



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2019**

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

A EUROPE THAT CARES FOR ANIMALS

OUR VISION

A EUROPE THAT CARES FOR ANIMALS

A Europe where the well-being of all animals is assured, and where they experience a good life.

OUR MISSION

As the pan-European animal advocacy organisation, the primary focus of Eurogroup for Animals is to improve the well-being of as many animals as possible and defend animals' interests. We do this by achieving better legislation, standards, enforcement and societal attitudes, through a united community of animal protection organisations and via lawful means.

01

As the pan-European animal advocacy organisation, we represent our members and more generally the interests of animals at EU level. Our representativeness and expertise make us a trusted partner in EU stakeholder and expert groups.

Representing civil society at EU level regarding the well-being of animals

01

Campaigning to drive change in favour of animals across Europe

02

Through our pan-European campaigns, we use the power of public mobilisation to connect citizens with EU decision makers and create new European animal advocacy opportunities.

Our mission has been translated into triple roles that are intertwined, mutually reinforce each other and reflect our advocacy approach:

03

Fostering cohesion, exchanging experiences and disseminating knowledge

02

03

We act as facilitator, bringing together people, knowledge and expertise and develop our members' capacities in pursuance of our common vision.



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WELCOME



BRITTA RIIS

President of Eurogroup for Animals and Chief Executive of Dyrenes Beskyttelse, Denmark

“ As I look back at 2019 to write this, it's hard to remember what life was like when things were normal. Many of our Member Organisations have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, and are struggling to rescue and rehome animals, and to secure their financial situation. It is my hope that this crisis will bring about long-term structural change for wildlife and farm animals and that we rethink the way we treat animals.

The Eurogroup for Animals network is a reference on animal well-being across Europe and beyond. Likewise, we aspire to the 'state of the art' in the way we operate. That's why, as President, I have put a focus on ensuring the association follows the best possible standards of transparency and good governance, and in 2019 we adopted improvements to our statutes at the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

During the year, our Member Organisations also developed the first five-year roadmaps of our 2027 Strategy, which will help us align our goals, canalise our initiatives to deliver on clear common goals, and – perhaps most importantly – create a stronger sense of our shared purpose than ever. Given the circumstances that have emerged since then, we will, of course, now be revising these plans in response to the unexpected developments of recent months.

In the past 12 months we were delighted to welcome nine new Member Organisations to the Eurogroup for Animals family. Although it seems unlikely that we will meet in person for a long while, all our Members can rest assured that we continue to walk side-by-side with them now that animals need us even more than ever.

“ As I write this, we’ve been in confinement for more than four weeks. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will have a long-lasting effect on our societies and our work, but at this point it is especially hard for our Member Organisations, many of which are struggling with front-line activities.

Before the pandemic disrupted life as we know it, we had a very full 2019, with many challenges – but also many highlights. One unforgettable moment was celebrating the unprecedented success, side by side with its initiator Compassion in World Farming, of the End the Cage Age European Citizens’ Initiative, which gathered no fewer than 1.6 million signatures.

117 MEPS out of the thousand who signed our VoteForAnimals2019 pledge won their seats. This provided us with a pool of MEPs ready to advocate for animals through the new Intergroup, which already counts 90 active members.

Whilst facing several heartbreaking tragedies with live animal transport over the summer, thanks to our lobby efforts the EP adopted a promising implementation report calling on the Commission to revise the legislation and formulate an EU strategy to move towards a meat and carcasses-only trade. Another positive outcome was our success in obtaining the last-minute support of the EU to ban the trade in wild-caught live elephants at the CITES conference in Geneva.

A landmark moment for horse welfare at EU level came in November, when the EU Platform on the Welfare of Animals adopted the first ever EU guidelines on responsible ownership of horses – an



REINEKE HAMELEERS

CEO,
Eurogroup for Animals

important milestone in our understanding of how to keep and care for the EU’s equines. We were over the moon to learn at the end of the same month that we had secured €1.7million in the 2020 EU budget through two EP pilot projects to address dairy welfare and cage free laying hen farming.

2020 was going to be an extra special year: our 40th anniversary. The current situation has put a damper on our celebrations, but spurred our motivation and belief that this crisis should be a wake up call for politicians and policy makers to restore the balance between humans and animals. By bringing the animal welfare-related issues into sharp focus, particularly wildlife trafficking, the transport of live animals and animal testing, Covid-19 should lead to some positive outcomes for the future for animals. Together with you, we are ready to turn this challenge into opportunities.

WHO WE ARE

We are the Brussels-based European animal advocacy organisation, driven by members across Europe and beyond. Our vision is to build a Europe – and ultimately a world – where the well-being of all animals is assured, and where they can experience a good life.

