to be among the most abusive operators, the issue of Circus Training and Performance should, for its complexity, be treated separately and in a different report.

15.2 Many countries in the EU are actually moving towards the total ban on animals in circus performances. The issue has been the subject of many petitions to the EU or to National Governments, also for the involvement of wild animals, the indirect damage to protected wild species, caused be the practice of poaching and legal or illegal trading of baby wild animals and for the prolonged detention in captivity of performing animals, kept in poor condition and in inadequate and alienating environment. The mistreatment of big cats and elephants has been widely documented.

15.3 Here are the restrictions, per country:

Austria: Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.

Belgium: Nationwide ban on the use of most wild animals in circuses (Parrots and camel are classed as domestic)

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Nationwide ban on all animals in circuses

Bulgaria: Nationwide ban on certain wild animal species in circuses, variety shows and other entertainment facilities

Croatia: Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses

Czech Republic: Nationwide ban on the use of certain species in circuses

Cyprus: Nationwide ban on all animals in circuses

Denmark: Nationwide ban on the use of certain species in circuses

Estonia: Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses

Finland: Nationwide ban on the use of certain species in circuses

France: Local bans in 50 towns and cities

Germany: Local bans in more than 80 towns and cities

Greece: Nationwide ban on all animals in circuses

Hungary: Nationwide ban on the use of wild caught animals in circuses, the purchase and training of elephants and primates for circus performances and the purchase, training and use of CITES (Appendix 1) listed species in circuses

Ireland: Local bans on the use of animals in circuses in Drogheda, Dublin, Fingal, Galway City, Kildare, Monaghan, Moyle, South Dublin and Waterford

Latvia: Nationwide restrictions effectively banning the use of wild-caught animals

Macedonia: Nationwide ban on the use wild animals in circuses

Malta: Nationwide ban on all animals for performances, exhibitions, shows or training for the circus

The Netherlands: Nationwide ban on the use and transport of animals in circuses, with exemptions for certain, mostly domestic, species

Norway: Use of wild species effectively banned nationwide – positive list of permitted animals only includes domestic animals (apart from camels)

Poland: Nationwide ban on the use of wild-born animals in circuses

Portugal: Nationwide ban restricting the use of great apes in circuses and the acquisition and breeding of CITES listed species

Romania: Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses (apart from certain exotic bird species and cetaceans)

Serbia: Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses

Slovenia: Nationwide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses

Spain: Local bans on the use of wild animals in circuses in more than 400 towns and cities including Barcelona

Sweden: Nationwide ban on the use of certain species in circuses

UK: Over 200 local authorities have bans on animal circuses (more than two thirds of these ban all performing animals, the remainder ban just wild animals). Commitment to ban the use of wild animals in circuses in England by 2020 ; Scotland has introduced a bill which is progressing through parliament

Ukraine: Nationwide ban on “mobile menageries” and the transportation of wild animals for use in circus performances

16. ZOOS

Pets and domesticated animals are very seldom exhibited in zoos in Europe, so this study will not focus on this issue.

17. FIREWORKS AND ANIMALS

17.1 Cats and dogs respond to a much lower intensity of sound than humans.

Sound intensity is measured in decibels (dB). Dogs can hear five times more acutely than humans; and cats about twice as acutely as dogs. Like Hz, dB also increases exponentially, so 30 dB is ten times as loud as 20 dB, and 40 dB is 100 times as loud. A practical example is that a whisper weighs in at about 30 dB, and a dog can hear that from almost three times as far away as a human. Cats are even more sensitive than dogs to these soft sounds. This also explains why dogs and cats are so scared by the sound of fireworks which, to us, do not seem so loud. They are in fact at least 5 times louder to our pets (SPCA)

17.2 A large number of domestic animals, pets, equines, birds and wildlife will suffer severe stress as they do anything to escape the terrifying explosions, sometimes injuring themselves in the process. Animals will shake and hyperventilate at sudden, loud noises and, believing their lives are in danger, will do anything to escape, often with disastrous consequences.

17.3 Many pets ran away and get lost, changing their lives forever. Stray numbers increase dramatically, as has been periodically reported and in many occasions by a number of associations and organizations but also by some governments and municipalities.

17.4 Dogs have also been known to jump through glass windows to escape loud noises and, if terrified enough, will easily scale fences or dig their way out. Pets can also be hit by cars as they try to escape the noise.

