

dated on 13/04/2012 №7701/08/10-12

**MEP and Vice-President  
of the Animal Welfare Intergroup  
Andrea ZANONI**

**Vice-President of the  
European Parliament  
Gianni PITTELLA**

**Vice-President of the  
European Parliament  
Roberta ANGELILLI**

**Dear Mr. Andrea!  
Dear Mr. Gianni!  
Dear Mrs. Roberta!**

Upon the instructions given by the Government of Ukraine, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine considered your letter to President of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Viktor Yanukovych and Prime-Minister of Ukraine H.E. Mr. Mykola Azarov concerning non-admission of cruel treatment of stray animals in Ukraine.

Let us inform that in the year 2006 the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine adopted the Law 'On protection of animals against cruel treatment', by which established were basic principles and requirements concerning human treatment of animals that correspond to the European norms in this sphere. Over the years after this Law was adopted and under complicated conditions created by the financial and economic crisis, Ukraine has been trying to exert consistent and systemic efforts aimed at further improvement of a respective legislation on the one hand and at the establishment of activity directed at regulating the population of stray animals through human methods and allocation of necessary financial and material and technical resources – on the other hand.

In addition, Ukraine intends to ratify the European Convention for the Protection of Domestic Animals, which has been signed by our country on 5 July 2011. Upon the European convention on the protection of domestic animals is in force, the modern legal standards will be introduced in the sphere of protection of animals against cruel treatment. The implementation of the above mentioned Convention in Ukraine will allow for approximation of the national legislation to the legislation of the member-states of the Council of Europe and assure the readiness of Ukraine to respecting the European standards in the issues of treatment of domestic animals.

Also, Ukraine has initiated the implementation of projects on construction of modern shelters for animals in the most populated communities, in the first place in the cities hosting the matches of the final of 2012 European Football Championship.

It is expected that the construction of the shelters will allow for lowering the population of stray animals in communities and provide the animals with appropriate treatment conditions. The project of construction of such facilities per European sample will be carried out jointly with local authorities and civil ecologic organisations. The Ministry of Ecology of Ukraine addressed to the regional state administrations and local councils with its request to assign a land for construction of the shelters for dogs and expressed its readiness to possible joint financing of construction works.

The situation will greatly improve in connection with the decision taken by the Government of Ukraine, which referred the works on construction and equipment of shelters for stray animals to the nature-conservative measures. It makes possible the use of the state and local funds of protection of natural environment as of a source for financing construction of the shelters.

As from 2012, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources has implemented a number of important practical measures aimed at resolving the issue of stray animals through human methods according to the legislation in force.

In March this year, under my chairmanship, a session of an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the development of regulatory and legal framework aimed at implementing the Law of Ukraine 'On protection of animals against cruel treatment' was carried out. This Working Group took a number of decisions related to guaranteeing a conceptual resolution of problematic issues and to introducing practical measures aimed at saving stray animals.

In addition, special equipment has recently arrived in Ukraine from Austria in the framework of the implementation of the Memorandum between the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and the International Charity Organization 'Vier Pfoten International', which was signed on 3 February 2012 upon the initiative of the Ministry. This Memorandum envisages the implementation of a joint program of edification and sterilization of stray animals in Kyiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv and Lviv, as well as the provision of mobile clinics for stray animals. This project will be carried out under the assistance of the Embassy of Austria to Ukraine.

In total, transferred were 11 cars meant for providing aid for animals. In particular, 3 mobile clinics for vaccination and sterilization of dogs, 1 mobile laboratory for medical aid and transportation of bears, as well as 7 cars for transportation of animals.

This special equipment will be located in the cities hosting EURO-2012 Football Championship but actually will be used all over the territory of Ukraine.

In the framework on the implementation of the above mentioned Memorandum, the arrival of 120 experts from 11 countries of the World is expected, who together with Ukrainian veterinary will be carrying out the sterilization and vaccination of stray animals and provide them with necessary veterinary assistance.

Taking the mentioned above into consideration, I believe that the measures, which are applied by Ukraine in order to resolve the issue of stray animals are fully civilized and correspond to the Law of Ukraine 'On protection of animals against cruel treatment' and the European Convention for the Protection of Domestic Animals.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine avails itself of this opportunity and renew to the European Parliament the assurances of its highest consideration and expresses its sincere gratitude for sympathy to the fate of stray animals in Ukraine.

**Minister**

**Mykola Zlochevskyi**