

# **CARODOG & CAROCAT: KEY COMPONENTS OF RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP**

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# STRUCTURE

1. THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP
2. CATEGORISATIONS AND TERMS
3. THE EUROPEAN CARO PROJECT
4. THE CARO KEY COMPONENTS FOR DOG AND CAT RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP
5. SOLUTION STRATEGIES BASED ON THE KEY COMPONENTS



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# PART I

- 1. THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP**
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# COMPANION ANIMALS RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

- **Animal Welfare principle**  
and
- **multistakeholder project** on the EU level  
(CARO as acronym)



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# DEFINITION OF RESPONSIBILITY

- state or fact of **having a duty to deal** with something or some one
- state or fact of **being accountable** for something or some one



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# COMPONENTS OF RESPONSIBILITY

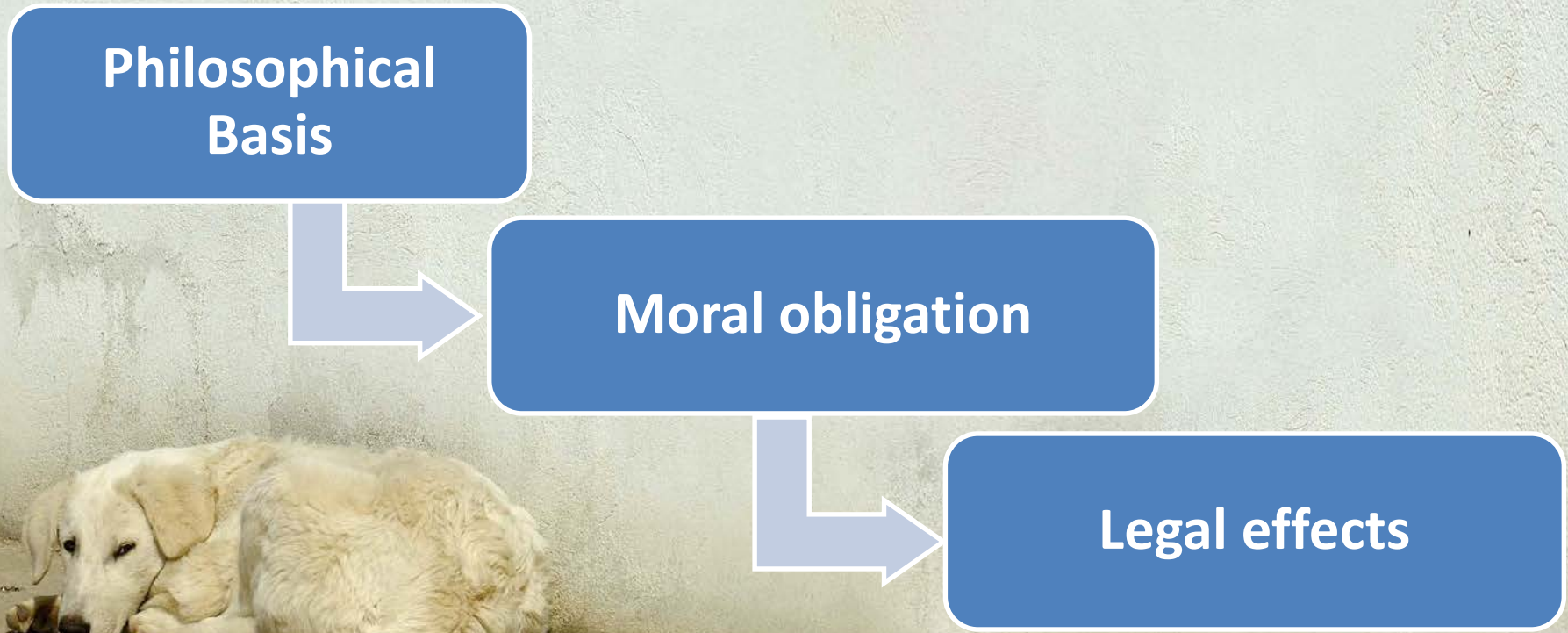
- **Subject and object of responsibility**
- **Asymmetric relationship > needs / power to act**
- **Reciprocity of quality of dependency and intensity of responsibility and duty of care**



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# THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIBILITY



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# RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS ANIMALS

## A Philosophical basis

- **deontology** (focus is the action)
- **Utilitarianism** (focus on the result)
- **Ethics of vertue** (religions, principle of mercy)