17.5 The noise from fireworks causes a great amount of fear, stress and anxiety in wild animals too. This fear often causes them to flee into roadways which results in more vehicle damage (from large animals) and an increase in dead animals. During times of widespread fireworks use, Vets and shelters receives an increase in calls from the public reporting wildlife on the roads and wildlife being seen in unusual areas.

17.6 Other documented effects include nesting birds and other small mammal parents abandoning their nests leaving their defenseless babies behind. The panic can sometimes cause so much disorientation that wildlife parents cannot locate their nests and their babies die. Panic and disorientation from fireworks noise has also resulted in birds flying into windows and buildings, or too far out at sea to escape the noise. Waterfowl become entangled in remnants of large fireworks, or ingest pieces, and scavenging animals (both birds and mammals) ingest debris, usually resulting in death.

17.7 Errant fireworks can also cause environmental damage or fires, and from the release of poisonous chemicals and particle-laden smoke, which is not just inhaled by wildlife, but contaminates the natural environment.

17.8 EU restrictions and international legislation on this matter are more than necessary and in particular:

- a. Discharging any firework in any building, on any public thoroughfare or in any public place or resort without prior written permission of the local authority should be strictly forbidden. Transgressors should be punished.
- b. Local authorities should specify areas where firework may be set off on limited dates between certain times, on specific public land.
- c. Fireworks should not be permitted in public hands and should only be allowed in public displays.
- d. Offenders should be reported at the local Police.
- e. Any informal sale or purchase of fireworks (from hawkers, roadside or any open-air sellers) is illegal and should be punished.

- f. Fireworks should be marked, labelled, packed and sold in accordance with international regulations and fireworks should be in the original packaging complete with instructions, when sold.
- g. Interfering with the packaging of fireworks should be considered an offence.
- h. Government should periodically promote public information and reinforce pet identification prior any festivity which involves fireworks; give advice on how to deal with pets prior and during firework events.

18. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON DOMESTIC AND STRAY ANIMALS

- a. **Directive 2010/63/EU**, of the European Parliament and of the Council, (September 2010), contains a provision (Chapter II, Article 7-11) that permits the use -and repeated use- “of stray and feral animals of domestic species” and also of “nonhuman primates” and “endangered species taken from the wild”, in scientific research inside the EU. **In particular, the resolution of using pets or endangered species and primates, who share 98% of their DNA with humans, had sparked such outrage that 40 members of the Parliament left on that day, during the discussion, in protest.**
- b. The normative, drawn with the purpose of increasing the protection of animals involved in scientific research, in particular **for the application of the principle of the three Rs:**

**Replacing (with non-animal based research),
Reducing (the number of animals) and
Refining (the strategies, techniques and research projects),**

has been strongly opposed and criticized by the public and by a certain number of scientists; some countries have voted to follow stricter national regulations and have indeed banned the use of primates or pets in their research and some other countries have actually managed to slightly reduce the number of animals employed but **at European level the figures are actually growing every year, with about 11.000.000 animals used in 2009 and 25.000.000 used in 2017** (European Animal Research Association).

In 2017, in fact, 11.000.000 animals were used only in Norway, 4.000.000 in Great Britain, 2.000.000 in Germany, 1.900.000 in France, nearly 1.000.000 in Spain and about 600.000 in Switzerland, Italy and Belgium.

- c. If we look at the Refinement principle, projects should be shaped taking in consideration the biological complexity of each animal, his/her intelligence and his/her ability to endure pain, fear and distress. In Ireland, 225,000 animals were used in scientific procedures in 2017; of those, **more than 40.000 were not mice or rats and included stray cats and dogs, sometimes pregnant or**

with litter, pigs, donkeys, horses, cattle, goats and sheep (Health Product Regulatory Authority).

Cats and dogs were used more than 1,200 times for scientific experiments. The report finds that the majority of these animals were used in tests for toxicity. Overall 40% of animals were involved in procedures that were classified as “severe”.

- d. **In Italy, only in 2015, a total of 581.935 animals were used in laboratories including 30.000 chickens, 10.000 fish, 1700 pigs and nearly 600 dogs but also 225 primates** and a certain amount of cattle, sheep and goats.
- e. These numbers are incredibly high considering that by the European law, all procedures on live animals should be performed only when alternative methods are not available.
- f. **Primates continue to be imported from countries with poor control or legislation (50% from Asia, 48% from Africa) and are used for the most severe procedures, where pain and prolonged distress are inflicted, where anaesthesia cannot be performed and for which has been recorded a very high failure rate, 95%.**
- g. The majority of European taxpayers are not happy to know they are spending money on **research which is wasting time, funds and both animal and human lives**; we suggest that Normative 2010/63/EU, should be updated with stronger limitations especially relative to the phases of planning and designing each research.