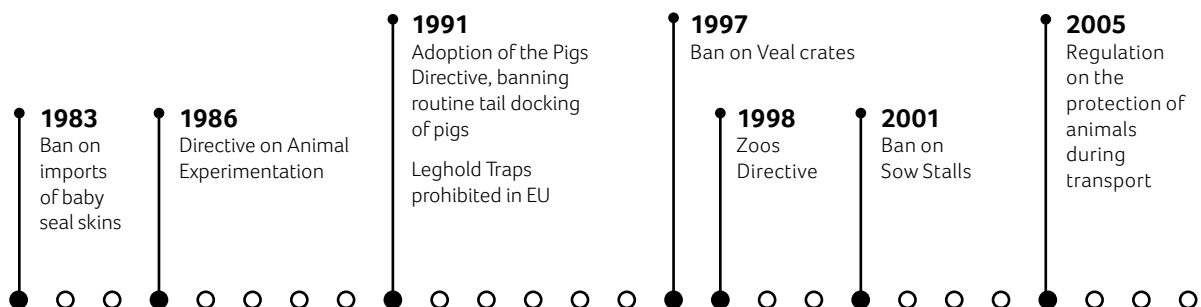
With integrated lobbying at national and EU level, we aim to permanently anchor animal welfare as a central tenet in European policy. We work with our members on common goals, and coordinate EU-wide actions – including campaigns – to activate civil society support and jointly influence EU law.

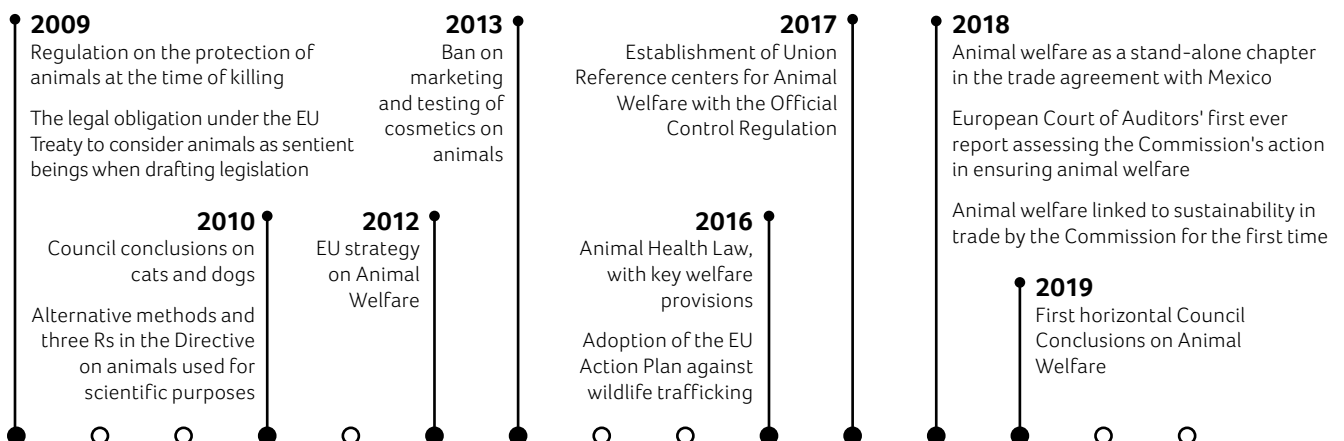
WE DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE FOR ANIMALS

In 2019 the new Commission's flagship plan to become climate neutral by 2050, the EU Green Deal, spelled the first steps towards more concrete strategies on agriculture and biodiversity. It provides an important lever for us to deliver on some of our longer-term objectives of reducing livestock farming, improving fish welfare and tackling the exotic animal trade.



SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS









ANCHORING ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE EU'S AGENDA

We work hard to build constructive relationships with the European Commission, Parliament and Council, directly influencing the policies that will improve animal welfare across the EU and deliver our strategic goals.

2019 was the year of the changing of the guard in the EU institutions, presenting fresh hope for a new political term. Our *VoteForAnimals2019* campaign resulted in more than 1000 MEP candidates signing our pledge to act for animal welfare, of which 117 subsequently got elected in May's European elections — a tremendous demonstration of the strength of our members' collective campaigning efforts.



CREATING A SUPPORTIVE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In 2019 Eurogroup for Animals' advocacy work in the European Parliament spanned the end of one political term and the beginning of another.

As part of this changeover, the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, for whom we run the secretariat, was reconfirmed as an officially accredited Intergroup of the European Parliament. 99 MEPs registered for membership, but after Brexit this number decreased to 90 MEPs from all political groups and 23 Member States. The Intergroup elected its new Board Members in autumn, and the average attendance at the end of 2019 was more than 20 MEPs per session, which is a high turnout compared to other Intergroups.

Before the end of the previous term, there were some final successes to finish on a high note. After almost a year of lobbying, February saw a strong European Parliament implementation report on the Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection

of animals during transport within and outside the EU (the Transport Regulation) (page 28) which was significantly shaped by the members of the Intergroup, and in particular by its rapporteur, Jørn Dohrmann MEP (ECR, DK).

Following a long negotiation process, the European Parliament and Council agreed on the Directive on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law. Thanks to our lobby efforts, animal welfare and health are fully covered by the new legislation. The Parliament managed to get rid of the mandatory internal reporting, which means that whistle-blowers are free to report internally or directly address regulators and competent authorities. When it comes to public reporting — in other words, to media and NGOs — the conditions were softened compared to the Commission's initial proposal, but [not as much as the Parliament wanted](#).

A plenary debate specifically on the welfare of fish in aquaculture took place for the first time ever in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, something for which we had lobbied hard for a long time. The

debate confirmed the importance of the issue, and brought contributions from all of the political groups in the Parliament.

