

Question for written answer E-000472/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Bogdan Andrzej Zdrojewski (PPE)

Subject: Animal welfare

It is estimated that there are around 60 million pet dogs and 66 million pet cats in Europe. The trade in pet animals generates around EUR 1.3 billion a year and employs 300 000 people. With such a huge turnover it is vital to ensure the welfare of these animals.

In most EU countries there are no controls on the online trade in animals. Many countries have no rules governing the lower age limit at which dogs and cats can be bought and sold. It is obvious that this should not happen immediately after birth. However, every year there are reports of thousands of cases of small animals being sold before they have sufficiently developed. Moreover, most sellers do not provide the necessary information about rearing and feeding specific breeds of dogs and cats, which significantly impairs the animals' welfare.

According to Eurostat, 74% of Europeans think that pet animals should be better protected and 87% think that campaigns to raise awareness of the issue are a good solution.

- Is the Commission taking action, or planning to take action, to require pet traders to provide the relevant information on nutrition and wellbeing at the time of sale?
- Is the Commission working with NGOs and Member States on this matter?