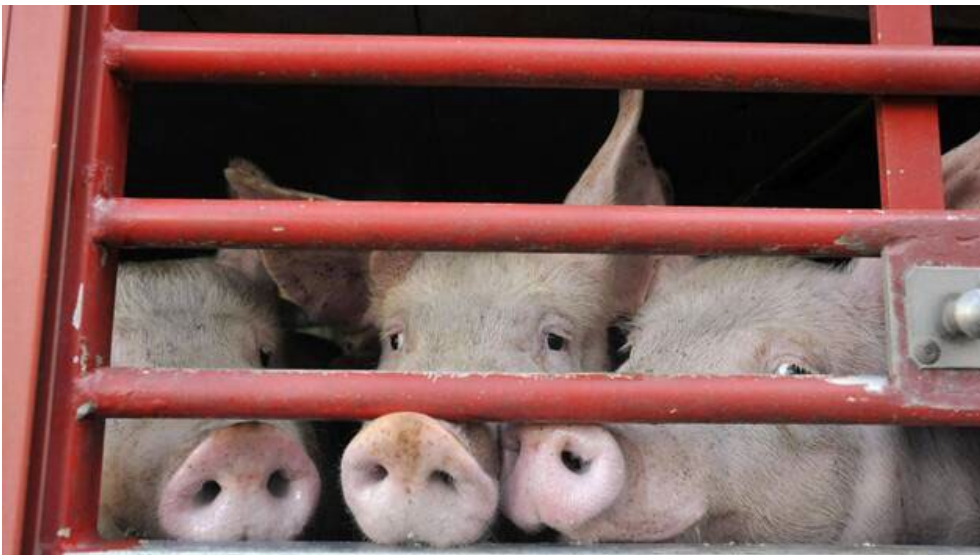


FRCAW Newsletter 49

October 2024

Editorial

What Europeans want animal welfare to look like



[Image](#) from the [Quest France](#) website

The views of European citizens on animal welfare have been in the news. The final report of the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture, launched by the European Commission in January 2024, appeared last month. The dialogue had brought together not only the major participants in the agri-food sectors, but also representatives from across society. A September [article](#) from Eurogroup for Animals celebrates the organisation's success in ensuring that the [final report](#) took proper account of animal welfare, emphasising in particular the pressing need to meet the 2026 deadline for revisions to EU legislation. These revisions are underway and, for the four months following the publication of the draft proposal to update the regulations of the European Parliament and Council regarding the [protection of animals during transport and related operations](#) in December 2023, European citizens were invited by the European Commission to feed back their views on its contents. The [results of this public consultation](#) are now being reported on, with the majority of the 4614 citizens who responded supporting the aim of improving the welfare of animals during transport and many respondents in favour of stricter regulations in this regard. Alternatives to long-distance transport are cited, such as local slaughter and the transport of meat rather than living animals.

Meanwhile, although farmed fish do not currently benefit from specific regulations on their welfare, the proposed revisions to the European regulations on the transport of live animals includes reference to their future inclusion in draft legislation. A [survey](#) of European citizens has recently been conducted on their awareness and perceptions regarding aquatic animal welfare and current practices in aquaculture. The survey, carried out by CIWF and Eurogroup for Animals found that 59% of those polled considered their knowledge of fish farming practices to be poor, but 91% (94% of French respondents) believed that fish should have the same rights to welfare protection as other farmed animals, with a different set of regulations for each species.

Protection of companion animals in Europe and France

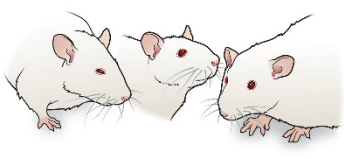
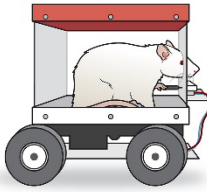

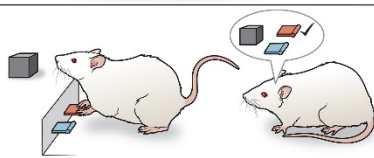

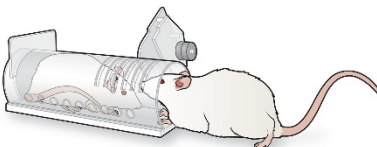


© Camille Bezançon

The 2023 Eurobarometer reported that 74% of Europeans support stricter standards for cat and dog welfare. And indeed, one of the draft regulatory proposals that have already been brought before the European Parliament and Council concerns the [welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability](#). While it remains difficult to estimate the total number of abandonments in France, I-Cad records show over 27,000 reports of lost animals (dogs and cats) between June and August 2024, most of which were cats. This [figure for the summer months](#) may be alarming, but it still represents a 13% fall compared with 2022. Relief for the switchboards of animal rescue organisations and police stations has been provided by the [new freephone number 36 77](#), launched in June by the French National Council for Animal Protection (CNPA). Designed as a first point of contact that directs callers to the appropriate service, the number received 18,000 calls reporting animal abuse cases in its first two months of operation. Information on abandonment in France can be found in the [Opinion of the FRCAW](#), produced as part of its expert mission for the OCAD (French observatory for the protection of domestic carnivores). This first audit report, produced in 2022, reviewed the state of knowledge

on abandonment and the mechanisms by which dogs and cats come to be abandoned in France. It also formulated attention points for consideration so that more efficient and effective management measures could be put in place to manage the risks and consequences of abandonment.

Empathy in rats

	AFFECTIVE	COGNITIVE
Individual	<p>Emotional expression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocalizations Olfactory cues Autonomic activation Body posture (ear, eye, and whisker position) Behavior (stereotypes, low activity) 	<p>Intentional agent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules Causality Goal-directed behavior Metacognition Memory confidence Mental projection Tool use 
Social	<p>Empathy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emotional contagion Observational fear learning Social modulation of pain Vicarious reward Synchronization reward 	<p>Theory of mind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social memory Value others' outcome Observational learning 
Prosocial	<p>Affiliation/regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licking Huddling Consolation Allogrooming Alloparenting 	<p>Targeted helping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rescue/release Reciprocal cooperation Prosocial food choice 

[Image](#) from article by [Inbal Ben-Ami Bartal \(2024\)](#) published in [Science](#)

Scientific advances are gradually revealing quite how rich the sensorial, emotional and cognitive worlds of many animal species are, and continue to extend the affective ranges in animals that have been scientifically validated. Although positive emotions are harder to measure than fear, pain or anxiety, new markers are being developed for them. In rats, expressions of positive affective states such as joy, resilience, persistence, audacity and optimism have been observed. Their complex cognitive and affective capacities have been studied extensively, and are the subject of a recently-published [synthesis in Science](#). Rats are shown to be capable of empathy, the ability to share the affective states of others that has been attributed mostly to primates. In a social species such as rats, the communication of internal states through the expression of emotions is critical, potentially conveying a pressing need or immediate threat. And indeed, rats have been observed to intentionally help other rats caught in a trap, by opening a door or pulling on a chain to free them. They not only share their fellows' distress – remembering that emotional contagion and consolation of others have already been demonstrated in several species – they also display intentional and instrumental action to help others in a targeted way. This points to the involvement of cognitive motivation for prosocial actions aimed at improving the well-being of their fellows, suggesting an appreciation of their needs and of specific circumstances. The author of the article reiterates the importance of including new welfare measures for rats in scientific research.

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Arthropods

23/09/2024 : [Crustacean welfare: is sentimentality trumping science?](#)

Document type: article published in [The Fish Site](#)

Author: C. Graig Lutz

Preview: The UK supermarket chain Tesco has recently launched a new crustacean welfare policy with a particular focus on decapod crustaceans such as lobsters, crabs and shrimp. New supply chain requirements include, among other things, electrical stunning of farmed shrimp post-harvest. Additionally, the chain will no longer sell any live decapods, such as lobsters or crabs, in its stores or online. These changes are the result of a growing number of concerns that, contrary to long-held conventional wisdom, some crustaceans may actually be sentient. But a number of pertinent questions remain unanswered.

Decapod sentience?

(...) The presence of sentience, on some level, is central to the concept of pain or suffering. In 2020 the International Association for the Study of Pain defined pain as “An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with, or resembling that associated with, actual or potential tissue damage.” Interestingly, the inclusion of the term “emotional” implies a conscious, affective component. Although other definitions of pain have been proposed, most of which also include both sensory and emotional components, perhaps the most appropriate definition for any evaluation of decapod crustaceans was offered by Wright (2011), who defined pain as “an unpleasant sensation that has evolved to motivate behaviour which avoids or minimises tissue damage, or promotes recovery.” (...) Although the general consensus today is that most fishes are indeed sentient to some degree, the argument as to whether all decapods possess nervous systems capable of sentience has not been settled. (...) In an objective review of a number of studies, Elwood et al. (2017) pointed out that although the responses of decapods may be similar to those of vertebrates when subjected to certain noxious chemicals, definitive proof of such pain is not currently feasible. (...) Crump et al. provided a framework for evaluating sentience in decapods. They included eight “neural and cognitive behavioural” criteria. While astacid lobsters and crayfishes met only three of the eight criteria, the authors admitted that the case was weaker still for penaeid shrimps. (...) The best evidence for painful affect in animals is learned aversion to stimuli associated with noxious experience, and conditioned preference for contexts associated with relief from aversive consequences of noxious experience, as expressed in voluntary behavior. Such evidence is currently lacking for any invertebrate except octopus.” Comstock provided an important caveat to generalised attributions of pain in decapods: “Some studies report pain avoidance behaviors in Dendrobranchiata (Penaeidae) shrimp, but further studies are needed to determine whether the chemicals used are acting as analgesics to relieve pain, or as soporifics to reduce overall alertness. If the latter, the most farmed shrimp species may not require the same level of protection as crabs, crayfish, and lobsters.” Despite its controversy, many farms still employ eyestalk ablation.