The help of the Intergroup's working group on cage free farming contributed to the success of the End the Cage Age European Citizens Initiative (page 29), which got the support of 1.6 million EU citizens. We are proud to be part of this historic venture and are committed to making sure the results will now lead to the much-needed legislation to ban cages.

In October, the Intergroup and Eurogroup for Animals hosted the EP exhibition "The new Political Term: What's on the Horizon for Animals", which showcased a variety of animal welfare issues that MEPs will be confronted with in the coming five years.

36 Years of the Animal Welfare Intergroup

8 Intergroup meetings in Strasbourg in 2019

8 Side events **6** of which were organised by Eurogroup for Animals

20 MEPs on average attend each Intergroup meeting

114 MEPs were members of the Intergroup in during the first months of 2019



“The MEPs who signed our VoteForAnimals2019 pledge and were eventually elected came from 25 Member States and all the political groups, and the outcome of the elections made us quite optimistic in terms of support for animal welfare. The political landscape has become more diversified, with increased opportunities to build alliances among political groups.”

Andreas Erler, Senior Political Adviser



Programme Leader Companion
Animals Iwona Mertin with
Ursula von der Leyen, president
of the European Commission

WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATES

On 1 December 2019, the new von der Leyen Commission took office, bringing with it a renewed sense of hope for animal welfare. With every policy area competing for priority, it was crucial for the new Commission to feel the weight of expectation from citizens, civil society and Member States to make a difference for animals.

Foreseeing this, Eurogroup for Animals began work with the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU, which held the rotating chair from July to December, to ensure that animal welfare was a priority. At first a declaration was foreseen from willing Member States asking the Commission to undertake several key actions. However, through engagement with other Member States via a survey conducted by the Presidency, it became clear that more could be achieved: that we could see the first ever horizontal Council Conclusions on animal welfare.

Council Conclusions are rare as they require unanimity from all Member States, making them very difficult to achieve on wide-ranging topics. We had seen Council Conclusions a decade before – on, for example, the need for a study into the illegal pet trade – but never had the Council adopted something that would call for wide-ranging animal welfare measures across several species.

Whilst they may be difficult to achieve, this also means that Council Conclusions are very powerful. They express the formal position of the Council as a whole, and when 27 Member States speak with a united voice, the Commission has to listen.

Eurogroup for Animals' influence was clear from the responses to the Finnish Presidency's survey. A majority of respondents agreed that the actual legislation was not comprehensive enough (88%) and acknowledged the need for additional legislation (87%). Chief Veterinary Officers mainly supported the need to amend the Transport Regulation and the Pigs Directive. Moreover, they also recognised the need for regulation at EU-level to protect the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices (79%), either as an independent piece of legislation or as part of a wider framework on health or identification. On implementation, the CVOs identified the main reasons for non-compliance in their countries: unclear legislation, the attitude and insufficient knowledge of operators and farmers.

After further liaison with Member State diplomats, the Conclusions were adopted just after the new Commission had taken office. They noted that current legislation is not sufficient, inviting the Commission to assess the need for and impact of new law covering all species for which specific animal welfare legislation does not exist at present, including cattle at least six months old, farmed rabbits, pullets, dogs and cats, turkeys, broiler and laying hens, sheep, goats and farmed fish. They also stressed the need to improve the welfare of animals during transport over long distances, calling for discussion about the sustainability of trade in live animals versus meat and carcasses, as well as for a revision of the Transport Regulation.

Eurogroup for Animals is a member of
36 expert consultative bodies
of the European Commission

THE FINNISH PRESIDENCY'S SURVEY OF CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICERS – IN FIGURES

Is existing animal welfare legislation comprehensive enough?

YES NO

12% 88%

Is there a need for additional welfare legislation where no detailed legislation exists?

YES NO

87% 13%

Should animal welfare have a more central role in EU and Third Country trade regulation?

YES NO

91% 9%

Should there be an Animal Welfare Framework Law?

YES NO

63% 37%

What are the main reasons for lack of compliance in your country?

Unclear regulations (14 out of 20)



Attitude of operators/farmers (11 out of 20)



Insufficient knowledge among operators/farmers (14 out of 20)



Which pieces of legislation need to be amended? (out of 20 respondents)



Transport regulation



Pig Directive

Should the EU create a common animal welfare labelling scheme?

YES NO

19 4

IN 2019...

The impact of the Council Conclusions has been stark: we now expect new animal welfare legislation to be brought forward during this term. A reorganisation of the Commission's department for health and food safety, DG SANTE, will see a new, separate unit created to work on animal welfare. The new Commissioners we have met have all been positive about forthcoming actions, and the Commission's centrepiece policy – the European Green Deal – has animal welfare firmly addressed in its derivatives, the Farm-to-Fork and 2030 Biodiversity Strategies.

Animal welfare policy at EU level turned a corner in 2019, and we were ready to make the very best of this opportunity and build on it in 2020 – but since the COVID-19 pandemic we are reviewing our approach. Previous crises have taught us that animal-related issues are often deprioritised. This time, though, health and climate will become the key political priorities, which are essential themes in many of the dossiers we are working on.

As for Brexit, which has finally been knocked off the headlines by COVID-19, we have ensured that our work will remain uninterrupted after the separation through our joint EU-UK animal welfare task force. We will do everything in our power to ease this difficult period and leave a strong footprint for animals in the new UK-EU trade deal.



