



Report of the 275th Session

Thursday 15th September 2011, 10.00 - 11.00 hrs
Room LOW N 3.2 – European Parliament, Brussels

I. Introductory remarks

Written declaration 26

The written declaration 26 by Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D, RO), Elisabeth Jeggle (EPP, DE), Raül Romeva i Rueda (Greens/EFA, ES), Adina-Ioana Vălean (ALDE, RO) and Janusz Wojciechowski (ECR, PL), on dog management in the European Union has received **323 support signatures**. Daciana Sârbu and Elisabeth Jeggle called on all MEPs to support the declaration and to promote it also among member colleagues. The declaration will be open for signatures until 13 October 2011.

II. Animal Welfare and its position in the humanitarian sphere

James Sawyer, Head of disaster management at the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) spoke about animal welfare concerns in the humanitarian sphere and called for the introduction of animal protection measures in EU policy related to humanitarian aid.

The context

Disasters and emergencies strike the world's populations over 400 times every year with a devastating impact to people but also to animals. These extreme events exceed a community's capacity to cope with its own resources. The changing world means that people and their animals are continually pushed into more marginalized areas. The future offers a bleak outlook with climate related disasters expected to increase and to become more severe.

Animal Suffering

It is estimated that about 40 to 50 million animals are affected by disasters, every year. Animal suffering in disasters is broadly similar to human suffering although not as well documented. The number of people killed in disasters is actually reducing but the lost assets (animals are categorized as such in the figures) are increasing. As an example, in 2010 less than a 100 Mongolians died in a natural disaster but over 11 million livestock animals lost their lives. Sufficient care for the animals is generally lacking in disaster situations.

Specific animal suffering in disasters:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Feet rotting in floods | - Starvation and dehydration | - Disease |
| - Ingestion | - Pain | - Stress and abandonment |

The key issues

The developed – but also the developing world has to deal with the following animal related problems during disasters:

1. **The evacuation with animals can be very problematic.** WSPA studies have shown in major cities around the world that over 70% of companion animal owners will refuse to evacuate without their animals. Some countries have laws which conflict with the evacuation of animals, specifically from buildings. Animal welfare groups face major problems especially when they are not integrated into emergency management efforts.

Bureau Members

President:

Carl Schlyter MEP

Vice-Presidents:

Kriton Arsenis MEP

Jacqueline Foster MEP

Nadja Hirsch MEP

Elisabeth Jeggle MEP

Dan Jørgensen MEP

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Kartika Liotard MEP

David Martin MEP

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Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP

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Established in 1983

2. Sheltering: Mass movements of people can lead to IDP/refugee situations that cause also serious problems for the sheltering of animals.

Urban sheltering is an issue specifically related to companion animals. In disaster situations some owners abandon their pets. The shelters often don't cater well for their animals. Some SPCA's are simply expected to pick up the animals even if they sometimes don't have the capacity to do so and certainly are not treated as contractors within the emergency phase.

3 Emergency culls are largely due to disease outbreaks or to the fear of disease outbreaks. There are many case studies around the world where municipalities post disaster in an urban environment have an unrealistic fear of the spread of diseases such as rabies which can lead to huge culls of animals. This causes significant animal welfare concerns. Where there is public alarm about culling it should be required to monitor specifically animal welfare in order to evaluate whether it is enough to vaccinate or a real need to cull.

4 Farming is an important economic factor in EU? Insurance mitigation can lead to poor animal welfare where farmers don't protect their assets adequately because they know that those assets are going to be replaced by an insurance company. Insurance can have very positive mitigating effects but also negative effects in terms of animal welfare

Hobby farmers are often overwhelmed when confronted with disasters and saving their animals can constitute a major problem.

5 Lack of coordination is a significant issue in disasters. Animal welfare groups and people involved in animal management are quite often not fully integrated into the disaster management strategy. This creates and uncertainty about the division of responsibilities. How do they tie in with humanitarian efforts, what legal basis do they have they have to act, how they de-conflict their own operation on ground and in office. Often animal welfare groups rely on private sourcing and funding which means that they have to fundraise at the same time that they are responding. Other issues are how to prevent duplication of work and how to get what you need to do.

The Barriers

There are significant barriers in integrating animal welfare in emergency management:

- a. Insufficient knowledge on animal needs in emergencies and a lack of skills in animal management in this area.
- b. Absence of resources for animal emergencies in the disaster cycle.
- c. Unassigned responsibility for animal emergencies.
- d. Absence of risk reduction projects or contingency planning for both people and animals.
- e. Absence of organisation of subsistence livestock owners making emergency management of animals very difficult

Solutions

WSPA and in partnership with Euro group for Animals propose the following solutions:

There is still a significant need of response in terms of aid. Not all of the work that is required for animals can ever be solved with preparedness and risk prevention work.

