

Companion Animal Responsible Ownership Cat Agnès Dufau

CAROCat is a project to promote Cats responsible ownership and humane management of community cats in the EU. It is a knowledge management tool to share experience, best practices and guidelines with all stakeholders (NGOs; Veterinarians; Public Officers; Medias). It aims to provide scientific based information and data for all target groups (administrations; politicians; NGOs, citizens).

The project was launched in January 2013. Vier Pfoten European Policy Office (EPO) in Brussels and the Istituto „G.Caporale“ Terramo are the initiators of CAROCat. The project partners are the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE); the EU Commission (DG SANCO, G3 Animal Welfare Unit); and the ABCD (European Advisory Board on Feline Diseases).

CAROCat was launched to fulfill the need to promote responsible ownership at EU level. Cats are the n° 1 Companion Animals in the EU (66.5 M owned cats - 2012 FEDIAF). But cats are often seen as “Easy to care for”; “low maintenance pet”; “convenient pets”; “ideal companions for urban environment” and this has consequences on cats ownership and thus on cats suffering: less identification and registration than; less birth control and less healthcare follow-up; cats are more allowed to roam freely than dogs; lack of knowledge on cats behavior (*they are not small dogs!*) cause of abandonments.

The current feline overpopulation crisis is now a focus of public concern: animal welfare concerns and community concerns. CAROCat solution strategy to control feline overpopulation at EU level is based on the promotion of responsible ownership (identification and registration; veterinary attention; education and training) and the humane management of community cats (CNR no-kill method; active colony management; improving shelters management procedures).

The CAROCat TOOLS are a website (www.carocat.eu) and social Media (Facebook; Twitter; LinkedIn); flyers and events. CAROCat is participative and dynamic and we would like you to provide us with any data or information that could be of interest (info@carocat.eu). Please visit the website, Facebook and Twitter and share with you contacts.