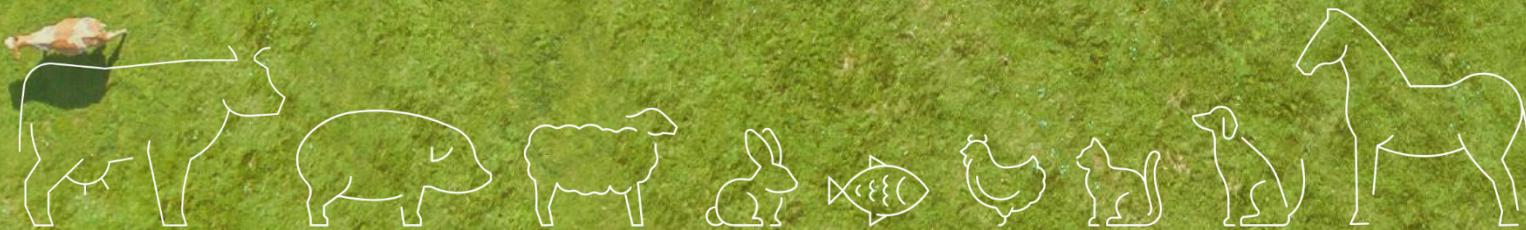


# 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU Platform on animal welfare

Cats and dogs  
in the new EU animal welfare legislation



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# Introducing a new domain in EU AW legislation

- Very few current provisions on welfare of cats and dogs
  - Regulation 1/2005: fitness for travel and feeding intervals
  - No specific provisions on keeping or breeding of cats and dogs
- Growing public concern
  - Circumstances of intense breeding of cats and dogs (“puppy mills”)
  - Illegal trade of puppies and kittens
  - Welfare risks during transport

# Introducing a new domain in EU AW legislation

Legal base: Treaty on the functioning of the EU

## *Article 13*

*In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.*

# The role of the voluntary initiative on cats and dogs

- Assist in shaping the framework for protection of cats and dogs
  - “What should be regulated?”
- Liaise with experts (and stakeholders) to provide insight into current state of play
  - “What are the most pressing issues?”
- Provide scientific background for future welfare law on cats and dogs
  - “How will the animals be best protected?”

# The purpose of new provisions

- Provide tools to the competent authorities to effectively look into the activities related to commercial breeding and transport of cats and dogs by means of official controls.
- Address the lack of specific provisions for protection of kept cats and dogs in the context of commercial breeding and commercial transport.
- Stop the cruel practices often associated with these activities

# Transport of cats and dogs

- Minimum age limit for travel
  - Currently 8 wks to independent travel, effectively 12 wks because of immunity
  - 15 wks to complete the process of socialisation?
- Temperature and humidity
  - Setting the thermal comfort zone, monitoring (sensors)
  - Special provisions for brachycephalic breeds/types
  - Ban on muzzles?

# Transport of cats and dogs (cont'd)

- Space allowance and containers
  - Group placing? Various current provisions.
- Additional vaccinations
  - To prevent stress-related disease outbreaks upon arrival
  - Collision with AHL
- Journey times and resting periods
- Feeding and watering

# Commercial breeding of cats and dogs

- Space allowance, kennel design
- Lighting, noise, thermal comfort
- Feed and water (all categories of animals)
- Minimal age for breeding
- Frequency of pregnancies
- Fate of “end-of-career” animals
- Corrective surgery
- Socialization
- Enrichment
- Role of veterinarians
- Approval of breeding establishments
- Setting the limit (nr. of animals and/or litters)



# Regulating trade with puppies and kittens

- Identification and registration
- Standards of identification
- Interoperability of MS data bases
- Regulating Internet sales



Thank you



European  
Commission