

**THEME**

**COMPANION ANIMALS – THEY ARE  
LOVED BUT ARE THEY PROTECTED?**



**INTERVIEW**

Dr. Ulrich Herzog,  
Austrian Chief  
Veterinary Officer

**TO END PIG  
PAIN IN THE  
PARMA HAM  
INDUSTRY**

**MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

Follow our work  
on animal welfare

4

COMPANION  
ANIMALS –  
THEY ARE LOVED  
BUT ARE THEY  
PROTECTED?



6

MEET DR.  
ULRICH HERZOG,  
AUSTRIAN CHIEF  
VETERINARY  
OFFICER



10

JOINING  
FORCES



## CONTENTS

3 EDITORIAL

4 **THEME**

6 INTERVIEW

8 ANIMAL NEWS  
IN EUROPE

What happened in the past  
three months

10 JOINING FORCES

14 MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

Follow our work on animal  
welfare

17 A GLIMPSE OF  
HOW WE WORK

18 OUR MEMBERS

19 SUPPORT US

*Eurogroup for Animals Magazine*  
is the quarterly magazine  
of Eurogroup for Animals

**Editor in Chief:** Catalin Gheorghe  
**Design:** BAKOS DESIGN

All pictures' copyrights belong to  
Eurogroup for Animals, are free of rights  
or accredited to its owner.

# EDITORIAL

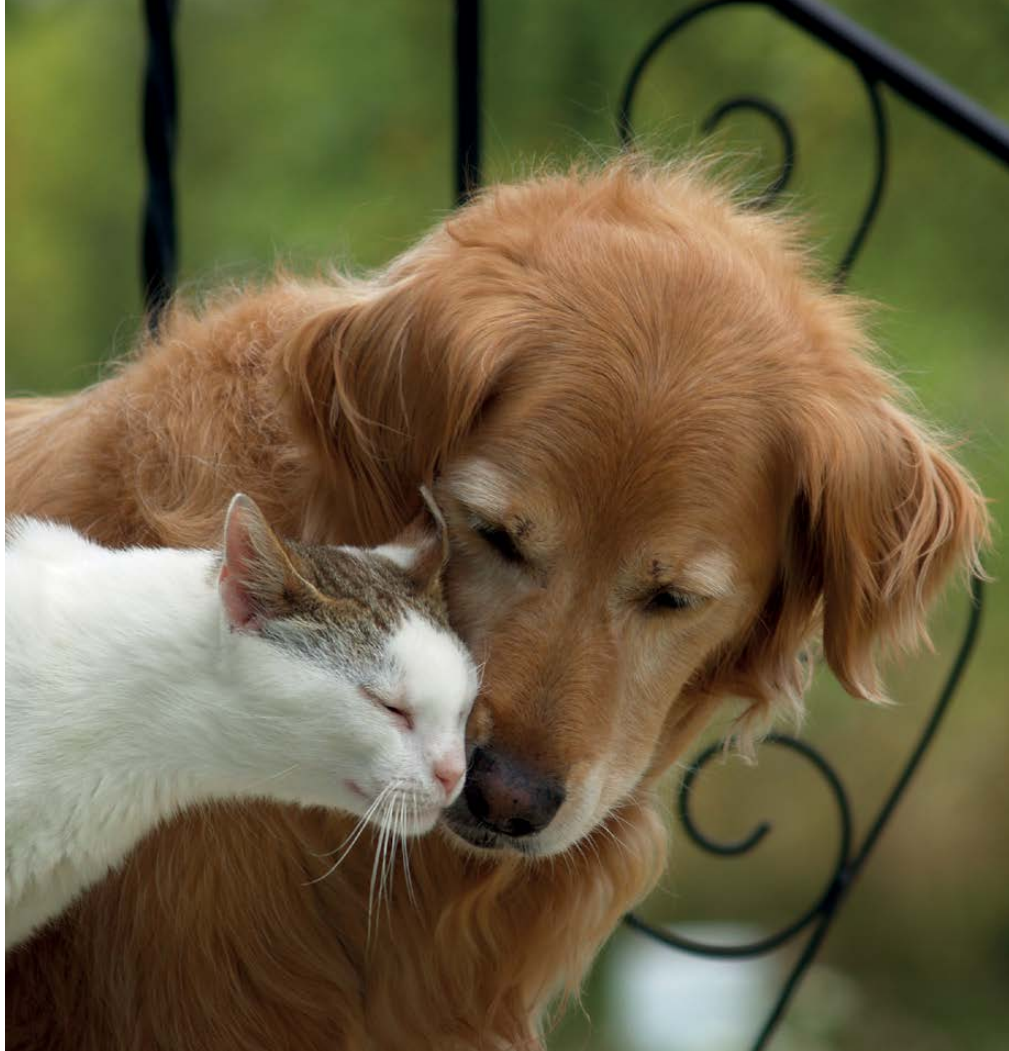
## WHY THE EU IS BEST PLACED TO CARE FOR OUR COMPANION ANIMALS

During my time at Maastricht University, I started volunteering for the local branch of the Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals. As you may know, this region in the South of the Netherlands is very close to the Belgian and German border and is famous for its three-borders point.

There, we rescued and sheltered hundreds of companion animals every year and, despite the customs union agreements, we were confronted with 'border' issues on a daily basis. Working as a volunteer, and later as the director of several shelters, we confiscated hundreds of young puppies at the border with Germany and Belgium. Popular breeds like chihuahuas, King Charles spaniels and French bulldogs arrived in crates, crammed together in the back of private cars, on their way to ignorant consumers who were desperately waiting for their new 'healthy' family member purchased on the Internet. Often coming from Eastern EU countries, these 7-8 week old puppies were anything but healthy, and their mortality rate was extremely high. It was impossible to trace the animals back to the breeders and sellers, as microchips were illegible or simply not registered.

The border was not only an issue for puppies. We often found cats with German or Belgian microchips, who could not be traced back to their owners either, as the databases were inaccessible. Horses and donkeys are also traded across borders, despite there being no regulatory alignment between countries to help protect their welfare during these trade transactions.

