



# *Ministero della Salute*

DIPARTIMENTO DELLA SANITA' PUBBLICA VETERINARIA, DELLA SICUREZZA ALIMENTARE E DEGLI ORGANI  
COLLEGIALI PER LA TUTELA DELLA SALUTE  
UNITA' OPERATIVA PER LA TUTELA DEGLI ANIMALI

## THE PROTECTION OF CATS UNDER ITALIAN LAW AND THE POPULATION MANAGEMENT

Bruxelles 10 Aprile 2014

Dott.ssa Matassa Rosalba

# PROTECTION OF ANIMAL WELFARE

- Modern society's moral need
- One of the European Union's political benchmark

# Protection of companion animals in Italy: Current legislation

- **Law n. 281 of August 14, 1991** “Framework Law for pet animals and the prevention of stray dog populations”
- **February 6, 2003 Accord** between the Ministry of Health, the Regions and autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano regarding companion animals and pet therapy recognized with Presidential Decree of February 28, 2003
- **Law n. 189 of July 20th 2004:** provisions concerning the prohibition of cruelty to animals, as well as their use in illegal fighting or in unauthorized competitions
- **Law n. 201 of November 4 2010:** ratification and implementation of the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, done at Strasbourg on November 13, 1987
- **January 24, 2013 Accord** between the Government, the Regions and autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano and Municipalities regarding the identification and registration of companion animals

# Law n. 281 of August 14, 1991



## Innovations introduced:

- Killing stray dogs and **cats** is prohibited unless the animal is affected by an incurable disease or is a proven danger and can be performed only by a veterinarian; it is forbidden to use stray dogs or cats for scientific purposes
- The canine registry is instituted at a local level and all dogs must be identified with a tattoo
- Stray cat and dog population control must be enacted

# February 6, 2003 Accord regarding companion animal welfare and pet therapy

Defines the companion animals and the obligations of animal owners (Art 1, 2)

- Pet animal is an animal kept by man not for commercial or productive purposes, included dogs used for the pet therapy, the activities with disabled people and the advertising.
- A breeding of dogs and cats is an economic activity that provides for the detention of 5 or more litters and 30 puppies in one year.
- The trade of pets includes the sale of animals, the dogs training and the grooming activity.

# February 6, 2003 Accord regarding companion animal welfare and pet therapy

## The duties of pet animals owners (Art. 2)

- provide food and water in adequate quantities
- assure the health care
- give the possibility to perform physical activity
- prevent the escape of animals
- keep clean the spaces where animals live

# February 6, 2003 Accord regarding companion animal welfare and pet therapy

- establishes that after January 1 2005 only transponders must be used for canine identification;
- establishes a computerized canine registry at a regional and national level;
- provides that the companion animal registry is mandatory for all dogs and voluntary for cats and ferrets

**Identification and Registration of cats and ferrets is mandatory for the European passport**



# Law n. 189 of July 20, 2004

*Provisions concerning the prohibition of cruelty to animals, as well as their use in illegal fighting or in unauthorized competitions*

Modification of the **Italian Criminal Code**: introduction of Title IX-Bis – “**Crimes against the feeling for animals**”; it is a **crime** to kill or mistreat animals, use them in **shows or banned events**; **fights among animals are also banned** (articles from 544 bis to 544 quinquies)

Renders permanent the ban on the marketing of leather and fur of cat and dog origin (already banned by previous Ordinances)

**Italy – first country to determine a national ban follow by some other M.S.**  **Regulation (EC) n. 1523/07**



# **Law n. 201 of November 4 2010**

## **ratification and implementation of the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals**

Other than completely enforce in national legislation, the Convention introduces certain modifications to the Italian Criminal Code

In particular, it introduces **illicit trafficking of dogs and cats** providing harsher penalties to whoever illegally introduces puppies under three months of age and are not identified and lacking a sanitary certificate

## **January 24, 2013 Accord between the Government, the Regions and autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano and Municipalities regarding the identification and registration of companion animals**

Today the identification and the registration of cats is mandatory in some cases:

- The cats are object of a commercial activity
- The feline colonies when they are caught and sterilized
- For the release of European passport

It is banned the sale of cats under 2 months of age to safeguard animal welfare. Producers and distributors of transponders must be registered with the Health Ministry.



*Grazie per l'attenzione*

**CONTATTI**

e-mail: [tutela.animale@sanita.it](mailto:tutela.animale@sanita.it)