Eyestalk ablation

Tesco's new crustacean welfare policy stipulates that 100 percent of shrimp broodstock used to produce farmed shrimp for it to sell must be ablation-free by 2026 (*Penaeus vannamei*) or 2027 (*Penaeus monodon*). Two other UK retailers, Marks & Spencer and Waitrose, have already ceased purchasing farmed shrimp from ablated broodstock. Leaving aside the as-yet unresolved biological and philosophical discussions over decapod sentience, let's consider the practice of eyestalk ablation in shrimp hatcheries throughout the world. The usefulness of unilateral (one side only) ablation to promote maturation and spawning in female penaeid shrimp was established more than 50 years ago (Idyll 1971). From my observations in several countries, ablated shrimp typically appear wholly unbothered within 30 minutes after the procedure, with little evidence of any long-term stress or discomfort. Nonetheless, certain protocols have been shown to completely eliminate even short-term adverse experiences associated with ablation. (...) However, as mentioned above, some sectors of the global shrimp marketplace are increasingly demanding the industry find alternatives to ablation, and researchers and industry have responded to the pressure. Zacarias et al. (2019) compared the reproductive performance and offspring quality of ablated and non-ablated female *L. vannamei* under conditions similar to those of a commercial hatchery. Mating success and egg/larvae production were lower for non-ablated females, but so was their mortality over time. When non-ablated females spawned successfully, their fecundity was significantly higher than that of their ablated counterparts. Production of eggs and nauplii per broodstock tank was 44 percent and 45 percent lower, respectively, for non-ablated females, which would translate to significantly higher capital and operating costs for a hatchery using non-ablated broodstock. The authors proposed that certain adjustments in management and husbandry could offset some of these impacts, as might the longer lifespan of non-ablated females. Additionally, the commercial cooperator in the study indicated improvements had been observed in mating success of non-ablated females over successive generations, possibly as a result of domestication selection. (...) The higher resilience and survival demonstrated by offspring of non-ablated females might also serve to partially offset their reduced productivity under hatchery conditions. And, contrary to the findings of other studies with penaeid shrimps, Menezes et al. (2019) reported that non-ablated *P. vannamei* broodstock actually exhibited significantly higher mating frequency, spawning frequency, survival, number of eggs per female and number of nauplii per female than ablated females. (...)

Cognition-Emotions

01/10/2024 : [Dog-human vocal interactions match dogs' sensory-motor tuning](#)

Document type: scientific article published in [PLoS Biology](#)

Authors: Eloïse C. Déaux, Théophane Piette, Florence Gaunet, Thierry Legou, Luc Arnal, Anne-Lise Giraud

Preview: Within species, vocal and auditory systems presumably coevolved to converge on a critical temporal acoustic structure that can be best produced and perceived. While dogs cannot produce articulated sounds, they respond to speech, raising the question as to whether this heterospecific receptive ability could be shaped by exposure to speech or remains bounded by their own sensorimotor capacity. Using acoustic analyses of dog vocalisations, we show that their main

production rhythm is slower than the dominant (syllabic) speech rate, and that human–dog-directed speech falls halfway in between. Comparative exploration of neural (electroencephalography) and behavioural responses to speech reveals that comprehension in dogs relies on a slower speech rhythm tracking (delta) than humans' (theta), even though dogs are equally sensitive to speech content and prosody. Thus, the dog audio-motor tuning differs from humans', and we hypothesise that humans may adjust their speech rate to this shared temporal channel as means to improve communication efficacy.

This article led to a [press release published on the Institut Pasteur website](#) (in French).

01/10/2024 : Anatomical and functional basis of facial expressions and their relationship with emotions in horses

Document type: scientific synthesis published in [Research in Veterinary Science](#)

Authors: Barbara Zimmermann, Alejandra Nelly Cristina Castro, Pamela Anahí Lendez, Mariano Carrica Illia, María Paula Carrica Illia, Alfredo Raúl Teyseyre, Juan Manuel Toloza, Marcelo Daniel Ghezzi, Daniel Mota-Rojas

Preview: An emotion is defined as the affective response to a stimulus that leads to specific bodily changes, enabling individuals to react to positive or negative environmental conditions. In the absence of speech, emotions in animals are primarily studied by observing expressive components, such as facial expressions. This review aims to analyze the available literature on the influence of environmental stimuli on measurable behaviors in horses, describing the anatomical components involved in perception at the central nervous system level and the efferent pathways that trigger facial muscle contraction or relaxation, thus altering facial expressions. Additionally, articles addressing the function of facial expressions in communication are discussed, emphasizing their role in social interactions in this species. While there is limited research on equine neurophysiology, considering the common structure of the limbic system in most mammals, studies conducted on canines and primates were taken into account. In conclusion, the article underscores the importance of understanding equine facial expressions to assess their emotional states and, by extension, their welfare.

19/09/2024 : The complex affective and cognitive capacities of rats

Document type: scientific synthesis published in [Science](#)

Author: Inbal Ben-Ami Bartal

Preview: For several decades, although studies of rat physiology and behavior have abounded, research on rat emotions has been limited in scope to fear, anxiety, and pain. Converging evidence for the capacity of many species to share others' affective states has emerged, sparking interest in the empathic capacities of rats. Recent research has demonstrated that rats are a highly cooperative species and are motivated by others' distress to prosocial actions, such as opening a door or pulling a chain to release trapped conspecifics. Studies of rat affect, cognition, and neural function provide compelling evidence that rats have some capacity to represent others' needs, to instrumentally act

to improve their well-being, and are thus capable of forms of targeted helping. Rats' complex abilities raise the importance of integrating new measures of rat well-being into scientific research.

[12/08/2024 : The effect of duration of ownership and time spent together during the day on cat owners' level of understanding of cats' body language](#)

Document type: scientific article published in [Revista científica de la facultad de ciencias veterinarias](#)

Authors: Abdurrahman Köseman, Ibrahim Şeker, Abdulsamed Erez, Şenol Koşan

Preview: The study was conducted to determine the effect of the duration of ownership of cats (*Felis catus*) and the time spent by the owners with their cats during the day on understanding the body language of cats. Face-to-face survey data from 194 cat owners were used in the study. (...) In this study, it was determined that cat owners understood 6 of the 20 images of cat body language with 55.2% or more accuracy and 14 of them with 42.8% or less accuracy. In the study, it was determined that those who understood cat body language at the highest rate were female, associate degree and bachelor's degree graduates, 21-40 years old, and those who spent 1-5 h a day with their cats. As a result, it was determined that it is not sufficient for cat owners to understand their cats' body language correctly only if they have owned their cats for a long time and spend long periods of time together during the day. This is due to the fact that there are many factors affecting the behavior of cats and individual differences. It is recommended that cat owners learn cat body language to better understand their cats.

Conferences-Seminars-Training

[28/10/2024 : Annuaire des formations - IFIP](#)

Document type: training directory on animal welfare by [Ifip](#)

Author: Ifip

Preview: December training courses on pig welfare on farm (Bien-être animal en élevage de porcs) are available from IFIP.

- 03/12/2024 à Rennes (35) : [Comprendre et intégrer le bien-être animal en élevage avec l'outil d'auto-diagnostic BEEP – 2024 \(using the BEEP self-diagnostic tool - 2024 to understand and integrate animal welfare on farm\)](#)

- 12/12/2024 à Romillé (35) ou Rennes (35) : [Des outils pour accompagner l'arrêt progressif de la coupe des queues en élevage \(Caudectomie – Schwip\) – 2023 2024 \(tools to support the phasing out of tail docking on farms \(Caudectomy - Schwip\)](#)

Further training courses can also be found [on the website](#):

- Protection animale en abattoir : Certificat de compétence pour la protection des animaux dans le cadre de leur mise à mort (welfare in abattoirs: skills certificate on animal protection at slaughter)
- Mise à mort des porcs en élevage : méthodes, préconisations, pratiques (for veterinarians. On farm slaughter methods, precautions and practices)

- Conduite de l'élevage : gestantes, maternité, post-sevrage et engraissement (animal husbandry, farm management, pre- and post-farrowing, weaners and fattening pigs)
(...)

[21/10/2024 : Journée ITAVI - Oeufs & Poules pondeuses 05 décembre 2024](#)

Document type: seminar announcement published on the [ITAVI](#) website

Author: ITAVI

Preview: ITAVI DAY– Eggs and laying hens at Pacé (France), on 5th december 2024 from 9 am to 4:30 pm.

ITAVI looks forward to seeing you at the ITAVI Day for professionals in the production of eggs for consumption. Don't miss this privileged opportunity for information and an unmissable meeting place for all players in the industry, which, thanks to the diversity of speakers and participants, enables numerous and varied exchanges that are always appreciated to keep abreast of industry news.

Program: 9h Welcome of participants

9h15 Introduction Yves-Marie Beaudet, President of the CNPO

Decarbonization in the egg-laying industry: global context and opportunities. Enora Caron, ITAVI

Decarbonization through nutrition: assessment tool and nutritional strategy. Adeline Mathiaud, Mixscience

Modeling calcium requirements in laying hens. Yann Guyot, ITAVI

Longer laying cycles for laying hens: field feedback on issues and action levers in France and Belgium. Félicie Aulanier, Chambre d'Agriculture de Bretagne & Aurélie Derunes, Innozh

14h Resumption of presentations

Markets and egg production situation in France and Europe. Simon Fourdin, ITAVI

How is Ukraine shaking up the European egg market? Simon Fourdin, ITAVI

Farmers' survey: what's the future for caged hen houses? Aymeric Le Lay, ITAVI

Round table: how is the French industry organizing the transition to the end of cages? what are the consequences for markets? moderator Simon Fourdin, ITAVI

16:30 End of day

Practical info

This day will be held at PONANT 2 bd Dumaine de la Jossierie 35740 PACE.

[Registration link](#)

[14/10/2024 : Appel à projets. Formation bien-être animal](#)

Document type: call for training projects from [GREF Bretagne](#)

Author : GREF Bretagne

Preview: VIVEA and OCAPAT's "Animal Welfare Training" call for projects is intended to raise awareness of the importance of animal welfare on farms. The initiative is aimed at farmers and farm workers, with a particular focus on the needs of animal welfare advisors appointed on each farm. The training courses cover topics such as injury prevention, management of living conditions (feeding, space), and improvement of animal husbandry. Objectives include the acquisition of skills to ensure animal comfort, disease prevention and a better understanding of the human-animal

relationship. Training courses can be delivered in person or remotely. The intention is also to raise awareness of the importance of these issues among trainers. Funding for these training courses is delivered within particular frameworks, and farm employees are able to benefit from OCAPIAT's "Boost'Compétences" scheme.

Application deadline: December 31, 2024

[01/10/2024 : Formations en présentiel mai 2025 – Entraînement aux soins des bovins - Chaire bien-être animal](#)

Document type: Training announcement published on the [Animal Welfare Chair website](#)

Author: La Chaire Bien-être Animal

Preview: A new training course to adapt training to the care of cattle.