“Our efforts in 2019 have put animal welfare back on the agenda at EU level. We have the best opportunity in more than a decade to make a practical difference to the lives of billions of animals. We now have to ensure we use the COVID-19 pandemic to showcase how higher animal welfare is an integral component of improved veterinary public health prevention.”

Joe Moran, Political Adviser

117 CANDIDATES WHO TOOK THE ANIMAL WELFARE PLEDGE HAVE BEEN ELECTED

See which of the new MEPs made a public commitment to animal welfare for the next EU parliamentary term

ELECTED MEPS

ABOUT THE PLEDGE

EUROGROUP
FOR
ANIMALS

1006

candidates have
pledged so far!

VOTEFORANIMALS2019

You've already heard the impressive numbers. More than 1000 candidates signed our VoteForAnimals2019 pledges, and no fewer than 117 of them went on to be elected – a forceful coalition of like-minded leaders, ready to act for animals during the new political term. We couldn't have done it without the tremendous support of our Member Organisations.

PUTTING ANIMAL WELFARE AT THE HEART OF THE NEXT EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

VoteForAnimals2019's lobbying phase started as far back as the beginning of 2018, when we sought commitments on animal welfare in the political manifestos of the groups and parties, both at EU level and nationally. As a result, animal welfare was included in the manifesto of both the Greens and the Socialists. It was also included in the policy papers of the European People's Party and the priorities of the European Conservatives & Reformists.

The campaign part, which was launched at 14 February 2019's Intergroup meeting, invited every European Parliamentary candidate to sign up to 21 specific pledges stating clear commitments to improve animal welfare during the new legislative term. By doing so, prospective MEPs promised

to address such issues as long-distance live transport, fish welfare, the trade in wildlife, the phasing out of animal testing, or the inclusion of animal welfare standards in international trade agreements.

In this way, parliamentarians were offered an opportunity to respond to citizens' expectations for more European animal welfare actions, and a spotlight was shone on the European parties' campaigns and the commitments of their candidates. Ultimately, our aim was to ensure that strong support for animal welfare among newly elected European parliamentarians translates into a political priority for the next European Commission.

"If no one represents animals' interests in the European Parliament, no law will take them into account," said Finnish MEP Sirpa Pietikainen when asked for a comment on the campaign's launch.

VOTE FOR ANIMALS EU | 2019

21

clear commitments to improve animal welfare in the *VoteForAnimals2019* pledge

1000+

candidates signed

117

were elected

5

times more pledges signed than for *VoteForAnimals2014*

INFLUENCING VOTING

The campaign also informed and motivated Europeans to vote in favour of the animal-friendly candidates. Animal welfare matters to EU citizens, ranking highly alongside and with an impact on pressing societal concerns such as climate change and biodiversity loss, organised crime, and public health.

The last Eurobarometer study on animals showed that 94% of EU citizens believe that the welfare of farm animals is important and 86% consider that EU legislation should ensure proper care and welfare for animals used for commercial purposes. More recently, the interim report of the consultation on the future of Europe highlighted that Citizens' Dialogues raised many questions on biodiversity and animal welfare, including the impact of intensive farming, as well as animal cruelty and testing. Many said that decisive actions for animal welfare at the EU level would make them prouder to belong to the EU.

MEMBERS MOBILISE FOR NATIONAL RESULTS

Our Member Organisations sprang into action to encourage the candidates in their own countries to sign the pledge. National debates organised by Animais de Rua in Lisbon, Portugal and by Otwarte Klatki in Poznan, Poland in May 2019 allowed the election hopefuls to present their own visions of animal protection policy at national and EU level.

Thanks to this concerted effort on a national basis, the campaign achieved five times more pledges than in the last European election – and with results like these, the Commission has no excuse not to embrace animal welfare as a priority in its 2019-2023 work programme.



“Our campaign showed which Parliamentary candidates really care for animals. We trust that a strong pool of motivated and supportive MEPs will ensure that the new Commission addresses the many gaps in protection that animals face across Europe today.”

Elise Fleury, Campaign Officer



TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Trade liberalisation has a negative impact on animals both within the EU, as cheaper and poorer quality imports put pressure on EU producers and authorities not to improve existing standards, and outside the EU, as it stimulates the production of animal-based products, often under poor conditions.

We are lobbying EU institutions and Member States to lessen this impact, as well as to push them to seize opportunities to promote animal welfare outside the EU that are offered by the 15 or more trade agreements currently being negotiated.

BETTER WORDED TRADE DEALS

In 2019, the EU concluded its trade agreements with Singapore, Vietnam and Mercosur. The ratification of the EU-Mercosur agreement is still more than uncertain, and Eurogroup for Animals will continue to fight, as the text is too weak to protect animals. However, in the summer we heard that this recently concluded agreement will in fact be the first to include an animal welfare-based

condition attached to a tariff liberalisation. This will concern the trade in shelled eggs.

We are also monitoring ongoing negotiations, notably with Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and Chile, and lobbying on them.

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS' IMPACT IN 2019

At the World Trade Organisation Public Forum in October, we launched our policy brief on the compatibility of a method-of-production labelling system with the rules of the WTO. We believe that such a label would be compliant with these rules,

and the event provided a platform for Eurogroup for Animals to present our rationale for this.