These experiences convinced me that a border-free EU comes at a high price



for companion animals unless there are robust EU solutions to safeguard their welfare.

When I started working for Eurogroup for Animals, in Brussels, I was dismayed at the lack of proper EU legislation to protect companion animals. Given the cross-border nature of the problem, coupled with other issues like consumer protection and the risk of disease, EU action is urgently needed.

As you will read in the main feature of our magazine, you can help by supporting our newest campaign, 'EU, Care for Our Companions' which calls for the introduction of simple and effective instruments to ensure cross-border companion animal protection. We are heartened by the support of the Austrian Presidency, which is also committed to tackle puppy trade issues.

There is also so much more going on this summer. While the institutions here in Brussels are on their summer

break, we will continue to advocate for pigs, the fate of animals on long distance transports, elephants and exotic animals. I hope the magazine will inspire you to believe that together, we can make a difference.

Have a wonderful summer.

Reineke



Reineke Hameleers  
Director, Eurogroup for Animals

**EUROGROUP  
FOR  
ANIMALS**



## THEME

# COMPANION ANIMALS – THEY ARE LOVED BUT ARE THEY PROTECTED?

By virtue of their special relationship with humans, dogs and cats and equines (horses, donkeys and their hybrids) receive more of our attention and compassion than other animals. This does not spare them from having to face the worst aspects of human nature. When thinking of companion animals, many imagine a happy and healthy animal, well-nourished and protected by a caring owner. Yet this is not the reality for all companion animals, who fall often victim to abandonment, negligence and abuse. To gain a glimpse of this suffering, it is sufficient to look at the reports of our member organisations working to prevent animal cruelty across Europe and beyond.

As animals are regarded as commodities, cats, dogs and equines are bought and sold without any real understanding of the responsibilities inherent to owning a sentient being. Studies show that the growing online trade in puppies and kittens is mostly due to people's tendency to buy pets on impulse. The major issue is that many puppies sold on the internet are produced under appalling conditions and are not usually vaccinated. They endure great suffering throughout long journeys, where they are at high risk of contracting transmissible diseases. The survivors are often poorly socialised and sick, and their mortality rate is unacceptably high. The illegal puppy trade is not only an animal welfare issue, but the third most profitable organised crime within the EU (after narcotics and weapons). It also presents a significant public health risk.

The internet represents a convenient and accessible avenue for trading animals indiscriminately, and horses and donkeys are no exception. The difference when looking at the case of equines is that their 'commercial' value is decreasing sharply. This is due to a current surplus of animals, resulting from both the economic crisis and continued irresponsible breeding. As equines can live for up to 30 years, their ownership requires a lifetime commitment that is frequently

underestimated. Millions of unwanted equines in countries such as Ireland and the UK are abandoned in fields, giving rise to the growing problem of 'fly-grazing'.

## SO WHAT'S THE EU DOING ABOUT THIS?

Since the beginning of this legislative term in 2014, the European Commission has made it clear that animal welfare was not a priority on the political agenda. While it is true that existing legislation needs better enforcement and knowledge gaps must be closed at national level, it is a simple fact that there is insufficient legislation to protect dogs, cats and equines. Despite their central role in many people's lives and the multiple threats they face, our companion animals are almost invisible to the EU legislator. This situation impacts not just on their wellbeing, but also on our interests and rights as citizens.

In response to parliamentary questions raised by MEPs, the Commission stated that companion animal welfare falls under the sole competence of the Member States. However, while in some Member States protection standards set out in the national legislation are very high, in much of the EU – notably in some Eastern and Southern countries – legal protection for companion animals is non-existent or completely disregarded by governments and competent authorities.

For example, in some countries where stray animals still represent a major issue, cats and dogs are seen as pests rather than companions, with extreme measures (such as killing) often used to 'clean-up' the cities.

In several southern countries, equines are still used as working animals and their role remains vitally important for many local communities. Yet equine welfare is often totally

disregarded. Although some EU law on equines already exists, its implementation and enforcement in countries like Greece is entirely lacking. This facilitates the illegal trade, leaving animal abandonment, cruelty and abuse to go unpunished.

## CITIZENS ASK THE EU TO CARE FOR THEIR COMPANIONS

While we appreciate that action to tackle the issue at Member State level is vital, we also believe the EU has considerable power to influence national decisions and promote the responsibility to foster compassion for animals. Millions of people across the EU and beyond recognise the need to guarantee a better level of protection for cats, dogs and equines. These animals often live in our homes as our companions, travel with us, sometimes need expensive veterinary care, and can be lost or stolen. In all of these daily circumstances, owners are left to deal with all possible risks, without the support that is needed to be a 'responsible owner'. Other animals do not even have a human companion to rely on because they were abandoned or were born on the street.

Eurogroup for Animals is therefore calling on Europeans to act for their companions and remind the EU that, together, we need to protect them. Driven by our member organisations' actions across Europe, our most recent campaign '*EU, Care for our Companions*' will make sure their voices are heard.

The aim of the campaign is to show the EU institutions that a united European identity for dogs, cats and equines should include stewardship of companion animal welfare. People across the EU are invited to share an image of a happy moment with their companion animals, as symbolic expression of their care for their companion and the care they expect from the EU legislator.

## A NEW POLITICAL IMPETUS UNFOLDS

Our primary objective is to obtain comprehensive EU welfare legislation for companion animals. However, we are also conscious of the unfavourable political climate we currently face. This is why, as an intermediary step, we call for voluntary measures fostering cooperation and setting the building blocks for future EU law. Eurogroup for Animals welcomes the political opportunities to move in that direction within the remit of the recently launched EU Animal Welfare Platform, composed of business representatives, government officials, independent experts and NGOs.

Working hand in hand with the governments of Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands we have

now taken an active role in the thematic subgroups on companion animals within the Platform.

The equine subgroup is focusing on the production and distribution of two sets of guidelines, with simple information for the keeping and care of equidae – one for horses and another for donkeys and hybrids.


