

EN
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Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.7.2020)

The Commission is not aware of specific issues regarding the selling of animals during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Commission understands that the question by the Honourable Member refers to the selling of pet animals, for example dogs and cats.

The welfare of pet animals is not subject to EU rules. The Commission does not envisage any activities in this area, which remains within the sole competence of the Member States having due regard to the principle of subsidiarity and proportionality.

More generally, the Commission supports Member States to gain insight in fraudulent practices with initiatives such as the EU Coordinated Control Plan on online sales of dogs and cats¹. The Commission also supports the work of the World Organisation for Animal Health on guidelines for the control of stray dog populations². Furthermore, the Commission presented a Farm to Fork Strategy³, which includes actions seeking further improvement on animal welfare.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/aw_other_euccp_recommend_2018-5488-fl_987143.pdf

² https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/current/chapitre_aw_stray_dog.pdf

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:ea0f9f73-9ab2-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF