

Questionnaire

Country: Greece
The Country is: EU Member State
Author of the Questionnaire: Vier Pforten
Note: –

Question	Article	Note
I. DATA AND DOCUMENTS		
What is the number of companion animals and/or stray animals in your country? Do you have any other data (e. g. rate of companion animals per inhabitant)?	–	Not known.
Does the country have a specific animal welfare legislation?	–	Yes.
Which other laws and ordinances refer to animal welfare?	–	Not known.
II. GOVERNANCE		
<i>BASIC ETHICAL CONCEPT IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM</i>		
What is the basic ethical concept in your political system concerning animal welfare?	–	Not known.
Is the animal welfare act based on animal welfare as the principle value of the legislation?	–	Yes.
Do animals have a right to life?	–	Not known.
Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal?	–	The Minister of Rural Development Food to regulate matters relating to Committees improper methods of euthanasia, the operating conditions of mobile facilities to carry out veterinary, veterinary instruments, to stray pets, and any other relevant matter.

CONSTITUTION

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Is animal welfare part of the constitution?	–	No.
ANIMAL WELFARE IN PARLIAMENT		
Is there an animal welfare committee in the parliament?	–	No.
ANIMAL WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT		
Are there any official animal welfare bodies in the government? (e. g. Ombudsman, Commissioner)	Art.6 of L.1197/81	The Ministry of Rural Development and Foods (former Ministry of Agriculture) comprises the Directorate for Veterinary Support and Medicines, which includes a department for animal protection and supervises the relevant departments of the local districts. The ordinary duties of these directorates include: Supervision of the rural veterinary practices operating within the District.
Which ministry/ministries is/are responsible for animal welfare?	–	Ministry of Rural Development and Foods
ANIMAL WELFARE IN AUTHORITIES		
How is the status of competent authorities for animal welfare legislation and are they/is it linked to a ministry and which ministry is it?	–	Not known.
ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY, BIRTH CONTROL AND SCHOOL PROGRAMMES		
Does the country have a national animal welfare strategy?	–	No.
Is there an obligation for the government to do and publish an annual or biannual animal welfare report?	–	No.
Are there legal or administrative measures which provide birth control of animals?	Ministerial decision 280239 Art.4	For dogs

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Are there (mandatory) school programmes on animal welfare?	–	No.
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III. DOGS/CATS IN LEGISLATION

DEFINITIONS

Does the law or another enactment include a definition of animals as “sentient beings”?	–	No definition is provided in the Law for animals as “sentient beings” , however all laws and regulations acknowledge this capacity of the animals, given that they explicitly provide for their welfare, they prohibit animal torturing, maltreatment and the cause of pain and they require that all animals are treated with affection by their owners or attendants.
Are animals defined as goods (object/chattel)?	–	Animals are treated by the Greek Law as objects, as same are defined in the Civil Code articles referring to movable property. However, no special reference or explicit definition of the term is being provided; therefore, such meaning of the term is inferred on the basis that there is no explicit legal definition.
Does the law include definitions of companion animals, abandoned animals and/or stray animals?	Art. 1(a) of Law 3170/2003	Companion animals are any animals maintained or intended to be maintained by humans, primarily in their residence, for animal welfare or companionship purposes. Companion animals also include any dogs used for hunting (hunting dogs), for guarding flocks (shepherd dogs) or premises or for protecting persons with special needs, as well as investigation and rescue dogs and any dogs used by the armed forces or law enforcement bodies.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATION IN THE LEGISLATION

Can an animal be treated like an asset (e. g. in insolvency, confiscation, divorce, separation)? May an animal be used as an evidence in a court procedure?	Civil Procedure Code, Art. 953 para.1	Attachment may be imposed on all movable property in the debtor’s possession.
Is winning of a bet or any other gain from an action which causes pain and/or suffering of an animal punishable?	–	Yes, because animal maltreatment is generally prohibited under the animal welfare laws under any circumstances or for any reason, except for the purposes of medical experiments.
May an animal be obtained as a prize?	–	Not regulated under the law

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IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

Is identification and registration of animals mandatory and where are they registered and what is registered? What about costs?	Law 3170/2003 Art.2 para.1	Yes.
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BREEDING

Are there any clauses on breeders and is there a national register for breeders?	–	Not known for cats.
Does the law proscribe the minimum care obligations for animals at breeders?	Art.1 para.1 of L.1197/81	1. Companion, working and farm-bred animals must be properly treated by their owners with due care and affection, through: a) Provision of proper and adequate food and water, depending on their species; b) Provision of comfortable and healthy accommodation, adjusted to their natural living conditions.
Is breeding of defects punishable?	–	Not mentioned in law.
Does the law provide for limitations on animals mutilations? (e. g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalization, declawing, obligation to use anaesthesia.)	Law 2017/1992 Art.10	All surgical operations intended to alter the appearance of a companion animal or effected for non-medical reasons must be prohibited, and primarily: a) tail docking, b) ear cropping, c) devocalization, d) teeth removal and declawing. No exceptions should be permitted, unless this is considered essential by a veterinarian for medical reasons which benefit the animal.
Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal by a breeder?	–	The Minister of Rural Development Food to regulate matters relating to Committees improper methods of euthanasia, the operating conditions of mobile facilities to carry out veterinary, veterinary instruments, to stray pets, and any other relevant matter.

TRANSPORT, TRAVEL, SELL OF CATS (TRADE)

Is withholding of food and/or water from the animal(s) during a long transport punishable?	Law 1197/81. Art. 1 para.3 and Art. 8	In addition to the Article quoted , the Presidential Decree 334/1997 has been issued for the alignment of the approximation of the Greek law with the Community Directives and Regulations. It must be noted that unfortunately in most cases neither the Greek nor the Community Law is implemented in practice and the state has failed to take appropriate action to ensure compliance by private citizens, primarily by traders and carriers.
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Must a companion animal be quarantined upon arriving in your country?	–	No.
Is it allowed to sell dogs/cats at a pet shop?	–	Not known.
Is there a ban on markets, shows, exhibitions or other events where one can buy an animal?	–	No. There are only restrictions as to the issue of operation permits and animal welfare conditions
Is there an age-limit for children to buy an animal?	Law 3170/2003 Art.7 para.4	The adoption by persons below the age of 16 is prohibited save with the consent of the persons exercising the parental care
KEEPING AND LIMITS OF KEEPING		
Does the law proscribe the minimum care obligations for animals at keepers?	Art.1 para.1 of L.1197/81	1. Companion, working and farm-bred animals must be properly treated by their owners with due care and affection, through: a) Provision of proper and adequate food and water, depending on their species; b) Provision of comfortable and healthy accommodation, adjusted to their natural living conditions.
Is there a special regulation which rules keeping of companion animals?	L. 3170/2003 Art.5 in conj. With Art.2	Yes.
May a landlord forbid a renter to keep an animal?	–	Not known.
May neighbours file complain against an owner, e. g. if he/she does not inhibit his/her animal from (ceaseless) noises?	Law 3170, Articles 974- 998 and 1003 of the Civil Code. Moreover, Art. 57 C.C on the pro- tection of personality.	Yes they can . Also when neighbors are disturbed by a privately owned dog they can assert violation of their property and seek injunction, on the basis of the Civil Code Regulations referring to property possession and ownership within a neighborhood and demand restoration of such violation or claim damages. Indemnification may be claimed also on the basis of the Civil Code regulations on the violation of personality.

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Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal by a private person?	–	The Minister of Rural Development Food to regulate matters relating to Committees improper methods of euthanasia, the operating conditions of mobile facilities to carry out veterinary, veterinary instruments, to stray pets, and any other relevant matter.
KILLING		
Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal (also to get products of animal origin, e. g. for animal testing purposes or food supply)?	–	The Minister of Rural Development Food to regulate matters relating to Committees improper methods of euthanasia, the operating conditions of mobile facilities to carry out veterinary, veterinary instruments, to stray pets, and any other relevant matter.
Can animals be kept in shelters indefinitely? If not, is there specific time frame (for a vet) to kill an animal kept in a shelter?	Law 3170/2003 Art.7 para.3(a) and 4	The law does not provide for a time frame in respect of the euthanasia of sheltered animals
ABUSE OF ANIMALS		
Does the law address cruelty to animals? If so, does it provide for sanctions?	LAW 1197/1981 AND LAW 3170/2003	The articles of both laws cited above specify explicitly the cases where causing pain to animals is permitted (animal testing) under certain conditions or euthanasia is permitted, while the applicable sanctions are provided for in Article 12 which amends Article 8 of L. 1197/81
Is sexual abuse of animals punishable?	Art. 16 b	Yes.
Is maltreatment and/or suffering of animals perceived as a criminal offense? If so, what sanctions are foreseen?	–	Animal maltreatment is a criminal offense and brings the sanction of imprisonment pursuant to Art. 12 of L. 3170/2003

