

Dear Mr

I am writing to you as a concerned EU citizen and member of the European Union about the recent events regarding Romanian's stray dog situation and the recent killings within the public shelters of which many are not highlighted within social media sites and remain unacknowledged or investigated.

I have some questions and also observations which I would be grateful if you could investigate and reply to.

The first misconception surrounds the rumour that the European Union funds the neuter and spay programme in Romania. The European Union does send money to Romania but in fact it is sent for Rabies and is for the use of foxes not dogs. How do the Romanians vaccinate foxes, who keeps records and how does the European Union monitor its monetary usages?

Second being that the president has authority over the management of stray dogs – my understanding now is that it is infact the local mayors who have control. So as President he has no legal powers to control the barbaric practices although when mayor he did speak out against the atrocities – can you clarify?

As the laws in Romania are similar to the laws within other Western world countries – we in the UK have a 7 day PTS policy – the emphasis here is to highlight and focus on how the dogs are kept, how they are killed and the management of the stray population. The problem with regard to this is the supervision and the enforcement of their own laws - are they breaking them? The law states vets must be employed by local councils but does not state that the vets are required to be skilled – why and how are these vets being monitored in light of many reports of “vets” performing neuters and spays on dogs without anaesthetic – dogs left still fertile – deaths from neuters and spays within the public shelters – the use of string to stitch after surgery etc.? The law also states the dogs are to be “housed – fed –deloused – vaccinated – neutered or spayed and have disease control” – who is monitoring this as many shelters have been found to be non-compliant with their own laws? Please clarify.

The Romanian law states that “dog's euthanasia shall be carried out only by a certified veterinarian” dogs are forbidden to be killed unless by skilled persons and no other method other than euthanasia – the definition of Euthanasia within the Webster's dictionary is “act or practice of painlessly putting to death”. Who monitors and reports on this matter? Please clarify.

To all Romanian citizen's the law states that owned animals must to be sterilized and micro chipped – no source is made available to these people to assist with them in ensuring this is carried out – why is there no assistance with a neuter and spay campaign? Instead money is being given to dog catchers? Please clarify.

With this in mind the average monthly income in Romania is 300 Euros – the average cost to neuter or spay a dog is between 30-100 Euros – the cost of registration and micro chipping is 15 Euro per animal.

In addition using FX Rate 1 RON = 0.16 GBP as at 02/02/15:

The law states that noncompliance under art. 4 and art. 133 has a fine ranging between 2000 lei (RON) = £321.67 and 5000 lei (RON) = £804.22.

In the statement of commitment – abandonment - a fine ranging from 5000 lei (RON) = £804.22 and 10000 lei (RON) = £1,622.03.

In addition noncompliance carries a fine ranging from 10000 lei (RON) = £1,622.03 and 20000 lei (RON) = £3244.06.

You see a pattern emerging – these citizens have no choice but to abandon their dogs unneutered and not micro chipped because they cannot afford to comply – therefore an endless supply of dogs for the dog catchers. With this in mind the chart below shows why and how:

Dogs are captured using barbaric measures often resulting in injury and/death – and yet the majority are classed as community dogs – not harmful and not vicious. Historically many dogs lived as companion animals within a community and are/were fed and named by locals. Only approximately 1% of dogs which do roam around are vicious – the dog catchers will rarely try to capture these dogs and usually will only target domesticated dogs – the dog catchers will generally grab the easiest to catch for safety reasons and leave the vicious ones alone – who regulates the dog catchers? Please clarify.

My understanding is that each city gets funds from taxes which are supposedly directed to maintain standards within the public shelters and for the dogs to be kept healthy and fed. This appears to be open to abuse – how is this monitored and where is the information stored? If there is a widespread misuse of taxes and funds it would explain the desire to continue with an endless source of new dogs to catch. I would be interested in your observations.

Does the EU send money to many countries to control Rabies and who is monitoring its application?

With a successful neuter and spay operation in Romania this would eliminate the potential future market in the lives of dogs. The principals of Dog Population Management applied to other developing countries like India, Buthan, Bangladesh etc. – all with an epidemic of stray dogs like Romania – are ignored by Romanian politicians. There should be a comprehensive approach including neutering and spaying of stray dogs – releasing the healthy and sociable ones and humanely euthanizing the sick and dangerous ones. Low or free of charge spay and neutering for owned animals including micro chipping and mobile units to reach rural areas. There is a need for a structured education programme within schools on responsible ownership for the children of Romania. Has this been suggested to the government?

These initiatives would need to be applied on a national level to ensure it is effective and it is a long term plan to ensure a solution to the current stray population.

Romania has a shockingly bad reputation with regard to its stray dog population and its treatment both within and out of the public shelters. The majority of Romanian people will not stand up for their dog population and the rumours of mismanagement of funds and the supposed “dog shelter mafias” continue. The country’s image is a tarnished one – how aware of this are the Romanian government and its citizens and are there any future plans to rectify this image and to implement a mobile neuter and spay campaign and take responsibility for the control of their stray dog population humanely and with dignity?

I would be grateful if you could investigate and clarify the above and I look forward to your early reply.

Yours sincerely