EU Coordinated Control Plan on online sales of dogs and cats

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Objectives

- Gain insight on **current practices**
- Help establish the **level of suspicious practices**
- **Raise awareness**: online sales are subject to official controls
- **Build know-how on law enforcement** for online sales with veterinary checks
- **Take actions for a safer market**
Description

- Voluntary
- **Identification of websites** offering dogs and cats which can be non-compliant with EU or national legislation
- **Inspection of traders** from non-compliant advertisements
- **Notification of websites** that are **not complying with EU legislation**

**Websites screening period**

15 October to 15 November 2018

**On-the-spot inspection**

15 November 2018 to 15 January 2019

**Notification period**

15 January to 30 April 2019
Results

• 18 participating countries
• 315 advertisements notified*
• Average of 17,5 ads per country
• 90% domestic traders
• 87% of ads with dogs
• 169 inspections performed
IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANIMAL

- ID of the animal/mother: 18%
- Vaccination records and anti-parasitic treatment: 37%
- Age of the animal: 55%
- Country of origin: 56%
TRADERS STATUS AND ACTIONS

status of the trader

Inconsistency between activities and trader's status

Number of inspection performed or planned

50%

42%

54%
Findings

- High participation rate
- 54% of ads were inspected
- Outcomes of the inspections:
  - animals too young, unhealthy
  - animals not vaccinated, not treated
  - fake ID, illegal transport
  - difficulties to checks
Findings

- Lack of identification of animals and traders
- Technical difficulties to control the online market:
  - Multitude of websites
  - Legal difficulties for inspectors to access private houses
  - Missing requirements to give contact details in the ads
  - Lack of information on where the animals are kept
Suggestions received

- **Education materials:** *What Europeans should know when buying pets online?*

- **Guidelines for pet ads to websites**

- **EU or national quality chart** on pet ads

- **Partnership between authorities and websites** to agree on the information to be included

- **Harmonised European identification system** for pet animals
A nice and short control plan...

Yes, but still a lot to do...

Any suggestions?