

Question for written answer E-003290/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: Controversial feeding practices in zoos in Denmark and Germany

Aalborg Zoo in Denmark has launched an initiative calling on the public to donate pets that can no longer be cared for – such as rabbits, guinea pigs and birds – so that they can be slaughtered to feed carnivorous animals. While the zoo's managers argue that this practice reproduces the natural cycle of predation and prevents waste, it has sparked fierce ethical and social controversy and would be unacceptable from a cultural and health perspective in several Member States, including Spain.

Similarly, in July, Germany's Nuremberg Zoo slaughtered 12 baboons and fed them to their predators.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission have any information on the extent of these practices in European zoos and their compatibility with EU rules on animal welfare and health security?
2. When is it planning to introduce the pending proposals in the animal welfare package, and is it considering the possibility of including a clear regulation prohibiting such practices in zoos?
3. What action does it intend to push for, in cooperation with the Member States, to ensure that practices threatening the protection of animal welfare and shared social values are prohibited and prevented across the EU?

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