



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Acting Director General

24. 02. 2015

Brussels  
SANTE/G2/HF/lp (2015) 668583

*Ans(2015)77722*

Dear Mr Sultana,

**Subject: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on Animal Health**

Thank you for your letter of 3 February regarding the issue of stray animals in the Animal Health Law.

I am aware that my colleague Bernard Van Goethem replied to your predecessor Dr Wartenberg on this issue on 25th November last year. Since the proposal for the Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council on Animal Health is currently being considered in the Council and the European Parliament in the ordinary legislative procedure, your comments can only be dealt with in that context. Our position has not changed since that last letter. We are also aware of your campaign on this issue and the strength of your feeling. I would remind you that this is a proposal about the prevention and control of transmissible animal diseases, and does not directly regulate animal welfare or protection.

You ask that stray domestic animals are not defined as wild animals. The Commission's proposal provides comprehensive rules for the protection of animals and humans against animal transmissible diseases and covers coherently all animals, whether they are kept by humans or not, regardless of their species. The definitions in the proposal ("kept" and "wild") allow a clear distinction between certain animal disease prevention and control rules that can be applied to kept animals under human control and other rules that can be applied to animals that are not under human control. The Commission's proposal therefore ensures that no animal category is forgotten from the scope of its intervention. Neither of these two definitions will lead to less animal protection for stray animals or kept animals that are outside the domestic environment. To achieve measures that are relevant and appropriate to address the health risk involved, further division in the definitions does not seem to be necessary at this stage.

I would be grateful if you could publish our response to your campaign on your website.

Yours sincerely,

  
Ladislav Miko

Mr Pierre Sultana

Director

Four Paws – Vier Pfoten

European Policy Office

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