A victory was scored when, in cooperation with other stakeholders, we ensured that Ukraine's main poultry producer, MHP, did not receive additional European money from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The poultry giant withdrew its funding application when faced with strong opposition from the animal welfare movement, environmental NGOs, the European poultry sector and the EU institutions themselves for its unsustainable agricultural practices.

We also saw the first Sustainability Impact Assessment – on the EU-Australia negotiations – take on board our recommendation to consider the impact on animal welfare when granting specific trade preferences. SIAs are crucial, as they can serve as a basis for the work the EU will carry out if or when an agreement is implemented.

A BOOST IN FUNDING

In 2019, a grant allowed us to expand the scope and depth of our work. This new funding concerns objectives specifically related to farm animals, and has allowed the trade team to grow.

But our work could not exist without the support and direction of the Member Organisations that form part of the programme's Steering Committee: RSPCA, Four Paws, Deutscher Tierschutzbund, Dierenbescherming, Djurens Rätt and World Animal Protection. We continue to provide a course on trade and animal welfare and tailor-made lobbying tools to these organisations and other interested members to boost their engagement in this critical dossier.

1 workshop at the World Trade Organisation's Public Forum organised

15 participated in EC Civil Society Dialogue Meetings

2 participated in Civil Society Fora (Canada and Ukraine)

4 meetings of the Commission's Expert Group on Trade Agreements

2 reports published

▶▶ IN 2020...

We will continue lobbying to ensure the EU-Mercosur deal is renegotiated, that the EU-UK FTA boosts animal welfare, and that future other EU agreements contain adequate language on animals.

We will also organize a key event on the link between animal welfare and the UN SDGs in the context of trade.

We will launch our reports on several key countries such as New Zealand, China and India, as well as establishing stronger connections with partners located in these countries.

We will prepare our visits to China, India and possibly Brazil, both to get a better grasp of the state of play on animal welfare in these countries but also, when possible, to provide expertise to other organizations to develop joint work on trade policy.



“It is high time for EU trade policy to be reformed in order to serve rather than undermine our journey towards a more humane and sustainable society.”

Stephanie Ghislain, Trade and Animal Welfare Project Leader

ACHIEVING IMPACT FOR ANIMALS

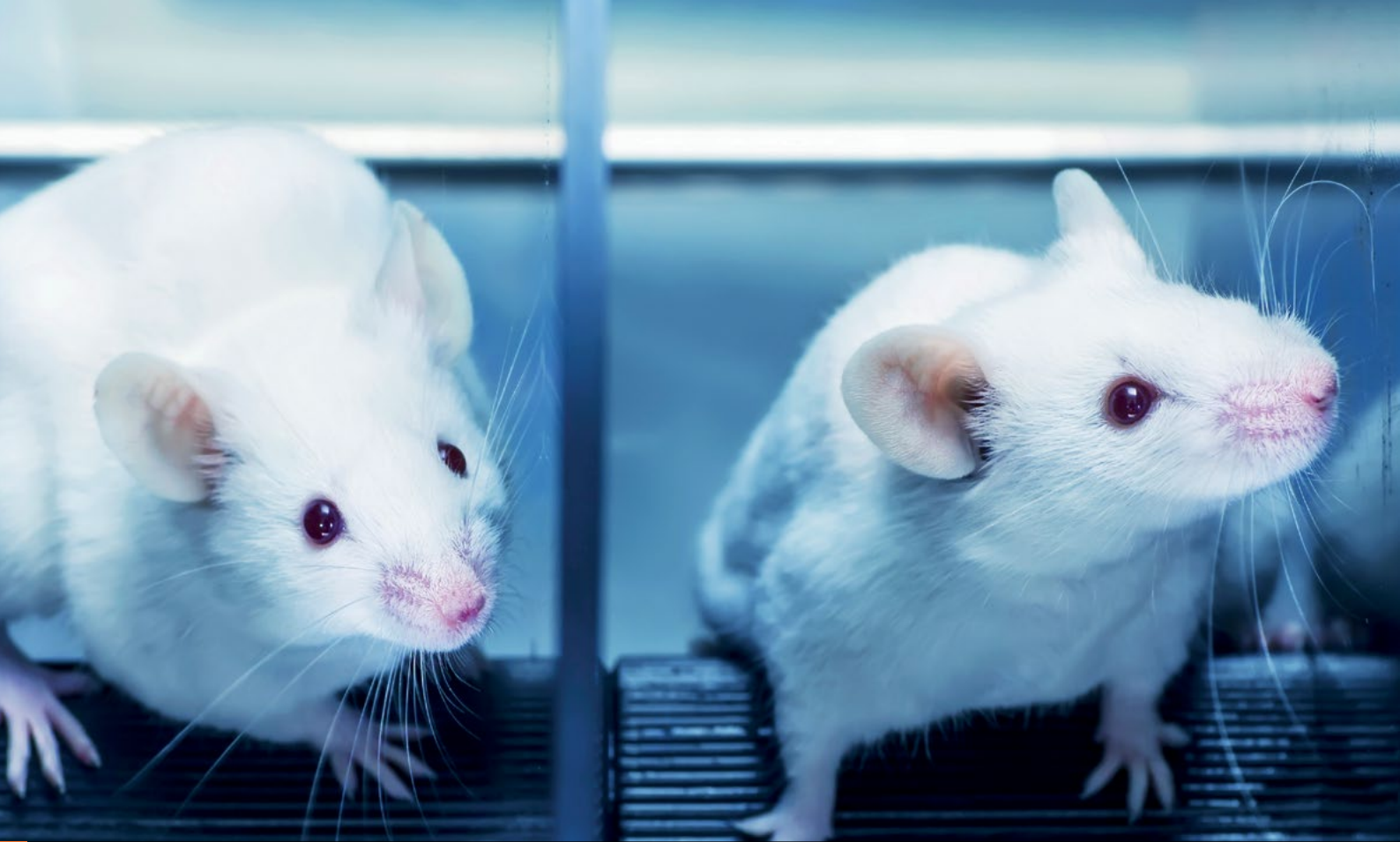
● ANIMALS IN SCIENCE	20-21
● CATS & DOGS	22-23
● EQUINES	24-25
● FARM ANIMALS, INCLUDING FISH	26-33
● WILDLIFE	36-39



