



ENFORCEMENT OF EUROPEAN ANIMAL WELFARE RELATED LEGISLATION



12-13 June 2012
Brussels



PROFILES

Silvia D'Albenzio

Senior Training Manager, Istituto G. Caporale – Teramo, Italy



Having worked for 20 years in the Human Resources Management sector – both for public authorities and private companies – Silvia D'Albenzio joined the Istituto G. Caporale about 5 years ago.

She has acquired strong experience in team building and team management, research on training needs, skills balance and vocational guidance, and planning and management of research and training pilot projects focused on traditional and e-learning methods. She is also well experienced in the implementation, organisation and management of national and transnational partnerships, in teaching through traditional and innovative e-learning tools, in organising press conferences, congresses and workshops at national and European levels, and also participating in them as a speaker.

Since 2007 Silvia has been the planner and event manager of DG SANCO training courses on animal welfare issues (transport, stunning and killing in slaughterhouses, killing for disease control, farming of pigs, farming of laying hens and broiler chickens).

Since 2011 she has been leading, in parallel, all the project phases concerning international e-learning activities on animal welfare, such as: “Renovating and promoting high quality control posts in the EU” – , and modules for e-learning training courses under the “Better Training for Safer Food” initiative.

She is also coordinating the information and dissemination strategy based on learning communities, as foreseen by the project “Development of EU wide animal transport certification system and renovation of control posts in the European Union”, financed by DG SANCO.

Dr. iur. Gieri Bolliger

Director and Attorney at Law, Stiftung für das Tier im Recht (TIR) – Foundation for the Animal in the Law, Switzerland



Since 2000 Gieri Bolliger has worked for the Foundation for the Animal in the Law (Stiftung für das Tier im Recht, TIR, www.tierimrecht.org) in Zurich – a Swiss animal welfare organisation which focuses on legal and ethical aspects – first as a Research Associate, and since 2007 as Executive Director.

He is a Doctor of Law and an attorney at law. He finished his studies at the University of Zurich in 1994 and received his PhD in 2000 with his “summa cum laude”-awarded thesis on European Animal Welfare Law (“Europäisches Tierschutzrecht – Tierschutzbestimmungen des Europarats und der Europäischen Union”).

He gained admission to the Zurich bar in 2003. Since 2005 he has held a teaching assignment on animal welfare law at the University of Zurich.

As an editor, author and co-author, Gieri Bolliger has published numerous books in the field of animal welfare law, amongst others “Das Tier im Recht – 99 Facetten zur Mensch-Tier-Beziehung von A bis Z” (2003), “Tier im Recht transparent” (2008), “Psychologische Aspekte zum Tier im Recht” (2011), “Schweizer Tierschutzstrafrecht in Theorie und Praxis” (2011) and “Sexualität mit Tieren (Zoophilie) – eine rechtliche Betrachtung” (2011). Furthermore, he has authored several studies and about 80 articles on Swiss and international animal welfare law.

Gieri Bolliger is a frequent speaker at congresses on issues of animal welfare law. From 1999 to 2009 he was a member and Animal Welfare Deputy of the Animal Experiment Committee of the canton of Zurich. Since 2011 he has been a member of the Committee of Animal Welfare of the canton of Zurich.

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Dr Birte Broberg

Senior Veterinary Officer, Danish Veterinary and Food Service, Denmark



Birte Broberg is a Senior Veterinary Officer at the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. She graduated in 1974 from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (now the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen). From 1974 to 1982 she was involved in the control and eradication of certain diseases.

She joined the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration in 1982, and until the mid-1990s her main areas of activity were import/export of live animals, transport of animals, and exotic diseases, including contingency planning. Since then she has particularly focused on animal welfare and to a lesser extent on zootechnical matters.

With regard to animal welfare, her main responsibilities are the preparation of national legislation, and enforcement and control of the legislation, including audits and arranging training courses. She has taken part in most negotiations on animal welfare legislation in the EU and the Council of Europe. From 1999 to 2006 she was Chair of the Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes. She has been a speaker at a number of training courses and workshops arranged by TAIEX concerning legislation on animal welfare, has been involved in twinning projects, and has participated as a national expert in FVO inspections in Member States with the aim of checking compliance with EU legislation on animal welfare.