19. MILITARY RESEARCH ON COMPANION, DOMESTIC, STRAY AND WILD ANIMALS

19.1 Medical Training

Thousands of animals are brutally killed every year during a controversial medical training involving live pigs but also stray dogs, shot by marksmen to replicate battlefield wounds. **The military medical staff carry out the drills, normally on pigs who are shot and then operated on, at a course provided in Nato’s training facilities in Jaegerspris, Denmark.**

This operation, formerly known as “The Danish Bacon”, has been described by animal rights groups as “impossible to justify medically, ethically and educationally” (Peta); it attracts also international trainees, for which conducting the practice in their own country would be illegal.

The animals, for the majority pigs but also dogs, goats and sheep, are normally tied, suspended with their head down, they have circles drawn on their underbellies before a sniper team fires shots intended to damage organs but not kill.

Surgeons, then, treat them as they would be battlezone casualties, keeping them alive for two hours before putting them down.

In a horrific undercover video footage, leaked to Peta, training instructors were filmed laughing as they broke and cut off the limbs of semiconscious live goats with tree trimmers, stabbed the animals and pulled out their internal organs as the animals moaned and kicked.

In Denmark but also in the Netherlands, thousands of domestic animals every year are, in this way, wounded with different weapons and bullets, repeatedly stabbed, have their limbs fractured or cut off while conscious and are even blown up so that NATO military medical trainees can learn to treat traumatic injuries, even though new simulation technology offers increasingly realistic humane alternatives.

19.2 Experimenting Chemical and Bacteriological Weapons.

In 2014, 4000 animals were killed in the UK by NATO experiments, including 105 pigs and 67 primates. The experiments were conducted for research into serious, deadly diseases, many of which have the potential to be used as biological weapons.

Marmosets were infected with Yellow fever, macaques infected with TB, mice given Ebola and pneumonic plague, and rabbits forced to endure infected wounds. Many of these experiments involved substantial suffering and resulted in the death of the animals.

Experiments carried out at Porton Down have included pigs being blown up or exposed to lethal chemical agents, marmosets infected with anthrax and guinea pigs poisoned with toxic nerve agents (Cruelty Free International).

It is notable that the overwhelming majority of the Nato allies do not shoot, stab, poison, infect and dismember animals for their military training exercises.

In January 2015, the US Army has banned the use of animals in many areas of medical training in favour of modern human-patient simulators. One widely used simulator is Simulab Corporation's TraumaMan, an anatomically correct human torso that allows surgical trainees to learn and practise critical emergency procedures, such as placing a chest tube using actual surgical tools. Another, CAE Healthcare's Caesar, is a wireless electronic full-body human-patient simulator custom-designed for military training. Caesar breathes, bleeds from amputations and gunshot wounds, responds to medications, has digital eyes that blink, verbally relays symptoms and articulates changes based on trainees' performance – even "dying" if procedures are not performed correctly.

For military trauma training exercises in the few NATO nations that still cling to these deadly and archaic animal laboratories – Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and the UK – animals are wounded and killed, even

though they have drastically different anatomies and physiologies to human beings.

Military and civilian studies show that life-like human simulators that breathe, bleed and even “die” are more effective at teaching these life-saving battlefield medical skills.

For example, controlled studies by military and civilian trauma teams in Canada, the US and elsewhere have compared the learning outcomes of doctors and medics who were taught trauma treatment skills on animals to those trained on simulators that mimic human anatomy and physiology. In every single case, results show that the simulator groups are as proficient as – or more so than – their peers who used animals and that they are often more confident in their skills. This includes the findings of a recent three-year, \$20m study commissioned by the US Department of Defense looking specifically at this issue (Peta).

19.3 Military training on live animals violates the EU law; in fact, the Directive 2010/63/EU states that animals must not be used in such procedures when non-animal options are available.

Humane alternatives do exist and are used by 22 NATO nations, including 19 EU states.

It is time to explicitly ban military experiments on companion, domestic, stray and ultimately wild animals in all the EU Member States.