There is a need to improve standards. WSPA is working with the OIE to develop animal standards in emergencies. There is a need for Governments to start taking responsibility for the animal issues themselves, and there is a need for Humanitarian Practice & NGOs to integrate animal welfare in an appropriate way and specifically in practices where they may come in contact with people and animals

International Government organisations and International organisations such as the FAO or the OIE have important role to play in terms of increasing resources in a global sense but also in setting standards in a national sense and a need for more evidence and best practice in this field as well as more funding.

The European Union

The EU is the largest humanitarian funder and has therefore significant influence both internally and externally, to improve animals' lives.

Member States could certainly make more ground in being prepared to reduce risks when it comes to animals and integrating animals into their emergency management functions. They need to be integrated into their internal and external responses because both the EU and the Member States and in many cases both respond within their own countries and outside of their countries.

Issues of strategic importance for DG ECHO

1. **The Revision of the civil protection legislation**, which aims to integrate key elements from the upcoming Communication on Disaster Response Capacity
2. **Preparatory work on the creation of a European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EVHAC)** as requested by the Lisbon Treaty
3. **Revision of the Council Regulation on humanitarian aid** to bring it in line with policy and institutional developments, and which has to be put in the context of the forthcoming revision of all instruments for external action.

The Ask

James Sawyer called on the Intergroup to write to the Commissioner in charge pointing out that it is important to integrate animal welfare in the revision of civil protection legislation and in the Regulation on Humanitarian Aid.

As far as concerns the EU policy framework animal welfare should become part of EU disaster management and preparedness

The "European consensus on Humanitarian Aid" will have to be reviewed after 2012. This will be a good opportunity to introduce animal welfare related language. The current one mentions "critical gaps" and the lack of attention to animals is identified as a gap.

Screening of film footage on animals in disasters

After his presentation film footage was shown on WSPA's activities in disaster management around the world.

I. Closing remarks

The next Intergroup meeting will be held on Thursday 27th September 2011, 11.00-12.00 hrs, room LOW N1.4 and will focus on health risks of invasive animal species. Detailed information will be sent out in time.

ATTENDANCE**Members of the European Parliament (12)**

Alfano Sonia	ALDE	IT
Foster Jacqueline (Vice-President)	ECR	UK
Hirsch Nadja (Vice-President)	ALDE	DE
Jeggle, Elisabeth (Vice-President)	EPP	DE
Muscardini, Cristiana (Vice-President)	EPP	IT
Paulsen, Marit (Honorary Secretary)	ALDE	SE
Romeva I Rueda Raül (Vice-President)	ECR	PL
Sârbu, Daciana (Vice-President)	S&D	RO
Schlyter, Carl (President)	Greens/EFA	SE
Striffler, Michele	EPP	FR
Vattimo, Gianni	ALDE	IT
Zanoni, Andrea	EPP	IT

Assistants and Trainees to Members of the European Parliament (12)

Anselmi, Antonio	Assistant to Ms Muscardini (EPP, IT)
Cummings, John	Assistant to Ms Sârbu (S&D, RO)
D'Orey, Pilar	Assistant to Mr Romeva i Rueda (Greens/EFA, ES)
Faloci, Chiara	Assistant to Mr Zanoni (EPP, IT)
Gidoni Michele	Intern to Mr Vattimo (ALDE, IT)
Gijssels, Thomas	Assistant to Ms Liotard (GUE/NGL, NL)
Kerr, Laura	Assistant to Ms Foster (ECR, UK)
Kerr, Laura	Assistant to Mrs Foster (ECR, UK)
Pahlen, Marita	Assistant to Mr Schlyter (Greens/EFA, SE)
Rissanen, Viivi	Assistant to Ms Pietikäinen (EPP, FI)
Sergo, Leida	Assistant to Ms Paulsen (ALDE, SE)
Varrica Adriano	Assistant to Ms Alfano (ALDE, IT)

Guest Speakers and Observers (10)

Blanche Stephanie	Aupair of Carl Schlyter's family
Duthoit Sophie	Vier Pforten International
Miczki, Tamara	EP staff
Pirnay, James	IFAW EU office
Sawyer James	World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)
Schlyter Nairi with kids	Carl Schlyter's family
Serrault, Mathilde	EURALIA –EU Affairs Consultant
Sinha, Satyen	IFAW EU office
Swabe Joanna	HSI, European Union
Van Hecke, Astrid	DODS

Intergroup Secretariat (1)

Erlar, Andreas	Eurogroup for Animals, Political Officer,
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