Wednesday May 14, 2025 and Thursday May 15, 2025 at INRAE's Herbipole Center - 15190 Marcenat (France)

Objectives

- Get to know cattle better to improve safety and facilitate handling and interventions
- Build a good human-animal relationship
- Identify common handling techniques that create stress in cattle, and take them into account
- Understand techniques for teaching and learning and know how to apply them on farm
- Break down the steps required to carry out daily care, adapting to cattle and their environment

Target audience - required attendees

Animal handlers, technicians, veterinarians, scientists

Course leader

Prof Alice de Boyer des Roches (VetAgro Sup)

Contact - Registration

Register before March 28, 2025 by sending a request by e-mail to : Service de la formation professionnelle continue - VetAgro Sup - Campus vétérinaire de Lyon 1, Avenue Bourgelat 69 280 MARCY L'ETOILE

Tel: 04 78 87 25 09

Mail : formation.continue@vetagro-sup.fr

[Link to leaflet \(pdf\)](#)

[01/10/2024 : Webinaires : La maîtrise durable des boiteries en bovins laitiers](#)

Document type: Webinar announcement published on the [Idele](#) website

Author: Idele

Preview: The long-term control of lameness in dairy cattle involves the identification and remediation of on-farm risk factors. But how do you identify them, and what are they? We will provide you with the answers in a two-part webinar series. The first webinar will be held on Tuesday November 12, 2024, from 5 to 6 pm. This will introduce you to an audit-based approach to the improvement of lameness management, taking you through the process from data collection to follow-up.

Program:

- Background: what causes lameness in dairy cattle and why a comprehensive approach is needed
- How to identify the factors that make lameness more likely on the farms visited?
- Questions (15')

[Webinar registration for November 12, 2024](#)

The second webinar will be held on Monday December 09, 2024, from 5 to 6 pm. It will focus on the risk factors that make lameness more likely to appear on cattle farms, and on how to investigate them.

Program:

- Background: quick reminder of the main causes of lameness, the intervention approach: benefits and objectives of each stage
- Risk factors linked to housing
- Risk factors linked to feeding
- Risk factors linked to health management
- Questions (15')

[Registration for the December 09, 2024 webinar](#)

The webinars will be hosted by Aurore Duvauchelle Waché (Idele), with contributions from: Marc Delacroix (veterinarian and trainer), Isabelle Delaunay (CFPPA du Rheu), Catherine Lutz (GTV), Antoine Périquet (ANPB), Ludivine Perrachon (GDS), Anne Relun (Oniris), Yannick Saillard (Innoval).

[23/09/2024 : Congrès : Pet Revolution](#)

Document type: Conference announcement published in [Pet Revolution](#)

Author: Pet Revolution

Preview: *A conference? A Revolution, rather?*

Far more than a congress, this is THE original and unique scientific event to go to. This is where the discussions between researchers, clinicians and experts are driven by passion, and where they share their knowledge in a straightforward way. It provides a fundamental opportunity to explore the worlds of our animal companions, and to get to understand them even better. It gives us the chance to revisit our perceptions of their needs and welfare, and to enrich our own experience.

Unprecedented presentations

Presentations without precedent, led by renowned researchers and experts, that can breath new life into our relationships with living beings and deconstruct our beliefs. Following on from the memorable talks by Jane Goodall and Frans De Waal in 2022, get ready for fresh and unique encounters with the pioneers who are shaping our understanding of the animal world, now and into the future.

- *Saturday, October 5, 2024, Université Paris Nanterre*

Join us at 1pm at the Université Paris Nanterre for an afternoon of lectures and discussion. An opportunity for everyone to get together in a friendly atmosphere! Follow this [link to reserve your place](#)

- *Weekend of December 7 & 8, 2024, online*

2 days of 100% on-line conferences. Attend the conference wherever you are, from home! You'll be able to ask the speakers questions, moderated by our moderators, and chat with other conference registrants. There will also be time for live exchanges between the audience and the speakers! And

for those who can't follow the conference live, or who prefer to follow it at their own pace, a recording will be available for 6 months for registered participants. Follow this [link to reserve your place](#)

Ethics-Sociology-Philosophy

[21/10/2024 : Consumers' willingness-to-pay for dairy and plant-based milk alternatives towards sustainable dairy: A scoping review](#)

Document type: Socio-economic review published in [Sustainable Production and Consumption](#)

Authors: Pamela Madududu, Damien Jourdain, Duc Tran, Margo Degieter, Selma Karuaihe, Herbert Ntuli, Hans De Steur

Preview: The dairy sector is transforming following growing concerns over sustainability, propelling innovations such as plant-based milk alternatives (PBMA). Researchers have shown increasing interest in conducting studies on consumers' willingness to pay (WTP) for dairy and PBMA. This scoping review expounds on consumers' WTP for dairy and PBMA, focusing on attributes to understand the variation across regions, value elicitation methods, driving factors, and impact on sustainable dairy. Researchers searched the literature using Web of Science, Scopus, and AgEcon databases and used descriptive statistics and thematic analysis to synthesize the findings of a scoping review of 123 worldwide studies. The reviewed studies applied stated preference (SP) and revealed preference (RP) methods, but SP methods were dominant, especially discrete choice experiments (DCEs) (42 %) and contingent valuation methods (CVM) (25 %). Consumers were willing to pay an average premium of 44 % for all attributes. Most studies were on cow milk (90 %), whereas very few investigated PBMA and other milk types. The average WTP for the attribute categories were organic (55 %), animal welfare (53 %), origin (45 %), milk quality and safety (45 %), brand (40 %), environmental (34 %), health-related (25 %), and sensory attributes (22 %). Consumers' WTP for dairy and PBMA attributes impact the sustainability of the dairy sector across regions. Moreover, income, awareness, and information consciousness influenced consumers' WTP for organic, safety, health, and environmental milk attributes. This study highlights the complexity and diversity of consumers' WTP for dairy and PBMA across regions. Our findings emphasize the need to employ multilevel strategies ranging from farm-level dairy production to processing and consumption to achieve socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable dairy. Future research should focus on consumers' WTP for PBMA and gather more evidence on how consumers in Africa and South America value sustainable dairy and PBMA.

[30/09/2024 : Near and Dear? If animal welfare concepts do not apply to species at a great phylogenetic distance from humans, what concepts might serve as alternatives?](#)

Document type: scientific synthesis published in [Animal Welfare](#)

Authors: Arndt SS, van der Staay FJ, Goerlich VC.

Preview: A wide range of animal taxa, including vertebrates and invertebrates, are controlled or kept by humans. They may be used as pets, for recreation, sport and hobbies, as working animals, as producers of animal-derived (food) products or as biomedical models in research. There is a need for clear guidance on the treatment of animals, regardless of their phylogenetic distance from humans. Current animal welfare concepts, which emphasise animal sentience and the ability of animals to experience negative or positive mental states, are limited in scope to a small proportion of the animal kingdom, as the vast majority of species are (currently) thought to lack sentience. We discuss four options for addressing the question of which basic concept(s) could be used to derive guidelines for the treatment of animal species, sentient or non-sentient: (1) alternative concepts tailored to specific groups of species; (2) 'welfare' concepts not presupposing sentience; (3) the precautionary principle; or (4) the concept of animal integrity. Since questions regarding the appropriate treatment of animals, including species with a large phylogenetic distance from humans, have an ethical/moral dimension, we also address who counts morally and how much, and how animals should be treated given their moral status. We suggest that the concept of animal integrity, possibly complemented and extended by the concept of habitat/ecosystem integrity, is suitable for application to all species. However, a current concept of animal welfare should serve as the primary basis for guidance on how to treat species that are sentient and capable of experiencing emotions.

[23/09/2024 : Review: Welfare in farm animals from an animal-centred point of view](#)

Document type: scientific synthesis published in [Animal](#)

Author: Huber, K

Preview: This review aimed to enlighten aspects of welfare from the farm animal-centred point of view rarely addressed such as those anatomical and physiological alterations induced in farm animals to obtain high performance. Hence, the major working hypothesis was that high-producing farm animals developed an imbalance between body structural and functional capacities and the genetic procedures applied to obtain industrial production of animal protein. This is called "disproportionality", a feature which cannot be compensated by feeding and management approaches. Consequences of disproportionality are the insidious development of disturbances of the metabolism, low-grade systemic inflammation and as a final stage, production diseases, developing throughout the productive life span of a farm animal and affecting animal welfare. Based on scientific evidence from literature, the review discusses disproportional conditions in broilers, laying hens, sows, piglets, dairy cows, bulls and calves as the most important farm animals for production of milk, meat, fetuses and eggs. As a conclusion, farm animal welfare must consider analysing issues from an animal-centered point of view because it seems evident that, due to genetics and management pressures, most of farm animals are already beyond their physiological limitations. Animal welfare from an animal-centered point must be addressed as an ethical step to establish limits to the strength placed on the animal's anatomical and physiological functionality. It may allow more sustainable and efficient farm animal production and the availability of healthy animal-derived protein for human nutrition worldwide.

Animal welfare assessment and Labelling

[21/10/2024 : The role of ethical orientation in animal welfare choice behaviour: A segmentation study](#)

Document type: socio-economic article published in [Food Quality and Preference](#)

Authors: Anne O. Peschel, Kristina Thomsen, George Tsalis, Klaus G. Grunert

Preview: Consumers are becoming more and more conscious about their consumption choices, demanding more sustainable, healthy and fair options. Meat consumption especially is under scrutiny for environmental as well as ethical reasons. We develop a set of items to measure ethical orientation and apply it to consumers' choices of meat products with 3000 consumers across six European countries (Denmark, Germany, Spain, Poland, Netherlands, Italy). We find consumer preferences to be similar across countries, with two thirds of consumers showing a preference for animal welfare attributes, especially outdoor access. Consumer segments can be differentiated based on their degree of ethical orientation, environmental concern, level of trust in the food system and price sensitivity. Ethical orientation differentiates between consumers' self-reported welfare meat purchases. Our results contribute to the literature on consumer behavior regarding farm animal welfare across different meat product and countries.

[14/10/2024 : Saumon : les failles du label ASC qui prône un élevage « responsable »](#)

Document type: article published in [Le Monde](#) (subscriber edition)

Author: Maxime Vaudano

Preview: This certification is supposed to help consumers make ecologically virtuous choices. But it tolerates controversial farming practices that are contested by specialized NGOs. Sustainable", "responsible", "quality" salmon... Browsing supermarket shelves and fishmonger stalls, French consumers can be reassured of the ecological virtues of the fish that will end up on their plates. But the reality is sometimes far from what those blue or green labels on the packaging suggest. Salmon production conditions are rarely verified directly in the field by wholesalers and retailers. Retailers tend to rely on labels awarded by specialized international organizations, which conduct regular audits of each label farm to verify compliance with pre-defined specifications. The ASC (Aquaculture Stewardship Council) label, created in 2010 by the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative and the environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) WWF, covers around 40% of the salmon sold worldwide, and is claimed to be one of the most demanding on the market. "If you see the ASC label on the packaging, you can be sure that your seafood has been raised with care", the organization assures consumers, even promising to have "a proven positive impact on people and the planet". The reality, however, is more nuanced: while the ASC sets a certain number of restrictive rules, which pull certified farms upwards, it leaves breeders a margin of maneuver. But it also leaves breeders considerable leeway to maintain controversial practices.

