



# The EU and the welfare of dogs: from the Treaty to the future EU Strategy

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## Today the existing EU legislative framework responds to animal health needs

- Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 regarding non commercial movement of pet dogs and cats
- Council Directive 92/65/EEC regarding trade in and imports of dogs and cats
- Regulation (EU) No 388/2010 implementing Regulation 998/2003
- Council Directive 90/425/EEC regarding veterinary checks
- Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 regarding the obligation for Member States to lay down the rules on sanctions

# No EU policy framework exists for the welfare of dogs

- Member States are responsible
- Animal welfare is not as such an objective of the EU Treaty but a dimension to take into account for EU policies

# Article 13 EU Treaty

***"In formulating and implementing the Union's (...) policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, (...)."***



## Dogs : situation in the EU

- 60 million dogs
- Data on intra-EU are collected via Traces (legal trade)
- Data on breeding may be missing because of lack of harmonised legislation
- National rules vary substantially between Member States

# The scenario for EU animal health and animal welfare policies is today different

## Animal Health:

- Pet passport: facilitating the movement of pets while protecting human health with regard to rabies;
- Regulation 388/2010: reducing the risk of commercial movements being fraudulently disguised as non-commercial

## Animal Welfare:

- EU strategy for animal welfare in Dec 2011 to consider the future domains for EU policies: welfare of dogs could be integrated;
- to study and propose, options for facilitating compatible systems of **identification and registration** of dogs and cats in order to ensure better guarantees to the citizen through more efficient traceability of those animals.

# THE EU ROLE IS EVOLVING

The recent Commission involvement to coordinate the EU position to support the adoption of the OIE standards in the area and the recent debate that brought to the adoption of the Council Conclusions on the welfare of dogs highlights that a stronger EU involvement is possible and offers new opportunities.

The future role of the EU Commission in this area is slowly emerging from the interaction with other multilateral organisations (OIE, FAO, WHO) and international stakeholders (WSPA, Alliance for Rabies Control, WVA ...)