

# Working towards responsible dog trade in Europe

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FVE and UEVP Animal Welfare working group

Companion animal related topics



UEVP



# European veterinary profession



All veterinarians in 38 member countries  
e.g practitioners, state veterinary officers,  
educators, researchers, industry...

## UEVP

The practitioner in 26 member countries -  
section of FVE



The companion animal veterinarian in  
40 member countries





# Dog trade & Stray dogs



UEVP







Promoting veterinary leadership in stray dog control in Europe

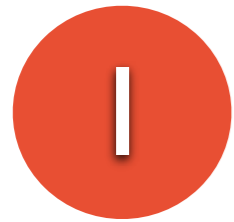
*'Every dog deserves a caring owner'*

The veterinary vision on stray dog management



UEVP





## Recommendation



An integrated, comprehensive, long-term approach adjusted to the local situation taking into account cultural and social differences



UEVP



# Integrated approach



1

Education on Responsible Ownership

2

Mandatory permanent identification and mandatory registration

3

Ensure health status of homeless animals

4

Ensure minimum quality standards for shelters

5

Adoption

6

Trap, neuter, vaccinate and release

**LONG-TERM**





# 2

## Recommendation



The effectiveness of an integrated approach largely depends on a good coordination of all initiatives and measures taken. Good collaboration and communication between all actors is essential.



# Veterinarians work in different positions and at many levels,

- clinician - practitioner
- state officers

➤ Together veterinarians have the ability to contribute to the prevention and control of stray dogs

- educator
- industry



UEVP



3

## Call upon



Veterinary Organisation in Europe



Politicians, legislators and administrators



Dog owners and breeders



Educators and researchers



Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs)



UEVP





# Working towards responsible dog trade in Europe



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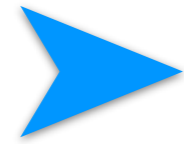
Trade occurs as a result of supply and demand and technically this is no different if 'the product' happens to be a puppy/ dog.





Amongst consumers in Europe, there is a huge demand for puppies/ dogs and the supply in the targeted buyers countries is often far lower than required.





# Huge demand

Puppy Smuggling: The Scandal Continues

## THE UK DEMAND FOR PUPPIES

THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY  
**9 MILLION**  
DOGS IN THE UK



Trade of dogs between EU Member States  
estimated 552.000 dogs per year\*???



THE KENNEL CLUB  
REGISTER APPROX.  
**223,000**



RESCUE ORGS  
REHOME APPROX.  
**250,000**



HOW MANY OF  
THESE ARE  
COMING INTO  
THE COUNTRY  
ILLEGALLY?



**Study on the welfare of dogs  
and cats involved in  
commercial practices**

**Specific Contract SANCO 2013/12364**

**FINAL REPORT**

**Prepared by:**

**IBF International Consulting**

**VetEffect**

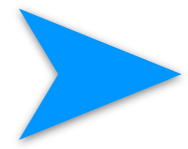
**Wageningen University & Research Centre  
(WUR)**

**Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo  
e del Molise "G. Caporale" (IZSAM)**

**December 2015**



**This project is financed by the European Commission**



Huge supply



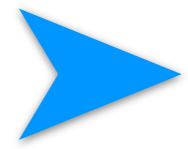
responsible breeders versus puppy farms



# puppy farms







Huge supply



responsible breeders versus puppy farms



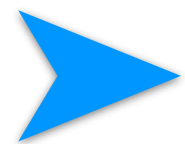
cross border adoption e.g. stray dogs





Taking into account the fact that the economic value of a puppy/dogs is high and the production costs are often kept very low, this has resulted in a booming industry in Europe.





## Major economic activity



Petfood and care **22 billion euro\***



Pet health product **2.1 billion euro\***

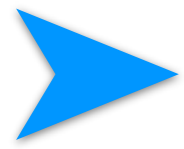


Annual value cat and dog sales **1.3 billion euro\***



Although dogs under EU legislation are considered 'goods', puppies/ dogs are sentient animals and **profit should never take priority over animal health and welfare or public health and should never harm the consumer.**



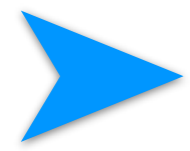


Dog trade is about:

Animal health and welfare &  
Public health and welfare







# Neglect of Animal Health and Welfare



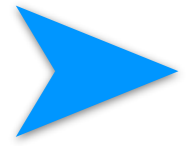
Public health

e.g rabies - zoonoses



Human welfare

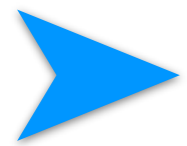




Dog trade: two key areas are identified:

I Education and raising awareness of the public

II. Harmonised legislation, proper enforcement and control



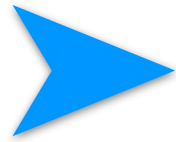
## Legislation: Legal or illegal



Even if all the current legal requirements are met,  
it can still be very harmful to:

- the health and welfare of the dogs
- public health and welfare
- to the consumer's right to be treated fairly.

## Responsible dog trade



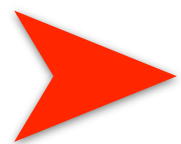
# Legislation



The targeted buyer countries are in most cases EU Members States or non-Members working according EU regulation



Many dogs come from or via EU member states or EU candidate countries



**Most of the time: EU Legislation**

~~1. Non commercial movement~~



Pet travel scheme



other extra requirements for non- EU countries...



