

Mr Viktor Yushchenko
President of Ukraine
Presidential Administration
11 Bankova vul
Kyiv
Ukraine

06 March 2006

Dear President Yushchenko,

Re: The treatment of stray dogs in the Ukraine

I am writing to express my concerns about the treatment of stray dogs in the Ukraine. Having received undercover video footage of this treatment shot by Ukrainian journalists, I am shocked by the actions of city employees, who can be seen manhandling, clubbing and poisoning stray animals.

Animals which are not immediately killed are kept in appalling conditions, where not even their most basic requirements of food and water are met. The footage shows animals sharing cages with dead animals, animals resorting to cannibalism and animals obviously in extreme distress.

Such mistreatment of animals can in no way be counted as "humane" and runs counter to requirements set down by the Council of Europe - of which the Ukraine is a member - to collect strays humanely. Furthermore, such organised and state-endorsed cruelty is not acceptable for a modern, European state, and is hugely damaging to the way the Ukraine is perceived by the rest of Europe.

I would urge you, Mr President, to immediately review the situation regarding the treatment of stray dogs within the Ukraine, thereby putting an end to the barbaric and cruel methods currently being employed and instead implementing a humane programme of animal control.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline LUCAS MEP