

OIE Regional Workshop on Stray Dog Population management
for Balkan countries. Tirana, 14-16 June 2016

EU CANINE AND FELINE TRACEABILITY

THE CARO CONCEPT



Pierre Sultana,

Director, VIER PFOTEN European Policy Office



More Humanity towards Animals



THE CONCEPT OF COMPANION ANIMALS RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP

As companion animals (even not owned)
are fully dependent from us, humans,
because of domestication,
in reciprocity we have a strong duty of care



BEHIND THE CARO PROJECT

➤ **Initiators:** VIER PFOTEN International, European Policy Office and IZSAM (Co-founder of the Websites 2010)

➤ **Partners:**



➤ **The Canine and Feline Traceability Experts Group**



More Humanity towards Animals



THE GOALS OF CARO

- **To disseminate legal and scientific knowledge on dogs and cats to establish a culture of Responsible Ownership**
- **To have a responsible owner (public or private) for each dog and cat in Europe**
- **The basics of the CARO strategy are:**
 - **Identification and Registration of ALL dogs and cats**
 - **Reach a balance and socially accepted number of dogs and cats**



CARO ACTIVITIES

- The websites www.carodog.eu and www.carocat.eu
- Conferences and Events
- CAROmag
- CARO Award



More Humanity towards Animals



THE CARO SOLUTION: PACKAGE OF MEASURES

- Political will and a long term Action Plan (public private partnerships, projects)
- Precise legislation (including penal code) and proper enforcement
- Information, education, professional training
- Veterinary care
- **Mandatory Identification and registration**
- Systematic birth control by neutering
- Adoption first programs



WORK AND RESULTS OF THE CARO I&R EXPERTS GROUP

- Analysis of the status quo in Member States and at EU level
- Statement on the necessity and feasibility of I&R →
Development of a full concept
- Development of a realistic concept for the EU and Member States with:
 - Legal elements
 - Structural and organisational elements
 - Technical elements



BENEFITS OF A GENERAL MANDATORY I&R SYSTEM

- One health effect (reducing health risks)
- Effective policies based on reliable data
- Effective CNR programs based on reliable data
- Transparent market (measure against illegal puppy farming and trade) and breeding
- Responsibility in case of an accident caused by a dog or cat
- Less abandonment: lost animals can be reunite with owners and irresponsible owners can be found back



BEST MODEL FOR A SUSTAINABLE I&R NATIONAL LEVEL

PREREQUISITE

- Mandatory Identification and Registration of ALL dogs and cats on the territory. Strays should be registered as belonging to the municipality
- Political long-term will not depending from elections
- Every State should establish a national consistent Animal Welfare Policy as a long term program (in public private partnership) in the spirit of Art 13 TFEU
- Consistent enforcement of the rules, with strict sanctions in cases of fraud
- Proper resources. Can be done via public/ private partnerships



BEST MODEL FOR A SUSTAINABLE I&R NATIONAL LEVEL

IDENTIFICATION

- Only use identification by transponders (no tattoo)
- All transponders used should be ISO 11784 and ISO 11785 conform, and the manufacturers should be registered at ICAR
- Set rules on the code structure: 15-digits, use country code (with control) + manufacturer code (or homologation code like in France)
- Allow only registered veterinarian to implement transponders
- Plan to adapt the legislation to new technologies = revision



BEST MODEL FOR A SUSTAINABLE I&R NATIONAL LEVEL

REGISTRATION

- Establish national/ local databases and make them become member of EuroPetNet. Databases should be compatible and should communicate together. They should be accessible from a single point of access
- The databases should be equipped of a control system to alert authorities in case of wrong code or duplicate code
- Transparency of authorisation rules for entering and updating data in a national database in accordance with national legislation. Data should be updated



More Humanity towards Animals



BEST MODEL FOR A SUSTAINABLE I&R NATIONAL LEVEL

COMPETENCES/ TRAINING

- I&R of pets is different from I&R of farm animals. The competent authority for I&R of pets should therefore be specially trained
- Establishment of responsible single contact points and/or staff members in each Competent Authority to enable adequate communication
- Establish suitable information campaigns for the public in order to strengthen responsible ownership from the very beginning.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Brussel, 21 and 22 June 2016 (in EN, FR and DE)

A 1,5 day conference „**Identification, vaccination and movement of dogs and cats in Europe: How can the Pet Passport and TRACES system be improved?**“

Berlin, 6 September 2016 (in DE)

A CARO One Day Seminar “**Europe on its way to companion animal responsible ownership – requirements for a consistent federal traceability system for dogs and cats in Germany**”

More Humanity towards Animals



Thank you for your attention

Questions are welcomed



More Humanity towards Animals

