



Fachkonferenz

**„Eine rechtspflichtige Kennzeichnung und Registrierung (K&R)
von Hunden und Katzen für Deutschland und
Entwicklungen in der Europäischen Union“**

Welcome Speech

Identification of companion animals mainly by means of electronic tagging is an integrative and virtually mandatory part of Responsible Pet Ownership. This makes sure that the animals can be returned to their owners in case of temporal loss, this hampers all kinds of potential illegal activities around dogs and cats and helps coping with stray animals, which is still a problem in a number of European countries. A respectful, informed and appropriate handling with the animals will only be reached by mandatory responsibility and liability, in combination with an appropriate information about the respective animals. I am glad to say that in Austria, identification and registration of dogs has a long standing legal base and is a well established and well functioning practice. Hence, I am shocked when I was asked for participation to learn that this is still not standard all over Europe. In the interest of animal welfare, which is a) anchored as general provision in the Treaty of Lisbon and b) of the European Union's own understanding of being a political power on firm humane grounds, it is just about time to act and to implement rules and practices of identifying and registering dogs and cats for all countries of the EU. This should be done by harmonisation and at least a compatible system of registries which allows to follow the fate of the animals Europe-wide. This conference is an important step on this way and I wish you all much success for your objective.