Animal welfare

What are we talking about? Crowding salmon into overcrowded rearing tanks can have serious consequences for their health, promoting injury and the spread of disease. Specialized NGO Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) recommends limiting farm density to 10 kilograms per cubic meter to allow salmon "to express their natural behavior and disperse to more favorable areas when

water conditions are not optimal" - which would leave the equivalent of two or three bathtubs for each individual. CIWF also condemns slaughter without prior stunning, which generates stress and pain. What does the CSA stipulate? For the time being, the label does not lay down any rules on farm density or slaughter methods. Next year, however, the organization intends to make pre-slaughter stunning mandatory. It is also working on the question of density, while ruling out the idea of "setting a threshold density", which in its view would be "a major risk for animal health, since taken in isolation, density [is] not the reflet of fish health".

(The rest of the article is reserved for subscribers)

[05/10/2024 : Text Mining and Topic Analysis for Ostriches' Welfare Based on Systematic Literature Review from 1983 to 2023](#)

Document type: scientific synthesis published in [Veterinary Sciences](#)

Authors: Previti, A.; Biondi, V.; Or, M.E.; Bilgiç, B.; Pugliese, M.; Passantino, A

Preview: Ostriches can be utilized as multipurpose animals suitable for producing meat, eggs, feathers, and leather. This growing interest in ostrich farming leads to an increased demand for comprehensive information on their management. But little attention is paid to the consequences for their welfare. The study aimed to perform a research literature analysis on ostriches' welfare using the text mining (TM) and topic analysis (TA) methods. It identifies prevailing topics, summarizes their temporal trend within the last forty years, and highlights potential research gaps. According to PRISMA guidelines, a literature exploration was achieved using the Scopus® database, retaining keywords about ostriches' welfare. Papers distributed in the English language from 1983 to 2023 were included. Descriptive statistics, TM, and TA were applied to a total of n. 122 documents included. The findings revealed an increasing trend in research records since 1994. TM recognized the terms with the highest weighted frequency and TA identified the main topics of the research area, in the following order: "health and management", "feeding and nutrition", "welfare reproduction", "egg production", and "welfare during transport". The study confirms the increased focus on ostriches' welfare but shows that further studies are required to ensure the welfare of this species.

[17/09/2024 : Interview - L'Anses et l'étiquetage bien-être animal - Chaire bien-être animal](#)

Document type: interview report published by the [VetAgro Sup Animal Welfare Chair](#)

Author : La Chaire Bien-être animal

Preview: *What is the Anses, and what are its main missions and achievements?*

The Anses is a French health agency that provides scientific expertise. As a public administrative body, it reports to the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Ecological Transition, Labor and Consumer Affairs. Its role is to provide public decision-makers with the scientific benchmarks they need to better safeguard human health, including in the workplace, along with that of animals and plants, as part of the " *One Health* " principle. Together with its European and international counterparts, the Anses promotes the production of data and knowledge to strengthen global health safety (...)

Why take up the subject of animal welfare labelling?

Public interest in the conditions surrounding animals' lives on the farm and their subsequent deaths has grown steadily since the 2000s. This interest has gradually been taken on board by livestock professionals, along with the agri-food and distribution sectors. In addition, animal welfare is increasingly regulated at various levels, including that of the European Union (EU). What is more, the European Commission (EC) has included the opportunity offered by animal welfare labelling (AWL) in the timetable for its [Farm to Fork](#) strategy, and will state its position on this subject in 2024. The drafting of the guidelines for the development of animal welfare labelling reference systems proposed by Anses fits with the timing of these political actions. These guidelines are intended to establish a common framework, at a time when many labels are under development but with no mechanism to compare them. The Anses therefore took the initiative of proposing guiding principles based on its own definition of animal welfare (Anses, 2018) and on scientific data, to establish the criteria that should be considered in assessing animal welfare, enabling all food-producing vertebrate animal species and their associated farming systems to be covered. The report and corresponding expert opinion were [published](#) on the Anses website on May 2, 2024.

How would the Anses proposal enable a label to stand out from other authorised labels (organic, Label Rouge) and tags, trademarks, or symbols (animal welfare symbol)?

It's important to distinguish between a trademark, tag or symbol and an authorised label. The guidelines allow for the creation of a reference framework with a view to creating a tag, trademark or symbol. In the legal sense of the term, a label involves requirements that clearly distinguish it from a tag, trademark or symbol. In the absence of a legal definition, labels are defined by case law (...). Tags, trademarks or symbols are referred to in [Regulation \(EU\) 1169/2011](#) on the provision of food information to consumers (known as INCO) (...). According to our expertise, there are several points that distinguish the process of obtaining an overall animal welfare rating from other systems for tags, trademarks or symbols, or labelling systems. (...)

What criteria do you suggest should be applied when assessing animal welfare for labelling purposes?

An individual's welfare is their quality of life as they perceive it. This welfare is both individual and concerns multiple domains. Each of the six areas of animal welfare includes one or more criterion/a to be assessed. For this multi-criteria approach, 14 animal welfare criteria have been identified. Each criterion is assessed by measuring at least one indicator, and priority must be given to indicators measured on the animals (Animal Based Measures, ABM).

You propose that the welfare of breeding animals should also be taken into account in the final score (...)

How did Anses go about drawing up this Opinion? Which experts were involved, from which disciplinary fields, and what was the decision-making process?

The Anses entrusted the task of examining this question to a working group, formed of 10 experts selected in accordance with the agency's principles (...)

In practical terms, what happens next? Who is the report for?

The principles proposed by the experts are aimed at scientists and stakeholders who are planning to create labeling reference systems that include animal welfare assessment protocols for a given sector or category of animal. These principles are not directly addressed to consumers, although of course the labeling process must then be transparent and accessible to all. (...) This expert appraisal work was the subject of various reports: to the bureaux of the Direction Générale de l'Alimentation

(DGAL) with an interest in the subject matter; to the European Commission and the EFSA; to the stakeholders who were interviewed by the working group (...).

[31/07/2024 : A Systematic Review on Management Practices Affecting Welfare in Male Calves: A Five Domains Model Approach](#)

Document type: meta-analysis published in [Acta Veterinaria Eurasia](#)

Authors: Tuberquia-López B.C., Álvarez Hernández, N., & Correa Valencia, N. M.

Preview: Veal calf welfare is of critical concern, as various management practices can contribute significantly to negative effects on health and welfare outcomes. The present review aimed to systematically collect and analyze the available evidence regarding the management strategies affecting the well-being of male calves worldwide, according to the five domains model. A systematic search was conducted for studies published until March 31, 2023, in five electronic databases (i.e., OVID®/MEDLINE, PubMed®, SciELO, Redalyc, Web of Science™). Only articles published in peer-reviewed journals were considered, and inclusion and exclusion criteria were established a priori and maintained throughout the systematic process. Thirty-six articles underwent the final inclusion criteria. All were published in English, in 15 journals, and between 1997 and 2023. The relevant articles reported management practices according to each of the five domains. Management strategies with a negative effect on calf welfare included inadequate feeding of high-optimal colostrum within a few hours of birth, lack of a colostrum management program, dehorning/castration without local anesthesia or analgesia, and long transportation of ≤14-day-old calves. Opportunities to improve male calf welfare included management practices such as ad libitum feeding, early provision of solid feed, socially grouped housing, adequate hutch space, and pain management during routine productive procedures. None of the studies were directly related to domain 5 (mental status). In general, there has been an increase in the number of studies on male calf welfare over time. Several management strategies can be considered or improved around new policies and management programs in male calf populations in consideration of the five domain approach.

Animal welfare initiatives

[15/10/2024 : L'animal en ville - Chartres](#)

Document type: article published by [Ville de Chartres](#)

Author: Ville de Chartres

Preview: Our faithful companions, other mammals and local biodiversity, are all part of the urban environment. The City of Chartres, as part of its Éco-Ville program, is committed to creating a harmonious environmental relationship between the city and its green spaces, animal welfare and city-dwellers' life choices. With this in mind, we have produced an animal welfare guide that covers both domestic and wild animals. This guide is intended for all residents, regardless of whether they are animal owners, to help everyone to help people, animals and nature to live alongside each other in harmony. The guide contains answers to your questions, practical advice and useful contact information.

[Link to the guide \(pdf\)](#)

[09/10/2024 : Bien-être animal et innovation en élevage de veau de boucherie : ce qu'il faut retenir du webinaire RENOUEAU](#)

Document type: end of project Webinar slides published on the [RENOUEAU \(Idele\)](#)

Authors: Didier Bastien (Institut de l'Élevage - CIRVEAU), Magdélène Chanteperrin (Institut de l'Élevage)

Preview: In the context of a society-wide decline in production and consumption, French veal calf production faces a number of challenges. These challenges not only concern production itself, but also touch on broader issues linked to changes in farming methods. Citizen-consumer expectations are evolving rapidly, with a growing demand for forms of production that take greater account of animal welfare and health. Today's consumers are increasingly aware of the ethical issues surrounding livestock farming, and their expectations no longer relate solely to the quality of the end product. There is a need to investigate ways for farming practices to evolve to meet these new societal demands, while maintaining production that is economically viable. This is the backdrop for a pilot project by the French Institut de l'Élevage involving multiple partners and entitled RENOUEAU. It was funded by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty, between 2020 and 2023. This ambitious project has inspired various members of the agricultural sector to find ways to meet public expectations, exploring new avenues to improve calf rearing conditions. The main objectives of the work carried out as part of the RENOUEAU project were to:

- Identify societal expectations regarding veal calf production:
- Develop and acquire baseline models for new animal housing and feeding methods,
- Assess the impact of these new production methods on several aspects of farming, namely: calf welfare, health and growth, quality of finished products (meat and leather), and economic impact (capital costs, economic results).

The RENOUEAU project was brought to a close by a webinar held on December 12, 2023 and presenting the full range of project outcomes. A number of different speakers shared the conclusions of their work and discussed the future of the French veal industry.

[Link to slides \(pdf\)](#)

[05/10/2024 : Animal Welfare reports - Danish Crown](#)

Document type: reports published in [Danish Crown](#)

Author: Danish Crown

Preview: Here you will find our animal welfare reports, which are divided into an Animal Welfare Position Statement and an Animal Welfare Outcome Report.

