

Animal Health | F.21

**Animals and Veterinary Questions
(Animal Welfare & Husbandry)**

Symposium: Call to Care for Animal Welfare

Objective: Put animal welfare **higher on the European agenda** and provide conclusions that may **guide EU and national policy-makers** during their future discussions.

Conclusions:

- Proposals that were expected to be included in the **animal welfare package should be published as soon as possible**, revising the EU legislative framework for animal welfare.
- The EU and its Member States must be **more transparent** towards their citizens regarding animal produce.
- Farmers should have support in bearing the costs stemming from an obligation for a higher quality of animal welfare.
- Imported animal produce from third countries should fulfil equivalent standards to those of the EU.

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Conclusions:

- A prohibition on certain breeds, where **excessive traits** are more in demand, will not solve the issue of excessive conformational traits. A more efficient solution is to lay down **rules on breeding companion animals**, while raising **citizens' awareness** of the health and welfare problems arising from breeding these types of breeds.
- **Artificial intelligence** is a promising tool to facilitate and automate the process of **detecting illegal advertisements**.

Dogs & cats

Progress:

- 6 working party meetings
- 1 attaché meeting
- On the Coreper agenda in June for the adoption of a Coreper mandate

Focus discussions:

- **Simplification and clarification of definitions and scope**

Dogs & cats

Focus discussions:

- **Main issues:**
 - Space allowances
 - Euthanasia and killing
 - Approval of breeding establishments
 - Exemptions Chapter II
- **Proposed additions:**
 - Hybrids
 - Organisations using foster homes to keep dogs or cats
 - General obligation for operators not to abandon dogs and cats
 - Aesthetic shows, exhibitions and competitions of dogs and cats
 - Index database and Union pet travellers' database

Transport

Progress:

- 2 working party meetings
- On the Council agenda in June for state of play

Focus discussions:

- **Start of the general examination** of the proposal on an article-by-article basis. The incoming Hungarian Presidency will continue the discussions from here.