

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004592/25
to the Commission
Günther Sidl (S&D)
(18 November 2025)**

Subject: EU-wide animal welfare act to protect stray animals

Protecting stray animals is not just an animal welfare issue, but also a matter of social responsibility and rule of law in the European Union. In several Member States, particularly Romania, reports of illegal practices in animal shelters, mafia structures and misappropriation of public funds are on the rise. An EU-wide legal framework is urgently needed to put an end to animal suffering and improve trust in the EU institutions.

1. Does the Commission intend to promote cross-border cooperation between Member States in order to share best practices in the management of stray animals?
2. How will funding for animal shelters be directed more towards placement than merely capturing animals in the future?
3. What measures are in place to oversee the use of public funds in animal welfare?

Submitted: 18.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(26 January 2026)**

On 25 November 2025, co-legislators reached a provisional agreement ⁽¹⁾ on the regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability ⁽²⁾.

The regulation will establish a comprehensive EU traceability system for dogs and cats and enhance existing cross-border cooperation mechanisms in this area ⁽³⁾, ⁽⁴⁾.

The upcoming Regulation does not cover cross-border cooperation for management of stray dogs and cats. However, it sets standards for the management of former stray dogs and cats in shelters, and Member States will cooperate on the implementation of these standards through various tools, such as the Commission expert group on animal welfare and the iRASFF pet module that allows exchanges between authorities in the context of official controls.

The management and welfare of stray dog and cat populations, including the funding of animal shelters, falls under the responsibility of the Member States, which may use national public funds for this purpose. The allocation and use of these funds are not subject to EU supervision, remaining exclusively a national competence.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/ip_25_2808.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52023PC0769>.

⁽³⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/food-safety/acn_en#the-acn-in-practice.

⁽⁴⁾ https://food.ec.europa.eu/food-safety/aac/pan_en.