“We got off to a flying start with the new Parliament and Commission in 2019, and already by the end of the year the signs were very promising. It remains to be seen how the COVID-19 crisis will affect the political landscape. However, we’re still confident that the deadlock of the last term is now over, and we’re looking forward to a much more fertile political environment for animals.”

Tim Robinson, Senior Programme Leader





ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

Huge numbers of animals are still being used in the EU for research, testing and education every year, despite concerns about the scientific value of and harm inflicted by many animal experiments. Although support to replace the use of animals in science is growing fast, human-relevant methods are struggling for opportunities to thrive, and there is still no decrease change in the number of scientific procedures being carried out on animals.

In 2019 we shared our views with policy makers and all stakeholders on how to move towards achieving the final goal of the Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes to fully replace animal use in research, education and testing. In 2017, 23 million animals were affected by scientific practices in the EU. The Animals in Science Directive lays down the mechanisms to significantly reduce this number by critical evaluation of research projects, impactful reviews of specific scientific practices, and strategic investments and promotion of human-relevant non-animal scientific approaches. However, the Commission and Member States still have much to do to unleash this potential. Our proposals were welcomed by some researchers, Member States and the Commission, but we will continue working for their effective adoption by all Member States.

2019 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



LAV launched a campaign against an experiment authorised at the University of Turin in which macaques were to be blinded and used for five years. They appealed to the Minister of Health to stop the project, highlighting as they did so that a change of course is needed to stop the prioritisation of animal models when research projects are given the green light by funders.

5 Participated in 5 international conferences

23 million animals were affected by scientific practices in the EU in 2017

In December we held a joint event with the Finnish Presidency, 'Strategies for Innovation in Life Sciences' to bring together innovators from academia, industry and organisations, politicians and policy makers to discuss possible targets and concrete steps that both Commission and national governments can support in the next legislative term and beyond to promote innovation in life sciences.

The event identified some next steps: the harmful use of animals should be phased out in human and veterinary medical courses, as well as in life sciences; testing and disease models should be standardised to better identify the applications and limitations of each method; there could be more concrete legislation in areas where animal-free approaches are already available and well-characterised; and the limitations of animal-based methods should be made clear, to help build trust in human-relevant methods.

During the opening of the event, the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals adopted a declaration on a transition to non-animal science, calling on the Commission to (1) increase support for non-animal approaches within the next EU framework programme, (2) establish a concrete strategy to phase-out the use of animals in specific areas of research, education, and testing, and (3) draw up a roadmap to end the invasive use of animals in education and training.

▶▶▶ IN 2020...

We will continue to work with all stakeholders to promote an ambitious implementation of the animals in science Directive 2010/63/EU. The first reports to be released by the Commission early in 2020 provided unprecedented transparency on how animals are being used in science. We hope these data will help all stakeholders to agree on a common strategy to significantly reduce the number and suffering of animals affected by animal experimentation.

We will collaborate with innovators to put forward key elements of a strategy to phase out the use of animals in research, and continue gathering the support of the European Parliament for a EU strategy to transition to animal-free science. We will also continue our work to gather support from Member States and European Commission for such transition.

We will play an active role in the dialogue with the European Commission to establish a position regarding the use of gene editing techniques and the products that may come from that use. Almost half of the animals impacted by research are subjected to gene editing techniques and this practice is likely to continue increasing due to the high availability and easiness of use of these techniques. Though groups with an intellectual or economic interest in genome editing are likely to promote these techniques as an appropriate response to challenges in medical research and food production, full consideration must be given to the scientific, ethical and welfare issues that this practice raises.

We will continue to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to disseminate knowledge and information on the 3Rs and, more specifically, on non-animal approaches.



“Throughout 2019 I witnessed the power of unity. I work with so many different people and organisations, both inside and outside the huge Eurogroup for Animals network. In one way or another, we are all actors affecting the lives of animals in science. Together, we are a multitude, making our differences our biggest strength. I hope this togetherness will continue to grow, to bring change for better and kinder science.”

Luísa Bastos, Animals in Science Programme Leader



CATS & DOGS

The illegal pet trade is a complex issue. It affects not only the health and welfare of the cats and dogs involved, but also consumer rights, public health – by potential exposure to zoonotic diseases – and tax revenues collected at the national level.

