



FCI Europe Section

Quarterly Monitoring Report – February 2014

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1. FCI participates at 2014 Pet Night in Brussels



The 10th edition of the European Pet Night took place on 12 February 2014 in Brussels. The FCI Europe Section Board members Mrs Ioanna Galanos and Mrs Babara Müller represented the FCI at the event. As in previous editions, the FCI was one of twenty partner organisations of the Pet Night. This year, the event

was hosted by MEP Julie Girling and gathered over 60 participants.

The 2014 Pet Night included a presentation by the organisation Dogs for the Disabled which spoke about the work of the PAWS (Parents Autism Workshops and Support) project in the Netherlands (under KNGF Geleidehonden) and in the UK. The PAWS project encourages the introduction of a pet

dog into families living with autism. The interaction between the dog and the children has a very beneficial impact on the family as the dog can help when the child is angry, anxious or distressed.

This year, IFAH-Europe organised a drawing competition involving more than 150 pupils between 5 and 9 years old from the European school in Laeken (Brussels) with an aim to educate the younger generation on the importance of taking care of their pets. The winners of the drawing competition were announced during the event on 12 February.

All details about the event, including photos and videos, are available here:
<http://www.ifaheurope.org/ifah-media/events/201-european-pet-night-2014.html>

2. Regulation on invasive alien species under discussion

A draft regulation on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien Species (IAS) 2013/0307 (COD) is now awaiting final vote by the European Parliament Plenary session of 15 April 2014. The draft Regulation has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI). MEP Pavel Poc (S&D, Czech Republic) was appointed as rapporteur. Catherine Bearder (ALDE, UK) is the shadow rapporteur.

The purpose of the new text is to create a framework for action to prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse impacts of IAS on biodiversity and ecosystem services. This will result in a reduction of social and economic consequences as well.

In the text proposed by the European Commission, (article 4) the first step in the process is to put together a list of invasive species based on the following criteria:

- are, having regard to scientific evidence available, found to be alien to the territory of the Union excluding the outermost regions;
- are, having regard to scientific evidence available, found to be capable of establishing a viable population and spreading in the environment under current or foreseeable climate change conditions anywhere in the Union excluding the outermost regions;
- it is demonstrated by a risk assessment performed pursuant to Article 5(1) that action at Union level is required to prevent their establishment and spread.

The text sets transitional provisions for non-commercial owners which are allowed to keep their companion animals until the end of their life (article 26). Another requirement drafted by the European Commission is the creation of an official surveillance system which is meant to collect and record data about anything relevant to the IAS.

The AGRI Committee voted on amendments during the last meeting on 4 February 2014. MEPs voted an amendment to article 12 forcing Member States to extend the surveillance system to companion animals and ensure owners of companion animals to notify authorities about their animals.

Draft text proposed by the European Commission
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0620:FIN:EN:PDF>
Draft text after vote in AGRI Committee

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A7-2014-0088+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN>

3. Draft Regulation on animal health under discussion

The European Commission published in May 2013 a draft Regulation on Animal Health COM (2013) 260. The text follows the recommendations of the EU Animal Health Strategy 2007-2013 which indicated the need to create a single and clearer regulatory framework, replacing the long list of Directives, Regulations and pieces of secondary legislation available on the topic (over 400 acts in total).

The proposed text addresses issues such as disease detection and eradication, information obligations, the identification and traceability of animals, and the registration and approval of establishments. With this draft Regulation, the Commission puts the emphasis on the prevention and control of transmissible diseases.

The draft Regulation has been referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development. MEP Marit Paulsen (ALDE, Sweden) was appointed as rapporteur. Elisabeth Jeggle (EPP, Germany) is the shadow rapporteur. The Committees on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and on Fisheries were invited to provide opinions. The draft Regulation includes a chapter on pet animals (chapter 4 - Movements within the Union of terrestrial pet animals), which makes reference to Regulation 998/2003 on non-commercial movement of pet animals approved in 2013.

