

**Question for written answer E-010625/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Isabelle Durant (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Welfare of cats and dogs in the EU, in particular of Spanish greyhounds (Galgos)

On 29 November 2010, the Council of the European Union called on the Commission, as part of the second EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals, *inter alia*:

- 'to study the differences between the measures taken by the Member States regarding the breeding of and EU trade in dogs and cats and, if appropriate, to prepare policy options for the harmonisation of the internal market;
- to study and present, if justified, a specific proposal to restrict, in the European Union, the exhibition at public events of dogs and cats having undergone a non-curative surgical intervention (not aimed at preventing reproduction) and the trade in these animals;
- to develop, if necessary and in coordination with the Member States, appropriate actions to promote and support education concerning responsible dog and cat ownership, as well as to support national information campaigns on the negative impact of non-curative surgical interventions on the welfare of dogs and cats.'

I would therefore like to be informed of the Commission's specific answers to these requests by the Council (reports, studies, communications, any pending or future legislative proposals, etc.) and would ask the Commission, more specifically, to give its opinion on the fate of the Spanish 'Galgo' greyhounds.

Indeed, these dogs (which are tortured by their owners at the end of the hunting or competition season) have almost zero status in Spain, while the EU Council takes the view that in order to respond to citizens' concerns, 'it is necessary to plan appropriate actions at Member State and European level and ensure suitable welfare conditions for dogs and cats.'