

TRANSPARENCY OF BREEDERS AND SELLERS

BACKGROUND

The Commission has proposed an Animal Health Law that seeks to incorporate, update and streamline the different animal health acts into one framework law. This would allow for faster adoption of future legislation and provide a single reference point for all European animal health rules. The current proposal obligates people keeping terrestrial animals - other than pet keepers - to register their establishments with Competent Authorities. The Commission has stated that current definitions are already sufficiently wide to capture breeding and sales establishments, and are intended to do so, due to the risks of transmissible diseases that such establishments can pose.

CURRENT SITUATION

However, it is clear that due to current definition of 'establishments', many Member States have not interpreted this in the same way, despite the fact that some Member States would indeed welcome such a provision, as they see the potential (currently hidden) tax revenue that such establishments can generate. Due to legal drafting issues, a new recital could provide for greater clarification over the scope of the existing Articles, and allowing them to be explained in a useable and clear format. However, amending the existing Articles wouldn't be out of the question.

OUR OBJECTIVES

We aim to ensure that breeders and sellers of pets are explicitly mentioned as establishment so they are obliged to be registered. We will achieve this by coordinating campaign actions among our Member Organizations.