In 2019 we continued our work to bring the illegal pet trade to an end. We had meetings with the European Commission's DG for Communications Networks, Content and Technology and the DG for Justice and Consumers to raise awareness of the illegal puppy trade and identify joint areas of cooperation. This is particularly important in the context of the responsibilities of online platforms under the upcoming Digital Services Act.

We also activated other EU-based stakeholders. Following our meetings with BEUC and the vzbv, the European and German consumer organisations respectively, we raised awareness about illegal puppy traders who mislead consumers and online platforms that do not feel responsible.

The EU Animal Welfare Platform's Voluntary Initiative (Sub)Group on Health & Welfare of Pets (dogs) in Trade, representing 13 EU Member States, finalised guidelines for consumers

8 million
puppies

The Europe-wide
demand for dogs

acquiring and for platforms advertising animals online. The documents which we actively helped draft will be submitted for endorsement at the EU PAW plenary. On behalf of the subgroup we are also working on breeding, socialisation and commercial transport guidelines, as well as I&R recommendations.

As well as working in Europe, we work worldwide. In cooperation with academics and professionals from the UK, US, Portugal, Austria, Italy and Belgium we are defining the best standards possible for breeding, socialising and transporting pets. These will allow us to feed into upcoming legislative processes such as the Delegated Act on Breeding Establishments and the revision of the Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

There have been important national developments in the field as well. Recently, thanks to the efforts of our Irish colleagues, we saw a wonderful law materialising in Ireland that puts strict requirements on people selling and advertising cats and dogs.

We are working across all **3** EU institutions cooperating with **13** Member States to identify the best solutions for traded pets.



“It is often frustrating not to see the immediate outcomes of our work, but we are making an impact across the EU institutions, policy makers and stakeholders from other sectors. The coming years will show how big a priority pets are for EU and national policy makers.”

Iwona Mertin,
Programme Leader Companion Animals

▶▶ IN 2020...

Representatives from the EU Platform on Animal Welfare's pet trade subgroup, including Eurogroup for Animals, will continue to exchange views with the European Commission's DG for Communications Networks, Content and Technology. We will present the recommendations of 13 Member States and four animal-related organisations regarding online sale platforms, as well as placing the illegal pet trade on the radar in the context of the revision of the Directive on electronic commerce and Digital Services Act.

We will look forward to a follow-up by the European Commission and the Member States to the European Parliament's resolution on the illegal pet trade. Our hopes are high for a delegated act on the identification and registration of cats and dogs, and for working with the European Parliament Committees on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Internal Market and Consumer Protection.

Under the auspices of the Croatian Presidency, we will hold a workshop on the illegal pet trade in April that will feed into the EU and Member States' legislative and policy plans.

Within the Intergroup, we will tighten cooperation with Members of the European Parliament focused on pet matters.



EQUINES

Equines play a myriad of roles throughout their lifetime. As a result, there are a number of serious equine welfare challenges, including irresponsible ownership and breeding, poor recognition of welfare, lack of traceability, inhumane farming, and slaughter for veterinary, medicinal and beauty products.

TOGETHER WITH MEMBER STATES, SPREADING BEST PRACTICE

At their sixth meeting, the EU Platform on Animal Welfare endorsed first ever pan-European Guidelines to Good Animal Welfare Practice for the Keeping, Care, Training and Use of Horses, which was wonderful news at the end of the year. This document is an achievement which 74 different entities - including Member States, European Economic Area countries, international bodies, experts and animal charities - have acknowledged. Now, together with the Chair and

2019 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



Our Member Organisation **World Horse Welfare** gave a presentation on horse welfare to then-president elect of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, at the first MEP Horse Group Meeting at the European Parliament in October.

Voluntary Initiative Group on Equidae Secretariat, we are developing a strategy for dissemination of the guidelines.

Our work was also recognised and rewarded by December's Council Conclusions, where the EU Member States called for an EU Reference Centre for Equines and Ruminants. Such a centre would help to tackle equine welfare concerns in many fields such as transport or breeding, to name a few.

THE NEW POLITICAL TERM FOR EQUINES

We started the new term with an informal meeting with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, handing over our Magazine and a leaflet covering the main equine issues we are focusing on in the coming years.

All this happened at the first MEP Horse Group meeting of the current political term of the European Parliament. The event, hosted by MEP Hilde Vautmans, debated the role of horses in modern society, including the sustainability of keeping horses and responsible ownership. It was well attended by Members of the European Parliament from a variety of political groups. Both Ursula von der Leyen and MEP Hilde Vautmans are horse-lovers, and we hope to build on that, especially when it comes to responsible ownership and any possible legislative files such as a revision of the Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

With regards to working equids, we collaborate with Eurogroup for Animal's Trade and Animal Welfare Programme to make sure it takes their situation into full consideration. We took advantage of a meeting with the Cabinet of the European Commissioner for International Partnerships, Jutta Urpilainen, and the DG for International Cooperation and Development to discuss working equids and sustainable development goals, as well as with the DG for Justice and Consumers to debate the role of equines in traveller communities and possible opportunities for animal welfare charities.

▶▶▶ IN 2020...

The Voluntary Initiative Group on Equidae established within the EU Platform on Animal Welfare will finalise the first EU guidance documents for the responsible ownership of donkeys and their hybrids, with the endorsement of seven Member States.

