[Date]

Dear Sir/Madame,

**Re: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Animal Health**

The European Parliament has in its legislative resolution of 15 April 2014 made numerous important amendments to the draft text of the ”Animal Health Law”. Among these amendments are, inter alia, a new animal category ”non-kept animals” (amendments 49, 51, 53, 74, 198-201, 203, 211‑215 and 218) and the introduction of a registration requirement for dogs (amendment 236). The Commission has, however, rejected these and almost all other amendments which would increase the level of animal welfare in the EU.

The large-scale animal abandonment has in many EU member states led to an overpopulation of homeless companion animals causing immense animal and human suffering. Defining homeless companion animals as ”wild” is not only inaccurate, but would also drastically exacerbate the plight of these animals. The definition would also cause confusion and misunderstandings in the interpretation and application of the regulation. The introduction of the category ”non-kept animals” would, on the other hand, enable the EU to finally solve the problem in a humane and sustainable way, which so far has been impossible for the national governments to achieve.

As there is no current EU legislation concerning the welfare of companion animals, it would be of primary importance that the mandatory registration and identification of all dogs would be introduced as soon as possible. This would give a basic level of protection for the dogs, which in many member states are subject to unspeakable cruelty.

The Commission also rejected a large number of amendments in regards to the welfare of farm animals. The Eurobarometer ”Attitudes of EU citizens towards Animal Welfare” (2007) clearly shows that animal welfare is very important for the consumers, and they are also willing to pay extra for cruelty-free products.

The Commission’s position is overall very opposed to animal welfare, which expressly goes against the wishes of the EU citizens and the requirements of a modern, ethical and sustainable society. It is therefore of utmost importance that the Parliament’s amendments are adopted.

Yours sincerely,

[Name, country]

Sources:

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Animal Health, 6 May 2013

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52013PC0260&from=EN>

European Parliament legislative resolution, 15 April 2014

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P7-TA-2014-0381>

Commission’s response to text adopted in plenary, 9 July 2014

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/spdoc.do?i=24248&j=0&l=en>

Eurobarometer ”Attitudes of EU citizens towards Animal Welfare” (2007)

<http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_270_en.pdf>