

Organisation Internationale pour la Protection des Animaux

Organizzazione Internazionale per la Protezione degli Animali

International Organization for Animal Protection

Internationale Organisation für Tierschutz

Non Governmental Organization (NGO) affiliated to the UN Department of Public Information



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Erminia Mazzoni

Chairman of the Committee on Petitions
European Parliament
60, Rue Wiertz
B – 1047
Bruxelles
Belgium

Milan, December 7, 2011

Object: **ACTION ALERT AGAINST THE KILLING OF STRAY CATS AND DOGS IN THE SPANISH PERRERAS AND ALL THROUGHOUT EUROPE**

Dear Ms Erminia Mazzoni,

the reason of this letter is to call your attention on the cruelty and atrocity that is being performed on animals in Spain and in other European Union member countries.

It is notorious that especially in Spain, stray animals management national laws are totally missing, and a clear example of this are Spanish dog shelters (the so-called *perreras* in Spanish).

In fact, everything is left in the hands of the *Comunidades Autonomas*, where the killing of animals is the first law in force (animals are put to death after a 10 to 30 days time-length). This is the only adopted method for the solution of the stray animals problem; last but not least, animals are left waiting for their death in suffering and pain with no food or water.

The 13th November 1987 European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, regarding pet animals protection and dignity and exactly Chapter III – art. 12 – letter b, **reads**:

“The Parties commit to take the following into consideration:

- ♣ The permanent cats and dogs identification through methods that only cause temporary and little to no pain, such as tattoos plus the recording of the animals identification number with yje owners names and addresses;
- ♣ **“To reduce the uncontrolled cats and dogs reproduction by the promotion of neutering . ”**

In Spain, sterilization is not taken into consideration, as it is the policy of this country to use money deriving from tax-payers to finance the stray animals’ killing instead of their sterilization.

We want everybody to know what is really happening in some European Union member countries and in particular in the South of Spain, where animals shelters are nothing else but suffering camps.

Spanish authorities generally do not perform any control on the conditions in which cats and dogs live and die. Furthermore, citizens are often not permitted to see pet animals.

Ethical, more efficient and cheap alternatives for the solution of the stray animals issue are absolutely available.

Considering the Treaty of Lisbon, article 13, that considers animals as sentient beings and the Community Action Program 2006-2010 about animals protection and well-being, we **categorically refuse euthanasia** as a means of control of the animal population within municipal shelters financed by tax payers. The enormous number of cats and dogs being sacrificed within animals shelters is absolutely unacceptable.

The C.C.S.A. (Comitato Contro la Sperimentazione Animale) has recently started a petition in cooperation with Associazione Vita – Una Zampa per la Spagna (that is being supported and spread by OIPA together with some more Italian associations and organizations) in order to spread the awareness of the real conditions of the cats and dogs “detention” in Spain and in some other European Union member countries. So, together with this letter, we are presenting 112.683 signatures gathered by European citizens who are horrified in learning about the cruel killings of dogs in Spanish *perreras* and in many EU member countries.

In the light of the above, we strongly **request that the killing of cats and dogs within Spanish animals shelters as well as the sistematic massacre of pets in some European countries be discontinued**, we also request the contextual performing of a **massive neutering campaign**. In order to solve the serious stray animals issue, we request the European Parliament and the European Commission to issue a EU directive obliging all EU member countries to act in the strict observance of what above stated.

NOTE: Attached to this petition we are presenting a total of 112.683 signatures

Kind regards,

Massimo Pradella - OIPA Chairman
OIPA – International Organization for Animal Protection
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20162 Milan - Italy

Sender's signature
