



Stray dogs in the EU – a Commission contribution

SEMINAR "STRAY DOGS: PRESENT AND FUTURE"
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Short introduction and background

- Animal welfare is a societal concern in the EU - Ethical issue
- Status of animal: from usefulness to emotion = role of modernisation and urbanisation
- Economic issue: Most animals are kept for agriculture and business: how consumers could contribute
- Enforcement: Member States' responsibility



Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.

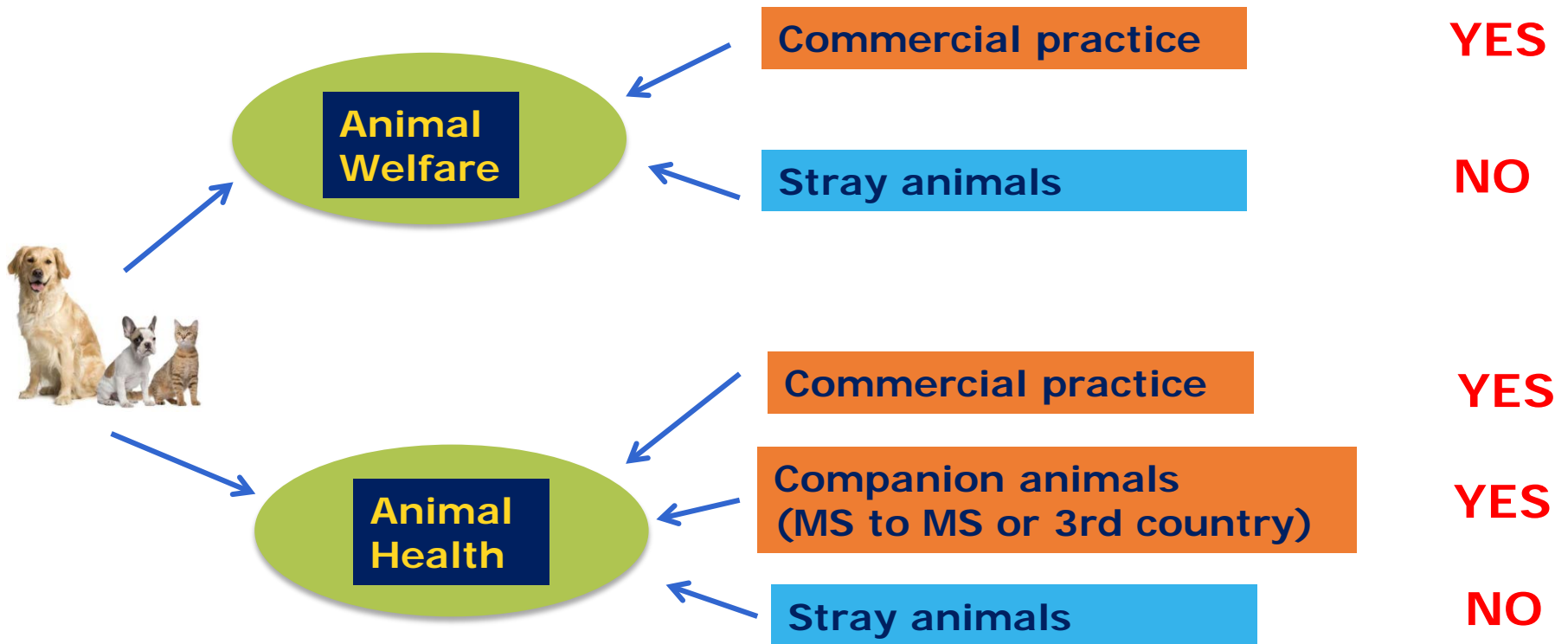
EU Official Journal C 326 (consolidated version of EU treaties)

The EU competence for animal welfare

- *Farm animals: Yes*
- *Experimental animals: Yes*
- *Wild animals: Partially* (zoo directive, trapping standards, seals)
- *Companion animals: No*