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Carla Brown

Legislative Affairs Manager, Organisation, World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)



After years carrying out voluntary work and fundraising for animal welfare organisations in her spare time, Carla decided to leave the media world where she had previously worked and made the switch to work for an animal charity full-time. While working as an RSPCA Inspector in the area of law enforcement, she was able to see first-hand the impact of cruelty to animals, the need for proper education of the public with respect to animals' needs and the requirement for adequate legislation and enforcement. This has driven her passion to ensure that legislative safeguards exist in every country of the world and that they deliver suitable protection to all animals, regardless of species.

Carla works as Legislative Affairs Manager for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), based at their international office in the UK. Prior to this, she has worked in a variety of roles with animals both through voluntary and paid employment, and has extensive hands-on experience with wild, farmed and domestic animals. Her knowledge of animal welfare and understanding of animal needs help her to apply her legal knowledge in order to specialise in the development of animal protection legislation in countries around the world.

Dr Christophe Buhot

President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)



Christophe Buhot studied veterinary medicine in Toulouse, France, at the Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse, graduating in 1984 and publishing his thesis in 1986. He obtained a certificate of specialised studies in Ophthalmology in 1991.

Dr Buhot worked in a large animal practice in Ambazac (central France, near Limoges), in a mixed practice of three vets in Gaillac (south-west France, between Toulouse and Albi), in various canine practices in Arcachon (on the Atlantic coast) and in Bordeaux, during his studies and after his graduation.

He started his own mixed practice in 1987 in Castelnau de Médoc, near Bordeaux. This is now mainly a small animal practice with three assistants and three nurses.

Dr Buhot has been a Board Member and Treasurer of the SNVEL (Syndicat National des Vétérinaires d'Exercice Libéral), French association of practitioners, since 1998.

From 2001 to 2005 he was Secretary General of the UEVP (Union of European Veterinary Practitioners, a section of the FVE), and President of the organisation from 2005 to 2009.

From 2009 to 2011 he was Vice-President of the FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe). He is now President of the FVE.

Prof Dr Teresa Giménez-Candela

Full Professor on “Roman Law” Professor on “Animal Law. Comparative Law”



Teresa Giménez-Candela has an LL.B. and Ph.D. (Special Prize for Merit) in Law from the Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona. She completed her thesis in Roman studies and since 1985, she worked at the Leopold Wenger Institut (München) and was granted by the Humboldt Foundation. She also studied Latin Philology at the Universidad Literaria de Valencia and has a good command of principal scientific languages.

She is full Professor on Roman Law since 1986; since 1998, she has been called full Professor at the Faculty of Law, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, where she currently resides. Since 2007-2008 she also teaches at the Faculty of Law, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, “Animal Law. Comparative Law” (this course is given for the first time in a Spanish Faculty of Law) and “Global Law”. She is the Director of the Postgraduate Program: “Animals, Law and Society” which started the academic year 2010-2011. She is the Director of the Master in Animal Law and Society which starts in the academic year 2011-2012.

She is the Director of the Research Group ADS (Animales, Derecho y Sociedad). Is the founder and editor of the web page (www.derechoanimal.info), which includes the first database in Spain about animal legislation and case Law. She has been Visiting Professor in many Universities in Europe, Latin-America, Asia and the USA. She has given courses, seminars and lectures in Spanish and foreign Universities. She is a member of the many highly scientific and academic societies; she has held many academic positions and she was acting Judge at the "Tribunal Superior de Justicia de Cataluña".

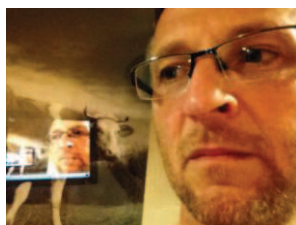
In her spare time she enjoys listening to opera, gardening and outdoor sports.