The pet trade subgroup will analyse the existing national systems and/or legislation for identification and registration of dogs, as well as registration of breeders/traders in all the participating Member States. This mapping exercise will lead to the formulation of recommendations on good and best practices with the aim of improving the tractability across the EU. In particular, the subgroup will look into ways for allowing the data exchange between the diverse databases at the national level. The subgroup will also develop guidance documents on breeding practices, the selling and the responsible ownership, with specific focus on the risks associated with the online trade of cats and dogs. Further cooperation will be established for increasing the understanding of and compliance with the EU legislation relevant to the movement of cats and dogs.

Their work represents a fundamental first step in building consensus among stakeholders in pursuit of such effective voluntary solutions to advance welfare for companion animals and will deliver concrete tools and recommendations to the European Commission by the end of 2019.

We are convinced that Europeans' care about companion animal welfare expressed through our campaign will play a determining role in moving the Commission to endorse the work done by the Platform's subgroups and stimulate Member State commitment to implement the tools and solutions identified in those contexts.

## If you're going to take a selfie, TAKE IT FOR A REASON

- 1 Take a selfie with your dog, cat or equine
- 2 Post it on Instagram
- 3 Don't forget to add relevant hashtag(s): #EUCare4MyDog, #EUCare4MyCat, #EUCare4MyHorse, #EUCare4MyDonkey

 Follow us on Instagram: @eucare4ourcompanions

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**80 million** European Union households own at least one pet animal.

Estimated percentage of households owning at least one cat or one dog:

EU: **Cats 26% | Dogs 18%**

Europe: **Cats 24% | Dogs 21%**



# MEET DR. ULRICH HERZOG,

AUSTRIAN CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

**In recent years Member States have led efforts to improve animal welfare in the absence of action from the European Commission. How does Austria see its role in this, particularly in light of the Austrian Presidency of the EU Council?**

Austria will be focused on two areas relating to animal welfare during its Presidency. Firstly, we will continue to work on live animal transport, which was a topic we will take forward from the preceding Bulgarian Presidency. The conference that they held on this in Bulgaria in April 2018 was very useful, and we intend to take forward the conference conclusions as part of the Presidency trio.

Secondly, there is the action around the illegal trade in pets. We want to see how we can improve collaboration between Member States in this regard, and how we can move the agenda forward. As part of this, we will look at actions that could be taken through rules that will be developed under the Animal Health Law, among others. We will hold a conference in November jointly with Eurogroup for Animals and Vier Pfoten on the trade in dogs, and we will then take the resulting conclusions from this to the Chief Veterinary Officers meeting in December, to see how we can better cooperate to tackle this common problem.

**Austria champions animal welfare within the EU, having led the way on the banning of cages for laying hens and its forthcoming ban of the online sale of pets. Why do you think this is?**

Austria has a long tradition and culture of animal welfare, and its citizens expect action to be undertaken to improve the lives of animals. This support shows itself through strong organisations here in Austria, such as Vier Pfoten, who were instrumental in working towards the ban of cages for laying hens.

Animal welfare measures in Austria have also been shown to benefit society as a whole. The ban on cages for laying hens, for instance, was proven to be a benefit for farmers and consumers too.

Animal ethics play a large part too. The Institute of Ethics and Human-Animal Studies here in Austria, which has been operating for five years, has had a huge debate on the keeping of sows, tail-docking, and piglet castration. In this process, different groups come together to find common solutions. The institute brings that sense of shared purpose.



## TIME TABLE OF THE NEXT INTERGROUP MEETINGS

You will chair the EU Council's powerful Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) during the next few months. Whilst many CVOs are interested in animal welfare, it is by no means a given – the connection is not automatic. Can you tell us about your personal connection with the topic?

I have a personal interest in animal welfare. Of course, being a CVO is a very important job covering a lot of areas – biosafety, disease prevention, animal health – and animal welfare is a very emotional topic within this.

Often, within the Council, it is a case of assessing whether we can find a solution. Of course, compromise is key, and it is very hard to find a solution where everyone is truly happy. Often in this role you will meet people with completely different approaches and agendas, but to find solutions it is important to see the animal as a whole, not just through the lens of animal health. As someone who started off in a private practice treating animals, I am very happy to be responsible for this dossier.

Next year we will see a new European Commission. If that Commission is willing to do more for animal welfare, what do you think should be the first areas to be tackled?

Firstly I will say that it is important to implement the legislation we have. Creating any new law when the old is not implemented properly is not good. We also have to recognise the cultural differences in terms of animal welfare within the European Union. So I think it would be wise to collect all of the existing expertise from Member States to see what works and what doesn't, and to look at renewing existing law. Animal transport is a particular problem in this regard.

What do you think of the idea of consolidating existing law into a new framework for animal welfare – for example through a new Animal Welfare Law, akin to the new Animal Health Law?

Let's see how the new Animal Health Law works first, particularly with all the delegated and implementing acts that are required.

I think some more common areas of interest could be addressed though, for example looking at the sale of pets, particularly through pet shops.

In terms of the agricultural sector, it would be interesting to look to work that was already undertaken by the Council of Europe (which no longer works on animal welfare). A lot of this could be updated or improved, such as standards around cattle, rabbits and ostriches. I think this would be a good starting point.

2018 sessions	Meetings
13 SEP 2018	The use of non human primates in neuroscience research
4 OCT 2018	Launch of the European Citizens Initiative "End the Cage Age"
25 OCT 2018	Advancing broiler chicken welfare
15 NOV	Advancing equine welfare

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERGROUP IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS INCLUDE:

- The April session on dairy cow welfare addressed welfare concerns resulting from the intensification of the dairy industry after milk quotas' end with MEP's advocating for the introduction of a specific legislation protecting dairy cattle in the EU.
- The May session addressed the measures required from the European institutions and the Member States to support the international efforts to end the poaching of elephants for ivory trade.
- The Intergroup June session saw a lively debate on the transport of live animals inside and outside the EU.
- In July, the Intergroup discussed the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the opportunities provided to promote higher animal welfare.
- Jointly with Eurogroup for Animals, the Intergroup organised the first ever high level political event on fish welfare, gathering fish professionals and political stakeholders to discuss the welfare of fish.
- In July Intergroup members visited an industrial broiler farm in Poland offering first hand experience of the problems caused by industrial broiler chicken production.