[Link to the Animal Welfare Position Statement](#) (pdf)

[Link to the Animal Welfare Outcome Report](#) (pdf)

[03/10/2024 : La newsletter - Chaire bien-être animal](#)

Document type: September 2024 Newsletter of the VetAgro Sup [Animal Welfare Chair](#)

Author: Luc Mounier

Preview: The European Commission has appointed Olivér Várhelyi as Commissioner for Health and Animal and Welfare. He will be responsible for helping to implement the recommendations of the Strategic Dialogue on the future of European agriculture. In particular, this report indicates that the revision of European animal welfare legislation should be brought forward by 2026, and confirms the intention to ban cage farming. These two pieces of news offer some encouragement, although we should wait and continue to be cautious until we see the actual proposals from the Commission. The proposals will then be forwarded to the Member States... Fortunately, in France, after two months of uncertainty, we now have a new Minister for Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry. We don't yet know her stance on animal welfare, and here too, patience will be required. In short, waiting is the only thing we can do for the time being... let's just hope we don't have to wait too long for new animal-friendly regulations to be passed.

In this month's newsletter: the Chair has posted a number of English-language resources on animal welfare on its website, an interview with the Association pour la protection des animaux sauvages (ASPAS), the Anses has published guidelines for the creation of animal welfare labels, educational fact sheets, our cliché of the month, Alain Ducos of ENVT's discussion on agroecology in his monthly newsletter, and a selection of press articles.

30/09/2024 : EURCAW Ruminants & Equines Newsletter - Volume 07

Document type: Newsletter n°7 of the [EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines](#)

Author: EURCAW-Ruminants & Equines

Preview: Welcome to Volume 07 of our Newsletter ! This is the third edition of the newsletter in 2024. In this edition, we share details on our outputs since June 2024, Meet the Scientist, Inspector@work, and latest news related to ruminant and equine welfare. Since June 2024, EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* has published the following outputs:

- Review on Working Equids in EU Member States
- Review on Relational Enrichment
- [Indicator Factsheet on Equine Fitness for Transport](#)
- Q2E on Emergency Killing
- Q2E on Fasting Intervals for Equines
- Inspector@Work article (Austria)

[Link to the Newsletter](#)

24/09/2024 : Les Français veulent une meilleure protection pour les poissons d'élevage

Document type: citizen survey published in [CIWF France](#)

Authors: CIWF, Eurogroup for Animals

Preview: *EU citizens asked about the welfare of farmed fish*

CIWF have teamed up with Eurogroup for Animals to bring out [a survey](#), conducted for us by Sapience, who polled over 9,000 people in the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the Netherlands. We wanted to discover the public's attitudes towards

fish and fish consumption, along with their knowledge of fish farming practices. The results of our survey, published today, show that 94% of French citizens believe that fish welfare should be protected to the same or greater extent than the welfare of other animals we eat (a view shared by 91% of respondents in the nine countries of the European Union).

Great suffering in fish

Fish are sentient beings, capable of feeling pleasure and pain. Despite this, up to a billion of them are farmed every year in the European Union without any legal obligation to meet their specific welfare needs. Overcrowding makes them more susceptible to disease and stress, aggression and physical injuries, and starvation is commonplace. In the European Union, fish are often killed inhumanely, and many endure slow and painful deaths by asphyxiation, or even by being gutted alive.

European citizens want change

The results of this survey were clear in all nine countries: EU citizens want change.

- Many EU citizens are oblivious to the most common fish farming methods and their consequences, and this is all the more true of the French! Just 31% of French people are aware that fish are typically unable to express their natural behaviors, compared to an EU average of 42%. And only 30% of French people know that antibiotics are commonly used in fish farming to compensate for these unsuitable farming conditions, versus 40% of EU citizens.

- EU citizens, and particularly the French, do however know that fish can feel negative emotions such as fear (72% of French respondents). 71% of EU citizens know that fish can feel pain.

- This means that EU citizens expect better farming practices. 78% of French people polled said, for example, that farmers should be legally required to stun aquatic animals before slaughter, as did 70% of EU citizens.

When it comes to buying fish products, almost all French people (94%) said they would like to buy fish raised in better welfare conditions, and 80% said they would like fish products to include clear welfare labelling that reflect how the fish were reared and killed.

Legislation is needed

In response to this strong support, we are today sending an open letter to the European Commissioner-designates for Fisheries and Oceans and for Health and Animal Welfare, asking them to adopt species-specific welfare provisions for farmed fish as part of the review of legislation on animal welfare which they promised to publish by the end of 2023, but which has not yet been completed. This move is backed by four out of five people polled across all nine EU countries, who are supportive of legislation that promotes best practices and the latest science to meet the unique welfare needs of farmed aquatic animals. (...)

[Link to the study \(pdf in English\)](#)

22/09/2024 : Un seul numéro contre la maltraitance animale, le 36 77 : 18 000 appels en deux mois

Document type: article published in [Ouest France](#)

Author: Christel Trinquier

Preview: In animal protection circles, the idea has been circulating since 1995: to set up a single national hotline where private individuals could directly report any acts of animal abuse they witness.

It has become a reality since June 24, 2024, with the opening of 36 77, a free telephone hotline operating seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays (and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at weekends). As proof, if any were needed, that the initiative meets a real need: in the two months since its launch, 36 77 has received no fewer than 18,000 calls. Behind the initiative is the Conseil National de Protection Animale (CNPA, National Council for Animal Protection), chaired by Loïc Dombrevail, whose active role in drafting the November 30, 2021 law to combat animal abuse is well known. When faced with a case of abuse, the vast majority of French people are powerless," he explains. They don't know who to contact and/or don't necessarily turn to the right person. With this single number, we simplify the process for them, while at the same time pre-processing reports to ensure better care.

Signposting and filtering

More concretely, 36 77 functions as a filtering and redirection platform: our operators - all paid employees and duly trained - will first assess the situation: is it a life or death emergency? Is it a case of abuse or a neighbor dispute (calls of this type are plentiful)? On the basis of the information collected, each caller will be referred to the correct contact person as close as possible to the place where the report was made. We don't intervene in the field, but in the event of a life-threatening emergency, the police have made a national commitment to prioritise reports supported by 36 77, precisely because they have been verified.

It's a one-stop shop that should provide relief for the switchboards of animal protection associations, as well as those of police and gendarmerie services, who are generally contacted in the first instance. 36 77 provides a genuine public service, and we regret that the French government did not participate in funding the project", commented Loïc Dombrevail. Despite what its name might suggest, the CNPA is an association. Recognized as being an organisation in the public interest, it is financed exclusively by the private sector. And it is currently on the hunt for new partners to carry out its new mission: for the present, there are only seven operators...

20/09/2024 : Newsletter EURCAW-Poultry-SFA - Edition 9

Document type: Newsletter 9 of the [EURCAW-Poultry-SFA](#) (European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for Poultry and other small farmed animals)

Auteur : EURCAW-Poultry-SFA

Summary: In Issue 9 of the EURCAW-Poultry-SFA Newsletter, you'll find our answers to Q2E queries and other recent news and documents.

[Link to download the Newsletter](#) (in English)

17/09/2024 : Bilan estival 2024 : I-cad dévoile ses chiffres

Document type : article published in [Le Point Vétérinaire.fr](#)

Author: Valentine Chamard

Preview: As the season draws to a close, the I-Cad database has reported its figures for lost animals during the summer of 2024. Between June and August, over 27,000 animals (dogs and cats) were declared "lost", including 5,357 dogs and 21,718 cats nationwide. Cats are by far the largest category, with a 36% increase in declarations between the beginning of June and the end of August. These figures may be 13% lower than those for the summer of 2022, when the number of animals

reported lost by their owners to the national database topped the 30,000 mark, but they nevertheless remain high. *(Remainder of article for subscribers only)*

11/07/2024 : Good welfare practices for rabbit - EURCAW Poultry-SFA

Document type : good practice guides published by [EURCAW Poultry-SFA](#)

Author: EURCAW Poultry-SFA

Preview: Concrete examples of good practices in relation to rabbits' welfare may inspire producers in the European Union to take up similar practices or implement related initiatives. In 2022, EURCAW-Poultry-SFA searched for and identified good practices regarding alternative rabbit production, resulting in a list. The intention is that members of the consortium will visit a selection of these best practices in 2023. The knowledge gained during the visits will be used for the final decision on which demonstrators can be approved as examples of best practices. The end product will be factsheets on best practices of alternative rabbit production.

- [Link to the list of identified potential demonstrators of examples of good welfare practices regarding alternative rabbit production \(pdf\)](#)
- [Elevated pen system for breeding and growing rabbits \(pdf\)](#)

10/09/2024 : Public consultation on animal transport: citizens overwhelmingly want better policies

Document type : article published by [Eurogroup for Animals](#)

Author: Eurogroup for Animals

Preview: In 2023, the European Commission announced it would update the Transport Regulation as part of its full revision to the animal welfare legislation. Soon after, it published its initial proposal for the update, which it invited European citizens to feed back on through a public consultation. The response level was very high. The public consultation, which was open for a period of over four months (between 8 December 2023 and 12 April 2024) gathered over 5,000 contributions for analysis. Within this number, a lot of the key input came from Spain, Germany, France and Italy, highlighting significant public interest for this topic in these Member States. The results showed citizens overwhelmingly support stricter regulations to protect animal welfare in this industry, including by:

- Banning certain types of transport and exports. Including banning long-distance and sea transport, and the export of live animals to third countries;
- Improving transport conditions. Calling for adequate space, ventilation, food and water, as well as for reduced transport times;
- Protecting vulnerable animals. Calling to ban the transport of unweaned and vulnerable animals, along with enforcing strict temperature controls;
- Supporting stricter weather protection. Incorporating recommendations for stricter measures to safeguard animals from extreme weather;
- Condemning harmful methods. Opposing the use of electric prods;

- Addressing transition periods. Issues were raised about the length of transition periods to implement new welfare rules;
- Helping poultry and rabbits. With suggestions to further limit transport times for these animals, based on their specific needs and natures;
- Possibly transitioning to a different type of trade entirely. There is widespread support for shifting to the transport of meat and carcasses instead of live animals, which is viewed as a more humane alternative that could significantly reduce suffering.

Stakeholders from various fields, including agriculture, public authorities, and NGOs, also provided feedback on different areas of the proposal, such as its current scope and what it says about journey times and temperature controls. These results were mixed, with some differences of opinion arising between the groups. For instance, industry voices and farmers raised concerns about limiting journey times during transport, whereas NGOs posited that journey times should be reduced significantly, for the wellbeing of the animals subjected to them.

