



FCI Europe Section

Quarterly Monitoring Report – July 2013

Table of Contents

1. Regulation 998/2003 on non-commercial movement of pet animals adopted by Parliament and Council.....	1
2. Cyprus adopts ban for animals in circuses.....	3
3. Scotland considering compulsory microchipping for dogs	3
4. European Parliament Web TV Channel Publishes Video on Pet Travel.....	3
5. Carl Schlyter wins MEP Award for Animal Welfare.....	3
6. ABTA launches global welfare guidance for animals in tourism	4
7. MEPs appeal to end of torture of grey hounds in Europe	4
8. MEPs' Written Questions to the European Commission.....	4

1. Regulation 998/2003 on non-commercial movement of pet animals adopted by Parliament and Council

The European Parliament adopted by 592 votes to 7, with 4 abstentions, the legislative proposal to update Regulation 998/2003 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals. As explained in previous reports, the process started back in March 2012 when a new proposal was submitted by the European Commission. Since then the text has been discussed and amended by the European Parliament Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (Report by MEP Horst Schnellhardt). The final proposal was approved by the European Parliament on 23 May and by the Council on 10 June 2013. The new legislation will come into force 18 months after it is published in the EU Official Journal, i.e., in December 2014.

The FCI prepared a position paper on the new text of the Regulation highlighting that registration could have a significant impact on improving traceability and preventing illegal trade, tackling, at the same time, public health concerns. The paper was sent to a list of selected MEPs ahead of the vote at the European Parliament on 23rd May.

The final text includes the following modifications:

- Limit of 5 animals allowed for non-commercial movements, but with exceptions:

The new text says the maximum number of pet animals (dogs, cats and ferrets) which may accompany the owner or an authorised person during a single non-commercial movement shall not exceed five. A derogation is possible if the owner or the authorised person submits written

evidence that the pet animals are registered either to attend an event such as competitions, exhibitions or sporting events or in training or if the pet animals are more than six months old. Member States may undertake standard spot checks to verify that the information is correct.

- Derogation from the anti-rabies vaccination for young pet animals:

Member States may authorise the non-commercial movement into their territory from another Member State of pet animals which are: (a) either less than 12 weeks old and have not received an anti-rabies vaccination; or (b) between 12 and 16 weeks old and have received an anti-rabies vaccination, but do not yet meet the validity requirements. The pet owner is required to present a signed declaration attesting that the pet did not have contact with wild animals or species susceptible to rabies. The other alternative requirement is for the pet animal to be accompanied by his mother.

- Identification document:

The Commission shall adopt a passport format to be used in all Member States. The passport needs to include the following information:

- the location of the transponder or the tattoo and either the date of application or the date of reading of the transponder or the tattoo, as well as the alphanumeric code displayed by the transponder or the tattoo;
- the name, species, breed, sex, colour, date of birth as stated by the owner and any notable or discernable features or characteristics of the pet animal;
- the name and contact information of the owner;
- the name, contact information and signature of the authorised veterinarian issuing or completing the identification document.

- Implanting transponders

The new text allows veterinarians as well as other competent persons to implant the transponders. Member States are required to lay down rules on the minimum qualifications that such persons are required to have. Only veterinarians will be able to issue pet passports.

Overall, the new text was welcomed by the majority of the stakeholders. The only item which unfortunately was not addressed is the compulsory identification and registration of dogs and cats on a database accessible across Europe. Various stakeholders have expressed their disappointment with this missed opportunity. The good news is that the Commission has committed to assessing the feasibility and appropriateness of a registration system for dogs and cats across EU Member States. A report on that shall be made public still this year.

Link to final approved text:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:178:0001:0026:EN:PDF>