



**Lunch Debate „Puppy Trade in Europe“,
26 November 2013, European Parliament, Brussels**

SUMMARY

On 26 November 2013, FOUR PAWS International hold a lunch debate in the European Parliament on the occasion of the launch of the FOUR PAWS “Puppy Trade in Europe” report, a research on the impact of illegal businesses on the market, on consumers, on the one-health concept and on animal welfare.

Keynote speakers were the Members of the European Parliament, Marit Paulsen and Elisabeth Jeggle (rapporteur and shadow-rapporteur of the draft Animal Health Law). These are the main findings:

- The market for puppies is out of control and the illegal business is better organized than ever before.
- Consumers are not aware of the situation and still go for the cheapest price. They have to be reminded of the reality and risks behind their cheap purchase and offered alternatives.
- There is no legal framework on EU level for this issue and no harmonisation.
- The current system makes traceability impossible due to:
 - Inconsistency and different rules applying in all Member States in the way transponder are issued
 - Incoherence in the requirements of TRACES (pet passport number) and the Health Certificate in the frame of the EU Regulation on the commercial movement of Pet Animals (asking for the transponder number)
- It was acknowledged that, in principle, an EU wide system for traceability of all animals is needed .
- An EU wide mandatory I&R system is feasible and could be adapted very easily by Member States with little administrative burden and low costs.
- However, a mandatory Identification and Registration on EU level will not be included in the EU Regulation on Animal Health but shall be integrated in other EU legislation, e.g. the future Animal Welfare Framework Law or a separate law.
- First steps have to be taken now; an EU Action Plan was suggested.

Brussels, 28/11/2013