

KILLING OF HEALTHY DOGS IN EUROPE

Legal Research

I. SUMMARY

1.1 Legality of the killing of healthy dogs

- In 10 EU Member States the law explicitly allows to kill dogs in shelters or strays.
- In 7 EU Member States, killing of healthy cats and dogs can be practiced because the law does not prohibit it (no legislation on this issue).
- In 8 EU Member States (+ the Spanish Region of Catalunya), the Law clearly prohibits the killing of dogs in shelters or abandoned and their offspring.
- Member States who have prohibited the killing of healthy dogs are mainly located in Central Europe
- We couldn't succeed to find the Cyprus and Maltese legislation on this topic

1.2 The person responsible of the killing

- In 15 EU Member States, the law allows only veterinarians to kill an animal (healthy or sick), and in one Member State, the killing has to be done at least under the supervision of a veterinarian.
- In 6 EU Member States, the law allows the killing of stray animals by another person than a veterinarian: a police officer, a professional killer, or even any other person.
- In 5 EU Member States, the Law does not say who can practice the killing

1.3 Reasons for killing

- In all Member States, suffering of the dog and public health risk is a reason for killing animals
- In at least 11 EU Member States, public safety is also a valid reason to kill animals

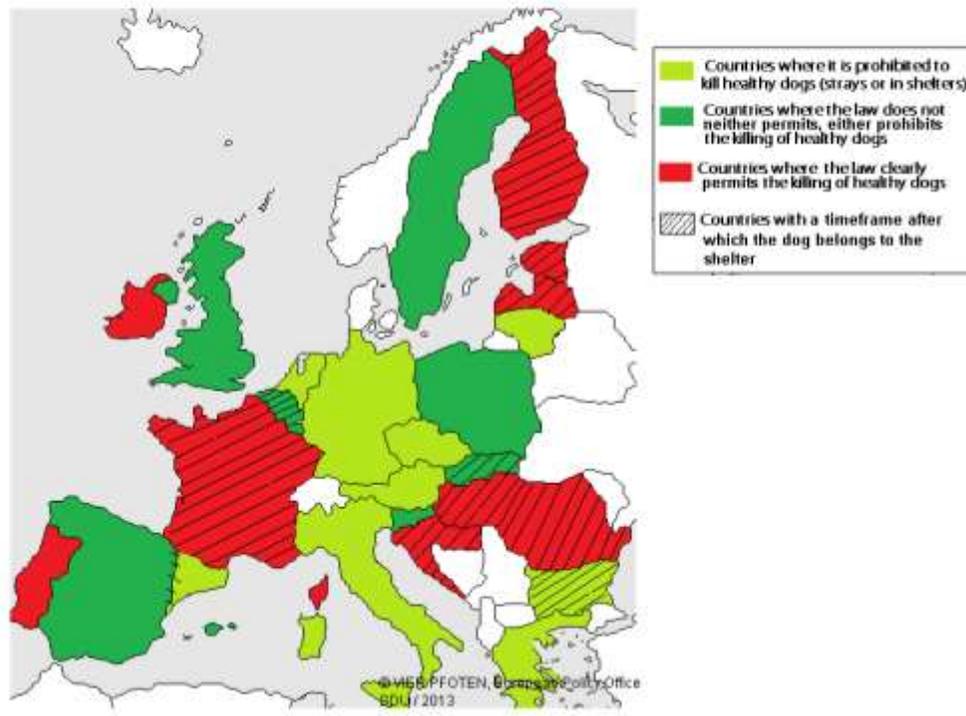
1.4 Deadline

- Among the 12 EU Member States which authorize the killing of healthy dogs, 8 of them provides a time frame during which the killing is not possible. This “deadline” can vary from 4 days to 60 days. The average period is 14 days.

- In 4 Member States where killing of healthy dogs is allowed, no deadline is set up by the law, and depends from the shelters.

II. GEOGRAPHICAL OVERVIEW

STATUS QUO
on the legal situation in the EU Member States
about killing of healthy stray dogs



Permission to kill healthy dogs		Prohibition to kill healthy dogs
<i>Explicitely</i>	<i>No clear legislation</i>	
Croatia	Belgium	Austria
Estonia	Denmark	Bulgaria
Finland	Luxembourg	Czech Republic
France	Poland	Germany
Hungary	Slovenia	Greece
Ireland	Spain	Italy
Latvia	UK	Lithuania
Portugal		The Netherlands
Romania		Catalunya (ES)
Slovakia		Sweden

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