

**Question for written answer E-005216/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miriam Dalli (S&D)

Subject: Companion animals

The welfare of pets is currently not the subject of EU legislation.

The Commission argues that the EU's competence on animal welfare is limited by treaty and that it is not, as such, an EU objective and is only relevant if it affects EU policies such as the internal market, agriculture or public health.

The introduction of pet welfare under EU animal welfare law could provide a common understanding of animal welfare across Europe. It could propose a clear set of duty and care obligations for users and keepers of animals that would further have a positive impact on public health.

Moreover, a definition of companion animals is required if the EU is serious about fighting the extensive illegal trade in companion animals across Europe.

1. Is the Commission prepared to take the lead and promote specific EU legislation addressing the welfare of companion animals?
2. Does the Commission agree with connecting national and EU databases to track the breeding and trade of companion animals, as well as to allow identification traceability?
3. An EU-wide database could help with the issue of traceability. Does the Commission plan on pushing for such a database?