### AWARDS:

- **PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE MONTH** award from Cruelty Free International given to the MEPs of the Intergroup for their efforts in favour of the resolution supporting a global ban on cosmetics testing on animals adopted by the European Parliament.
- **EU4ANIMALS** award 2018 went to Pascal Durand MEP, for his dedication to animal welfare and his determination to achieve concrete results. From the start of this term, he proactively participated in initiatives on a large variety of animal welfare issues.



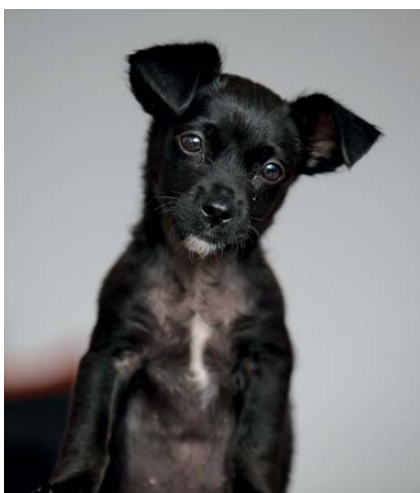
Andreas Erler,  
Senior Political Adviser



## IN EUROPE

### #Act4Pets

#### MANDATORY MICROCHIPPING FOR DOGS IN SLOVAKIA



After years of campaigning and advocacy actions for animal welfare, on 25 May 2018 the Slovak Parliament adopted a landmark amendment to the Veterinary Act.

The vote of the Slovak Parliament prescribed the mandatory microchipping of all dogs that are 12 weeks old or that are changing owner for the first time. Unfortunately, the proposal put forward by Eurogroup for Animals member, Sloboda Zvierat, to link puppies' microchip numbers to their mothers in a central register of companion animals did not pass. This measure would have introduced a powerful mean to tackle the illegal trade of pets, bring a halt to the activities of many unscrupulous breeders and puppy dealers. Even so, the introduction of mandatory microchipping represents a big step forward towards full traceability of pets across the EU.

### #Act4FarmAnimals

#### RITUAL SLAUGHTER WITHOUT STUNNING ONLY TO TAKE PLACE IN APPROVED ABATTOIRS SAYS ECJ

The European Court of Justice's recent ruling confirmed that ritual slaughter without stunning may take place only in approved slaughterhouses and that this obligation does not infringe freedom of religion.

For a decade Belgian legislation provided that slaughter prescribed by a religious rite could be carried out only in approved or temporary slaughterhouses. In 2014, the Minister for the Flemish Region responsible for animal welfare announced that he would no longer approve, as these contradict the 2009 EU regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing. From 2015 all slaughter of animals without stunning, even during the Muslim Feast of Sacrifice, had to be carried out exclusively in approved slaughterhouses. As a reaction various Muslim associations launched an action against the Flemish Region that decided to refer the matter to the Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling. In its decision, the Court of Justice reaffirms the obligation to carry out ritual slaughter in an approved slaughterhouse.

### #Act4FarmAnimals

#### PIG TRANSPORTS FROM DENMARK MULTIPLIED BY FIVE IN TEN YEARS

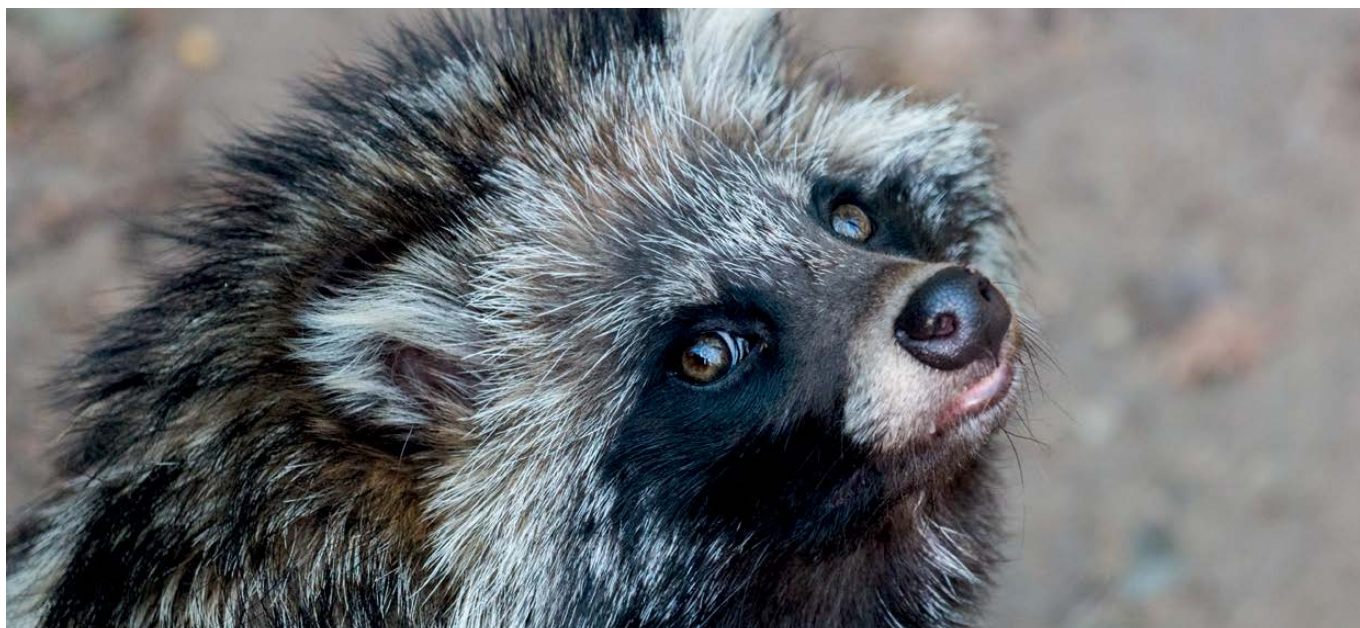


The Danish pig industry is one of the largest exporters of live pigs in Europe. In the last 10 years the number of live Danish pigs transported on journeys longer than 8 hours has increased fivefold, from 1.9 million animals to 9.4 million as was uncovered by an investigation of Dyrenes Beskyttelse. This is a duration beyond which animal welfare is reduced significantly.

