



19.4.2010

0026/2010

## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure  
on the welfare of pets

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Lapse date: 19.7.2010

**0026/2010**

**Written declaration on the welfare of pets**

*The European Parliament,*

– having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the Lisbon Treaty recognises in Article 13 that all animals are sentient,

B. whereas the welfare of animals is recognised as being expressed in terms of:

- freedom from hunger and thirst;
- freedom from fear and distress;
- freedom from discomfort;
- freedom to express normal behaviour;
- freedom from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

1. Calls on the Commission to take further steps within the competence of the EU to protect pet animals' welfare, inter alia by promoting measures to control the spread of disease caused by their crossborder movements,
2. Calls on the Member States to enforce the existing EU legislation relating to pets, e.g. on the stamping out of puppy smuggling, and to legislate to protect pet animals' welfare, sharing best practice as appropriate;
3. Calls on the Member States to take steps to educate the public about the responsibilities of pet ownership;
4. Calls on the Commission and Council to ensure that competent veterinary care is available across the EU and encourage the maxim of 'prevention is better than cure' among pet owners;
5. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to consider how better to protect animals within the EU, including potentially widening the scope of EU competence in this area;
6. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Parliaments of the Member States, the Council and the Commission.