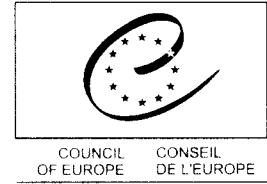


SECRETARIAT GENERAL

**DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**



DIRECTORATE OF STANDARD-SETTING

THE DIRECTOR

Please quote: DG-HL/JK/KG/Cab1238

IG Schattenhunde
www.schattenhunde.de

Strasbourg, 10 July 2009

Dear IG Schattenhunde Members,

Thank you for your mail of 30 June 2009 addressed to the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General. The Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals (ETS No.125) aims to protect pet animals and seeks to establish a basic common standard of attitude and practice towards pet ownership. The Convention provides for intergovernmental multilateral consultations to monitor the implementation of its provisions as well as to develop common and co-ordinated programmes in the field of pet animal welfare. The consultations are held in the form of meetings gathering the representatives appointed by the Parties to the Convention. For their work, the Parties cooperate very closely with non-governmental organisations representing the fields concerned. I would invite you to inform the national authorities competent in transposing the provisions of the Convention into domestic law of any relevant information.

As to your second remark I would like to mention that the Council of Europe and the European Union are based on the same values and pursue common aims with regard to the protection of democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. Moreover, the European Community is Party to the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes (ETS No. 87). The European Union has, nevertheless, different decision-making bodies and its own standard-setting procedures.

I wish you every success in your activities.

Yours faithfully,

Jan Kleijssen