

Dear Mrs. Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety,

I am sending you the following 2 Requests to the European Commission for Health and Food Safety:

**I.** The first request is within the Petition entitled "We are asking to the European Union an unified legislation for stray dogs and for the rabies prevention ". The Petition has 219 signatures, collected during over 3 months, through the [openpetition.eu](https://www.openpetition.eu) petition platform:

[https://www.openpetition.eu/petition/online/ask-unitary-legislation-in-eu-for-strays-and-for-rabies-prevention?fbclid=IwAR1YMc5q59Tw-wD\\_pJjW1Ry18amawaSKyWQjVIJ01Su7KOAoE\\_zTxCO8dV8](https://www.openpetition.eu/petition/online/ask-unitary-legislation-in-eu-for-strays-and-for-rabies-prevention?fbclid=IwAR1YMc5q59Tw-wD_pJjW1Ry18amawaSKyWQjVIJ01Su7KOAoE_zTxCO8dV8)

The Petition is also attached to the email hereby in a Pdf. Format

The Petition content is related to the following responsibilities of the European Commission for Health and Food Safety, among those that may be found at the link:

[https://commissioners.ec.europa.eu/stella-kyriakides\\_en](https://commissioners.ec.europa.eu/stella-kyriakides_en) :

Responsibility (12): ensuring enforcement of animal welfare laws, reviewing the current strategy and promoting European standards globally

Responsibility (13): making sure Europe is equipped to prevent and fight transmittable animal diseases

Responsibility (14): ensuring enforcement of EU laws on food safety and animals' and plants' health

The complete 21<sup>st</sup> Century Rabies Prevention Program must be also updated in the EU with current methods and it must not remain locked up in the outdated methods, used until the 21<sup>st</sup> century, as it is nowadays in certain countries, including in Romania, where only random rabies dogs' vaccination is performed. The comprehensive Rabies Prevention Program is also closely related to the problem of stray dogs. The responsibility assumed at point (12) makes the adopting of such a program possible, whereas it agrees to review the current strategy and promote European standards globally.

The responsibility assumed in point (13) also means the ensuring that Europe is prepared to prevent and combat transmissible animals' diseases.

The responsibility assumed in point (14) means the ensuring of the application of EU's legislation on animals' health, as well.

**II.** I ask the European Commission for Health and Food Safety to take measures, in order to ensure the application of the corresponding articles of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union /TFEU, namely Article 168, (1), (4)-(b) through which the EU must ensure, in all the States Member, "the prevention of causes of danger to physical and mental health". This can be achieved by applying the Article 4, (2)- (k) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU/TFEU, with derogation from Article 2, (5)/TFEU and from Article 6, (a)/TFEU.

The responsibilities assumed in points (12), (13), (14), which allow the European Commission to adopt an unitary legislation for the EU, concerning the stray dogs and the rabies prevention, closely related issues are complemented by the responsibility assumed in point (5).

Responsibility 5: Supporting the Member States in improving the quality and sustainability of health systems.

The responsibility assumed in point (5) is found in the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU/TFEU in Article 168, (1), therein the EU must ensure in all Member States "the prevention of causes of danger to physical and mental health".

### **REASON FOR THE ABOVE REQUESTS:**

The way the State manages the problem of stray dogs in Romania affects the citizens' physical and mental health. The State acts on effects and nearly not at all on causes. There is in place a 10 years old legislation in order to prevent the uncontrolled reproduction of dogs (OG155/2001+Law258/2013+HG1059/2013), but currently this is little to not at all enforced.

The reproduction, abandonment and replacement rate of captured dogs being very high, stray dogs are daily captured and killed.

For years and years, there has been carrying on a daily, wild hunt for catching and killing the dogs throughout Romania, these situations causing immense trauma to Romanian citizens.

Scenes of cruelty take place not only in shelters for stray dogs but also in public places, where children and adults are witnesses. Studies show that these children and adults remain scarred for life, some of them becoming human and/or animal abusers themselves.

#### The animal lovers:

Ø became depressive (due to cruelty to dogs, when capturing them or treatment in the dogs' death camps)

Ø they are chased and harassed by citizens who cannot stand stray dogs and/or by dog-catchers, actions that cause health problems that put their lives in danger

Ø Etc.

#### The other citizens, mostly became:

Ø stressed and terrified by the presence of stray dogs, whereas there were 2 aggressive attacks by stray dogs, that killed a child in 2013 and a woman in 2023

Ø stressed and terrified by dogs' bites and by a possible rabies disease

Ø aggressive with dogs, with other animals and with people

Ø they became psychotic

Ø Etc.

In Romania, thousands of animal-loving citizens have died and may continue to die due to the diseases caused or aggravated by the cruelty to dogs and animals, in general.

The heart of the famous journalist Cristina Țopescu, from Romania, has stopped beating because of the suffering caused to her by the public and private dog-catchers. As long as she lived, she was involved in rescuing stray dogs.

