

To:
Commission President Ursula von der Leyen
Copy: Commissioner Stella Kyriakides
(Digital copy only)

22 November 2023

Subject: Meeting on the Publication of the Commission Proposal on Breeding and Keeping of Cats and Dogs

Dear President von der Leyen,

The undersigned stakeholders represent associations from the civil society, veterinary, animal health, pedigree dog breeders and pet food sectors. We welcome the Commission's announcement to design the first ever species-specific rules for cats and dogs involved in commercial activities.

We understand that within the revision of EU Animal Welfare legislation the Proposal for the section on the breeding and keeping of cats and dogs is at an advanced stage of development and believe it should be published without further delay.

Through the advice of the European Food Safety Authority and of the voluntary initiative under the platform on animal welfare, we strongly recommend and believe that is possible for the Commission to develop a set of rules which can be assembled into a Proposal in the immediate future. Beyond the benefits for the welfare of animals, we believe that such a Proposal could benefit public health and support the One Health approach, as more than 140 million cats and dogs are sharing European households.

We would therefore welcome the possibility to meet you to discuss the publication of the cat and dog welfare part of the Commission Proposal on animal welfare during breeding and keeping operations.

Sincerely,

Signatories on next page



AnimalhealthEurope - European Veterinary Medicines Association



FCI - World Pedigree Dogs Association



FECAVA - European Federation of Companion Animal Veterinarians



FEDIAF - European Pet Food Association



FOUR PAWS - Animal Welfare NGO



FVE - European Federation of Veterinarians