## B Moral obligation

- **expression of moral principle of justice duty of care for the weaker members of a society**
- **domestic animals are fully dependent from us**
  - > **duty of care**



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# RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS ANIMALS (2)

## C Legal effects and enforcement structures

- national level:**
- 13 MS animal welfare in constitution
  - animal welfare legislation, penal code
  - Court decisions
  - class action for animal welfare organisations
  - Ombudspersons, Animal Welfare Officers

- European Union:-**
- Art 13 TFEU (sentient beings = ethical term  
no legal term)
  - animal welfare legislation (such as Dir 98/58)
  - Court decisions
  - infringement procedures



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# DEFINITIONS OF DOG & CAT RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

OIE, CoE, ICAM, FVE, TVT, and recently

**CALLISTO: “RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP (RPO) is a duty of care based on the principle that animals are sentient beings having intrinsic value, are dependent on humans for their health and welfare and are part of the ecosystem. RPO aims to maintain a good level of animal health and welfare, to maximize physical and psychological benefits to humans and to minimise the potential risk that pets may pose to the public, other animals, or the environment. This duty starts with responsible acquisition and continues with providing appropriate care and protection for pets and their offspring. (2014)**

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## PART II

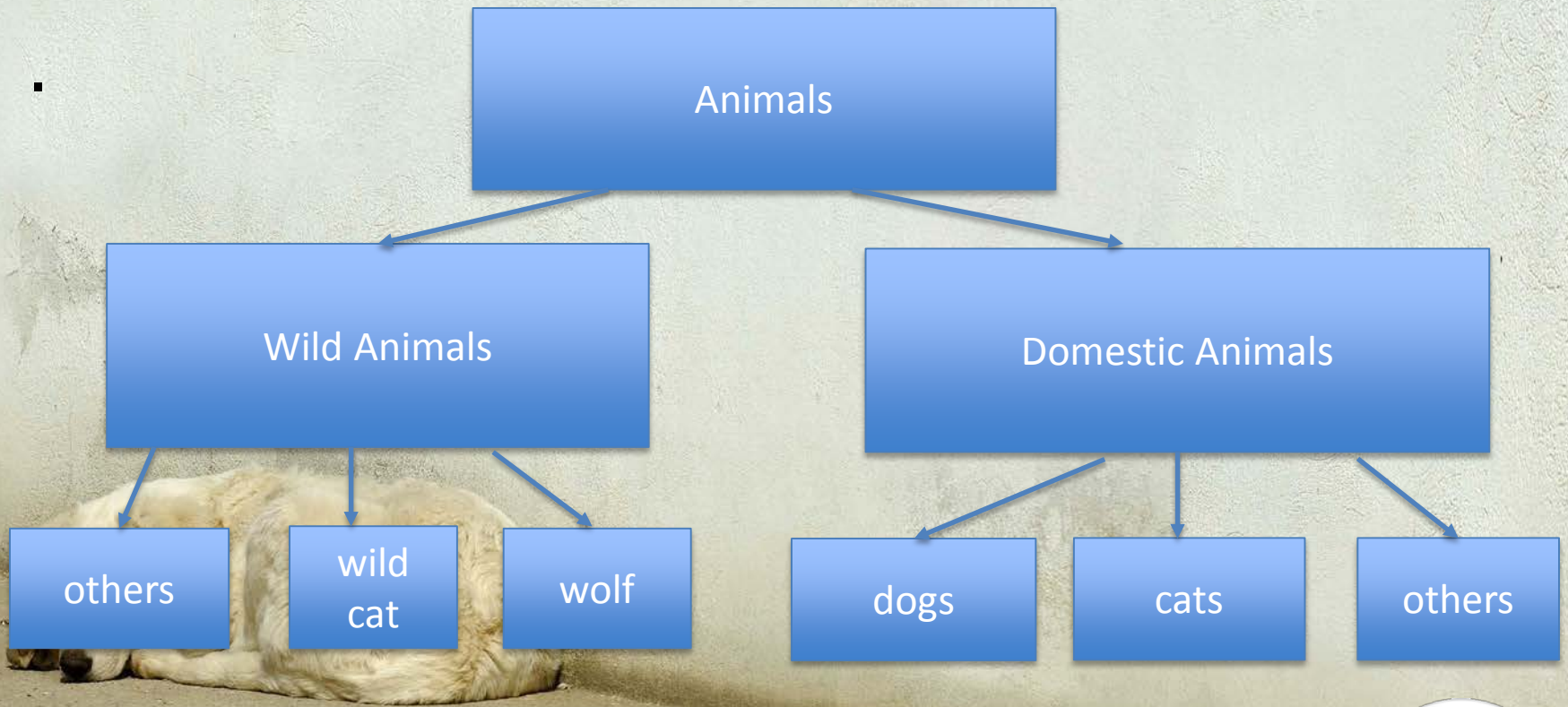
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# LEGAL ANIMALS' CATEGORIES



