

**Question for written answer E-002524/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Combating serval trafficking and adopting an EU-wide positive list of animals which can be kept as pets

Trafficking in servals, a wild cat that is native to Africa, is very much on the rise, so much so that the animals are now regularly being handed in to zoos.

The problem is that certain 'influencers' are promoting the idea of keeping these wild cats as pets, which is encouraging people to obtain them illegally.

They are often bred in Eastern Europe and are sold as Savannah cats, a cross between the serval and the domestic cat, which can be sold legally in France. However, most of the time they are in fact pure servals.

Servals can pose a danger to people: they are five times the size of domestic cats so can inflict bite wounds which are five times bigger. They also pose a threat to the environment: if the animals are abandoned, their population could grow unchecked in the wild, which would in turn result in the death of many birds.

Does the Commission have plans for the rapid adoption of a positive list of animals which can be kept as pets in order to combat this type of trafficking and prohibit both the trade and illegal possession of servals, as well as other species which will not be included on the list?

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