

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003282/25  
to the Commission  
Niels Fuglsang (S&D)  
(25 August 2025)**

*Subject:* EU positive list to regulate the trade in animals destined for life as a pet

As far back as 2022, Parliament, the Council and citizens all expressed their wish to see an EU positive list. Parliament reiterated this wish in its proposed amendments of 19 June 2025 to the proposal for a regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability (see Recital 3a and Article 26, paragraph 2a (c)) <sup>(1)</sup>. This is imperative not only from an animal welfare perspective, but also to tackle the biodiversity crisis and to ensure that we reduce the risk of the next health crisis originating from a zoonotic disease.

The Animal Advocacy and Protection dashboard launched on 3 June 2025 shows, in numbers, the severity of the challenge across Europe and demonstrates that patchy Member State action is not enough <sup>(2)</sup>.

Will the Commission listen to the calls made for the EU to act and propose an EU positive list in the current legislative term and ensure that its monitoring and enforcement are financed through the EU budget?

Submitted: 25.8.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission  
(28 October 2025)**

The Commission is aware of the calls for an EU-wide positive list of animals that may be kept or traded as pets. In line with the revised EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission launched in 2023 a study exploring the need, feasibility and potential added value of such a list from the perspective of animal welfare, public health and biodiversity protection.

This ongoing study, which incorporates the views of a wide range of stakeholders, is expected to be finalised before the end of 2025. Its results will be an important basis for the Commission's reflections on possible next steps.

At this stage, it is therefore premature to determine whether a legislative proposal would be necessary, proportionate or desirable, or to define the scope, design, financing or monitoring arrangements of any possible instrument.

Should the Commission decide to take action following the study, this would be subject to principles and guidelines of Better Regulation <sup>(2)</sup>.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that evidence-based policy responses address the challenges identified by the Honourable Member, while respecting subsidiarity and proportionality and taking account of the experiences of Member States and other jurisdictions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20250616IPR28963/meps-propose-stricter-rules-on-dog-and-cat-welfare-and-traceability>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://en.aap.eu/the-positive-list-in-europe/>.

<sup>(1)</sup> COM/2022/581 final; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52022DC0581>.

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox_en).