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# LEGAL-LINGUISTIC CLARIFICATIONS

- **Different meaning / different use of the same term leads to misunderstandings**
- **Reason:**  
**unknown and invisible difference** between the construction of the **Common law** based and construction of the **Roman law** based legislation such as difference in **the protection of the life of humans and animals**

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# EXAMPLE 1

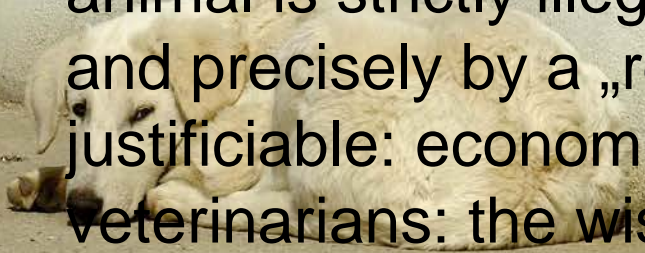
## DIVERS MEANINGS OF EUTHANASIA

### Common Law based:

- focusing on the **method of a ,good death‘** and a broad variety of reasons

### Roman Law based:

- focusing on the **ethically strictly limited reason, and who has the permission to euthanise.** To kill a healthy animal is strictly illegal, and has to be justified individually and precisely by a „reasonable ground“ (e.g. not justifiable: economic reasons, surplus animals, for veterinarians: the wish of the owner)



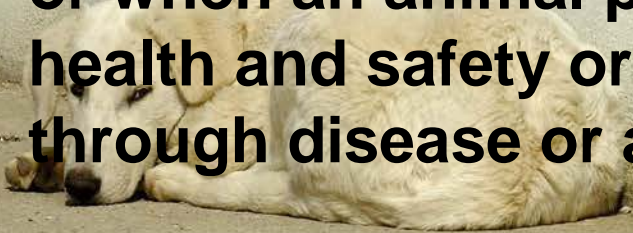
# DEFINITION: OIE AND WAP

## OIE:

**„act of inducing death using a method that causes a rapid and irreversible loss of consciousness with minimum pain and distress to the animal“**

## WAP:

**“euthanasia is acceptable and necessary when an animal is suffering due to an incurable illness or injury, or when an animal presents a significant risk to human health and safety or the safety of other animals, through disease or aggressive behaviour. (...)“**



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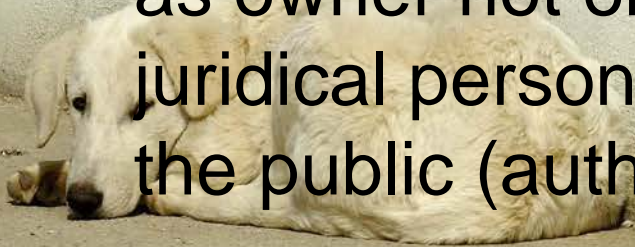
# EXAMPLE 2: MEANINGS OF 'OWNED' ANIMALS

## **Common Law based understanding:**

Owned dogs and cats are meant those living in private families

## **Roman Law based understanding:**

all dogs and cats are owned as they can have as owner not only natural persons but also juridical persons in the private field or a body of the public (authority)



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# DIVERSITY OF MEANINGS

**Dogs and cats in the streets** are owned dogs and cats, owned by natural persons or the municipality

**Dogs and cats in shelters** are owned dogs and cats of a private natural or juridical person or the municipality

**Dogs and cats in private households:**

- are owned dogs and cats (consensus)

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# PART III

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# CARO START 2010

## BELGIAN PRESIDENCY

### Starting point:

- **Growing awareness** about the problems of **overpopulation and overproduction of dogs and cats in Europe** while there is no clear legal competence for companion animals beyond health and trade
- **Lack of reliable data and information**
- **policy: Treaty of Lisbon Art 13 TFEU (2009)**
- **Animal Health Strategy** including expressively companion animals

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# THE PARTNERS OF CARODOG & CAROCAT

