

**“Systematic and Science-based  
Stray Dogs Management in Europe”**



**Animal Welfare Conference Brussels, 7./8. October 2008**

## **CONCLUSION**

The result of the second Animal Welfare Conference of VIER PFOTEN Stiftung für Tierschutz points out the following:

- The outcome is that **Stray animals** in Europe are **sentient beings** as it is stated in the Amsterdam Treaty, Protocol No. 31 and the **suffering of stray animals** in Europe is **not acceptable**
- The Stray animals have to be in the **scope** of the **Community Animal Health Strategy** and have to be **accompanied by science-based research on all zoonotical and ecological aspects**
- **European wide sustainable solutions** have to be developed to stop the suffering of stray animals as soon as possible
- The goal is to **reduce the number of stray animals in a humane and sustainable way** to a scale that enables their social acceptance in the respective region
- Good **Human and Animal Relationship** needs **Information and Education** and only the **combination** of political, legal, educational, medical and professional managing conditions will lead to a sustainable result
- The **bases for every solution** of this problem is **to break the reproduction circle** of the stray animals in a humane and sustainable way
- Effective **garbage management of the municipalities** is of high importance to prevent zoonosis and disease (human and animal health as ‘one health’)
- **Animal Welfare Organizations** working in this field have to **co-operate** and to **speak with one voice** even if there are some different points of view

Therefore, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Member States of the European Union, Candidate States and Potential Candidates, the Member States of the Council of Europe and the Animal Welfare NGOs in Europe have to strengthen for the following:

- On a long term to develop the **legal competence of the EU** to be able to issue a EU wide legal framework for companion and stray animals
- **National Legislation** as a legal bases for humane and sustainable solutions, consulted by and implemented NGOs
- **Strengthening co-operation between governments and NGOs** with regard to national Animal Welfare in order **to execute the Law** (Bulgaria and VIER PFOTEN as a model)
- **Joint Stray animal Programs of municipalities with NGOs**, as partners
- Awareness of the **impact role and involvement of veterinarians** in this field
- **Registration** of the companion animals and stray animals **in a European wide compatible database system**
- **combination of birth control and prevention measures** (vaccination, deworming) on companion animals and stray animals
- **transparency in managing shelters** (e.g. webcams)
- **Education** of the **public** on Animal Welfare that leads to a responsible ownership (starting with children)
- Systematic Implementation of Ethics and Animal Welfare in the **Education of professionals** (veterinarians, jurists, teachers, police etc.) and further educational programs on all levels
- **European wide cooperation of NGOs**
- **European wide information service on Stray Animal items** (starting the European Forum on Stray Animals as Information Platform (VIER PFOTEN, IZT)
- **Information Management System** in the planned European Reference Centre on Animal Welfare

Brussels, 8. October 2008