## 2. Commercial movement



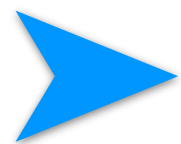
Intra Union Trade/ Import  
from third countries

- ✓ registered establishments
- ✓ health certificate issued by the official veterinarian
- ✓ register the movement in TRACES



**TRACES**

TRAdE Control and Expert System



# Transport



## ✓ Transport



*The EC regulation Reg. (EC) 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport **governs the commercial transport of vertebrates within the EU.** Its intention is to prevent injury or unnecessary suffering to animals and to ensure that they are transported in a manner that is adequate for their needs. **Since puppy/ dog trade in most cases is a commercial activity, Reg. (EC) 1/2005 does apply for those dogs too and it should therefore be enforced. Also when rehoming stray dogs.***

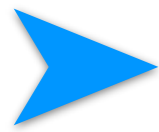
## ➤ Other legal aspects at EU level

✓ legislation and enforcement measures fall under the **competence of the Member States**

✓ Level of **compliance differs a lot**

✓ internal market: **no fair and equal competition**





# Puppies or crossborder rehoming strays



Intra Union Trade -  
Import from third countries



harmonised legislation concerning  
commercial movement



harmonised legislation concerning  
transport



- ✓ Proper enforcement

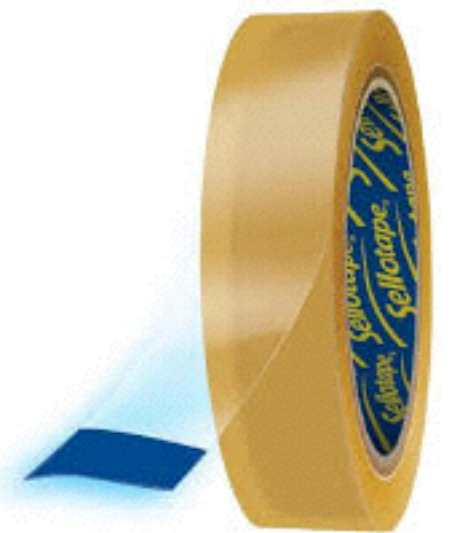


*Proper enforcement measures are essential and  
an equal level of compliance must be established in  
all Member States or candidate countries*

*The government should establish a hotline for vets  
and owners to report any irregularities*

















Mitzi was 'illegally imported' in the UK

1

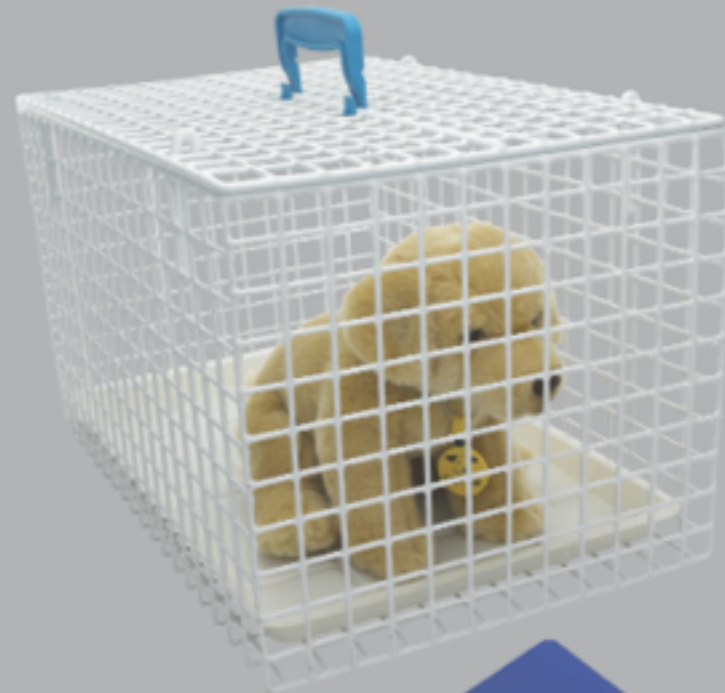
2

3

4

# PUPPY SMUGGLING THE SCANDAL CONTINUES

A follow up investigation into the illegal entry  
of dogs into Great Britain under the Pet Travel Scheme



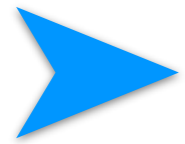
- FAKE PASSPORT**
- FAKE MICROCHIP**
- FAKE VACCINATIONS**
- FAKE PULSE**
- ENTRY INTO THE UK**



✓ Control

*As border control in Europe is a challenge, to protect animal health and welfare, public health and the consumer, inspection should **not focus on the borders, but on the whole pathway** from keeping, breeding, trading and purchase by the consumer.*





# Role of the vet



Involved in different positions and at many levels



Only one player in the whole network, but an important one



✓ Certification

*False or miscertification\* by a veterinary surgeon is unexcusable and cannot be tolerated. It should lead to severe disciplinary actions.*

\*



FEDERATION OF VETERINARIANS OF EUROPE

FVE/doc/14/061  
Adopted on 22 November 2014

**FVE 10 PRINCIPLES OF VETERINARY CERTIFICATION**

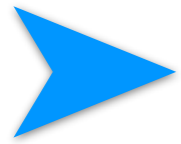
✓ Animal Welfare standards



*Legislation should be enforced to protect animal welfare standards in **dog breeding and trading establishments** across Europe and during **transport**. Harsh penalties should apply if the rules are breached, as trading puppies/ dogs is a highly lucrative business and the **level of penalties must be an effective deterrent**.*



Good collaboration and communication between all those involved



# Call upon



Veterinary



Politicians



Dog owners



Breeding



Dog breeders



Educators



Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs)



Thank you for your attention



