

## **Reply to petitions and letters on the bad welfare conditions on which stray dogs are treated in some Member States**

In relation to the protection of stray animals, no EU harmonised legislation is in place. As a consequence the matter falls under the sole responsibility of the Member States. The complaints related to bad treatment of stray dogs or to the conditions in which animals are kept in shelters should be directed to the relevant authorities of the Member States.

Within this framework, here are the most recent developments in the EU in relation to stray animals.

The Commission has actively supported the work performed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) to develop guidelines for the control of stray dog populations. All Member States are members of the OIE and have access to these guidelines which provides a number of technical tools to address the issue. The guidelines insist on the need to use parallel approaches for controlling stray dog population and consider that killing is not a sustainable strategy if performed alone. The guidelines also provide humane way of killing dogs when necessary.

Furthermore the Commission cooperates with other organisations to the development of the "CARODOG" website<sup>1</sup> which will inform on canine population management leading to responsible animal ownership.

In December 2010 the Council of the EU adopted conclusions where it calls upon the Commission to perform studies for possible EU initiatives on the welfare of dogs and cats<sup>2</sup>. The Commission will consider this issue in the framework of the preparation of its future EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals that is planned to be adopted in December 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.carodog.eu](http://www.carodog.eu)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressdata/en/agricult/118076.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/agricult/118076.pdf)