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Dr Terence Cassidy

Head of Sector (Animal Welfare), Food and Veterinary Office, European Commission



Dr Terence Cassidy gained a Bachelor's degree in Veterinary Medicine from University College Dublin in 1989. He gained a Master's degree (with distinction) in applied animal behaviour and animal welfare from the University of Edinburgh in 1997.

He has been carrying out audits on animal welfare controls since 1999 in his current post at the Food and Veterinary Office, and has been Head of Sector since 2002.

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Marijke De Jong

Senior policy adviser at Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals (Dierenbescherming),
The Netherlands



Marijke De Jong studied in the Wageningen Universiteit en Researchcentrum. After working for the Research Centre of the University of Wageningen, she currently works as senior policy adviser at the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals (Dierenbescherming).

She is managing the animal welfare label “beter leven”.

Privatly, she is a horse rider, trainer and instructor.

Dr Oscar Dignoes

Veterinary Officer, Animal Welfare Unit of the Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Environment, Spain



Dr Oscar Dignoes gained a Degree in Veterinary Medicine from the Universidad Complutense (Madrid, 1987) and a Bachelor in Law from UNED (Madrid, 2005).

He entered the Civil Service in 2007. He was initially appointed as Official Veterinary Inspector at the BIP (Border Inspection Post) in Alicante. Since April 2010 he has been assigned to the Animal Welfare Unit at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, which is responsible for elaborating national legislation at the central level, and for coordinating the implementation of legislation related to the welfare of production animals in the farm, during transport, the killing of animals not destined for human consumption, and also for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

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Helmut Dungler

CEO and President, VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS, Austria



Helmut Dungler worked for one year at the Red Cross, then he started to study veterinary medicine at the University of Vienna, worked for Greenpeace as a campaigner for the protection of species, and on the study “Animal suffering in our society” for the Ministry for Environmental Protection, Austria. He has a degree in “Psycho-social and socio-economic crisis and disaster management” at the UMIT University, Hall in Tirol.

In 1988 Helmut founded the animal welfare organisation VIER PFOTEN in Vienna. Six years later the first office in Germany was opened, and today the organisation has representations in 11 countries (9 European countries, South Africa and USA).

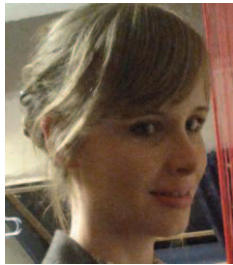
Helmut Dungler has been a member of the board of directors in the following organisations: “Öko-Büro”, the Austrian organisation for environment, nature and animal welfare (1994-1999); “Fundraising Manager Austria”, Vienna (1996-2001); “Kontrollstelle für artgemäße Tierhaltung”, Bruck/Mur, Austria (1996-2005).

He has been a member of the advisory board of the World Society for the Protection of Animals in London since 2005, and a member of the executive committee of Eurogroup for Animals in Brussels since 2007.

In 2008 Helmut Dungler received the “Order of Merit for services rendered to the Republic of Austria” from the Federal President of Austria in honour of his work.

Sophie Duthoit

EU Legal Research Officer VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS European Policy Office, Brussels



Sophie Duthoit is a European Legal Research Officer at the VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS European Policy Office (EPO) in Brussels.

With her legal background and her formal experience as a volunteer at shelters and animal welfare associations in France, Ms. Duthoit has specialised in covering animals under the European legal framework and free market policies.

After five years studying European law in Lille (France), Sophie Duthoit pursued her great interest in European law and animal welfare while working for one year in the VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS EPO in Brussels, firstly nine months as an intern and later as a full team member. During her last year of university studies and her internship in the EPO, she wrote a legal thesis in 2011 addressing the commercial and non-commercial movement of companion animals within the European Union.

Ms Duthoit is currently studying for the French Bar Council exam. She would like to become a Lawyer specialised in European animal welfare law.

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Noor Evertsen

Researcher and Consultant in animal law, Dier&Recht, the Netherlands



When Noor Evertsen was lecturing at the School for Library and Information Science in The Hague, animals kept crossing her path, and she decided to attend law school so she might help improve animals' lives by promoting better laws and better enforcement of those laws. For the first Dutch Professor of Animal Law, Dirk Boon, she co-developed a course on enforcement.