The transport proposal needs some changes to truly work for animal welfare

As the responses to the public consultation show, the current transport proposal should be further revised. [Our white paper](#) details several measures that can be used by policy-makers to draft the strongest policies possible in this area: addressing both the needs of the animals in this sector, as well as the concerns of European citizens who have voiced support for protecting their welfare.

[Link to the summary results of the public consultation](#)

Housing and Enrichment

[30/09/2024 : How do different amounts of straw as well as compost in the home pen affect the rooting motivation of growing-finishing pigs?](#)

Document type: scientific article published in [Animal](#)

Authors: S. Lopez, C. Rufener, M. Holinger

Preview: Rooting is a strongly motivated, species-specific behaviour of pigs. Most housing systems do not provide appropriate materials that enable the full expression of this behaviour, and it remains unclear whether straw is suitable to entirely fulfil the rooting motivation of pigs. We therefore investigated the suitability of small (minimal) and large (deep) amounts of straw as well as large amounts of compost to satisfy rooting motivation in pigs. Fifty-seven growing-finishing pigs were housed in three pens, each providing permanent access to one of the three treatment substrates. Eight pigs per group were tested individually in a classical preference test (PT) and another eight pigs in a conditioned place preference test (CPPT). In the tests, pigs could show their preference to consume freely available feed (“feed”) or feed hidden in sawdust (“root”). In the CPPT, feed was only present during training but not during testing. Pigs were exposed to the test situation twice, with approximately 72 kg and 115 kg BW. In both tests, the following variables were measured and used as outcome variables in linear mixed effect models: first decision to choose one of the two stimuli (“feed” or “root”), duration of time spent in proximity to “root”, number of changes between stimuli, and latency to the first decision. Overall, the pigs’ first decision (by tendency; $P = 0.076$) and the

duration in proximity to “root” ($P = 0.034$) varied among treatments: Pigs housed with minimal straw tended to be more likely to choose “root” first (posthoc comparison; $P = 0.090$) and spent more time in proximity to “root” ($P = 0.030$) than pigs housed with compost, whereas pigs housed with deep straw were intermediate. Interestingly, the patterns of response to the treatment differed depending on the behavioural tests for both, first decision (interaction; $P = 0.032$) and duration in proximity to “root” (interaction; by tendency; $P = 0.006$). In addition, pigs in the PT changed more often between stimuli than pigs in the CPPT ($P \leq 0.001$). There was a tendency for an interactive effect between test and treatment for latency to first decision (interaction; $P = 0.082$), though pairwise comparisons did not reveal any differences. We concluded that in this study housing with permanent access to compost satisfied rooting motivation in pigs more than housing with minimal amounts of straw.

[30/09/2024 : Effects of space allowance on patterns of activity in group-housed dairy calves](#)

Document type: scientific article published in [JDS Communications](#)

Authors: M.B. Ugarte Marin, K.N. Gingerich, J. Wang, H. Yu, E.K. Miller-Cushon

Preview: With increasing use of social housing for dairy calves, there is a need to refine housing management practices that influence animal behavior and may affect welfare. Our aim was to assess the effect of pen space allowance on activity patterns and pen space use. Holstein heifer calves were group-housed ($n = 6$ pens; 5 calves/pen) at $14 \text{ d} \pm 2.8 \text{ d}$ of age (mean \pm SD). After a 7-d adaptation, each pen was exposed to 3 different space allowances (3.7, 4.6, and 5.6 m^2/calf) in a random order, according to a replicated Latin square design with three 7-d periods (period 1, d 22–28; period 2, d 29–35; and period 3, d 36–42). Calves were provided milk replacer (12 L/d) ad libitum via an automated milk feeder and gradually weaned over 10 d, beginning at $48 \pm 3 \text{ d}$ of age. Using leg-based accelerometers (HOBO Pendant G data logger, Onset Computer Corp., Pocasset, MA), we obtained data describing standing time, standing bout frequency, and standing bout duration. Daily pen-level average standing time (6.5 h/d; $\text{SE} = 0.27$) did not differ between treatments. However, with greater space allowance, calves had more frequent standing bouts (22.6 vs. 20.3 bouts/d; 5.6 vs. 3.7 m^2/calf ; $\text{SE} = 0.96$) of shorter duration. To assess effects of space allowance on within-pen individual variability, we calculated the coefficient of variation for daily activity outcomes at the pen level and intra-class correlation coefficients for hourly standing time, by pen and day. The coefficient of variation for standing behavior outcomes decreased with increasing space allowance, and the intraclass correlation for hourly standing time increased, suggesting that increasing space allowance reduced individual variability and may promote more synchronous rest. Finally, we qualitatively assessed use of pen space using motion heat maps generated using computer vision from video recorded of each pen from 0800 to 1200 h on d 6 and 7 of each experimental period for each pen. These images suggest that calves preferentially used space near the perimeter of the pen, but space was used more uniformly when space allowance is restricted. Overall, these results suggest that lower space allowances may restrict patterns of activity at the pen level and reduce behavioral synchrony.

[30/09/2024 : Novel enrichment reduces boredom-associated behaviors in housed dairy cows](#)

Document type: scientific article published in [JDS Communications](#)

Authors: Alison L. Russell, Laura V. Randall, Nikki Eyre, Jasmeet Kaler, Martin J. Green

Preview: There is currently societal interest and concern for dairy cow welfare. It has been suggested that boredom poses a welfare issue for dairy cows, particularly when presented with extended disposable time in housed environments that lack stimuli. Farm animals experience a multitude of affective states, which has created a need for positive experiences to be included in welfare management. Environmental enrichment can reduce boredom and facilitate positive experiences; however, the research in cows is limited. To assess the behavioral impact of a simple enrichment on commercially housed dairy cows, we provided 24-h access to a novel object, for 3 wk, for 2 separate groups of cows. Two boredom-associated behaviors significantly decreased when the object was present compared with when it was not present: “idling” behavior and unsuccessful robotic milking attempts (“refusals”). In addition, there was a significant increase in the occurrence of self-grooming during treatment weeks, when the novel object was present. These results suggest that idling and refusals may be behavioral indicators of boredom in dairy cows.

30/09/2024 : Review: The influence of light on pig welfare

Document type: scientific synthesis published in [Animal](#)

Authors: A.J. Scallierez, S.E. van Nieuwamerongen - de Koning, I.J.M.M. Boumans, P.P.J. van der Tol, E.A.M. Bokkers

Preview: While several countries impose minimum light requirements for pig housing, it remains unknown whether these requirements are beneficial for pig welfare. Therefore, we aim to review the current knowledge on the effects of light on pig welfare. In this paper, we explain concepts defining light, discuss the relevance of vision for pigs and systematically review the effects of light on pig welfare. Systematic literature searches were performed in two databases to find studies about light and welfare-related topics, including behaviour, health, hormonal secretions and productivity. After screening, 63 studies were reviewed. According to literature, light is relevant in pigs’ lives as they are diurnal animals and use vision in combination with other senses to, for example, locate food and interact with conspecifics. Throughout this paper, the investigated light parameters are photoperiod, intensity and spectrum. Pigs seem to have p for a certain light intensity and spectrum, but these preferences vary over production phases. Photoperiod influences feed intake and growth, especially in piglets, but no conclusion can be drawn because of contradictory results. Furthermore, pigs’ activity patterns adapt to the provided light schedule and show a diurnal rhythm with higher activity during lit hours. Photoperiod also plays a role in the diurnal secretion of hormones. Cortisol secretion increases shortly before the moment of light onset, and melatonin secretion is influenced by the light and dark contrast with a nocturnal rise after light offset. Some behaviours are impacted by light intensity; for instance, dim conditions are associated with resting and bright conditions with elimination behaviour. Moreover, a few studies showed that in dimmer conditions, more negative social interactions occur, while brighter conditions lead to more positive interactions. Lastly, even though light spectrum is the least explored light parameter, several studies showed that UV B light can activate the cutaneous synthesis of vitamin D3. A limitation in the current literature is that several studies tested light treatments differing in more than one light parameter, making the interpretation of each light parameter difficult. Moreover, most studies do not provide information on other light

parameters not targeted by the study, particularly on light spectrum. Some clear knowledge gaps that emerged from this review are on light spectrum and on affective states of pigs in relation to light.

[25/09/2024 : Coopératives des Producteurs de Lapins de La Réunion : Inauguration d'un nouveau mode d'élevage pour plus de bien-être animal](#)

Document type: article published in [Megazap Outremer](#)

Author: Megazap

Preview: Yesterday, the Coopérative des Producteurs de Lapins de La Réunion (CPLR) opened a second experimental rabbit farm on its Plaine des Grègues site. To mark the occasion, all the cooperative's institutional and financial partners were invited to learn about an innovative breeding model that places animal welfare at the heart of its approach.

A second experimental site for this pioneering project

Following on from Sainte Rose, a year and a half ago, Madame Naze's farm is the second on the island to adopt this new farming method, which is still in the experimental stage. The new 2×3-meter pens allow the rabbits greater freedom of movement than cages. The surface area per animal provides a tenfold increase exercise possibilities, notably with the addition of a mezzanine. "This model not only changes the rabbits' lives, it also changes our working conditions," says the rabbit breeder, who started her business in 2010. The BEATRIX (Bien Être Animal Transition Relance Innovation Expérimentation) project, supported by European, national and ODEADOM funds, with the participation of the ARIBEV Interprofession, is working towards a solution to implement the 2021 European Directive aiming to phase out cage farming by 2027-2030. "Only 2% of farms in mainland France have adopted this type of farming model, placing this initiative at the cutting edge of progress for animal welfare in the French overseas departments," Candice Beyssac, Deputy General Secretary of ARIBEV, stressed when she congratulated Marie-Annie Naze "for her exemplary approach, which promises a bright future for all farmers." The first phase of the project, launched on the EARL Ferrere farm in Sainte-Rose, was the first overseas experimental testing of this ground-based breeding model. Once a few adjustments had been made, the experiment demonstrated the viability of this alternative to cage rearing. For this second site, additional modifications were made. (...) The CPLR director continues: "It's important for us to be able to study the cost model at every stage. This is a viable business model, and with a number of retirements coming up, we are currently preparing 10 candidates to set up operations over the next three years." Despite its small size, CPLR has demonstrated its ability to innovate. This year, it was awarded the Agri-éthique fair trade label, which recognizes the efforts of operators committed to sustainable and ethical agriculture. This is a first for rabbit farming industries, with ambitions on a national scale! "The EARL Ferrere farm in Sainte-Rose has already been awarded the label. Our ambition is to have all Réunion's rabbit farms certified," explains Jimmy Payet. With this in mind, the cooperative will be continuing with the pilots on these two large enclosure farms over the coming months, with the aim of making the final adjustments that will make this model accessible and sustainable for all breeders in the future.

