



**EU DOG & CAT
ALLIANCE®**

MANIFESTO FOR ESTONIAN PRESIDENCY



**CALLING FOR EU ACTION TO BUILD A BETTER EUROPE
FOR DOGS AND CATS**

Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU:
1 July – 31 December 2017

ABOUT THE EU DOG & CAT ALLIANCE

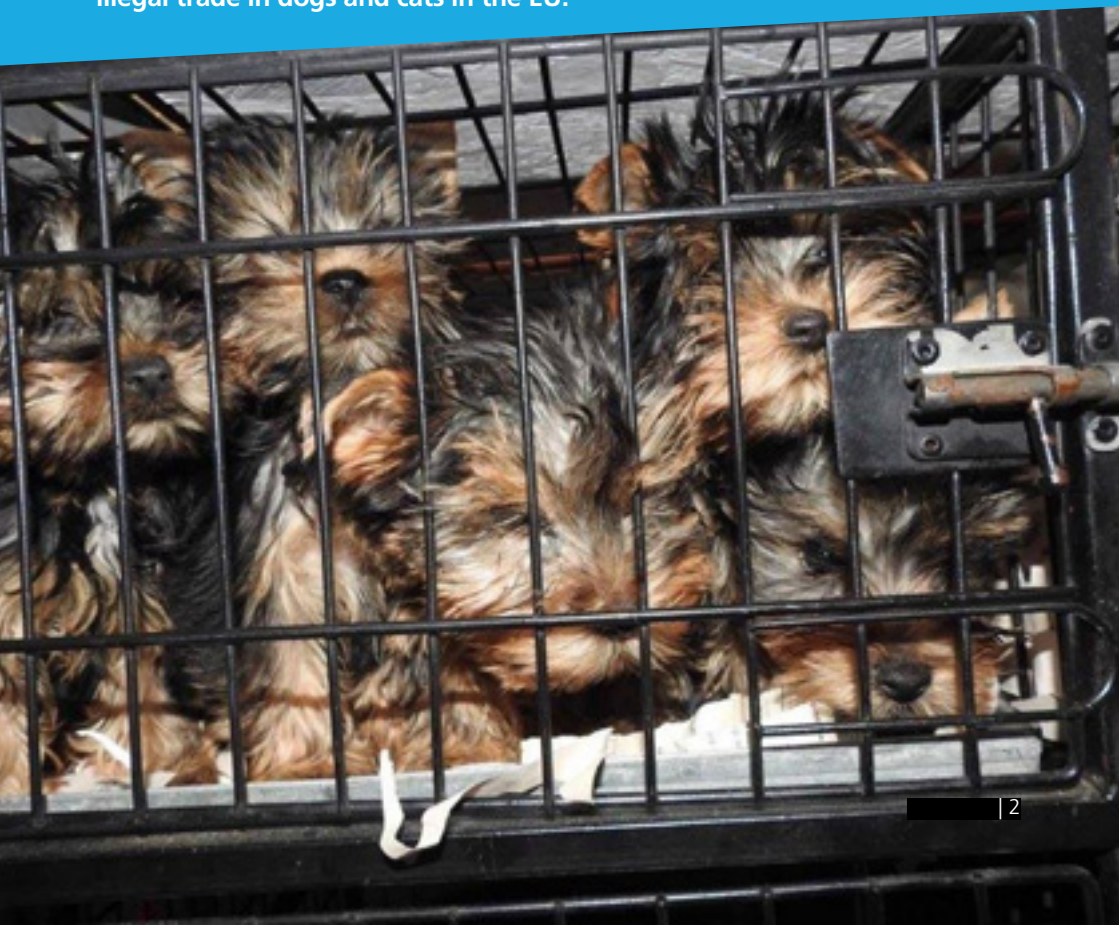
The EU Dog & Cat Alliance represents over 70 organisations from 24 countries of the European Union. This includes veterinary organisations, organisations which are involved in the rescue/rehoming of dogs and cats and organisations which are working to protect dog and/or cat welfare. The Alliance's main focus is on improving EU legislation in relation to dogs and cats.



