

P7_TA(2012)0291

Establishment of an EU legal framework for the protection of pets and stray animals

European Parliament resolution of 4 July 2012 on the establishment of an EU legal framework for the protection of pets and stray animals (2012/2670(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the large number of petitions from EU citizens requesting the establishment of an EU legal framework for the protection of pets and stray animals (1613/2010, 1274/2011, 1321/2011, 1377/2011, 1412/2011 and others),
 - having regard to the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals (CETS No 125),
 - having regard to Rule 202(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Article 13 of the TFEU stipulates that, since animals are sentient beings, the Union and the Member States must pay full regard to their welfare requirements;
- B. whereas there is no EU legislation for the protection of pets and stray animals, despite the fact that the EU's pet population is estimated at over one hundred million;
- C. whereas the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals has not yet been signed by all Member States;
- D. whereas pets and stray animals are victims of mistreatment and cruelty in many Member States, and whereas the petitioners mainly refer to Member States in southern and eastern Europe;
1. Calls on the European Union and the Member States to ratify the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals and to transpose its provisions into national legal systems;
 2. Calls on the Commission to put forward an EU legal framework for the protection of pets and stray animals, including:
 - rules for the identification and registration of animals,
 - stray animal management strategies, including vaccination and sterilisation programmes,
 - measures to promote responsible ownership,
 - the prohibition of unlicensed kennels and shelters,
 - the prohibition of the killing of stray animals without medical indication,
 - information and educational programmes in schools on animal welfare,

- severe sanctions to be imposed on any Member State which fails to comply with the rules;

3. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.