After that, she worked with Dier&Recht and for associated NGOs, preparing cases, doing research on constitutional law and (welfare and health) law for many different kinds of animals (e.g. wild animals in circuses, parrots, pigs, puppies and stray dogs) and contributing to the evaluation and critical analysis of national (draft) laws.

From 2005 to 2011 she was the Editor-in-Chief of the Dutch online journal ROAR (Review of Animal Rights: case law and literature) and now she is one of the editors of an online database offering current awareness on animal welfare policy, legal developments and case law (national and EU) and one of the editors of and regular contributors to the bimonthly journal Dier & Milieu (Animals and the Environment), which is read by enforcement professionals.

Animals she has worked for in various volunteer jobs include badgers, bison (those living in Yellowstone National Park), monkeys and porcupines.

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Dr Andrea Gavinelli

Head of Animal Welfare Unit, European Commission, Directorate - General Health and Consumers, Belgium



Dr Gavinelli is a veterinarian and has been a policy official at the European Commission since 1999. He is currently in charge of the Animal Welfare Unit in the Health and Consumers Directorate General of the Commission.

Since 2001 he has been an active member of the “Working Group on Animal Welfare” of the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), and he is a member of specific working groups at the international level with EU trading partners. Mr Gavinelli is a member of the editorial board of the “FAO Gateway to Farm Animal Welfare”.

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Alexandra Hammond-Seaman

Senior Programme Manager (Europe), The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)



Alexandra was born in Croatia. She completed her secondary education and studied Literature at the University of Zagreb. She has been in the UK since 1993, and graduated from UCL (University College London) with a social science degree in Central and East European history, languages and regional studies.

Prior to joining the RSPCA, Alexandra worked for the Local Government International Bureau (LGIB) in the UK, managing the Know-How Fund in the Balkans, which was largely intended for developing the efficiency and strength of local government institutions.

Alexandra joined the RSPCA in 2001. She was brought in as a regional expert to develop the RSPCA's international work in Europe, primarily in the CEE countries heading for EU accession. In her eleven years with the organisation, Alexandra has driven the RSPCA's strategy in Europe and has developed and managed a number of animal welfare projects across Europe: in Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, and others.

In 2008 she initiated the development of a regional veterinary forum for AW in the Balkans. The Western Balkans Veterinary Network (WBVN) is a unique platform for the advancement of animal welfare through research, education and professional training, and its members are currently participating in a number of regional and European projects. The programme of work developed in the framework of the WBVN is primarily focused on strengthening the enforcement mechanisms in the candidate and potential candidate countries. Over the last couple of years Alexandra has developed a programme of work in Turkey concentrating on the implementation of the EU legal framework.

In 2011 Alexandra was invited as an expert to the FAO expert meeting on Dog Population Management.

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She is currently working on setting up an animal welfare agency in Croatia, in collaboration with the Croatian government, which would provide support to the countries in the region and collaborate with the existing European platforms, including the Coordinated Network of AW reference centres.

Alexandra is fluent in several Slavonic languages in addition to English.

Dr Mark Jones

Executive Director, Humane Society International, United Kingdom

After qualifying as a veterinarian at the University of Liverpool in 1985, Mark spent three years in companion animal practice, before gaining a Master's degree in Aquatic Animal Health and working for 15 years in association with Scotland's fisheries and aquaculture industries.

In 2003 Mark headed overseas with his wife Melanie, and spent several years travelling and working in wild animal rescue and rehabilitation centres in South America and Southeast Asia, before returning to the UK in 2007 to complete his Master's degree in Wild Animal Health at the Institute of Zoology in London.

Most recently, Mark held senior management positions at animal welfare NGOs based in Hong Kong and the UK.

Mark brings with him a passion for the welfare of all animals, along with extensive experience in wild and aquatic animal health and conservation. He also has a keen interest in bringing animal welfare issues to the forefront of the political agenda. His primary focus is to help develop the profile of Humane Society International (HSI) in the UK and beyond, and to extend the organisation's work with wildlife and the rapidly expanding aquaculture sector.

