The Pan-hellenic Animal Welfare and Environmental Federation (PFPO) was established in 2010.

It is the largest animal welfare organization in Greece, bringing together 66 Member Organizations.

Our mission is to protect animals and promote their welfare and rights through political lobbying, legal action, science-based research and campaigning.

The Panhellenic Steering Committee was established in 2008 by the Animal Welfare Association of Chania (Creta).

It consists of 118 animal welfare organizations.

An interdisciplinary expert group of scientists and academics supports and coordinates the work of the Federation.
Our work

2011

We host the Conference titled “The EU perspective of Greece's animal welfare culture”.

2012

Lobbying the Greek Parliament and the Ministry of Agriculture: our proposals are adopted in the new Animal Protection Law, including the ban of animals in circuses and shows, and the criminalisation of passive abuse.

2013

We participate at the debate titled “Stray animal population control in Greece” hosted by G.Chatzimarkakis MEP at the European Parliament.

Gary Steiner attends the 23rd International Conference of Philosophy, where we deliver a keynote and establish academic relations with the University.

PFPO and the Public Prosecutors Union organise the Conference “Incidental matters of Greece’s judiciary system in relation to EU Directives”.

We partner with the Minister for Citizens’ Rights to secure issuing of a Circular clarifying the police obligations, with respect to the new Animal Protection Law.

Along with the Union of Judges & Prosecutors, PFPO hosts the Conference “People & Animals: Rights, Bioethics & Legislation”.

PFPO participates at the “Conference on the welfare of dogs and cats in the EU” co-hosted by the Commission and the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the EU.
We deliver a keynote on compliance and enforcement at the Panhellenic Animal Welfare Federation’s event titled “Strays-Care-Solidarity”.

PFPO speaks at the Conference “Beaches in Municipalities – Urban, legal, environmental parameters” hosted by regional authorities.

We join forces with top artists to produce a series of TV spots on I&R, spaying/neutering, abandonment, abuse, wildlife, barrel dogs etc.

The Conference titled “Addressing animal abuse” PFPO co-hosts with the Hellenic Police brings together jurists and police authorities to discuss law enforcement.

In partnership with constitutionalist K.Chryssogonos MEP, PFPO hosts a round table to discuss the inclusion of animals in the Constitution.

Along with Prof. R.Argyraki, we hold a Conference to honor Peter Singer who is being bestowed the title of Hon. Prof. of Philosophy at the Athens University.

PFPO secures the coordinated intervention of Prosecutors, police and veterinary authorities to ban the customary public slaughter of bulls, sheep and goats.

PFPO organises a national protest against animal abuse.
We reveal the horrid conditions of the zoo "Ippokamilos". The owner is sentenced and the zoo shuts down.

PFPO is invited to speak about the legal status of animals and the need for Constitutional protection at the Hellenic Police's Conference.

PFPO regularly delivers workshops on animal law enforcement which are addressed to police authorities.

PFPO is systematically delivering trainings on the specifics of animal protection to the attendees of the police academy.

We secure creation of a special Committee within the Institute of Educational Policy for the inclusion of animal welfare in school books.

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PFPO hosts the Conference “Animal abuse: The precursor of domestic violence” attended by criminologists, enforcement and political authorities.

PFPO secures the right to civil action for animals in animal abuse trials, namely legal representation by an "Animal Attorney".

PFPO supports the production of "Re-Action", which is a non-profit movie on animal welfare. The film has now been approved by the Min. of Education to be shown in schools.

PFPO hosts the Conference “Animal abuse: The precursor of domestic violence” attended by criminologists, enforcement and political authorities.
We intensify efforts against the hobbling of farm animals (bulletins, investigations, filling charges, police and prosecutors’ interventions). We secure a Police Order on specific enforcement actions and increased controls in the Cyclades.

PFPO and the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece host the Conference “Greece without strays: Developing a national action plan for animals”, attended by MPs, prosecutors, police and veterinary officials and welfare organizations.

PFPO brings the Animal Welfare debate before the Greek Parliament.

We launch efforts against animal testing with research publications of our expert associates, like Cambridge’s (prev. Harvard) biologist, Dr. M.Iliou.

PFPO joins the “End The Cage Age” campaign, for the ECI to reach the target of 1M signatures.

We deliver a keynote speech at the Conference titled “The role and contribution of the Hellenic Police in animal protection” hosted by the Chief of the Hellenic Police.
PFPO launches actions against wild animals in dolphinariums. S.Eck MEP supports our efforts.

PFPO, the Bar Association and the regional police authorities host a Conference titled "Animal abuse as an antechamber to domestic violence", which is attended by psychologists, police officers and journalists.

We are lobbying and campaigning against a new animal law severely compromising animal welfare. The bill is withdrawn in the midst of unprecedented public outcry.

We discuss the revoked bill for animals with the President of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece.

PFPO and the Hellenic Society for Equine Welfare step up actions for the improvement of working equines' welfare, for increased controls and law enforcement.

We lobby for law enforcement, effective controls and sanctions to cease the rampant illegal trade of animals taking place in flea markets, cultural and recreational events.

We lobby and campaign for the ban of fur farming. A petition is launched, and is now supported by various brands and designers.
Following years of investigations, PFPO sheds light to dog fighting. VICE magazine puts the research together and publishes a series of bulletins revealing the extent of organised cruelty in Greece.

We press charges against municipal shelters keeping animals in horrid conditions. Securing media visibility and political support lead to the prosecution of those responsible.