## Founders:

- VIER PFOTEN, European Policy Office
- Istituto Zooprofilattico e sperimentale G.Caporale Teramo (IZSAM)

## Members of the Editorial board:

European Commission Animal Welfare unit DG  
SANTE

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe  
ABCD (for CAROcat)

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# THE CARO „UNIVERSE“



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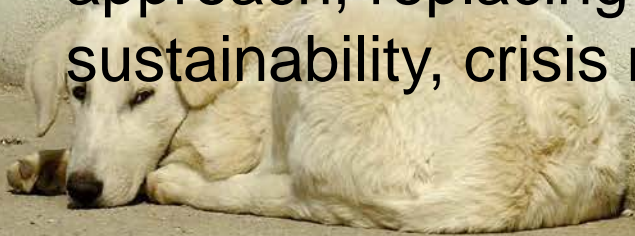
# THE CARODOG & CAROCAT APPROACH

## GOAL

with regard to canine and feline overpopulation: every dog and cat has to have a responsible owner

## STRATEGY

- information platform for knowledge management
- Solution strategy: Multistakeholder approach, holistic approach, replacing killing of healthy dogs and cats, sustainability, crisis management programmes



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# THE CARODOG & CAROCAT APPROACH

## Members of the EU Canine Traceability Experts group:

IZSAM (science)

Planet ID (ISO norm)

FVE (veterinarians)

Datamars (industry)

EuroPetNet (EU reg.)

TASSO (nat. reg.)

Belgium (EU MS)

VIER PFOTEN (AW)



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# KEY COMPONENTS RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

1. Political long term tailor-made national Action Plan as a multistakeholder project run as public private partnership
2. Information - education - training
3. Legislation and enforcement
4. Veterinary care
5. Traceability by Identification and registration and data management
6. systematic birth control by CNR and legal measures against abandonment

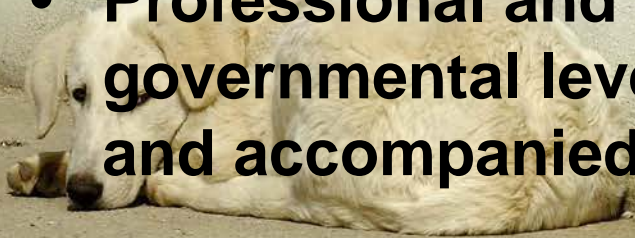


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# KEY COMPONENT 1 NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

- **Honest political will to solve the problem on a long term and in a sustainable and ethically accepted ,European‘ way considering Art 13 TFEU**
- **Integrated solution strategy together with all stakeholders and bringing humans and animals together instead of isolating the animals**
- **Professional and transparent project on the governmental level, independently from elections and accompanied by adequate structures**



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# KEY COMPONENT 1

## NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

### Practical implementation:

- project preparation group (all stakeholders)
- defining the measurable goal (socially balanced number of stray animals), the basic strategy and package of measures (legislation, CNR, I&R, information) using CAROdog/cat information and best practices
- realistic time schedule, staff, working groups and budget, transparency

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# KEY COMPONENT 1 NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

## Management elements:

- Top down structure with clear responsibilities on all levels (federal, regional, local)
- transparent rules and agreements
- Creating a map detecting hot spots and choosing best practices with the respective partners
- road map with milestones and first work packages
- creating pilot projects
- communication strategy



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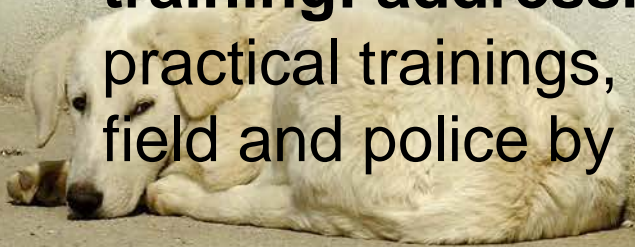


# KEY COMPONENT 2

## INFORMATION / EDUCATION / TRAINING

### Communication strategy:

- **Information (awareness campaign) for the citizens** for an integrational concept with EU standard
- **Education: using existing school projects or starting one** with teachers and NGOs, education of dog owners, **media concept**
- **training: addressing to professionals** (University, practical trainings, further education) including juridical field and police by seminars



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# KEY COMPONENT 3

## LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT

### Legal elements:

- animal welfare in constitution and legislation
- Implementing Art 13 TFEU and the definition of animals into the legal system (civil law, administration law, penal code)
- Duty of care, birth control by prohibition of private breeding, licenced breed, protection for life concept (CNR), standards for shelters
- High penalties in the penal code incl. abandonment