20. THREE CASES: ITALY, SPAIN AND ROMANIA

20.1 Italy and the trafficking of strays

- a. **It is estimated that there are about 2.000.000 feral cats and 800,000 stray dogs roaming the streets in Italy while another 250,000 between dogs and cats suffer a life of imprisonment in kennels.** The numbers of strays are increasing every year.
- b. Stray dogs and cats are often victims of the most cruel actions including mass poisoning, hanging, burning and prolonged torture.
- c. **It is important to note that huge national funds reach big and small cities and private associations throughout Italy,** with the aim of implementing welfare and sterilization / identification and vaccination of strays. Despite this, these services are not performed and funds are instead used for the permanent storage of animals in basic shelters. In regions where the unemployment rate is high, stray management is seen as a personal source of income or private business while strays are left to breed inside and outside the facilities to keep the business on-going. Unlicensed shelters led by unqualified personnel make

profit using the images of their own neglected animals on social media to attract attention and consequent funding from the public and private donors.

- d. **When profit is involved, some of these animals will feed the clandestine business loaded in dozens into vans with obscured windows and made travel from the South to the North of Italy or even to Europe towards unknown destinations.** Cats but especially dogs travel in conditions at the limit of survival for thousands of kilometers (or arrived dead) and, as noted by a recent investigation, often once at destination “disappear” or “run away”. Has been noted that these animals could be directed towards laboratories or industries to become animal food. Malta is also a preferred destination.
- e. Vans loaded with stray, unsterilized dogs towards imprecise destinations have been multiple times stopped by the Italian police along highways since 2009.
- f. **Small towns in South Italy budgets between Euro 200.000 and 300.000 a year for shelters. It’s easy to realize that the costs for the management of strays during their entire life exceeds the budget which would be necessary for a mass sterilization of strays and owned pets,** solution suggested by many private Veterinarians willing to offer their private facilities and service and to collaborate with local governments and administrations, in order to mitigate this emergency and solve the problem of animals on the streets.
- g. **The welfare of companion animals in Italy would hugely benefit from a communitarian legislation aimed to educate citizens of the Member States towards a policy of birth control and sterilization, versus the culture of abandonment, abuse, neglect, violence and ultimately exploitation of pets, domesticated and stray animals.**
- h. **There is a strong suspect that stray meat might be trafficked and unintentionally used as food for animals inside the EU borders. It is notable that also American House lawmakers are considering right now (April 2018), after a recent scandal, an amendment to the farm bill, with the scope to implement punishments for individuals or companies killing dogs or cats for food.** The new provision would make it explicitly illegal for all Americans to “knowingly slaughtering a dog or cat for human or animal consumption” The ruling would institute penalties for killing dogs or cats for food as well as being a participant in any commercial activity related to the slaughter of animals considered as pets. Three states in USA currently ban the practice – New Jersey, New York and California. The bill, introduced by Jeff Denham (R. Calif.) of the House Agriculture Committee, would subject violators to prison time and fines. Florida Representative Alcee Hastings (D) introduced similar legislation and currently has 239 co-sponsors as of March. (C. Hanna 2018 US USA).

20.2 Spain, Ireland and the torture of Greyhounds

- a. The connection between **Greyhound racing in Ireland** and Greyhounds abuse and torture inside the EU and elsewhere, has been exposed several times, in particular by SPCA International and Humane Society International. Racing dogs are often trained illegally with live bait animals, who endure a horrible and terrifying death.
The dogs are involved in huge gambling games and are disposed if not performing very high standards.
Ireland has the primate for breeding, racing, exporting disposed dogs to countries with no animal welfare including Korea and China, where these dogs are skinned and boiled alive as recorded in many horrific videos.
- b. **Greyhounds are also used as hunting dogs in Spain (Galgos). Most are used for only one season and then discarded. If they hunt poorly, they are tortured as retribution for shaming their masters (Peta).**
- c. The reasoning of the galgueros is that by torturing and killing the dogs they wash away the dishonor the dogs brought to their masters. In reality, the practice is simply an exercise in sadism that involves burning the dogs with acid, dragging them behind cars, sacrificing them to fighting dogs, skinning them alive or burying them alive. The most famous torture is called the “piano dance”; this involves hanging the dog by the neck with the feet just touching the ground as it struggles to breathe and slowly is strangled to death by its movements.
- d. Before the dogs are used to hunt, they are starved to make them hungry for the prey. Good hunting dogs are “rewarded” by not being violently slain, and they are still often kept chained in stinking “zulos,” underground bunkers soiled with feces.
- e. When the dogs reach two or three years of age and are weakened by malnutrition and lack of care, it is simply cheaper for the galgueros to kill the dog to avoid feeding the dog until the next season, when they simply pick up a new dog for ten euros from one of many breeding facilities that supply the hunters. This is much less than the cost of food to maintain an adult dog between hunting seasons.
- f. By law all hunting dogs are considered working animals, therefore “goods” no different than any agricultural machine, which can be disposed of or used in whatever manner the owner decides.
- g. Good dogs, the ones who have not ashamed their masters by being poor hunting dogs, are “rewarded” by being sent to perreras. These are municipal facilities where the dogs can be euthanized.
- h. The Spanish government is aware of the galgos issue. Laws concerning abuses and neglect were introduced into the penal code in October 2004. The