MEP Marit Paulsen presented her report with amendments to the Regulation on 30 October 2013. The report was discussed by the AGRI Committee on 10 February 2014. MEP Paulsen proposed to change the title of the regulation from 'animal health' to 'the prevention and control of animal diseases which are transmissible among animals or to humans'. Other amendments voted during the AGRI meeting on 11 February included¹: the creation of a new category for stray animals: non-owned animals of domesticated species. This way, dogs even if abandoned or not owned, will still be considered as domestic animals. The original text proposed by the European Commission defined pet animals as "animals kept in a household". Wild animals are defined as "animals which are not kept by humans". This leads to the interpretation that stray animals are wild animals and would therefore be subject to different legislation (invasive alien species).

One of the amendments voted was the requirement for Member States to establish for January 2018 a mandatory system of registration of all dogs. There is no distinction between stray and owned dogs in the text voted on 11 February.

The amended text will be submitted to the plenary session in April 2014 and only after this vote the definitive version of the Animal Health Law will be adopted.

Link to European Commission draft Regulation
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0260:FIN:EN:PDF>

Link to MEP Marit Paulsen Report published on 30 October 2013.

¹ The final report with the new text following the votes in the Committee is not yet available.

- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPE-524.760%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>
- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fNONSGML%2bCOMPARL%2bPE-514.757%2b01%2bDOC%2bPDF%2bV0%2f%2fEN>

4. Commission releases statistics on animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes

The European Commission published in December 2013 the '7th Report on the Statistics on the Number of Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes in the Member States of the European Union'. The report indicates that a bit less than 11,5 million animals were used for experimental and other scientific purposes in the EU in 2011. This is a reduction of over half a million animals used in the EU from the number reported in 2008.

Similar to previous reports, rodents and rabbits account for 80% of the total number of animals used in the EU. Mice are the most commonly used species with 61% of the total use, followed by rats with 14%. Dogs, which fall under the Carnivores segment, represent 0,25% of the total number of animals used in experiments. In terms of origin of species, the report indicates that the vast majority are bred in Europe. The use of dogs of EU origin increased from 72% to 85%.

Another conclusion of the report is the increase in the number of animals used for studies on human and animal diseases. 1000 dogs have been used in such studies in Europe in 2011.

The full report can be downloaded here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2013:0859:FIN:EN:PDF>

5. Protocol to assess the quality of shelters for dogs

A tool to assess the quality of dogs' shelters in Europe was released early February. It is one of the deliverables of the project: 'Tools for the assessment, classification and management of urban stray dog and cat populations' (IZS AM 05/10 RC), coordinated by the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise 'G. Caporale' and financed by the Italian Ministry of Health. The objective of the project is to develop innovative and efficient tools for the management of stray dog and cat populations in urban areas.

This protocol could be very useful for Competent Authorities, shelter managers and NGOs personnel wanting to investigate the welfare status of long-term sheltered dogs.

Download report here:

http://www.carodog.eu/data/shelter_quality_protocol_2014.pdf

6. Four Paws launches study on puppy trade in Europe with event in Brussels

Four Paws International published in November 2013 a study about puppy trade in Europe. The study was presented during an event on 26 November 2013 at the European Parliament in Brussels. The

President of the FCI European Section, Jørgen Hindse, attended the event which was hosted by MEPs Marit Paulsen and Elisabeth Jeggle.

The report shows the results of an investigation conducted during 8 months. It includes a lot of information and data: average selling prices; biggest producer and distributor countries in Europe; most common infections and diseases, etc.

The market for illegal puppy trade is allegedly growing and becoming more organised. Four Paws International called on EU authorities to put in place appropriate measures to counter this situation.