[15/08/2024 : Environmental Enrichment in Rabbit Husbandry: Comparative Impacts on Performance and Welfare](#)

Document type: scientific synthesis published in [Animals](#)

Authors: El-Sabrou K., Sherasiya A.; Ahmad S., Aggag S., Nannoni E., Cavallini D., Buonaiuto G.

Preview: Rabbits are highly susceptible to environmental stress. Such stress, stemming from conventional housing conditions, can negatively impact well-being and productivity. Some of these negative consequences are increased susceptibility to diseases and infections and reduced growth rates and reproductive performance, as well as increased behavioral issues such as aggression. Environmental enrichment is the modification of the environment in which a domesticated animal lives in order to meet the species' behavioral needs. The objective of providing enrichment is to facilitate animals in expressing natural behaviors, thereby preventing behavioral frustration and negative affective states. Several inexpensive and safe materials can be used to enrich rabbit enclosures. This review emphasizes the significance of implementing diverse environmental enrichments to alleviate stress in rabbit farming. It summarizes their effects on animal performance and welfare while exploring potential future perspectives in this field.

One Welfare

[17/10/2024 : Maltraitance animale et souffrance de l'éleveur, une relation de cause à effet ?](#)

Document type: article published in [Réussir Agri53](#) (subscriber edition)

Author: Guillaume Murian

Preview: On Thursday morning, October 10, the Mayenne Chamber of Agriculture's Réagir unit organized a technical committee meeting at the Maison des agriculteurs in Changé. Participants discussed the departmental operational cell (CDO) for preventing and combating animal maltreatment.

Within a year, the Pays de la Loire Chamber of Agriculture aims to set up a departmental operational cell (CDO) for preventing and combating animal maltreatment in every department of the region. "The aim of the CDO "maltraitance" is to better prevent (for livestock) and combat (for livestock and companion animals) animal maltreatment," explains Nelly Loupy, vice-president of the Mayenne Chamber of Agriculture, in charge of Réagir, the Chamber's unit for combating agricultural malaise. Setting up the CDO is nothing new in the 53: seven years ago, the board of the Chambre d'agriculture de la Mayenne decided that CA 53 would head up the livestock farming prevention unit.

(the rest of the article is reserved for subscribers)

[05/10/2024 : Sustainable poultry farming practices: a critical review of current strategies and future prospects](#)

Document type: scientific critical review published in [Poultry Science](#)

Authors: Ramesh Bahadur Bist, Keshav Bist, Sandesh Poudel, Deepak Subedi, Xiao Yang, Bidur Paneru, Sudhagar Mani, Dongyi Wang, Lilong Chai

Preview: As global demand for poultry products, environmental sustainability, and health consciousness rises with time, the poultry industry faces both substantial challenges and new

opportunities. Therefore, this review paper provides a comprehensive overview of sustainable poultry farming, focusing on integrating genetic improvements, alternative feed, precision technologies, waste management, and biotechnological innovations. Together, these strategies aim to minimize ecological footprints, uphold ethical standards, improve economic feasibility, and enhance industry resilience. In addition, this review paper explores various sustainable strategies, including eco-conscious organic farming practices and innovative feed sources like insect-based proteins, single-cell proteins, algal supplements, and food waste utilization. It also addresses barriers to adoption, such as technical challenges, financial constraints, knowledge gaps, and policy frameworks, which are crucial for advancing the poultry industry. This paper examined organic poultry farming in detail, noting several benefits like reduced pesticide use and improved animal welfare. Additionally, it discusses optimizing feed efficiency, an alternate energy source (solar photovoltaic/thermal), effective waste management, and the importance of poultry welfare. Transformative strategies, such as holistic farming systems and integrated approaches, are proposed to improve resource use and nutrient cycling and promote climate-smart agricultural practices. The review underscores the need for a structured roadmap, education, and extension services through digital platforms and participatory learning to promote sustainable poultry farming for future generations. It emphasizes the need for collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders and the crucial role of researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals in shaping a future where sustainable poultry practices lead the industry, committed to ethical and resilient poultry production.

Pain management

[29/09/2024 : Organic rearing of non-castrated male pigs: welfare indicators, carcass traits, pork quality and boar taint in Duroc and Pietrain crossbreds](#)

Document type: scientific article published in [Animal](#)

Authors: Lebret B, Ferchaud S, Poissonnet A, Prunier A

Preview: The main principles of organic farming as presented by the European organisation for organic food and farming are health, ecology, fairness and care, but the intrinsic quality of products is also important for consumers. Pig genotype was tested as a lever to improve animal welfare and pork quality (meat tenderness, processing ability) of organic, non-castrated males while controlling the risk for boar taint. Noncastrated Large White x Duroc (D, n = 47) or Large White x Pietrain NN (P, n = 34) males were involved in two batches, each including one group of pigs per genotype. Each group was reared in a pen from the same building on deep straw bedding (1.3 m²/pig), with a feeding zone (0.2 m²/pig) and an outdoor area (1.0 m²/pig), from 28 kg BW until slaughter at ca. 125 kg BW. All pigs received ad libitum the same growing and finishing diets, and hay. Overall, health and welfare indicators showed few problems, but the proportions of pigs with skin scratches, and tail lesions at the end of the finishing period, were lower in D than in P pigs ($P \leq 0.05$). Growth rate and final BW did not differ between genotypes. The D pigs had lower carcass lean meat content ($P \leq 0.001$) and relative proportions of ham and loin ($P \leq 0.01$), and higher proportions of belly and backfat ($P \leq$

0.001) than P pigs. Compared to P, loin (Longissimus muscle) of D pigs was less light and exudative and had higher chroma ($P \leq 0.05$), but pH 24 h and glycolytic potential did not differ. Loin meat of D pigs had higher intramuscular fat content ($P \leq 0.001$) and tended to have a lower shear force ($P = 0.09$), but cooking loss did not differ. In the ham muscles, D pigs had higher chroma than P pigs in the Gluteus medius, whereas pH 24 h did not differ in the Gluteus medius and Semimembranosus. D pigs had higher backfat concentrations of androstenone ($P \leq 0.001$), and skatole and indole ($P \leq 0.05$) than P pigs, suggesting a higher risk of rejection by consumers due to boar taint. However, only one D carcass was detected as tainted by human nose test. Altogether, organic farming of non-castrated Duroc crossbred males appears to be favourable for animal welfare, technological and several sensory pork properties provided that the risk of undesirable odours is limited through management practices.

17/09/2024 : Video-based compilation of acute pain behaviours in cats

Document type: scientific article published in [Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery](#)

Authors: Sabine Marangoni, Paulo V Steagall

Preview: The aim of this work was to create a video-based compilation of acute pain behaviours in cats as an open-access online resource for training of veterinary health professionals. A database comprising 60 h of video recordings of cats was used. Videos were previously recorded after ethical approval and written client consent forms, and involved cats with different types (eg, medical, surgical, trauma, orofacial) and degrees (eg, from no pain to severe pain) of acute pain, before and after surgery or the administration of analgesia. The database included videos of cats of different coat colours, ages, sex and breeds. Video selection was based on a published ethogram of acute pain behaviours in cats. Videos were selected by one observer (SM) according to their definition and quality, followed by a second round of screening by two observers (SM and PVS). Video editing included a standardised template (ie, watermark and titles). A total of 24 videos (mean length 33 ± 17 s) with each acute pain-related behaviour described in the ethogram were uploaded to an open-access online video-sharing platform (<http://www.youtube.com/@Steagalllaboratory>) with an individual hyperlink. Videos were provided with a short description of the behaviour for the public. This video-based compilation may promote better training of veterinary health professionals on acute pain assessment while improving feline health and welfare and the understanding of cat behaviours.

Regulation

21/10/2024 : Foire aux questions et fiches conseil bien-être animal

Document type: frequently asked questions and advice sheets published on the [Brittany Chamber of Agriculture](#)

Author: Chambre d'Agriculture Bretagne

Preview: Following the regulations in livestock farming is not always easy, as official texts can sometimes be interpreted in more than one way, creating differences in interpretation and leading to

divergent approaches. Professional organizations from the pork industry, together with government departments, have developed a number of tools to answer the questions of farmers and on-farm advisors, in the form of FAQs on animal welfare and advice sheets. The FAQ on pig welfare is intended to provide practical answers to questions raised by farmers, producer groups and government departments concerning the implementation of animal welfare regulations. In particular, the FAQ provides answers for questions on the implementation of the Decree of February 24, 2020 concerning the provision of manipulable materials, access to water and feed. The FAQ service is organised by the Brittany Regional Chamber of Agriculture. Two working groups including representatives from trade organizations (Inaporc, FNP, La Coopération agricole, Ugpvb, Chambres d'agriculture), Ifip, pig producer groups, the veterinary organizations Sngtv and Avpo, and national and regional government (DGAL / Bureau du bien-être animal, DDecPP bretonnes, DDecPP des Pays de la Loire and DDecPP hors grand ouest) are responsible for providing answers to the questions asked. One of these groups deals with questions relating to conventional livestock farming, the other with issues that are specific to free-range and litter farming. The FAQ is national in its scope. It has no regulatory status. Its purpose is to provide help, on an ongoing basis, in interpreting the regulations, with answers agreed between government and industry representatives to send out a clear message to those working in the sector. The most recent versions supersede all previous versions and are published on the CRA Bretagne website. The current version is Version 4, published in October 2024. This includes, for the first time, answers to questions specific to free-range and litter farming.

Advice sheets on the welfare of pigs

A series of advice sheets, drawn up in consultation with professional and technical organizations, set out the pork industry's commitments to the promotion of animal welfare. These sheets complement the FAQ on welfare. Information on watering incorporates the results of a study carried out by the Chambre d'agriculture de Bretagne, with financial support from the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Recording cases of tail biting on pig farms

For pig farms, tail docking as a routine practice is considered to be a failure to comply with the regulations. Each farmer must be able to explain how risk factors for bites are managed on his or her farm, i.e. how to anticipate and prevent them and respond when they arise, and to keep records of bites as supporting evidence to justify the practice of docking. A "monitoring" observation sheet for bites on farms has been drawn up by professional and technical organizations. This sheet reflects the pork industry's commitment to animal welfare, and is an additional tool to support farmers provided by technical experts from professional organizations. The format of these sheets can be adapted by farmers or professional organizations, for example by integrating them into farm log sheets. Completed forms should be kept in the livestock logbook, as they may be requested as proof during official inspections.