problem is that abuses are simply not prosecuted. The Spanish authorities say it is difficult to identify the offenders because most of the abuses takes place on private property and hunting grounds and since 2007, access to these areas was denied by forest rangers.

- i. None of the breeding farms have been prosecuted and Spanish associations which stand up against this cruelty have no political voice. The response is that little can be done about a hunting tradition rooted in hundreds of years of Spanish customs. (Galgos Ethique Europe).

20.2.1 It is quite shameful that the practice of torturing and killing Greyhounds in mass is allowed inside Member States and condoned by governments. It is of primary importance for the EU to address this issue internationally by framing specific laws to protect this breed and all working animals from abuse; the illegal breeding of Greyhounds should be severely punished and the trade specifically regulated with identification codes and databases. All Member State should refer to the same legislation regarding the rights of working animals and transgressors should be sanctioned.

20.3 Romania, a mass cull in Europe

- a. There are about 3 million stray dogs in Romania alone. It is a continuous emergency. Periodically, stray dogs are slaughtered en masse. The government allows the public to participate and help in the killing and so the most horrific methods are used by violent haters who feel justified to perpetuate the slaughter in front of horrified citizens and children.
- b. In 2015 about 300 thousand dogs were slaughtered after a four years old was killed while playing near a park. Although initially the blame went on strays, his death was later found to have been caused by security dogs owned by a private company. The government of Romania's answer was to legalise a euthanasia programme which resulted in a massive massacre. Reports and images of dogs - even female dogs with their puppies - being clubbed to death in the streets or caged in horrendous shelters, went around the world.
- c. Local authorities in Romania stated they cannot afford to build proper shelters or sterilise the dogs in medically appropriate conditions, therefore strays must be put down if not rehomed within two weeks.
- d. Sadly, the mass killing does not work as a strategy to reduce stray dog populations, while it is more humane, and economically logical, to spay and neuter the animals. In fact, one unspayed female dog, her mate and their offspring can produce up to 67,000 dogs in only 6 years. The price to spay a female dog certainly outweighs the price to hire dog-catchers to trap 67,000 dogs and then euthanize them.

21. THE USE, ABUSE AND KILLING OF ANIMALS IN CONTEMPORARY ART AND THE THE GROWING TREND IN BRANDING PETS WITH ARTISTIC TATTOOS, PIERCINGS AND DYED FUR.