- Download report here:
http://www.vier-pfoten.eu/files/EPO/Materials_conf/Puppy_Trade_in_Europe/REPORT_EUROPEAN_PUPPY_TRADE.pdf
- Presentations of the event at the European Parliament are available here:
<http://www.vier-pfoten.eu/conferences/2013-ep-lunch-debate-on-puppy-trade-in-europe/>

7. Education campaign 'Cats, Dogs and Us'

The IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) launched at the end of 2013 a global education campaign which presents students between 5 and 14 years old with a number of education resources, lessons and worksheets aimed at educating them about the characteristics of cats and dogs and their needs as domesticated animals. The programme includes a set of tools and resources (videos, brochures, guides, posters, etc) that can be used by schools. All materials are also available in Spanish.

See more about the campaign in the official website:
<http://www.ifaw.org/united-states/our-work/education/cats-dogs-and-us>

8. Eurogroup for Animals launches campaign 'Putting animal welfare at the heart of EU elections'

The organisation Eurogroup for Animals launched last year a campaign to increase awareness to the importance of animal welfare among the candidates to the European Parliament elections in May 2014.

The initiative was launched during an event at the European Parliament hosted by MEP David Martin (Socialist, UK). Eurogroup for Animals presented a pledge with seven key demands and asked all returning MEPs and new candidates to sign it as a sign of their support for animals.

The Pledge listed seven key policy areas where the Eurogroup for Animals expects some activity taking place during the term of the next Parliament: live animal transport, animal testing, the exotic pet trade, companion animal breeding, international trade, an overarching animal welfare framework law and an increased recognition and awareness that animals are sentient beings.

To date, over 50 MEPs have already signed the pledge.

The website of the campaign is <http://www.voteforanimals.eu/>.

9. Commission replies on stray dog population management in Romania

Following the numerous complaints received about the stray dog situation in Romania (see previous reports), the European Commission decided to respond via an official communication, published in the Official Journal of the European Union on November 2013.

As explained previously, the European Commission regrets the situation in Romania, but emphasises that the management of stray dogs is not part of the EU competences.

See European Commission answer:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:343:0021:0021:EN:PDF>

10. MEPs' Written Questions to the European Commission

There is still a high number of questions related to stray dogs population in general with concrete references to the cases of Romania as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina. Other questions focused on the following matters:

Aldo Patricello and **Elisabetta Gardini**, (both EPP, Italy) raised a question about the deterioration on how animals are treated. In Italy, as a consequence of a law that prohibits the breeding of dogs, cats and monkeys, every breeding center will have to be shut down and animals to be used on experiments will have to be bought abroad. This might cause the deterioration in way the animals are treated as they will have to undergo into very long journeys before arriving at the Italian research centers. Both MEPs questioned the European Commission on this topic and wondered if such behavior could violate the Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The European Commission replied back to **Aldo Patricello** and **Elisabetta Gardini** clarifying that Italy has not yet transposed the mentioned Directive. As a result, on 23 January 2014, the European Commission decided to take Italy to the EU Court of Justice for having failed to ensure transposition of the Directive within the prescribed deadline: 10 November 2013 at the latest.

Anna Rosbach (Danemark, European Conservatives and Reformists Group) raised serious concerns on the Danish Dog Act. She mentioned the 13 specific breeds which are banned in Denmark and questioned the Commission whether this is not a violation of the free movement of goods, since other Member States allow the breeding of the same dogs. She also asks the Commission about the prohibition of these banned breeds to cross Denmark en route to other EU Member States where they are allowed. The European Commissioner Tonio Borg (SANCO) replied that is aware of the Danish legislation on dangerous dogs, but that this matter does not falls under EU competences and as such the European Commission cannot take any action on this regard.

Claudette Abela (S&D, Malta) emphasized the shortage of animal shelters which is contradictory with the animal welfare strategy (2011-2015) which aims to further improve the welfare of animals in the EU. In the same direction, **Erminia Manzoni, (EPP, Italy)** pointed out the increasing number of unwanted cats and dogs. Referring to a previous reply of the Commission on this matter, she questions if the Commission is considering taking measures to prevent this problem.