



WSAVA Webinar: The Illegal Online Puppy Trade in Europe: Problems and Solutions

Tuesday May 25 11.00 am-12.30 pm GMT

With thousands of companion animals being sold illegally across Europe, offering high profit at low risk for criminal networks, the [World Small Animal Veterinary Association's](#) (WSAVA's) Animal Wellness and Welfare Committee (AWWC) is to host a free webinar to update veterinary professionals in Europe on the online puppy trade. The webinar will also discuss the importance of new legislation introduced in the EU in April as part of the effort to stop the illegal trade and make pet sellers traceable and accountable.

The webinar will be led by Dr Katherine Polak, member of the WSAVA Animal Wellness and Welfare Committee (AWWC) and Head of Stray Animal Care – Southeast Asia for FOUR PAWS International, a global animal welfare organization. Other speakers include Dr Ann Criel, board member of the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations, and Joanna Randall, International Head of Campaigns - Companion Animals, FOUR PAWS. The webinar will be moderated by Dr Natasha Lee, Chair of the AWWC and will include a live Q&A.

Dr Polak explained: "The illegal puppy trade is one of the most serious companion animal welfare issues in Europe and combatting it effectively requires collaboration between a range of stakeholders, including governments, online marketplaces, animal welfare groups, owners and, of course, veterinarians. In April 2021, the new EU Animal Health Law came into effect so we will also highlight the new possibilities it brings, present a new technical solution for blocking illegal puppy dealers from accessing the

online marketplace, and discuss the important role veterinarians can play in ending the illegal online puppy trade.”

Dr Natasha Lee, WSAVA AWWC Chair, added: “Veterinary professionals regularly have to deal with the repercussions of illicit breeding and trading when presented with clinically ill and sometimes dying puppies and distraught owners. Our webinar will equip veterinarians in Europe with the knowledge to play their part in upholding the new legislation and to contribute to new solutions for regulating the online puppy trade. We are keen to hear feedback and hope for lots of questions so that we can work together to stop this appalling and illegal trade.”

Find out more about the webinar: <https://wsava.org/news/events/wsava-webinar-puppy-trade/>

View the webinar: <https://youtu.be/anslY-WKhAs>

Notes to editors:

The WSAVA’s Animal Wellness and Welfare Committee promotes advances in animal welfare and wellness around the world through the provision of enhanced veterinary care. Its work is generously supported by the Purina Institute, a Diamond Partner of the WSAVA. The WSAVA represents more than 200,000 veterinarians worldwide through its 115 member associations and works to enhance standards of clinical care for companion animals. Its core activities include the development of WSAVA Global Guidelines in key areas of veterinary practice, including pain management, nutrition and vaccination, together with lobbying on important issues affecting companion animal care worldwide.

For further information, please contact:

Rebecca George, George PR

Tel: 01449 737281/07974 161108/ email: rebecca@georgepr.com