21.1 There is a growing, disturbing trend to use dead animals, or parts of dead animals, in art. (Occupy for Animals).

- a. A short film called “Don’t Trust Me” by an artist named Adel Abdessemed, depicted horses and other animals being bludgeoned to death; in another short film, titled “Usine” the same artist trapped animals in a pen, including pit bulls and roosters, and causes them to rip each other apart.
- b. The Costa Rican artist Guillermo Habacuc Vargas starved a dog to death as art; the animal was tied up at the exhibit and left there with no food or water until he perished.
- c. An art project in Florida involved dipping live mice into resin, then cutting them and using them as finger gloves.
- d. Every time Russian photographer Nathalia Edenmont feels like replacing the stamen of a flower with an eyeball, an animal dies. She is noted for killing and stuffing mice, rabbits and cats, among other animals, for the purpose of photographing them adorned with aristocratic collars, mounted perfectly on angelic pedestals or worn as finger puppets. Her “kiwi-mouse” is a combination of dead mouse AND Photoshop manipulation.
- e. Iris Schieferstein, a German artist from Berlin, collects carcasses from her local butcher which are discarded. Some of the most controversial pieces include a pair of sandals where stuffed doves spread their wings wide and a collection of heels fashioned from hollow horse hooves.
- f. Katinka Simons, alias Tinkebell, broke the neck of her cat Pinkeltje and turned her into a purse. Pinkeltje was a ‘depressed cat’ who couldn’t be left at home alone. By killing her and making her into a purse, Tinkebell could carry her always with her. Other animals that she uses come from shelters or vets and had been euthanized.
- g. **Artists working with living animals often arouse great outrage from organizations that defend animal rights and this will automatically draw great media attention, which can be a bonus for some authors. Despite protests, it seems that artists are still allowed to go a little bit further than other people in society. This comes from the idea that art has some autonomy; we assume the artist has an artistic intention and a moral. However, using, abusing and even killing animals for art is immoral. (R. Groen MA)**

21.2 There is also another growing trend which is the branding of pets. Many owners like to identify themselves in their pet and some choose to force their beloved companion being tattooed, pierced or dyed in their favourite colour. This practice spread from Asia to Russia and it is becoming more and more popular across the world. Normal people but also models, Instagram stars, artists and youtubers have been forcing dogs, cats, sphynx cats, horses, bunnies, pigs, even fish and many more species to be tattooed or pieced or their fur made into the most incredible colours.

- a. Animals don't understand why they need to endure pain in order to satisfy their guardian and be decorated or transformed into a fashionable item. Tattooing can take as long as a few hours or even days, as for example in the case of pigs or horses.
- b. These actions show a lack of knowledge of the basic needs of the animal and ultimately of respect of its nature and feelings.
- c. There is no safe way to dye a dog or any other animal and to prevent accidents. Dyeing can lead to all sorts of complications; the pet can have an allergic reaction and even die.

21.3 In order to prevent the spreading of these expressions, the EU should surely include in its legislation a clear prohibition of using, abusing or killing animals in contemporary art; should also prohibit the branding of pets with tattoos and piercings and the dyeing of their fur, across all Member States.

22. CONCLUSIONS

- a. **Man has a moral obligation** to respect all living creatures and recognizes that pet animals have a special relationship with humans.
- b. **Pet animals have being recognized in contributing to the quality of human life and have consequent value to society.**
- c. **The domestic dog has a predisposition to exhibit a social intelligence** that is uncommon in the animal world - the neglected and homeless dogs suffer, both physically and mentally.
- d. **Governments and authorities must legally recognise that that strays are, in terms of treatment and rights, pets with no guardian yet. Dogs or cats do not change their needs just because man have put them in a helpless state.**
- e. **Legislation should categorize animals according to their needs, nature and limits which do not and should not change according to the function man has assigned to them.**
- f. **Stray animals are caught and trapped and many times forgotten on purpose in the local enclosures - they are forced to starve to death because the food-money ends up in wrong pockets. This must be prevented.**
- g. **These unfortunate animals are often exposed to unskilled staff/people, who only see "the management of stray dogs" as a source of income. Organizations, associations and citizens receive in fact huge sums of donations each year and such donations may therefore become the reason to maintain an ongoing problem of stray dogs, while "the management of stray dogs", becomes "the management of donations and subsidies" (ESDAW).**
- h. **It should not be for the donation of voluntary organizations or citizens - to take responsibility and make government work, to give the companion animals in Member States their rightful assistance or living conditions. In a modern European country, who also represents the European Union - a government should handle this in an ethical and appropriate manner by giving the companion animals back their rightful status - this is how it works in many Member States in western Europe - so there is absolutely no excuse that this cruelty can continue in some Member States of eastern or southern Europe (ESDAW).**
- i. **Legislation should protect animals and prevent abuse by clearly prohibiting abusive practices including the ones linked to traditions, exhibitions, art expressions and offensive behaviour, by implementing a Registry for Animal Abuse and by punishing transgressors.**

- i. International and specific directives framed by EU legislators to apply across all Member States, are urgently needed.

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REPORT

EU: APPROVE AN INTERNATIONAL LAW
FOR THE PROTECTION OF COMPANION ANIMALS
AND THE ETHICAL MANAGEMENT OF STRAY DOGS AND CATS
ACROSS ALL MEMBER STATES



FUTURE 4 WILDLIFE