This is in violation of European Council Regulation on transportation of live animals, which applies directly to Member States, and establishes that 'For reasons of animal welfare the transport of animals over long journeys, including animals for slaughter, should be limited as far as possible'.

Besides this, inspections of the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration have found that one of four Danish transports were overstocked in 2015 and 2016.





### #Act4Science

#### THE NETHERLANDS COMMIT TO PHASE OUT ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS ON NON-HUMAN PRIMATES

Dutch Minister of Education, Culture and Science, Ingrid van Engelshoven wants to phase out animal experiments with non-human primates with a first concrete commitment to reduce their use with 40 percent at the only Dutch breeding facility, Biomedical Primate Research Center (BPRC), in Rijswijk. She also asked the BPRC to start birth control measures immediately for the reduction of the animal population intended for animal testing.

Last year the BPRC used 317 non-human primates for animal testing, mostly for medicines tests to combat AIDS and tuberculosis. Of these, 137 animals did not survive the experiments. It is a considerable increase compared to 2016, when 95 monkeys were used for medical experiments. With approximately 1500 monkeys, the BPRC is the biggest test center on non-human primates in Europe.

### #Act4Wildlife

#### LUXEMBOURG ADOPTS POSITIVE LISTS TO REGULATE THE EXOTIC PET TRADE AND THE USE OF ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES

On 6 June, Luxembourg adopted a new Animal Welfare Act, including Positive Lists for mammal and non-mammal pets and animals used in circuses. The Positive Lists for pets detail the animal species that may be kept as pets in Luxembourg, limiting the range of allowed species to those assessed to be suitable for private households, according to criteria of animal welfare, conservation and health. Any animal not on the Positive Lists can only be kept under strict conditions.

After Belgium and the Netherlands, Luxembourg is the third EU Member State to adopt the Positive List system to regulate the exotic pet trade, and is the first to adopt a Positive List specifically for non-mammal pets.


In addition, Luxembourg has become the fifteenth Member State to ban the use of wild animals in circuses. The new legislation also includes a Positive List of the animals that are allowed to be used in circuses, which only includes domesticated animals.

### #Act4FarmAnimals

#### FLEMISH GOVERNMENT BANS FUR FARMING AND FORCE-FEEDING FOR FOIE GRAS

On the initiative of Flemish Minister of Animal Welfare Ben Weyts, the Flemish Government decided to ban fur farming and force-feeding for the production of foie gras. By December 1, 2023 at the latest, fur farms and force-feeding for the production of foie gras will be prohibited in Flanders. Fur farms have already been banned in the two other Belgian regions of Wallonia and the Brussels region.

The Flemish Government has decided to provide for a financial compensation for the 17 remaining fur farmers. The sooner they stop (before December 1, 2023), the higher the amount they will receive. GAIA has campaigned for more than 20 years to achieve this ban: “30 years ago, I was one of the founders of the very first anti-fur organisation in Belgium. At that time I could only dream of a ban”, says Michel Vandenbosch.

A close-up photograph of a pig's skin, showing a large, raw, and bloody wound on its side. The skin is light pink and appears to be in a state of distress or injury. The wound is deep and jagged, with visible blood and tissue damage. The surrounding skin is also somewhat discolored and shows signs of wear or abrasion. The pig's ear is visible in the upper right corner, and the overall scene suggests a state of neglect or abuse.

**Most consumers are unaware of the appalling conditions in which millions of pigs are raised across Europe. The plight of these animals raises the question of why even minimum European pig welfare standards are not implemented in the production of some of Italy's top products of excellence, such as Parma Ham.**





## JOINING FORCES

# TO END PIG PAIN IN THE PARMA HAM INDUSTRY

**End Pig Pain takes the media by storm with new investigations on cruelty behind Parma ham production.**

On 26 March, Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations managed to get massive media attention with the latest investigation released by LAV (Lega Anti Vivisezione), documenting the suffering of pigs reared for the production of the prestigious Parma ham in Italy.

### PARMA HAM, NOT THAT LUXURIOUS AFTER ALL....

The Parma Ham Consortium gathers 3,000 pig farmers from 10 Italian regions and has yearly profits of EUR 1.7 billion. Twelve million pigs a year are killed to produce the renowned product, which is exported to practically all corners of the world, and promoted by the EU as one of its Protected Denomination of Origin (PDO) products of excellence. In spite of all the acclaim, LAV documented the appalling conditions in which pigs are kept on farms supplying the consortium, showing animals kept in dark, overcrowded and filthy pens, covered in their own excrement, with no enrichment and routinely tail-docked (in violation of the EU Pigs Directive). Severely injured or sick pigs were left without veterinary assistance and with rats scurrying freely around them, with the list of violations of animal welfare and hygiene rules continuing.

### JOINING FORCES TO SHOWCASE THE UNACCEPTABLE

Once informed of the brutal reality for these pigs, Eurogroup for Animals and its members decided on a coordinated action to ensure that this issue would receive global attention. About 20 member organisations took the lead and liaised with national media outlets to raise awareness and prepare the release of the news.

Thanks to these concerted efforts, the images and footage released by LAV sparked a wave of media attention, with 135 news items appearing on major media outlets in the EU and internationally (the story reached as far as Brazil, Taiwan, Australia and the US), with a special investigative piece published by the Guardian, showing further systematic pig suffering within the Parma ham industry. The media attention resulted in 40,000 signatures to Eurogroup for Animals' End Pig Pain campaign, in a matter of days.