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Dr Christoph Maisack

President, German Juridical Association for Animal Welfare Law (DJGT), Vice Commissioner for Animal Welfare of the State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Upon finishing the Law and Economy Studies in 1987, Dr Christoph Maisack started his judicial service at the State of Baden-Württemberg. He worked as administrative law judge and as a prosecutor. From 1993 until 31 March 2012 he was civil and family court judge at the County Court in Bad Säckingen and at the Higher Regional Court in Freiburg. Since 1 April 2012 he is acting as a Vice Commissionaire for Animal Welfare in the Ministry of Rural Affairs, Food and Consumer Protection Baden-Wuerttemberg.

For many years, Dr Maisack has been engaged in animal welfare law. He received his doctorate from Universität Hamburg, Germany. With two other authors, Dr Maisack wrote a legal commentary on the German Animal Welfare Law ("Hirt/Maisack/Moritz, Animal Welfare Law") published in 2003. The second edition was published in 2007.

Dr Maisack is president of the German animal welfare association „Deutsche Juristische Gesellschaft für Tierschutzrecht e. V.“ (DJGT). He is also board member of „Internationale Gesellschaft für Nutztierhaltung“ (IGN).

Prof Dr Jean-Pierre Marguénaud

Law Professor, Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Économiques de Limoges, OMIJ



Jean-Pierre Marguénaud is a Law Professor, currently working for the Law University of Limoges, France, in the Observatory of Institutional and Legal Change (OMIJ). He specialises in human rights, and especially in the European Convention on Human Rights.

Personally interested in animal welfare, in 2009 he created a Biannual Review on Animal Law, with other colleagues. This legal review, called “RSDA” (“Revue Semestrielle de Droit Animalier”), aims to provide an overview of all new legislation and Court decisions in public, private, European or international law, related to animal welfare.

Jean-Pierre Marguénaud has been recognised for his knowledge and experience in the animal welfare field. He was even consulted in 2005 for an official Report to the French National Assembly about the legal status of companion animals.

In addition to his participation in several animal welfare conferences, and his contribution to many legal articles, Mr Marguénaud has inter alia edited a book about animals and European Law (2009), and in 2011 he wrote a book about animals used for experiments.

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Dr Madeleine Martin

Commissioner of Animal Welfare in Hessen, Germany

The Hesse Ministry for the Environment, Energy, Agriculture and Consumer Protection



Dr Madeleine Martin is a veterinarian by profession. She has worked for years in various animal hospitals and clinics in Germany and the USA, and also as a state veterinarian in the Federal State of Rhineland Palatinate, Germany.

Since the end of 1992 she has been Commissioner for Animal Welfare in the Federal State of Hesse, Germany. In addition, from 2007 to 2008 she worked at the EU-Representation of Hesse in Brussels.

Marcus Müller

Campaign Coordinator live-plucking/foie gras, FOUR PAWS International/Farmwatch

Marcus Müller is an investigative journalist working for German and international media, specialising in animal welfare and environmental issues.

He was Campaign Coordinator for the FOUR PAWS rabbit farming campaign between 2006 and 2010, and for the last six years has been Campaign Coordinator for FOUR PAWS International on live feather-plucking and foie gras production.

He coordinates the “positive list” programme of FOUR PAWS International (a programme for farms without live feather-plucking and force-feeding), and is head of Farmwatch, an investigation, documentation and research group on animal farming.

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Jost-Dietrich Ort

Senior Prosecutor, retired, German Juridical Society for Animal Welfare Law (DJGT)



Jost-Dietrich Ort is Deputy President of the German Juridical Society for Animal Welfare Law. He was co-author of the Commentary of Hans-Georg Kluge and Others on the German Animal Welfare Law (2002).

As a Senior District Attorney for over 25 years he has been a case worker and Chief of Department for criminal cases pursuant to the “Protection of Animals Act” at the Public Prosecutor’s office in Hanau, Germany.