We gather supplies for the animal victims of the wildfires of Attica.

PFPO hosts the annual Conference of ENDCAP / Born Free Foundation.

PFPO’s long-standing effort for the Constitutional protection of animals is supported by 92 MPs at the debate for the revision of the Constitution. The proposal is finally voted against.

We lobby the candidates for both the European and national elections to secure commitments for animals.

We meet with Dr. Patoulis, Governor of the Region of Attica, to discuss the responsibility of regions and of municipalities with respect to stray animal prevention and management.

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Our work

University Professors of Veterinary Medicine respond to our call to issue an opinion on hobbling. The position paper published concludes that this widespread and largely tolerated practice is inhumane, torturous and unacceptable.

PFPO's actions against the abuse of equines at the island of Santorini are endorsed by international animal protection organisations, through coordinated demonstrations outside the Greek Embassies in Amsterdam, Washington, London, Berlin, Sidney and Paris.

PFPO meets with Police Lieutenant General A. Daskalakis, Deputy Chief of the Hellenic Police, to discuss the establishment of the Animal Police department. Our request to have the legislation against animal abuse included in the Police's antitrust policy is accepted.

PFPO participates at Eurogroup for Animals' Annual Conference and touch bases with EU-stakeholders and animal welfare organisations.

PFPO continues holding workshops with police officers all over Greece, to aid the enforcement the animal protection legislation.

PFPO participates at the 1st Athens Charity Week.

We coordinate a rescue operation for 38 animals of various species living in horrid conditions in Creta.
Our work

Dr. K. Buchner MEP along with former MEPs S. Eck and J. Chatzimarkakis visit the island of Creta. They kindly invite PFPO to join them at their meetings with regional, municipal and police authorities to discuss severe, long-standing animal welfare issues in Greece.

PFPO and the Deputy President of the International Police Association meet the Secretary General of the Ministry of Education to discuss the inclusion of animal welfare in the school curriculum, as well as the issue of ritual slaughter without stunning.

PFPO meets the Deputy Minister for Transport K. Karamanlis and Secretary General N. Stathopoulos, who agree to numerous of our proposals regarding companion animal transport, and the transport of wildlife for the purpose of veterinary care.

We meet F. Arabatzi, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. S. Doudounakis to discuss the review of the animal protection legislation.
PFPO has developed and is running the following educational programs for elementary and high school students:

- People & Animals: Roommates on the same planet
- People & Animals: Same right in life

Both are approved by the Ministry of Education and delivered by accredited representatives of PFPO at schools all over Greece.

PFPO is delivering workshops on the animal protection legislation to police officers.

Understanding the specifics of the law and police obligation is crucial for effective controls and better enforcement.

PFPO has established cooperations with police authorities across Greece.

PFPO is at the frontline of animal protection.

Rescue missions, veterinary care, TNR, adoptions, legal actions, campaigns, lobbying and research are all core parts of our mission.

PFPO's successful trajectory is the outcome of the dedication, sense of responsibility and dynamism of its volunteers and organisations.
Illegal breeding

Illegal trade of companion animals is growing. PFPO is monitoring online criminal networks in close cooperation with the police. Numerous prosecutions and the filling of charges follow our investigations, revealing the extent of pet trafficking in Greece.

Fur farming

The city of Kastoria is a hub for fur farming. The state’s longstanding support of the industry through subsidies and political backing inhibits a fair transition to alternative livelihoods. PFPO launches a campaign which brings together brands and designers to openly speak about fur-free fashion.

Dolphinsimus

PFPO campaigns against dolphinariums and lobbies for legislative change. Co-producing a TV spot featuring influential artists speaking against marine mammals performing and living in captivity helps to raise visibility of the cruelty therein and curb "educational" school visits.

Farm animal hobbling

Hobbling - the practice of tethering the legs of farm animals together - is widespread in rural areas. PFPO’s on-spot controls along with the police, legal actions and sanctions in cases of non-compliance, campaigning and the issuing of scientific opinions against hobbling all get extensive media attention.
Illegal animal markets

Illegal trade of animals (incl. wild species), in flea markets and recreational events is rife. Lax law enforcement and low penalties foster a rampant market for backyard breeders and hunters. PFPO, along with the police, conduct controls in these marketplaces and proceed to confiscations and prosecutions.

Barrel dogs

A common sight in rural areas, the road / barrel dogs are chained in a barrel or box to guard farm animals and discourage passersbyes. Exposed to the elements and left without food and water they often die chained. To spot them and find their owners, PFPO conducts joint searches and hiking tours with the police.

Municipal shelters

Responsibility for stray animal care rests on municipalities. PFPO unfolds the reality of municipal shelters, wherein animals are held in deplorable conditions, often chained and without food, water and veterinary care, next to sick or dead animals. PFPO’s investigations are often picked by the media, leading to prosecutions.

Hunting

Hunting is largely tolerated by the state as a conservation tool. PFPO reveals numerous illegal practices associated with the hunting culture, such as the torturing of animals as part of the dog training process, the endangered species hunting, and the publication of pictures of killed animals online.
Our approach

Partnerships with experts, academics, politicians

Partnerships with Animal Welfare Organizations

Lobbying

High-level Conferences

Workshops for the police

TNR, rescues, adoptions, life-long care for animals with special needs

Education programs approved by the Ministry of Education

Investigations

Seizures, legal actions

Campaigns, communication

Collaboration with Wildlife Rescue Centers
You too can support the work of PFPO. Help us rescue, care and make a difference for animals. Consider a donation!

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