

ANIMAL PARTY CYPRUS

«GreetingLine» all of the weeks news from the APC

In this issue we attempt (in the limited space we have) to inform members about the EU and stray animals. Citizens EU-wide have long been dismayed and indignant that this widespread suffering is ignored and is left to them with all the expense involved.

HOMELESS 'STRAY' DOGS AND CATS IN EUROPE

NO LEGISLATION OR ACTION: As in other countries, we face this problem. 'If only the EU had laws protecting dogs and cats,' people say. Some people actually believe such laws exist! They do not. EU Animal Welfare legislation still contains no provisions on stray animals. Below is just part of a Motion taken by an EU Parliamentary Committee to get action on the problem (March 2014).

whereas, despite an increase in the number of adoptions from animal shelters, the problem of stray animals is still far from solved in the EU;

whereas the control methods used to date – most of which involve capture and sterilisation – have failed to stem the problem;

whereas some Member States have employed drastic measures, including euthanasia;

1. *Calls on the Commission to draw up general guidelines on dealing with the problem of stray animals in accordance with general animal welfare principles;*

2. *Calls on the Member States to use part of their structural funding to address the problem of stray animals, focusing first and foremost on the areas in which the problem is most acute.*

DANGEROUS MOVE BY THE EU COMMISSION TO CLASSIFY STRAY ANIMALS AS 'WILD'.

In the absence of legislation, the EU Commission (via their new Animal Health law) is trying to have strays defined as 'wild' animals. Since wild animals are hunted and killed in Europe, there is great concern that if strays are classified as 'wild' they can also be conveniently hunted and killed. One NGO with a campaign to fight this says:

'Non-kept dogs' are NOT wild animals! In the draft Animal Health Law, stray domestic animals are defined as wild animals. This ignores the fundamental biological distinction between wild and domestic animals, and also goes against the basic principle of Article 13 TFEU that considers animals to be sentient beings. Such a definition would lead to: – serious misunderstandings and legal uncertainty in all Member States; – less animal protection for stray animals; – the isolation of stray dogs and cats as second-class animals. To confuse domestic animals with wild animals is scientifically wrong and poses a threat to stray domestic animals. Please reject this unacceptable idea contained in the present draft of the Animal Health Law'.

This battle is going on right now.

MIGHTY OAKS FROM SMALL ACORNS GROW

Animal Party Netherlands recently held their 21st Party Congress. The Party now has an amazing 35 seats on Provincial Bodies, and seems sure of two and perhaps three seats in the May national elections. Leader of the Party, Marianne Thieme hoped this would inspire foreign sister parties, telling us that her Party counted only a few members 13 years ago. Let's all do what we can to grow our Party, and to be ready stand in local (and, for some, national) elections.

APC PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON CAPITAL TV

Capital TV (island-wide channel) this week interviewed Kyriacos Kyriacou at length. Topics he covered were: the proposed dolphinarium, proposed crocodile park, proposed independent Animal Welfare body, as well as the cruel practice of giving baby chickens as gifts at Easter.



FULL INFORMATION ON THE ECHR JUDGEMENT IN FAVOUR OF BULGARIAN A.W. NGO

This appeared in last week's APC newsletter. We were asked for full details. The link is below. Please re-read last week's article if you need to remind yourself of your rights to information and response from your municipality on the treatment of homeless dogs.

We recommend saving APC newsletters in a file, as they always have important information you may need to refer back to.

The full text of the judgement is on <http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/fra/pages/search.aspx?i=001-152416>

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