Gabriel Paun

Director of Campaigns, VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS International



Gabriel Paun concluded high school (biology-chemistry profile) with a degree in 1996. After that, he studied Biology and Ecology at the University of Bucharest, and obtained his diploma in 2001, and gained in 2009 a Master in Ecotourism. He worked for Greenpeace and Agent Green as a campaigner for the protection of forests and wild animals, and against GMOs. He obtained a national ban on the cultivation of GM soy and stopped the cultivation of GM maize. He also stopped the construction of a modern national road in the Retezat mountains, Europe's last Intact Forest Landscape.

Gabriel joined FOUR PAWS as a campaigner on farm animals in the Romanian branch of the organisation in 2009, and managed to create a dynamic change of the market in the laying hens sector. In January 2011 he was appointed Head of the Competence Centre for Farm Animals and Nutrition at FOUR PAWS International. One year later he became the International Director of Campaigns.

Since 2009 he has been a board member of GENET (European NGO Network on Genetic Engineering).

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Adolfo Sansolini

Journalist, Animal Welfare Consultant



Adolfo Sansolini has been active in animal welfare since he was a teenager. He is now a highly respected leader in this field and an expert advisor. He has successfully led campaigns at the national and international level, managed high-profile conferences and coordinated international coalitions.

He also has more than twenty years' journalistic experience, contributing to a variety of publications and appearing on Vatican Radio and the BBC, among others.

He has led NGOs in Italy and in the UK as CEO and President, represented international animal welfare organisations at the United Nations in New York, and at the WTO in Geneva.

Adolfo has been an invited speaker at conferences, workshops and events in over 25 countries, has chaired international meetings and conferences, and has spoken in press conferences and given media interviews around the world.

Born in Rome, Adolfo has lived in London since 2004. He is presently working as a freelance consultant, with a special focus on animal welfare.

He is currently coordinating the development of the CAROdog website (www.carodog.eu) and some of the activities associated with it, and is the coordinator of the 8hour campaign (www.8hours.eu), which aims to achieve a maximum overall journey time of 8 hours for the transportation of live animals destined for slaughter, to be established at the EU level.

Dr Véronique Schmit

Executive Officer Policy, Eurogroup for Animals



Dr Véronique Schmit is an agronomist with a Doctorate in agricultural sciences from the Faculté des Sciences Agronomiques, Gembloux, Belgium.

She joined Eurogroup for Animals in November 1998 as Communications Officer. Since 2000 she has worked as Policy Officer on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), as well as on topics related to the welfare of wild animals.

She is currently coordinating policy work (farm, research, wild and companion animals) at Eurogroup for Animals, and is responsible for specific topics such as CAP, the 7th Environment Action Programme and the Quality Package.

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Peter Stevenson

Chief Policy Advisor, Compassion in World Farming, United Kingdom



Educated at Trinity College Cambridge, Peter Stevenson is a qualified lawyer. He is the Chief Policy Advisor of Compassion in World Farming. In 2004 Peter was the joint recipient of the RSPCA Lord Erskine Award in recognition of a “very important contribution in the field of animal welfare”.

Peter leads Compassion in World Farming’s lobbying at the EU and the OIE. He played a leading role in winning the EU bans on veal crates, battery cages and sow stalls as well as a new status for animals in EU law as sentient beings. In addition, he has written comprehensive legal analyses of EU legislation on farm animals and also of the impact of the WTO rules on animal welfare. Peter has also written many well received literature reviews and reports on the welfare of chickens reared for meat and farmed fish, welfare at slaughter, welfare during transport and the economics of livestock production.

Dr Mitja Šedlbauer

Senior Advisor, Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia



Dr Mitja Šedlbauer's current position is at the Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia, where he works as Senior Advisor for animal welfare. He is involved in policy-making activities and national legislative work in all areas of animal welfare. As regards the harmonised EU legislation, his focus is mostly on the protection of animals at time of slaughter and during transport. In relation to non-harmonised legislation, his area of expertise is the protection of pet animals.

