

Question for written answer E-001199/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Maria Zacharia (NI)

Subject: Ban on euthanasia of cats and dogs except in cases of intolerable, untreatable, irreversible pain, after all other care options have been exhausted

In 2023, the Commission presented a proposal for a Regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability. Subsequently, the European Parliament adopted a firmer stance, stating that euthanasia in shelters must not be allowed as a population management solution and that euthanasia must be limited to cases where recovery is not possible and the animal is experiencing severe pain or suffering that cannot be alleviated.

However, in some Member States the term ‘euthanasia’ is still misused to include the killing of cats and dogs for reasons such as lack of space, cost, administrative inefficiency or to generally make things easier for the competent authorities or structures.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it explicitly support the inclusion, in the final text of the regulation, of a ban on the euthanasia of cats and dogs for reasons of population management, lack of places in shelters, cost or administrative inefficiency, as well as a provision explicitly stipulating that euthanasia must be allowed only in exceptional cases of proven untreatable, irreversible and severe pain or suffering that cannot be alleviated?
2. Does it intend to support EU-wide binding minimum guarantees, such as an expert opinion from a veterinarian, keeping a complete record of each case as well as a relevant register, and having effective control and penalty mechanisms?
3. Does it consider that a Member State which allows the actual killing of dogs or cats for the above reasons complies with the objective of ensuring a high level of protection of animal welfare as set out in EU law?

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