How to become a Member?

You are a law student, a lawyer working for animal welfare, an official animal welfare commissioner or a veterinarian? You would like to join our growing enforcement Network? You would like to contribute to improve animal welfare legislation enforcement in Europe?

Join our network!

Membership is free of charge.

To apply, you simply have to send us an email at office@vier-pfoten.eu with your name and firstname, your contact details (phone and mail), your current position, as well as a short summary of your professional experience regarding animal welfare and legislation.

Once your application validated, your name and position will be added on our website on the Members’ page. However, we will not share publicaly your contact details.

As a member, you might be contacted by our team and you will receive our updates.

office@vier-pfoten.eu

european.enforcement.network

EUEnfNetwork

Our partners

The website has the following serious and reliable partners:

- VIER PFOTEN/FOUR PAWS European Policy Office, Brussels
- the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), Brussels
- the German Juridical Association for Animal Law (DJGT), Berlin
- Stiftung für das Tier im Recht, Zürich
- the Research Group ADS/ALS of the Free University of Barcelona, Barcelona

These are all legally and veterinary focused organizations, representing lawyers and veterinarians working in this field of animal welfare in Europe and in the Member States.

“In formulating and implementing the Union’s agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals (...)”

Art. 13 TFEU

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The European Enforcement Network of Animal Welfare Lawyers and Commissioners was created on 13th June 2012 as an outcome of the Conference “Enforcement of Animal Welfare related EU legislation”, organised by VIER PFOTEN/ FOUR PAWS and Eurogroup for Animals with the support of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), the German Juridical Association for Animal Welfare Law (DJGT), Stiftung für das Tier im Recht (TIR), the Free University of Barcelona (UAB) and the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell’Abruzzo e del Molise “G. Caporale” in Teramo (IZSAM).

The conclusion of the Conference underlined that inadequate enforcement is a severe problem in almost every animal welfare related EU legislation. The necessity to have a better consideration at all levels of the EU animal welfare general principle laid down by Article 13 TFEU has been outlined, as well as the need for a common understanding of animal welfare and an enhanced culture of compliance and enforcement.

The lack of compliance to EU animal welfare legislation has also been identified by the EU Commission in its 2012-215 Animal Welfare Strategy as a main issue that should be targeted before improving current legislation.

The Network

The goal of the network is to share national and EU experience, knowledge and best practices to improve enforcement of animal welfare legislation at all level.

Some Member States have created specific bodies in their governments or parliaments to deal only with enforcement of animal welfare legislation. Some countries also have established specific studies cursus to enable to have law professionals specialised in animal welfare issues, such as animal welfare prosecutors, ombudsmen, policemen etc. The sharing of these practices, and their functioning will help to promote a culture of enforcement, and will on the long term strengthen animal welfare.

The website

www.lawyersforanimalprotection.eu

The website has been renewed in 2016. It includes:

- An overview as well as a detailed view by country of all infringements procedures initiated by the EU Commission regarding infringement of EU animal welfare legislation

- A detailed view by country of all the specific animal welfare tools available in the country (like place to study animal welfare law, the existence of structural bodies in the parliament or ministries regarding animal welfare etc.).

- National and EU animal welfare legislation including also non legal documents such as conventions, recommendations etc.

- The results of all audits related to animal welfare lead by the EU Food and Veterinary Office since 1998, country by country

- The summarised judgments of the EU Court of Justice, the EU General Court and the European Court of Human Rights related to animal welfare legislation

- The documents produced to support enforcement and improve animal welfare in practice such as guidelines, EU surveys and studies etc.