

# Tierärztliche Vereinigung für Tierschutz e.V. Vorstand



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- **Request for support of the FVE against the uncontrolled breeding and for the welfare of dogs in Romania.**

Dear colleagues of the FVE Board

The Veterinary Association for Animal Welfare (TVT)) is a well-established and recognized, officially registered association of veterinarians in Germany that works scientifically on many aspects of animal welfare.

For many years, the TVT has been following with concern the effects of the uncontrolled reproduction of dogs in some European countries. The extensive import of surplus dogs from these countries also leads to considerable animal welfare problems in Germany.

In an open letter<sup>1</sup> to the President of Romania, President Klaus Iohannis, Prime Minister Nicolae Ciucă, People's Advocate Renate Weber, ANSVSA (National Veterinary Authority) director Alexandru Bociu and the Minister of Internal Affairs Lucian Bode numerous animal welfare organizations in the country have called on the responsible authorities to financially support measures against the uncontrolled reproduction of dogs. Especially, the programme "Neuter and Return" and the identification of castrated dogs by microchip should be promoted.

The uncontrolled breeding of stray privately owned dogs, as well as of street dogs, leads to large populations of free-roaming canids in Romania. State legislation allows and encourages the capture of both stray privately owned and street dogs. There is ample evidence of highly cruel placements

<sup>1</sup> <https://mailchi.mp/434d33d522b8/scrisoare-deschis-ctre-peedinte-prim-ministru-avocatul-poporului-ansvsa-mai?e>

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of these dogs in overcrowded shelters. Large numbers of dogs are regularly euthanised with the assistance of veterinarians, which is permitted under Romanian law (GEO 155/2001).

On the other hand, it is forbidden to release the dogs back into their original habitat after they have been captured and surgically castrated, which hampers the programme “Neuter and Return” that has proven its efficacy in other countries.

This is a major reason why hundreds of Romanian dogs are brought to North-Western Europe by animal welfare organisations in a constant flow. In part, this results in new animal welfare problems and endangerments to the public, as these dogs are not socialised and habituated for a life as a family dog.

The attempts to mitigate the problem as practised for years in Romania have not been successful in permanently reducing the dog population. Regrettable dog attacks in the recent past could not be prevented either.

Veterinarians in Europe are committed to animal welfare!

Therefore, the TVT demands:

- The FVE may approach the Romanian veterinarians and their associations with the request to support the above-mentioned open letter.
- The FVE should write a letter to the Romanian authorities to make clear that the current practice of killing surplus dogs is ethically unacceptable and does not achieve the desired success.
- The FVE should make it clear to the Romanian authorities that every year thousands of Romanian dogs are exported to other EU member states in order to save them from being killed. This export often leads to problems with the dogs concerned and often also to risks to the public order.
- The FVE should adopt a resolution in which the European veterinary profession clearly positions itself in favour of scientifically sound and animal welfare-friendly measures to prevent uncontrolled breeding of dogs, e.g. the programme “Neuter and Return” combined with microchip identification of the neutered dogs.
- The FVE should ask the Romanian veterinary schools and associations to support the practical veterinarians by offering further education and training in canine surgery. At the same time, the FVE would like to express its support, if this is desired and necessary.

Dr. Andreas Franzky