This makes our collective actions all the more necessary to bring about long-lasting change for these sensitive and intelligent animals.



© LAV / Eurogroup for Animals

“ These revelations are all the more shocking in light of the fact that this is an industry that receives millions of EU subsidies for promotion measures without having to effectively respect the most basic animal welfare requirements first. How much more misleading can a product be for consumers: Animals raised for Italy’s most prestigious cured meat are being treated in ways that are illegal and deeply immoral, while consumers are asked to pay a premium price!”

Reineke Hameleers, Eurogroup for Animals Director.

The case of Parma ham production is emblematic of a much more diffuse lack of enforcement of existing pig welfare legislation that should be urgently addressed. This is why Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations, through their joint [End Pig Pain campaign](#), are calling on the EU and Member States to fully enforce EU pig welfare legislation. The campaign will run until December 2018, with the aim of collecting at least one million signatures to hand over to decision-makers during a final event in Brussels.

If you haven't signed yet, go to [www.endpignpain.eu](http://www.endpignpain.eu)



## Animals farmed: pigs, parma ham and your shopping habits

Welcome to our monthly roundup of the biggest issues in farming and food production. We've gathered together the must-read reports from around the web and recommendations from our readers

Tue 17 Apr 2018 14.43 BST

### Around the world

The trade dispute between the US and China has US farmers increasingly worried about the impact on them: pork, soybeans, corn and beef are among critical products hit by the Chinese tit-for-tat tariffs. Meanwhile the US's Russia sanctions have now hit a Russian meat company.

De Standaard

‘Parmaham teert op dierenleed’

Vandaag om 09:05 door Guy Stevens

Italiaanse varkens worden mishandeld

De varkens die in de Italiaanse streek van Lombardije gekweekt worden voor de productie van parmaham, worden ernstig mishandeld. Dat leidt Gaia af uit beelden die daar gemaakt zijn. 'Hoog tijd dat de consument in ons land de ogen opent.'

Het filmmateriaal laat de erbarmelijke levensomstandigheden zien van varkens in zes kwekerijen. 'De beelden, gemaakt door anonieme onderzoekers, tonen schrijnende wantoestanden met een totaal gebrek aan dierenwelzijn en hygiëne. Zieke, ernstig gewonde en dode varkens en wetsinbreuken bij de vleet', klinkt het in een persbericht van Gaia.

CORRIERE DELLA SERA

Stampa | Stampa senza immagine | Chiudi

LA DENUNCIA DELLA LAV IN LOMBARDIA

**Animali ammassati, cannibalismo: l'inferno negli allevamenti intensivi di maiali in Lombardia. Il consorzio di Parma: «Campagna denigratoria»**

Ancora immagini di denuncia dalla Lav che è entrata dentro sei allevamenti intensivi nelle province di Brescia, Mantova e Cremona. L'inchiesta sui media britannici

Una scrofa in uno degli allevamenti indagati (foto Lav)

Nelle gabbie di gestazione le scrofe non hanno lo spazio per muoversi. I maialini le circondano, cercano il contatto. Così accade che rimangono schiacciati. Fuori da uno dei capannoni, si vedono decine di carcasse di maiali morti. E ancora: ratti e topi che corrono. I maiali, vivendo ammassati, urinano gli uni sugli altri. Feci e urine sono presenti nelle mangiatoie e ricoprono il corpo degli animali. Le immagini arrivano da sei allevamenti intensivi che si trovano in Lombardia. Tra le province di Brescia,



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**FOLLOW OUR  
WORK FOR  
ANIMAL WELFARE**



Stephanie Ghislain,  
Trade and Animal  
Welfare Project Leader



Joe Moran,  
Political Adviser

## ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES EPIZOOTIES - GENERAL SESSION

Eurogroup for Animals attended the annual General Session of the OIE (Organisation Internationale des Epizooties, or the World Organisation for Animal Health) in Paris in May 2018. Eurogroup for Animals is part of the International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW), an association that coordinates and channels animal advocacy efforts at OIE level. This General Session was the occasion for ICFAW to establish a closer partnership with the OIE, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU covers cooperation activities on the roles and responsibilities of the veterinary profession on animal welfare, the development and revision of international animal welfare standards and guidelines that are relevant to both organisations. As such, it aims to increase dialogue between animal welfare organisations and the OIE.

Seizing the networking opportunity offered by this OIE event, we also lobbied EU Member State representatives on Brexit negotiations, the CAP reform and other EU-related dossiers. The many international government representatives present also offered a chance to discuss trade agreements with the EU currently under negotiations, such as Australia and Indonesia.

This was helped by the well-attended reception for the OIE delegates organised by ICFAW against this background and during which some of our member organisations among other ICFAW players, delivered convincing presentations on various animal issues.



## SLOVENIAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURT RULES THAT STUNNING ANIMALS BEFORE SLAUGHTER IS NOT AGAINST CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND SETS AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER EU MEMBER STATES

Elena Nalon, Programme Leader, Farm Animals

On 23 May, the Slovenian Constitutional Court deliberated on an appeal by the local Muslim community against a decision to impose mandatory stunning of animals during slaughter, carried out according to certain religious prescriptions. The Court consulted the national veterinary authorities to obtain the available scientific information on the subject, and took into account the fact that the protection of animals from cruelty is included in the Slovenian Constitution and is therefore a matter of public morality. The Court also considered Article 9 of the European Convention for Human Rights, which states that the right to religious freedom can only be limited for reasons of public safety, order, health or morals.

Given its place in the Slovenian Constitution and on the basis of the scientific evidence received, the Court unanimously found that pre-stunning is appropriate and necessary, as it effectively mitigates pain and fear in animals at slaughter, and that there are no other means to achieve this goal that would interfere less with religious freedom.