UN-OWEND ANIMALS, SHELTERS, ABANDONED ANIMALS

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Are there regulations on lost/found animals?	Ministerial decision 280239/2003 Art. 5 paras. 1 ,2,3.	The law remains inapplicable BECAUSE THERE ARE NO municipal shelters and/OR duly trained personnel,DUE TO THE reluctance of the competent authorities. Moreover, the authority competent to impose fines both in these cases and in those provided for in the relevant laws, has not yet been established.
Who is owner of an abandoned animal?	Ministerial decision 280239/2003 Art. 5 para.4	The owner of an abandoned animal is considered to be the person registered in the database of the Pan-Hellenic veterinary association. If the owner SIGNS a statement that he/she no longer wishes to keep the animal, then the animal is no longer owned .
May a private person establish an animal shelter?	–	Although this is not explicitly prohibited under the law, the answer is no given that stray animals fall within the ambit of Municipal Authorities and animal welfare associations.
Can animals be kept in shelters indefinitely? If not, is there specific time frame (for a vet) to kill an animal kept in a shelter?	Law 3170/2003 Art.7 para.3(a) and 4	The law does not provide for a time frame in respect of the euthanasia of sheltered animals
Is local community financing activities of collecting of abandoned and lost animals?	–	This obligation is presumed from the fact that the Municipalities are responsible for the collection of stray animals
Must a finder of a stray and/or abandoned animal report the finding to a competent authority?	Ministerial decision 280239/2003 Art. 3 para.2(b), Art. 5 para.3	The owners of stray animals which are integrated in the environment are liable to notify the Municipal authorities where the animals are registered and to have the animals tagged within 20 days, in accordance with the regulations on privately owned animals. Art. 5 para.3 Whenever tagged animals are lost or found, the competent registration authority and the shelter accommodating the animals must be mutually notified.

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Are there possibilities to adopt an abandoned animal?	Ministerial decision 280239/2003 Art. 3	1. The implementation of adoption programs is assigned to the Municipal Authorities, which inform their citizens in every reasonable method. Animal welfare associations can also contribute to the attainment of this objective.2. a) Every new owner who adopts a stray dog from a shelter or an animal welfare association must sign a solemn protestation of L. 1599/1986, stating that they collect the animal, the obligation to comply with the requirements of Article 2 para. 1(a) and that they are aware of the sanctions of article 12.The owners are liable to have the animals tagged and registered in accordance with the regulations applicable to owned animals, before collecting the animals from the shelter. b) Whenever a stray animal which is integrated in the environment is adopted, the owner is liable to notify the Municipality where the animal is registered and to have the animal tagged within 20 days, in accordance with the regulations applicable to owned animals.
Are there legal or administrative measures which provide birth control of stray animals?	–	Only for dogs.
VETERINARIANS		
Is negligence (of a vet or a veterinary assistant) punishable?	–	On a case-by-case basis, if it is identified that a veterinarian’s action or omission has caused torture or discomfort to an animal, then the owner can claim material and moral damages under the Civil Code provisions on tort. In this event the owner can press charges after filing a criminal complaint for violation of the European laws on animal protection.
Does the law provide for limitations on animals mutilations? (e. g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalization, declawing, obligation to use anaesthesia.)	Law 2017/1992 Art.10	All surgical operations intended to alter the appearance of a companion animal or effected for non-medical reasons must be prohibited, and primarily: a) tail docking, b) ear cropping, c) devocalization, d) teeth removal and declawing. No exceptions should be permitted, unless this is considered essential by a veterinarian for medical reasons which benefit the animal.
Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal by a veterinarian?	–	The Minister of Rural Development Food to regulate matters relating to Committees improper methods of euthanasia, the operating conditions of mobile facilities to carry out veterinary, veterinary instruments, to stray pets, and any other relevant matter.

POLICY OF BIRTH CONTROL FOR OWNED AND UN-OWNED ANIMALS

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Are there legal or administrative measures which provide birth control of animals?	–	Only for dogs.
IV. ENFORCEMENT		
List of case studies and / or relevant court decisions.	–	Not known.
V. PRACTICAL INFORMATION		
List of veterinary organisations in your country.	–	Pan-Hellenic Veterinary Association
List of animal welfare organisations in your country.	–	Voice of the Cats Alliance

(29th May 2013)