Slovenian legislation concerning the protection of pet animals covers several aspects of pet ownership, including mandatory annual vaccinations of dogs against rabies, mandatory registration of dogs, dangerous dog issues, travelling with pets, abandoned pet animals, conditions for shelter operations, etc.

Dr Šedlbauer is a firm believer that the public needs to be well informed not only about the legislation on animal welfare but also about the reasons underlying legislative provisions. In other words, animal owners need to know why they are required to care for their animals in a certain way. Sanctioning of offenders is therefore important, but should not be considered the only means of improving responsible ownership of animals. This is also the most important reason for the Slovenian veterinary administration to be very proactive in organising public outreach in the form of various campaigns, with the purpose of building public awareness of animal welfare problems and ways to prevent them.

Stemming from this commitment, several projects have evolved with Dr Šedlbauer's help, such as the booklet "On responsible ownership of dogs", aimed at existing and future dog owners in Slovenia, which includes answers to dog owners' everyday questions, and other information of relevance to them. The latest project he was involved in was the creation of a TV advertisement promoting the spaying and neutering of cats.

Dr Jan Vaarten

Executive Director, Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)



After graduation from the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Utrecht (NL), Jan Vaarten started his career in a mixed practice in the eastern part of the Netherlands. He then joined the pharmaceutical industry, where he worked on the development of animal vaccines.

After 11 years, he changed industry for the Royal Netherlands Veterinary Association, where he worked as Veterinary Policy Officer. From there he went to the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in The Hague. Here his main area of attention was zoonotic diseases.

Since 2003 he has been Executive Director of FVE (www.fve.org), a federation of 44 veterinary organisations in 36 European countries, representing over 200,000 veterinarians. He is also Executive Secretary of the World Veterinary Association.

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Dr Paolo Dalla Villa

Head of Animal Welfare Research Laboratory, Istituto G. Caporale Teramo, Italy



After graduating in veterinary medicine from the University of Pisa, Dr Dalla Villa worked in Italy as Veterinary Officer at the Pescara province Local Health Unit.

Later on he moved to the Istituto G. Caporale in Teramo – OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare – where he has been leading the animal welfare research team, providing scientific support and technical assistance to the OIE Member Countries as well as to the National and Regional Veterinary Services. In this position Dr Dalla Villa has been coordinating research projects on farm and companion animal welfare, human-animal interaction and stray dog population control. During the L'Aquila earthquake emergency in 2009 he was actively involved in the Italian Civil Protection veterinary task force.

Currently he is working as Legislative Officer at the DG SANCO Animal Welfare Unit in Brussels, on issues related to the EU Policy on Animal Welfare development and implementation, with particular reference to the international area.

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Sonja Van Tichelen

Director, Eurogroup for Animals, Belgium



Sonja Van Tichelen joined Eurogroup for Animals in 1992 as Campaigns Coordinator, and has been its Director since 2004.

She initiated and implemented successful European public affairs and consumer campaigns on farm animals, animal testing and wildlife protection.

She expanded Eurogroup's reach to include relevant policies such as trade, companion animals and supply chain work, and developed an enlarged network of 40 member organisations.

Sonja Van Tichelen has twenty years' experience working in policy development, implementation and enforcement.

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Dr Eric van Tilburgh

Head of the Animal Welfare Division, Federal Services of Public Health, Belgium



Eric Van Tilburgh is head of the Animal Welfare Division of the Federal Services of Public Health.

He started his professional career at the veterinary inspection services of the Ministry of Agriculture in 1984. During his training he produced a report on the situation of laboratory animals in Belgium. He worked initially on CITES and animal welfare, but with the creation of the Animal Welfare Division in the late nineties he became head of that service.

He was a member of the Standing Committee of the Convention for the Protection of Farm Animals of the Council of Europe, and Vice-Chairman of the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals.

With his team of eight veterinarians, Eric Van Tilburgh is responsible for animal welfare policy in Belgium in the field of farm animals, pets, laboratory animals and exotic animals.