ACTION PLAN TO TACKLE THE ILLEGAL TRADE IN DOGS AND CATS IN THE EU

Hundreds of thousands of young dogs and cats are bred and transported in poor conditions to be illegally sold across different EU countries every year, exploiting discrepancies in pet legislation, welfare standards and prices among Member States. This illegal trade threatens not only companion animal health and welfare, but also public health, consumer protection and the smooth functioning of the EU internal market. A key finding of the 2016 European Commission's Study on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices was that the EU should take action to protect companion animal welfare. This illegal trade can only be addressed through a comprehensive approach involving the European Commission, European Parliament and Member States, including agencies and border and veterinary authorities.

We would like to see the Estonian Presidency call on the European Commission to take the lead in drawing up an Action Plan to tackle the illegal trade in dogs and cats in the EU.



ONLINE SALE OF PETS

With the increase in online sales, many citizens now choose to purchase their pets online. There are no appropriate controls of the online sale of pets at EU level. This perpetuates the illegal trade in dogs and cats across the EU by allowing unscrupulous sellers to create false adverts, claiming that the animals for sale come from legitimate local breeding establishments whereas instead, they have been bred illegally thousands of kilometres away. As part of its Digital Agenda, the EU should ensure that animal welfare is also taken into account and that consumers enjoy adequate protection when buying pets online.

We would like to see the Estonian Presidency tackle illegal commerce online by including the online sale of pets among its priorities on e-trade and market rules for e-services.



INCLUSION OF COMPANION ANIMAL ISSUES IN EU PLATFORM ON ANIMAL WELFARE

The European Commission has announced its decision to set up an EU platform on animal welfare. This would be a valuable forum under which to discuss the illegal trade in dog and cats and actively take the lead to address the issue, as the platform aims to bring together EU institutions, Member States, professionals, businesses and the civil society. It is important to ensure that companion animal welfare issues are sufficiently addressed under the platform. Ten Member States have already officially called for pets to be included as a topic for the platform.

We would like to see the welfare of companion animals included as a topic under the new EU platform on animal welfare, and the issue of the illegal trade in dogs and cats adequately addressed under the platform.



COMPULSORY IDENTIFICATION & REGISTRATION ACROSS THE EU

Dogs and cats may be moved between Member States or imported from third countries for trade purposes as well as for reasons such as rehoming, participation in shows or exhibitions, holidays with their owners or relocating with their owner to another country. Although 22 EU countries have compulsory I&R for dogs, without a system for the identification and registration which is accessible across the EU, there is currently little traceability when animals are moved over borders. This can pose a risk to both human and animal health and welfare. Compulsory identification and registration would provide traceability in the event of a disease outbreak and would also help to tackle the illegal trade in dogs and cats in the EU.

We would like to see the Estonian Presidency push for a delegated act under the Animal Health Law on compulsory permanent identification and registration of dogs and cats on an appropriate national or regional database, which would be linked to an EU database.



VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND MEDICATED FEED

The proposed legislation on Veterinary Medicinal Products and Medicated Feed will have a tangible impact on the EU's 63 million owned dogs and 72 million owned cats. It is important to introduce a true single market for veterinary medicines in the EU. A more efficient regulatory process will not only improve the availability of medicines to protect animal health but will also contribute to public health. The Alliance's positions on the two legislative proposals can be found on <https://www.dogandcatwelfare.eu/publications/>

We would like to see the Estonian Presidency make progress on the Veterinary Medicinal Products and Medicated Feed legislative files in formulating the Council's position and in proceeding to the trilogue stage.





IMAGE CREDIT | Clive Tagg
COVER | IMAGE CREDIT | iCatCare/Brandon Kowalski

Website | www.dogandcatwelfare.eu
Email | info@dogandcatwelfare.eu
Phone | +44 7920 658685
Twitter | @EUdogsandcats
Facebook | @EUdogsandcats