### Adequate enforcement structures:

committees, departements with experts in judicial systems, using supportive material such as the shelter Quality brochure



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# KEY COMPONENT 4 VETERINARY CARE

- Please see the new document of FVE, UEVP and FECAVA



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# KEY COMPONENT 5

## TRACEABILITY AND IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

- Analysis and if needed revision for a mandatory Identification and registration legislation (all dogs and cats) in the MS and the EU
- Mandatory licencing of breeders and sellers (AHL)
- Analysis the technical EU standards (ISO norm) of transponders
- Controlled distribution of transponders, using the country code
- transparency and clear responsibilities
- EU compatible registers (EuroPetNet)
- Low cost structures (feasibility, proper enforcement)
- Consultancy by the CARO experts group





# KEY COMPONENT 6

## SYSTEMATIC BIRTHCONTROL

### Basic problem

flood of unwanted dogs and cats causing problems of animal welfare and suffering, health risks for humans and animals

### Two sources:

- overproduction of breed dogs (and cats) by increasing illegal breed and trade
- overpopulation by neglect

**Measures:** prohibition and control of private breeding, mandatory neutering of dogs and cats in private households, shelters and in the streets, (in combination with I&R, adoption first etc.)



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# KEY COMPONENT 6

## SYSTEMATIC BIRTHCONTROL (2)

- short-, mid- and long term agreements with NGOs on the local and regional level,
  - coordinated on the federal level
  - Accompanied by a common adoption first campaigns and other measures such as
  - a strict garbage management
  - High fines and prison when abandoning dogs and cats
- There are best practices in states and municipalities

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# RESPONSIBLE PRIVATE OWNERS

- **Private families**

responsible acquisition, adoption first, adequate keeping and veterinary care, neutering, identification and registration, dog school

- **Privately run shelters**

responsible adoption, all dogs and cats have to be neutered, professional management and care, adoptino programms, transparency

- **Public responsible ownership**

shelter management (see above), stray animals, collaboration with NGOs

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# PUBLIC RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

## Governments

- **Sustainable Animal Welfare policy**  
including long term solution strategy on the national level by an Animal Welfare Action plan with tailor made measures on the regional and local level
- **Considering the European human animal relationship** based on Art 13 TFEU
- **Considering that companion animals are part of the European civil society of the 21 century**



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# SPOT ON FELINE RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

## Legal level:

**Austria (neutering), Belgien (cat castration action plan), Germany (states level neutering programmes), Spain (Catalonia I&R), Switzerland (I&R), Lithuania (ltd. private breeding), France (I&R), Greece (I&R)**

**Spain:** on 24 April the Spanish Animal Welfare group of the national Parliament ran a conference in Madrid for Stray Cat population control (Cat Manifesto)

**Best practices** on the state and community level cooperation of municipalities with NGOs and veterinarians

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# PILOT PROJECT OF THE GERMAN STATE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

## One year pilot project (Oct 2014 – Oct 2015)

- **Cost free neutering** of Stray cats and owned cats of owners (low budget)
- **a Common pp fonds** (state, NGO, private donors) and contribution by natural services of veterinarians (ltd), the veterinary chamber of the state Schleswig-Holstein is managing the fonds
- **Systematic Identification and registration**
- **Awareness campaign** by the state
- **Monthly checks and final evaluation**
- **Very successful results after the first part**

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# MESSAGE TO TAKE HOME

- **A socially balanced and controlled dog and cat population of animals living in good conditions can only be reached by responsible public and private ownership**
- **in the ethical spirit of Europe in the 21 century, expressed in Art 13 TFEU that animals are sentient beings**
- **by a systematic birth control policy and legislation replacing killing of healthy animals**
- **By a long term holistic approach and strategy**
- **working together in a public private partnership and a**
- **common long term Action Plan**
- **By tailor made packages of measures composed by the CARO components**



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# WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

- [www.carodog.eu](http://www.carodog.eu)
- [www.carocat.eu](http://www.carocat.eu)
- [www.lawyersforanimalprotection.eu](http://www.lawyersforanimalprotection.eu)
- Vilnius Declaration of Responsible Ownership 2012
- (available on [www.carodog.eu](http://www.carodog.eu) and [www.carocat.eu](http://www.carocat.eu) )



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# ALL SENTIENT BEINGS THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Your questions are welcome



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