Eurogroup for Animals believes that there is substantial scientific evidence showing that non-stun slaughter causes avoidable pain and distress to animals, thus we advocate for mandatory (and, if necessary, reversible) stunning, without derogation. Widespread recognition that non-stun slaughter is unnecessarily painful and finding mutually accepted solutions, is becoming increasingly important as the EU is exporting more and more meat for the halal market in third countries.

Several Member States have already banned non-stun slaughter in their territories, most recently Belgium, where as of 2019 reversible electrical stunning will apply to sheep and cattle slaughtered according to certain religious prescriptions. Another important issue concerns non-discriminatory but transparent labelling of meat according to the stunning method – information which is not available to consumers at present.



## SEIZING THE DAY FOR FISH WELFARE

Doug Waley, Fish Welfare Programme Leader

In June, a number of strands of our work came together at the first-ever high-level political event in Brussels to focus on the welfare of fish which we co-organised with the Intergroup on the welfare and conservation of animals. In a packed room of the European Parliament, a broad range of stakeholders participated in a round table on current issues and opportunities.

Political highlights included an announcement that MEPs are initiating a process within the Parliament to pursue specific improvements for fish through the existing farm animal welfare legislative framework. There were important calls from Germany and Ireland for the Commission to take the lead on implementing and harmonising best practice at slaughter. GlobalGAP, the largest sustainable aquaculture certifier, also called on the Commission to propose solutions for implementing best practice at slaughter.

Reineke Hamelers, Director of Eurogroup for Animals, presented the findings of the recent public survey commissioned jointly by Eurogroup for Animals and Compassion in World Farming, which explored European citizens' views on the welfare of fish. Key findings included that 73% of people recognise that fish feel pain, while 65% and 55%, respectively, recognise that fish are sentient and have positive emotions. 79% of European citizens think that the welfare of fish should be protected to the same extent as that of other animals we eat, and the same percentage believe it should be better protected than it is now. Respondents also identified welfare aspects as important to sustainability. When asked about the top criterion for inclusion in sustainability, they chose the ability to exhibit natural behaviours.

On the same day, Eurogroup for Animals launched its report into welfare in European aquaculture. The report outlines the different aquaculture practices and associated welfare issues, lists important regulations, and gives recommendations to improve welfare for farmed fish. After the political event, participants from all stakeholder groups reconvened in Eurogroup for Animals' office. Using a multi-stakeholder workshop format, the group explored different understandings of fish welfare and the opportunities that exist.

The strong and mutually supportive calls for action from animal advocates, producers and corporations, Member States and MEPs, has created momentum behind the issue and a realisation that many partners are ready to work on this. As such, the event has secured a place for fish welfare on the European political agenda.

## EUROPEAN ANIMAL WELFARE PLATFORM MEETING

*On 21 June, in Brussels, the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands hosted the first meeting of the EU Animal Welfare Platform's subgroup on improving the health and welfare of pets (dogs) in trade. The subgroup consists of nine Member States, one independent expert and, one professional organisations (FVE), together with Eurogroup for Animals, Four Paws and the RSPCA.*

The increased demand-linked breeding of pets has led to the emergence of a profitable business. Many breeders, both licensed and unlicensed, are currently producing animals for purely financial purposes. In several EU countries, most of the puppies and kittens traded illegally are produced in mass breeding facilities or by unscrupulous breeders.

The pet trade subgroup, initiated by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, will focus on the implementation of a working plan to identify effective solutions for the smuggling of pets across the EU.

The lack of implementation and enforcement of the current legislative framework is considered one of the main challenges, together with the need to better control breeders and online sale of pets. Improving registration and identification systems was recognised by all participants as a key solution in tackling these challenges. During the discussions, participants raised the issue of impulse buying of pets and the need to improve awareness among prospective buyers.

During the third meeting of the EU Animal Welfare Platform, the member representative for the Netherlands and Chair of the subgroup on pet trade was invited to present the scope of the subgroup and report on the outcomes of the first meeting. DG SANTE presented to the Platform a new EU Commission initiative to stop the illegal online sale of pets. This is a Coordinated Control Programme which will mandate national competent authorities to monitor and investigate classified advertisements of pets on the internet. It is hoped that a synergy between these initiatives will allow for considerable progress in the fight against the illegal trade in dogs.



# GET TO KNOW US

## Trade Policy and Animals

*Impacts and  
opportunities*

May 2018



Since January 2018, the 'Trade and Animal Welfare' Project has offered training sessions on Trade and Animal Protection to all member organisations. The course is provided by Stephanie Ghislain, 'Trade & Animal Welfare' Project Leader, over two two-hour sessions. The aim is to introduce member organisations to the law and policy that governs international trade, both at global and European level, and to describe how trade policy interlinks with animal welfare and conservation at multilateral and European level. Thanks to this training, members of Eurogroup for Animals will gain practical knowledge of law and policy, with a view to increasing their capacity to influence trade-related animal welfare matters at national level. To enquire about the course and availability for your organisation, contact Stephanie Ghislain ([s.ghislain@eurogroupforanimals.org](mailto:s.ghislain@eurogroupforanimals.org)).

“ Not only was the content of the training very good, perfectly clear and easily understandable, but it was also tailored to our needs and prior knowledge.”

Elodie Gérôme, Fondation Brigitte Bardot

“ This inspiring day gave us a good insight in the ins and outs of this interesting and very relevant topic. The day has really helped us to formulate an appropriate way to address “trade” on a national level.”

