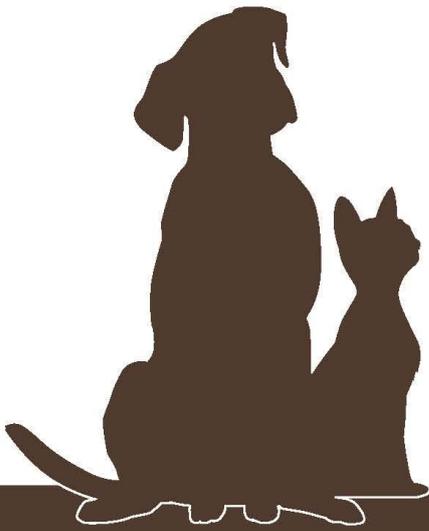




European
Commission

Conference on the welfare of **dogs and cats** in the EU



Brussels, 28 October 2013

Building a Europe
that cares for
companion animals



EU2013.LT



EUROGROUP
OF ANIMALS

Health and
Consumers

The European Commission and the Lithuanian Presidency

present:

Conference on the welfare of dogs and cats in the EU

"Building a Europe that cares for companion animals"

28 October 2013, Brussels, Charlemagne Building

The population of owned dogs and cats in the European Union is estimated at more than one hundred million animals. Whilst for many of us they provide companionship or recreation or perhaps assistance in our working lives, they are for others purely a source of income. From food and medicines to cosmetics and luxuries, a major industry has developed, dedicated to the breeding and upkeep of companion animals.

The rise in animal commerce brings problems of its own. Genetic selection, puppy farming, mutilations and inhumane disposal are just some of the issues that have far reaching consequences for pet welfare, public health and consumer protection throughout the EU. There is however no harmonised legislation that addresses the welfare concerns of companion animals.

This first European conference seeks to provide stakeholders from all backgrounds - government authorities, NGOs and those with a professional or personal interest - with an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the practical considerations that relate to companion animal welfare with a view to establishing a means of identifying and tackling the key issues.

The conference will also see the launch of a study into the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices. Based on the outcome of the study and this conference's proceedings, the Commission will consider what further action is necessary in order to improve animal welfare and to increase transparency and adequacy of information to consumers.

During the conference you will have the opportunity to learn about the various initiatives and peruse the educational literature presented by the exhibitors from all around Europe.

We are pleased to advise that the conference is supported by Eurogroup for Animals, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe and Vier Pforten International.

- 08.30 09.30 Registration of participants & welcome coffee**
- 09.30 10.00 Opening messages**
- Tonio Borg** (video message)
European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy
- Prof. Vigilijus Jukna**
Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
- Prince Laurent of Belgium**
- Mrs Marit Paulsen - Member of the European Parliament**

10.00 11.00 Plenary Speech

Professor James Serpell
University of Pennsylvania; USA
“How Social Trends affect companion animal ownership?”

11.00 12.30 *Session 1- Legislation on companion animals in Europe*

Can we do better to fulfil their needs?

Chair: **Dr. Jonas Milius**
Chief Veterinary Officer; Lithuania

Currently the only legislation at EU level concerning the welfare of dogs and cats relates to their transport in connection with an economic activity or where their movement or trade poses an animal or public health risk. In contrast Member States have become increasingly proactive in developing and implementing a set of policies that tackle the variety of problems surrounding breeding and trade in this area. These educational, preventative and punitive measures largely address breeders, owners and traders and promote responsible pet ownership. In this session, delegates will receive an insight and understanding of past and current policy measures that address these issues at European, national and local level.

- 11.00 11.15 **Alberto Laddomada**
Unit Animal Health, Directorate Health and Consumers, European Commission
EU legislation on dogs and cats
- 11.15 11.30 **Jan Vaarten**
Federation of Veterinarians of Europe; Belgium
Preventing disease transmission: public health issue
- 11.30 12.30 Model approaches at national level**
- 11.30 11.45 **Orinta Leipute**
Member of Parliament; Lithuania
The new Lithuanian approach to companion animal protection
- 11.45 12.00 **Eric Van Tilburgh**
Health Ministry; Belgium
Ensuring welfare in companion animals trade through legislation

12.00	12.15	Gaetana Ferri <i>Health Ministry; Italy</i> Puppy trade and the Italian penal code
12.15	12.30	Fabien Loup <i>Federal Veterinary Office; Switzerland</i> Ensuring companion animals' responsible ownership through legislation
12.30	14.00	Networking Lunch

14.00 15.30 Session II - Breeding and trade of companion animals: business as usual?

Chair: **Christophe Buhot**
President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe; France

Whilst the vast majority of dogs and cats are well cared for, the lucrative nature of breeding and trade results in the existence of a number of welfare issues. For example, animals may be bred in unsuitable environments or selective breeding may increase the incidence of inherited diseases or exaggerated features. Furthermore, pet ownership involves a commitment that many cannot meet resulting in large numbers of animals being abandoned. This session focusses on legal accountability and the collective responsibilities of animal welfare organisations, veterinarians and owners in tackling these problems.

14.00	14.15	Claire Calder <i>Eurogroup; Belgium</i> The perspective of animal welfare organisations on trade and breeding.
14.15	14.30	Simon Orr <i>Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations; UK</i> Veterinary practitioners' views
14.30	14.45	Rachel Casey <i>Bristol Veterinary School; UK</i> The owners' perspective
14.45	15.00	Iaira Boissevain <i>Utrecht University/BvdV attorneys; Netherlands</i> Legal obstacles – does the law enhance animal welfare?
15.00	15.15	Questions and Answers
15.15	15.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>

15.45 16.45 Session III: Building a Europe that cares for companion animals: facts tools and perspectives.

Chair: **Andrea Gavinelli**

Unit Animal Welfare, Directorate Health and Consumers, European Commission

Innovation contributes to the dynamism and to the constantly evolving landscape of companion animal welfare. This session investigates how the breeding, transport, pet-food and pharmaceutical industries can contribute positively to this landscape. Knowledge management and information sharing is also key to improvement. The value of a multi-stakeholder knowledge sharing tool is presented. The role of the EU and Member States in the promotion of companion animal welfare is also discussed.

15.45 15.55 **Thomas Meyer**
Secretary General of the European Pet Food Industry Federation; Belgium
Industry's view and approach to caring for dogs and cats in the EU

15.55 16.05 **Joergen Hindse**
Federation Cynologique International; Denmark
Improved breeding: how can we do it?

16.05 16.15 **Jeff Segers**
Animal Transport Association; Belgium
Improving movement of pets: how can the industry help?

16.15 16.25 **Marlene Wartenberg**
Vier Pfoten; Germany
Multi-stakeholders approach in developing a knowledge sharing tool.
The CAROdog and CAROcat experience.

16.25 16.35 **Declan O' Brien**
International Federation for Animal Health-Europe; Belgium
Companion animals: Imagine a world without veterinary medicines

16.35 16.45 **Romano Marabelli**
Chief Veterinary Officer; Italy
The EU and the Members States role in the promotion of companion animal welfare

16.45 17.45 Plenary discussion

17.45 18.00 Concluding remarks

Paola Testori Coggi

Director General of Directorate Health and Consumers, European Commission

18.00 19.30 Networking dinner