

# The European Pet Convention - Up to Date?

**Dr. Gieri Bolliger**

Stiftung für das Tier im Recht (TIR)

Workshop «Stray Animals –  
Our Sentient Fellow Creatures»

Brussels, April 10, 2014

**STIFTUNG | FÜR DAS**  
**TIER IM RECHT**



COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL  
DE L'EUROPE

# The European Pet Convention – Up to Date?

## Council of Europe



# The European Pet Convention – Up to Date?

## Council of Europe

### «Animal Welfare Conventions»

- European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport (ETS 65/193; 1968/2004)
- European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes (ETS 87; 1976)
- European Convention for the Protection of Animals for Slaughter (ETS 102; 1979)
- European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes (ETS 123; 1986)
- European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals (ETS 125; 1987)



## The European Pet Convention – Up to Date?

### European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals (ETS 125)

- **Entry in force: 1992**

- **23 member states:**

Belgium (1992), Finland (1992), Germany (1992), Greece (1992), Luxembourg (1992), Norway (1992), Sweden (1992), Denmark (1993), Cyprus (1994), Portugal (1994), Switzerland (1994), Czech Republic (1999), Austria (2000), France (2004), Lithuania (2004), Turkey (2004), Bulgaria (2005), Romania (2005), Azerbaijan (2008), Italy (2011), Latvia (2011), Serbia (2011), Ukraine (2014).

- Parties are **obligated to implement** the Convention in their national law.



# The European Pet Convention – Up to Date?

European Convention for  
the Protection of Pet Animals (ETS 125)

Includes also **Stray Animals**

**Art. 1 Sec. 5:**

By a stray animal is meant a pet animal which either has no home or is outside the bounds of its owner's or keeper's household and is not under the control or direct supervision of any owner or keeper.



# The European Pet Convention – Up to Date?



## Chapter III: Supplementary measures for stray animals

### Art. 12 (Reduction of numbers)

When a Party considers that the numbers of stray animals present it with a problem, it shall take the appropriate legislative and/or administrative measures necessary to reduce their numbers in a way which does not cause avoidable pain, suffering or distress.

### Art. 13 (Exceptions for capture, keeping and killing)

Exceptions to the principles laid down in this Convention for the capture, the keeping and the killing of stray animals may be made only if unavoidable in the framework of national disease control programs.

## The European Pet Convention – Up to Date?



### Art. 15 (Multilateral consultations)

1. The Parties shall, within five years from the entry into force of the Convention and **every five years thereafter**, and, in any case, **whenever a majority of the representatives of the Parties so request**, hold multilateral consultations within the Council of Europe to examine the application of the Convention and the advisability of revising it or extending any of its provisions. These consultations shall take place **at meetings convened by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe**.
3. After each consultation, the Parties shall submit to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe **a report** on the consultation and on the functioning of the Convention including, if they consider it necessary, proposals for the amendment of Articles 15 to 23 of the Convention.

# The European Pet Convention – Up to Date?

## Art. 15 (Multilateral consultations)

### Reality:

1995: First and only multilateral consultation

Since then:

- no further multilateral consultations
- no reports of the member states
- no further activities of the Council of Europe
- no possibilities to participate in improvement of the Convention



Thank you for your attention!