Dr Francesca Volpi

Legislative officer, European Commission, DG Health and Consumers, Unit E5 – Enforcement, Belgium

Francesca is a lawyer and has been a Legislative Officer at the European Commission since 2007. She is a member of the unit responsible for enforcement matters and she is in charge in particular of coordinating the work related to the revision of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls along the food chain.

Francesca graduated with a Doctor's degree in European Law with a thesis work in the area of European food law.

Max Walleitner

German Juridical Association for Animal Welfare (DJGT), Germany

After having finished his studies in law at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, he started to work in a tax office, where he is currently the director.

As a volunteer, he is member of the German juridical Society for Animal Welfare Law (DJGT) from the beginning, before he was active in the network of lawyers for animal welfare in Germany.

He is engaged in several political animal welfare committees on the regional and federal level as well as in animal welfare projects and for animal welfare organisations.

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Dr Marlene Wartenberg

Director, VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS European Policy Office, Brussels



Dr Marlene Wartenberg gained her law degrees in Bonn and in parallel finished her studies of political science by completing a PhD (in Bonn and Tübingen).

After working in the German Parliament for several years, she represented a collecting society in the field of licensing and copyright, and operated as a lawyer in this field. She then worked as Secretary General for an umbrella organisation at the national (German) and European levels again in Bonn and Berlin, before deciding more than ten years ago to work in the political animal welfare field.

She became CEO of the German branch of VIER PFOTEN in Hamburg, and she established a representational office of the organisation in Berlin.

Five years ago Marlene Wartenberg started building up a European Policy Office of VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS in Brussels, where there is now a team of three people.

During the first years in Brussels, Marlene Wartenberg has focused on companion animals in Europe and initiated with the Istituto G Caporale of Teramo, FVE and the European Commission, the first database for dogs in Europe (www.carodog.eu), promoting the principle of responsible ownership. For further development of sustainable solution strategies against canine overpopulation in Europe several international scientific conferences on this issue including promoting identification and registration of dogs and neutering programmes as part of the principle of responsible ownership have been organised since then in Brussels, in Italy and in Lithuania. The legal team of VIER PFOTEN on Brussels is now focussing on enforcement, close cooperation of veterinarians and lawyers and the new animal welfare strategy of the EU.

VIER PFOTEN Brussels office is also partner of the Master Study “Animals in Law and society” of the Free University of Barcelona.

12-13 June 2012
Brussels



Dr Günter Wilms

Member of the Legal Service, European Commission, Belgium



Dr Wilms holds a PhD in Administrative Sciences. He has been a member of the Legal Service at the European Commission since 1994, first within the budget team and afterwards within the internal marketing team. He also worked for several years at DG Enterprise, as well as DG Information Society in Luxembourg. So far, he has acted as an agent for the Commission in more than 140 cases, in fields as diverse as environment, medicines, personnel, structural funds and public procurement and free movement of goods.

Dr Wilms also has teaching experience as a trainer for national judges and civil servants, and also as a lecturer at universities in Germany, Spain and France.

Since 1990, he has published several articles on subjects such as Human Rights, the Financial Perspectives for the European Union and the Role of the European Commission following the Treaty of Lisbon.

12-13 June 2012
Brussels



Mag. iur. Mag. phil. Claudia Petra Wöhry

Jurist for Animal Welfare Affairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of Health, Department II/B/10
–Veterinary Legislation, Animal Health and Trade in Live Animals



In 1996 Claudia Petra Wöhry took the school-leaving examination at the Higher College for Mechanical Engineering (Höhere Technische Bundeslehranstalt, Ausbildungszeitung: Allgemeiner Maschinenbau) in Salzburg.

From 1996 to 2002 she studied Law at the University of Salzburg, and from 2004 to 2008 she studied Political Science at the University of Salzburg and the University of Bergen, Norway.

Since 2010 she has been Jurist for animal welfare affairs at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health.

Her fields of activity include legal propositions/preparations for legal acts in the animal welfare sector, and providing legal advice for the Austrian Animal Welfare Council and for the Austrian Advisory Committee on Enforcement (Vollzugsbeirat). She also responds to enquiries in the area of animal welfare, participates in working groups on animal welfare, and creates public information materials.

