



Minister of Internal Affairs
Cătălin Marian Predoiu
President of ANSVSA
Dr. Alexandru Bociu

Copy:
Prefect of Vrancea (Suraia)
Marius–Eusebiu Iorga
Mayor of Bârlad
Dumitru Boroş
Mayor of Suraia
Maria Stroe

Brussels, 3 March 2026

RE: Systemic crisis in Romania's stray dog population management

Dear Honorable Minister Predoiu and Dr Bociu

As the highest national authority on the matter, I am contacting you on behalf of the [European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals](#) to draw your urgent attention to a deeply distressing situation unfolding in your country, that presents serious animal welfare, ethical, and public health concerns.

Recent investigations and petitions to the European Parliament (No 1197/2025 & No 1855/2025) reveal a systemic crisis in Romania's stray dog population management, characterised by severe animal welfare violations and potential misuse of public funds.

In facilities like the Suraia, Vrancea County and Bârlad shelters, evidence has emerged of "*kill for profit*" models where private contractors operate under hundreds of municipal contracts. Under the cover of these taxpayer-funded agreements, approximately 64 000 dogs have been euthanised nationwide in just three years, with the Suraia facility alone accounting for 15 000 of these deaths.

A critical misalignment exists between Romania's animal welfare commitments and the application of the fourteen day euthanasia ordinance which enables the large-scale culling of healthy animals. This situation appears to be further complicated by a documented failure in the oversight process, where routine inspections have failed to detect significant regulatory breaches.

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It is essential to note that scientific consensus, supported by the **World Health Organisation** ([Chapter 7.7 on Dog Population Management](#)), clearly establishes that mass culling of dogs, which the available evidence suggests seems to be the case, is ineffective in controlling population size as stated also by the **International Companion Animal Coalition (ICAM)**.

Decades of global experience demonstrate that the only sustainable solutions are programmes that focus on sterilisation, vaccination, identification, and public education on responsible pet ownership and abandonment prevention as also stated by [the Dog and Cat population management policy guidance](#) endorsed by this European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals.

Furthermore, we wish to underscore the significance of the pending EU [Regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability](#), currently progressing through the legislative process and anticipated for publication this year which will help prevent the systemic failures currently observed in your country's facilities.

As a matter of urgent priority, evidenced by significant social unrest witnessed in late February, Romanian authorities should adopt a coherent legal framework for dog population management. This framework should mandate the implementation of comprehensive TNVR (*Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return*) programs to address the biological root causes of population growth, replacing the current cycle of reactive culling with a sustainable, evidence-based strategy that has proven effective in stabilizing stray populations long term.

We raise these concerns in a spirit of cooperation and remain at your disposal to discuss them further, answer any questions, or explore ways we can work together to address this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Niels Fuglsang MEP

President Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

Sebastian Everding MEP

Vice-President Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals