



## Introducing...

Maaike Bouwman is a Dutch student of the VHL University of Applied Science. She's currently majoring in animal and society and will receive her bachelor degree next year. After graduation, she will start with a training in veterinary medicine. She has interned at several different non-profit organizations, such as a Dutch animal shelter and at the communication & PR department of The Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. During her time there, she learned a lot about the protection of animals and positive involvement of human and animal relationships.



## Animal sheltering in the Netherlands

This presentation will be about the current state of animal sheltering in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands animal welfare is a very important aspect. The country has one of lowest euthanasia numbers and an own animals act, which provides rules for the care and housing of companion animals. Of all Dutch households 55% keep a pet, of which there are 1.8 million dogs & 3.3 million cats. The micro-chipping of dogs has been mandatory since 2012. In late 2011, the first animal police service, has been launched to tackle cruelty to animals and animal neglect more effectively. The Dierenbescherming (DB) or Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals plays a very important role in this. It is the largest animal welfare organization of the country and holds a total amount of 38 shelters.