[Link to FAQ version 4 of October 2024](#) (pdf)

16/10/2024 : Réglementation bien-être animal : les mesures dans les tiroirs de Bruxelles

Document type: article published on [Web Agri](#)

Author: Alice Peucelle

Preview: The European Commission presented its first draft law on the transport of farm animals at the end of 2023, and further legislation is expected by 2026. On the agenda: an end to cages, enrichment of the living environment, social interaction and an end to mutilation. In 2019, Ursula von der Leyen is elected head of the European Commission. Her ambition: to lead a mandate under the banner of environmental transition. The Green Deal, presented in 2020, will be her profession of faith, marked by the desire to improve the general level of animal welfare in Europe. Five years on, the picture is becoming blurred. Luc Mounier, Head of the Animal Welfare Chair at VetAgro Sup, outlines the main trends that breeders will have to contend with. "The initial objective was to have draft legislation before 2024, the date of the European elections. But between the war in Ukraine, inflation and farmers' protests, the Green Deal has fallen behind schedule. "Only the text on the transport of farm animals was presented in December 2023," sums up the teacher-researcher. Currently being examined by the member states, the draft law includes a ban on the transport of calves under five weeks of age. "The final text should be presented to parliament next year. In other words, it's highly likely that the measure will be adopted. It remains to be seen how long it will take to comply.

Towards a new regulation in 2028

Other measures are also on the drawing board. "Most of Efsa's opinions have been delivered. The one concerning suckler cows remains to be published in 2025. This suggests that proposals will be submitted to member states during 2026, with a possible vote in 2028".

Rethinking dairy calf rearing

Although it is still too early to know the content of the texts, the Efsa opinions set the tone. As far as dairy farms are concerned, "the changes will mainly concern calf rearing", warns Luc Mounier. Lowering the age at which calves can live in groups, promoting contact between mother and calf or nurse and calf, enriching the living environment... "We shouldn't think of a barn in terms of the calf's age. You can't design a building in 2024 without thinking about how you intend to integrate these issues," insists the researcher. As far as cows are concerned, "there may be changes in terms of minimum surface area per animal, but that shouldn't have much impact". (...) Especially as bans do not necessarily mean immediate closure. "In poultry, it is no longer possible to build new buildings for cage rearing. This allows for a gradual transition. But it's quite sneaky, because we end up with breeders who have aging structures, in which they no longer invest."

More room for fattening

The suckling herd should have little impact. "Our systems tend to be grass-based, and generally cage-free. The biggest changes are likely to come from fatteners, with changes to the regulatory space requirements for fattening bull calves, as for veal calf production. Recommendations on floor types for fattening buildings could also see the light of day. The use of the culard gene could also be questioned. For the moment, it's hard to say what will be regulatory and what will be trendy. But for the researcher, "it would be very audacious to design a new building without taking these considerations into account. If it's not the regulations that impose it, the various specifications will go in that direction, so we might as well anticipate it".

Ursula von der Leyen's reappointment as head of the European Commission makes a change of course unlikely. The strategic speech on the future of agriculture in early September confirms the

Commission's determination to continue its work. However, the priorities remain food sovereignty and generational renewal. (...)

[27/09/2024 : Législation et réglementation sur la protection des animaux : mise à jour du site Veille Droit Animal](#)

Document type: website update [Veille Droit Animal](#)

Author: Valentin Brunet

Preview: The following content has been added to the [Veille Droit Animal](#) database:

Nouveaux textes :

[Décret n° 2024-835 du 16 juillet 2024](#) relatif à la création d'une base de données pour les chiens de protection de troupeaux

Mises à jour :

[Décret n° 2024-529 du 10 juin 2024](#) portant diverses dispositions relatives à l'évaluation environnementale des projets : **élévation du seuil minimum du nombre d'animaux entraînant une évaluation environnementale des projets d'élevage intensifs de porcs et de volailles**

[Arrêté du 2 juillet 2024](#) portant modification de l'arrêté du 4 novembre 2003 modifié relatif à l'usage des appeaux et des appelants pour la chasse des oiseaux de passage, du gibier d'eau et de certains corvidés et pour la destruction des animaux nuisibles : **ajout de la mention "nés et élevés en captivité" pour les merles et grives appelants**

[Arrêté du 4 juillet 2024](#) modifiant l'arrêté du 26 octobre 2012 modifié déterminant la taille minimale ou le poids minimal de capture des poissons et autres organismes marins (pour une espèce donnée ou pour une zone géographique donnée) effectuée dans le cadre de la pêche maritime de loisir : **modifications de la taille minimale du lieu jaune, des rajiformes et de la raie brunette**

[Arrêté du 17 septembre 2024](#) modifiant l'arrêté du 28 janvier 2013 modifié déterminant la taille minimale ou le poids minimal de capture et de débarquement des poissons et autres organismes marins pour la pêche professionnelle : **modifications de la taille minimale de pêche des coquilles Saint-Jacques**

Abrogations/Annulations

[Arrêté du 30 juillet 2024](#), [arrêté du 30 juillet 2024](#) et [arrêté du 22 août 2024](#) suspendant la chasse de la barge à queue noire, du courlis cendré et de la tourterelle des bois en France métropolitaine jusqu'au 30 juillet 2025

[04/09/2024 : The Welfare of Dogs and Cats in the European Union: A Gap Analysis of the Current Legal Framework](#)

Document type: analytical article published in [Animals](#)

Authors: Contalbrigo, L.; Normando, S.; Bassan, E.; Mutinelli, F.

Preview: Companion animals, especially dogs and cats, have increasingly been recognized as moral subjects and valued as family members by European citizens. This new role encourages policy makers to face the many companion animals' welfare issues not yet covered by the EU legislation. The main gaps in the protection of dog and cat welfare during their all lifespan have been identified: unhealthy and unethical breeding practices, irresponsible sale and ownership, transport for

commercial and non-commercial purposes, training methods, working dog conditions and rights, regulation of dog and cat shows and competitions, the therapeutic neglect, dog and cat end-of-life care, shelter management legislation and the free-ranging cat and dog population rights. The EU legislation framework is still very weak and far from establishing a harmonized approach, promoting a high standard of care and protection across Member States. We conclude that education and awareness regarding responsible pet ownership and the need for a One Welfare approach have a high value in finding adequate solutions, especially when poor human social welfare affects companion animal welfare. Given the link between human and companion animal welfare, the use of stakeholders' involvement strategies and a transdisciplinary approach appear crucial for the development of an EU legal framework for the well-being of dogs and cats.

Transport, slaughter, Pick-up

04/10/2024 : Poultry Preslaughter Operations in Hot Environments: The Present Knowledge and the Next Steps Forward

Document type: scientific overview published in [Animals](#)

Authors: Vieira FMC, Portugal MAG, de Borba LP, Angrecka S, Herbut P, Jongbo AO, De-Sousa KT, Deniz M.

Preview: Poultry production faces significant challenges, including high feed prices, diseases, and thermal stress, which impact broiler welfare and productivity. Despite advances in cooling technologies and ventilation, preslaughter operations still lead to considerable losses. This review highlights the need for the improved management of thermal environments and animal logistics. Preslaughter operations typically involve fasting broilers for 8–12 h to reduce gastrointestinal contents and contamination. Following fasting, broilers are caught, crated, and transported. Stress levels vary based on distance and conditions, with manual catching often causing stress and injuries. Catching should occur during cooler periods to minimise these issues, and transport conditions must be carefully managed. Lairage, the waiting period after transport, should be kept short (1–2 h) in climate-controlled environments to avoid stress and deterioration. Proper handling and efficient unloading are essential to prevent injuries and reduce economic losses. Stunning methods, such as electronarcosis and a controlled atmosphere, aim to minimise suffering before slaughter, though practices vary culturally and religiously. Logistics and real-time monitoring technology are crucial for enhancing animal welfare during transportation. Effective planning and the optimisation of transport processes is vital for reducing stress and losses, especially with regard to rising global temperatures and production demands.

21/09/2024 : Development of Welfare Protocols at Slaughter in Farmed Fish

Document type: scientific commentary published in [Animals](#)

Authors: Mercogliano, R., Avolio, A., Castiello, F., Ferrante, M.C.

Preview: The study investigated fish welfare at slaughter. Killing animals may induce suffering to the animals even under the best available technical conditions. Moreover, fish have different physiological characteristics and are slaughtered differently from terrestrial animals. The use of commercially available methods exposes farmed fish to pain and suffering during slaughter, which could lead to acute stress and post mortem changes in fish quality. The study aimed to discuss (i) the current knowledge and knowledge gaps on fish welfare related to stunning and killing methods; (ii) the variables that affect the post mortem changes in fish meat, and (iii) the indicators of welfare during slaughter. Application of welfare protocols at slaughter improves fish welfare. Specific protocols for fish are not provided in EC Regulation 1099/2009 on animal protection at killing. Detailed guidelines in the fish welfare assessment may allow the development of specific fish legislation. Developing humane technologies might have important effects on fish quality, consumer perception and aquaculture economics.

Working animals

[27/09/2024 : Welfare assessment of stabled horses in five equestrian disciplines](#)

Document type: scientific article published in [Journal of Equine Veterinary Science](#)

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Preview: In Serbia, at present, there is very little information about the welfare of horses. The aim of this study was to identify the main welfare issues likely to be encountered in five different categories of horses (Western riding horses, riding school horses, leisure horses, jumping horses, and endurance horses) kept in stabled housing systems. A total of 50 horses were evaluated using the Animal Welfare Indicator (AWIN) welfare assessment protocol for horses. Identified welfare issues in horses were inadequate box dimensions (52%, 26/50), insufficient quantity of bedding material (34%, 17/50), dirty bedding material (52%, 26/50), integument alterations (68%, 34/50), lameness (16%, 8/50), stereotypic behaviors (28%, 14/50), and negative response to human presence (24%, 12/50). The mean scores for alopecia, skin lesions, hardened spots at the mouth corners, horse grimace scale, and human-animal relationship tests in riding school horses were significantly higher ($P \leq 0.05$; $P \leq 0.001$) than for other categories of horses. The leisure horses exercised significantly less often ($P \leq 0.001$) compared with other categories of horses. Additionally, important risks to welfare, identified across all groups of horses, were insufficient social interaction where 14 horses (28%) were unable to have any visual or physical contact with other horses. The results of this study provide the first analysis and valuable insight into the impact of the individual stable housing system on the welfare of different categories of horses in the Balkan region.