

Responsible
dog
ownership
in Europe



Conference on canine overpopulation in Europe and sustainable solution strategies

SCIENCE MEETS ETHICS AT EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON DOG WELFARE IN THE EU

Dog welfare under the spotlight at an
International Conference in Brussels this week

Brussels, 5 October 2010: 'Responsible Dog Ownership in Europe' is the title of the conference organised by the international animal welfare organisation FOUR PAWS / VIER PFOTEN and the internationally-recognised research Istituto G. Caporale Teramo.

The two-day conference, opened by Princess Alia of Jordan, was attended by representatives of governments including the Italian Undersecretary for Health, Francesca Martini, scientific institutions, animal welfare NGOs, the European Commission and other organisations involved in activities related to dog health and welfare at the international level, aiming to control dog overpopulation through birth control and to avoid killing healthy animals.

Among the speakers were representatives of institutions such as European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe, EU Member States, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), animal welfare NGOs including the Blue Cross of India.

"Bringing together people from 25 countries, it was evident that a sustainable and humane method of canine overpopulation control is an ideal tool to respond to problems arising in very different social and economic environments", said Helmut Dungler, founder and president of VIER PFOTEN / FOUR PAWS INTERNATIONAL.

Experts gave an overview of canine overpopulation management in different countries and described various strategies, taking into consideration economic and technical aspects. The

discussion led to the conclusion that the European Union and its Member States have to adopt a package of measures and humane strategies to deal with the problem, first of all through broad birth control programmes.

“This conference offered the possibility to promote the application of a multicultural sustainable approach to promote responsible ownership of animals, and dogs in particular” said Professor Vincenzo Caporale, Director of the Istituto G. Caporale, a collaborating centre of the World Organisation for Animal Health. “Ethical values and scientific and legal facts are combined in the CAROdogg project, where all stakeholders are invited to share information and experience within the network aiming to urge everybody to adopt responsible behaviour towards animals”.

The conference follows the launch of the website www.carodogg.eu, a database containing most recent scientific and practical information regarding dogs including stray dogs in Europe.

The conference was opened among others by Her Royal Highness Alia Al Hussein of Jordan, who said: “Creation is one indivisible whole. What harms one part of creation harms us all at some level and will be clearly felt by humans – to our cost – sooner or later”.

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