Léon Ripmeester, Dierenbescherming

4-hour class

International and  
EU trade policy

Interlinkages with  
animal protection

Brainstorming  
session on  
lobbying trade  
policy at national  
level

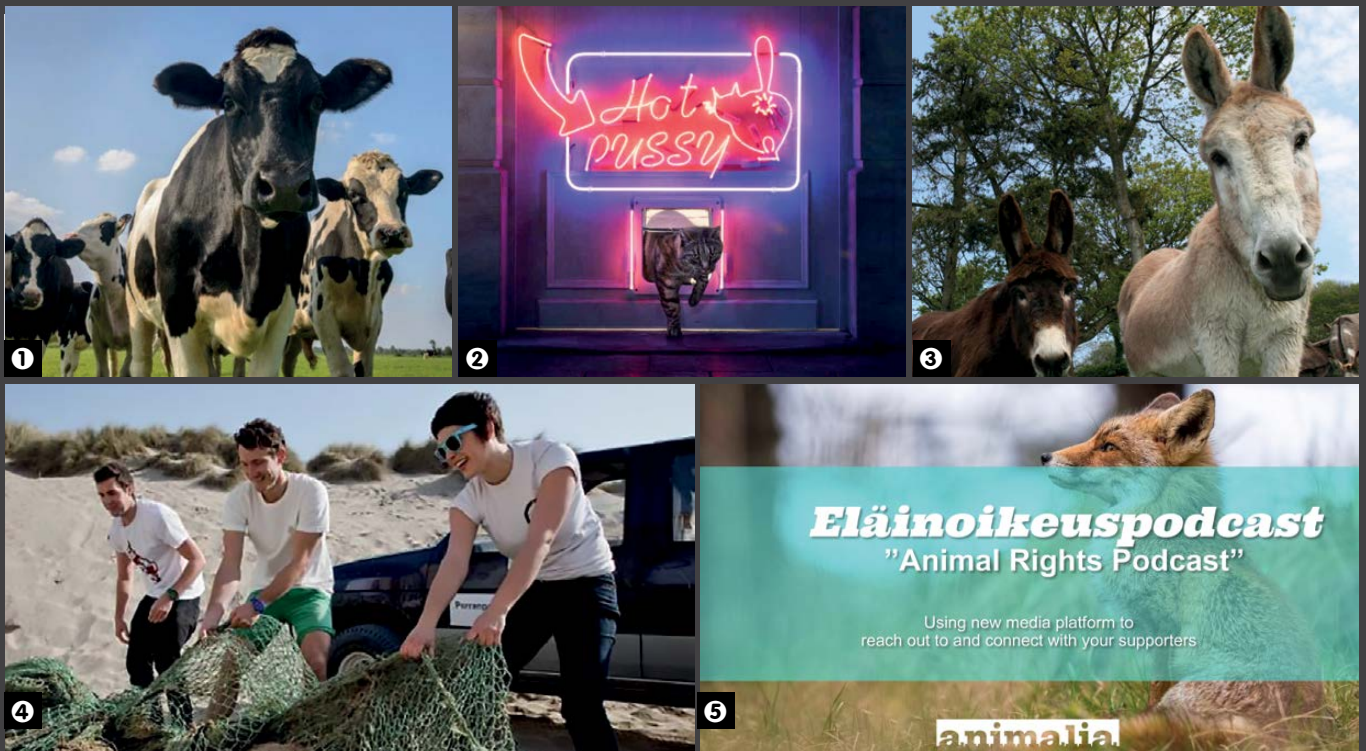
At your  
organisation

## OUR MEMBERS

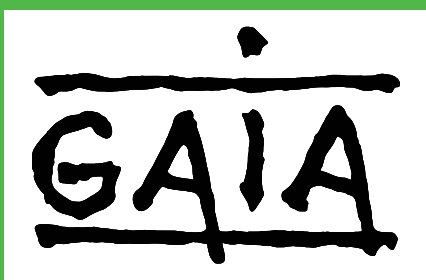
# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS 2018 Campaign4Animals AWARD

One of the highlights of our Annual Event is the the Campaign4Animals Award. The nominated campaigns allow our members to showcase the results of their work on animal welfare during the year. It also offers them an opportunity to learn from each others' most successful national or international campaigns. Five campaigns were nominated for this year's edition:



- 1 Compassion in World Farming: Quality Needs Compassion – Bringing Parmesan and Grana cows back to the land
- 2 GAIA: Mandatory Spaying and Neutering of Cats in Belgium
- 3 The Donkey Sanctuary: Donkey Welfare Improvement Scheme
- 4 World Animal Protection: Sea Change – Driving action to the problem of ghost gear worldwide
- 5 Animalia: Animal Rights Podcast



### WINNER OF THE EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS CAMPAIGN AWARD 2018:

Member Organisation  
GAIA: Mandatory Spaying and Neutering of Cats in Belgium

*For the multi-year effort that had a massive impact on public policy and thousands of cats across Belgium.*





## SUPPORT US

**EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS IS A STRONG VOICE FOR ANIMALS IN EUROPE. OUR STRENGTH COMES FROM OUR MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND PARTNERS WITH WHOM WE RELENTLESSLY ADVOCATE TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE MILLIONS OF ANIMALS LIVING BY OUR SIDES.**

But this is an uphill battle. This is why we constantly strive to attract new supporters to join our movement and why we also need your help. Animal suffering is a reality, but there is an alternative. So come and join your forces to ours to fight for a better future for all animals.

There are many ways to help: visit our website, sign our latest petition, follow us on social media, share our posts or contact us to become a member or make a donation.



CONTACT:

**Sophie De Jonckheere**

Communications and  
Development Manager

[s.dejonckheere@eurogroupforanimals.org](mailto:s.dejonckheere@eurogroupforanimals.org)



## WE ARE SOCIAL



[www.facebook.com/eurogroupforanimals](http://www.facebook.com/eurogroupforanimals)



[@Act4AnimalsEU](https://twitter.com/Act4AnimalsEU)



[www.linkedin.com/company/  
eurogroup-for-animals](http://www.linkedin.com/company/eurogroup-for-animals)



[youtube.com](https://youtube.com) > [Eurogroup for Animals](https://youtube.com/Eurogroup for Animals)



[www.eurogroupforanimals.org](http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org)



Rue Ducale, 29 – 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)2 740 08 20

Email: [info@eurogroupforanimals.org](mailto:info@eurogroupforanimals.org)

[www.eurogroupforanimals.org](http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org)

Follow us on Twitter @[Act4AnimalsEU](https://twitter.com/Act4AnimalsEU)

and Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/eurogroupforanimals)

**EUROGROUP**  
**FOR ANIMALS**