Art. 13 TFEU



YES = covered by EU legislation
NO = not covered by EU legislation



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Situation in 2015 – Examples of requests from citizens and European Parliament or Petitions on stray dogs

- Rabies in dogs still evident: few private dogs are vaccinated
- brutal and inhuman killing of dogs (use of biozides, truncheons etc.)
- Shelters in bad condition, worse health care of animals (malnourished animals, injured and suffered animals)
- NGOs violated by local authorities
- psychological health problems of children and adults seeing the brutal killing of dogs
- Health risk to humans through zoonotic diseases
- Sterilisation or castration of animals as best solution



European Commission gives supports to....

- 1. OIE "Dog Population Management program"**
 - OIE regional stray dog initiative for 11 Balkan countries – Workshop in June 2014 – "To reach full compliance with OIE standards on stray dog population control by 2025"
- 2. TAIEX multi-countries workshop** on standards for control of stray dogs population in Sarajevo (November 2015)



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European Commission gives supports to....

3. CAROdog – CAROcat informative platform

Offers scientific, legal and practical tools for political strategies and concrete projects and programs to build up an European wide culture of responsible dog ownership (EU Commission + FVE + Vier Pfoten + TERAMO)

(www.CAROcat.eu , www.CAROcat.eu)



ABOUT US | DOG POPULATION MANAGEMENT | LAW AND SCIENCE | EDUCATION | DOG OWNERS | TAKE ACTION | NEWS/EVENTS



The 4th Canine Traceability Expert Workshop took place in Brussels. The meeting took place on September 10 2014 in Brussels. It was successful and gathered high level speakers from VIER PFOTEN, the Istituto D Capacitate Teramo, FVE, European, TASSO, Ostrava, Flavel ID, the EU Commission (DG SANCO) and the Belgium Health. [Continue reading...](#)

SPECIAL FOCUS: Wild? Me? Non-kept dogs are not wild!



In the draft Animal Health Law, stray domestic animals are simply defined as wild animals. This is in contradiction to the basic biological categorisations distinguishing between "wild" and "domestic" animals. This would lead to serious misunderstandings and legal uncertainty, to lower animal protection standards and to an isolation of stray animals as second-class animals. Moreover, this would be in contradiction to Art 13 TFEU as (all) animals are sentient beings.

QUICK ACCESS



International Standards



National standards Law and guidelines



Glossary Terms and Definitions



Scientific Library



Dog Traceability Registration



School projects Further education

CAROdog Events



- EU CANINE TRACEABILITY EXPERT WORKSHOPS
- CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Latest News

Health and
Food Safety

4. CALLISTO Project (2012-1014)- 9 international partners

- **Role of companion animals, as a source of infectious diseases for people and food animals**
 - First cycle: zoonoses potentially transmittable by companion animals, demographics and social aspects of human-animal interaction
 - Second cycle: Companion animal ownership and related benefits versus risks, prioritization of zoonoses
- **Findings**
 - System for identification and registration,
 - Attention to animal cross-border movement
 - Monitoring of disease and disease vector spread
 - Monitoring of antimicrobial resistance
 - Education



The EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015

- **Study on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices (Summer 2015)**
 - To determine the extent to which the EU should take specific measures on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices in order to level opportunities in the internal market, improve consumer protection and the health and welfare of animals and the public.
 - To collect socio-economic, technical data and experts` opinions on breeding, keeping and trade of dogs
 - To identify possible EU relevant issues and to assess if citizens are appropriately informed about the risks linked to dog and cat commercial practices
 - To provide options on possible added value of EU actions

Main areas of future work...

- Ensuring the compliance with the OIE recommendations on stray animal population
- Promote the development of specific action plans: active involvement of local authorities, clear benchmarks and efficient enforcement
- Promote identification and registration of dogs (responsible ownership!!!)
- Promote sterilization and castration of dogs and cats
- Dog and cat euthanasia as last resort option and in strict compliance with the OIE animal welfare standards



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Thank you for your attention!



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