In Romania, more petitions have been drawn up and filed in, but they have not been taken into account by the Authorities. Some examples may be found at the links below:

[https://campaniamea.declic.ro/petitions/opriti-macelul-cainilor?source=facebook-share-button&time=1680165665&utm\\_source=facebook&share=2530955e-d69b-40c0-835d-1b77535d43fe](https://campaniamea.declic.ro/petitions/opriti-macelul-cainilor?source=facebook-share-button&time=1680165665&utm_source=facebook&share=2530955e-d69b-40c0-835d-1b77535d43fe)

<https://campaniamea.declic.ro/petitions/sterilizare-gratuita-in-loc-de-eutanasiere?source=facebook-share-email-button>

<https://campaniamea.declic.ro/petitions/pin-uri-programe-de-interes-national-pentru-sterilizarea-maidanezilor-cu-si-fara-stapan>

[https://www.peta.de/aktiv/rumaenien-strassenhunde-kastration/?\\_x\\_tr\\_sl=auto&\\_x\\_tr\\_tl=ro&\\_x\\_tr\\_hl=ro](https://www.peta.de/aktiv/rumaenien-strassenhunde-kastration/?_x_tr_sl=auto&_x_tr_tl=ro&_x_tr_hl=ro)

[https://www.petitiononline.com/oprii\\_ilegalitile\\_in\\_gestionarea\\_cainilor\\_fr\\_stapan](https://www.petitiononline.com/oprii_ilegalitile_in_gestionarea_cainilor_fr_stapan)

The Press has drawn the attention, several times, over the cruel practices applied over the stray dogs but also they have not been taken into account by the Authorities. Some examples may be found at the links below:

<https://evz.ro/cainii-sunt-exterminati-pentru-bani-acuzatiile-unui-voluntar.html>

<https://fb.watch/imeSqlVBif/>

<https://www.g4media.ro/zeci-de-asociatii-din-domeniul-protectiei-animalelor-cer-ansvsa-sa-exprime-un-punct-de-vedere-cu-privire-la-problema-gestionarii-cainilor-si-propun-ca-legea-sa-preveda-sterilizare-si-microcipare-gratu.html>

[https://campinatv.ro/News/Article/9aa298cd-783e-435d-8fb3-c9dd0cd43d44\\_semnal-de-alarma-tras-de-asociatii-pentru-protectia-animalelor-in-fata-adapostului-lagarului-privat-de-pe-strada-fabricii-din-campina](https://campinatv.ro/News/Article/9aa298cd-783e-435d-8fb3-c9dd0cd43d44_semnal-de-alarma-tras-de-asociatii-pentru-protectia-animalelor-in-fata-adapostului-lagarului-privat-de-pe-strada-fabricii-din-campina)

<https://liberinbuzau.ro/nu-mai-ucideti-caini-comunitari/>

<http://cronicavj.ro/wp/situatie-ingrijoratoare-la-adapostul-de-caini-din-petrosani/>

<https://www.juridice.ro/320948/despre-protectia-juridica-a-animalelor.html>

### **The Treaty on the Functioning of the EU:**

Article 13: \*When drawing up and implementing the Union's policy in the fields of agriculture, c, transport, the internal market, research and technological development and space, the Union and the Member States shall take into account all the requirements concerning the animals' welfare as sentient beings and shall comply with the legislative acts, by law power and the administrative rules, as well as the Member States' customs regarding religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.\*

Ø Even if \*when drawing up and implementing Union's policy in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, transport, the internal market, research and technological development and space, the Union and the Member States take into account all the requirements of animals' welfare as sentient beings\*, the definition given for animals as \*sentient beings\* is a generally valid definition.

Ø It cannot be asserted that only for the fields \*agriculture, fishing, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space\*, animals are \*sentient beings\*, but for other fields they are no longer sentient beings.

Ø The European Union is a World model, due to the fact that the death penalty for people, even if they have committed crimes, has been abolished. Considering this aspect, animals that do not fall into the fields of agriculture, fishing, transport, internal market, technological research and development and space must be also treated as sentient beings. This category also includes stray dogs, other stray pets and wild animals. Technology is being developed and every possible measure provided by technology should be taken, in order to stop killing the stray dogs, the other stray pets and, in a possible extent, even the wild animals.

Ø By the mean of technology, it is possible to act very well on the causes of the occurrence of stray dogs, of other stray pets, as well as to maintain the number of wild animals at an accessible level, so that they can live in their natural habitat, without interacting with human settlements.

**THE FIRST 2 REQUESTS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, BY ISSUING A SINGLE LEGISLATIVE ACT:**

We kindly ask you to create all the necessary mechanisms for the adoption of legislation for stray dogs, as requested in the Petition as part of the EU programs, in order to prevent rabies and to prevent causes of danger to physical and mental health, through which Romanian citizens, along with all EU citizens, will benefit from the physical health and mental comfort given by respecting the dogs' right to life and animals' right to life in general, implicitly also the physical and mental health of its citizens.

The European Commission for Health and Food Safety has all the necessary levers to adopt the legislation for the unitary, common, complete and simultaneous program in all EU member countries, in order to also include the subsidizing of the responsible ownership of dogs, together with the rabies vaccination, aspects which means the subsidizing the following procedures: microchipping + registration in the Dogs with Owners Records Register (RECS in Romania), sterilization, anti-rabies vaccination, eventually the deworming actions being also added.

**Sincerely yours,**

Mrs. Ildiko Bădescu

Bucharest, Romania