We will address irresponsible breeding, poor traceability and abusive handling, just some of the threats facing horses, donkeys and their hybrids in Europe and beyond, as well as acknowledging the close ties between equine welfare and sustainable development goals. The more effectively a farmer, family or community looks after their horse, mule or donkey, the more productive they will be. We will focus on raising awareness on this important but often overlooked issue.

We also want to ensure good conditions for donkey farming for any purpose, and to see an end to the import of hormones cruelly produced from pregnant mares.



“ We see more and more legislative and non-legislative initiatives aimed at protecting the welfare of equines in various contexts. Now we have to see more enforcement.”

Iwona Mertin, Programme Leader Companion Animals

Guidelines to Good Animal Welfare Practice for the Keeping, Care, Training and Use of Horses acknowledged by:

31

countries, including

27

Member States

4

international organisations

9

independent experts

10

civil society organisations



FARM ANIMALS

The last political term was characterised by an unwillingness to propose or improve animal welfare legislation, so we focused on mounting political pressure through the European Parliament and public opinion. As the new von der Leyen Commission began its work at the end of 2019, Eurogroup for Animals hopes that this will mark a change in direction, and looks forward to working with the new Commissioners to give farmed animals across our Union a good life.

BETTER LIVES FOR BROILERS

Echoing the 2018 call of the European Parliament for better welfare for broiler chickens, we conducted a survey in the major chicken meat-producing EU countries to understand the level of knowledge EU citizens have about producing methods. It showed overwhelming support by citizens to better protect the welfare of broiler chickens. On the other hand, it revealed the huge disparity between citizens' views and the reality of industrial farms. We used these findings to call on the industry and regulators alike to improve standards and invest in transparency and consumer information.



“Here in the EU, we have billions of chickens kept in intensive industrial conditions, which is not only terrible from an animal welfare perspective, but also from a public health point of view as they are potential incubators of zoonotic influenza A viruses. To reduce the risk of future outbreaks, and so to protect public health, animal health and welfare, it is important to move away from intensive animal agriculture.”

Francesca Porta, Farm Animals Programme Officer

2019 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



Our members across Europe have been running powerful campaigns to obtain corporate commitments towards the European Chicken Commitment, which aims to address the inhumane conditions that predominate in the intensive, large-scale production of chicken meat. KFC (UK and Ireland, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and Sweden) signed up in full during 2019 thanks to the efforts of **World Animal Protection** – which ran a targeted campaign, Change for Chickens – and **Compassion in World Farming**.

A campaign by **L214** resulted in Les Mousquetaires, the third largest French distributor of chicken meat, committing to obtaining supplies from farms and slaughterhouses meeting the ECC criteria.

Essere Animali investigated undercover in a mega-farm of 56,000 hens that is part of the Eurovo group, one of Europe's leading egg companies, and showed that eggs sold under the 'Naturelle' brand are anything but.

▶▶ IN 2020...

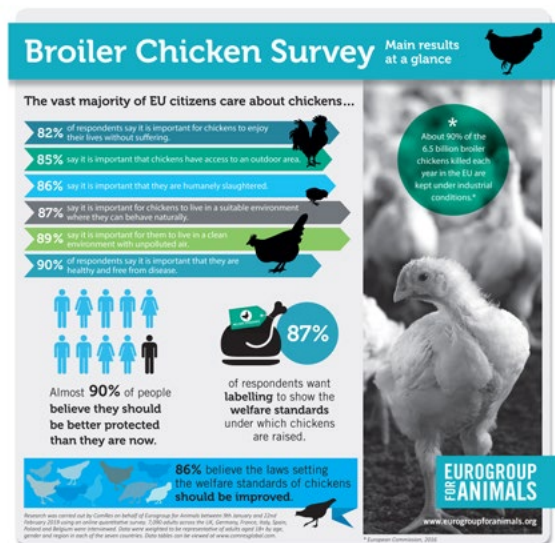
We will continue to strengthen our call for better welfare for broiler chickens by further substantiating our findings with the most recent scientific evidence.

We will release a report with contributions of key scientists highlighting all the challenges broiler chickens have to face during all stages of their lives, from hatching to slaughter. The aim is to put forward proposals to address the shortcomings of the current EU Broiler Directive.

LIVE TRANSPORT

After almost a year of lobbying, we were happy to see a strong Implementation Report from the European Parliament regarding Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport within and outside the EU (the Transport Regulation). It covered key issues such as the need to shift to a trade of meat and carcasses, to promote a regional production chain so as to slaughter animals as close as possible to the place of rearing, to limit the transport of unweaned animals to a maximum of eight hours, and to make it always mandatory to stun animals prior to slaughter. It also recommended that the new Parliament set up a Committee of inquiry on animal transport.

Later in 2019 we built upon this Parliamentary request by developing and publishing 'A Strategy to Reduce and Replace Live Animal Transport'. This report was presented during a high-level expert event co-organised with the Dutch Permanent Representation to the EU, and shows that a shift to a meat and carcasses only trade is not only possible, it is long overdue. It presents case studies of alternatives that have been successfully established in the UK and New Zealand, as well as measures and tools that can be implemented to achieve such a shift.



1st ever survey on EU citizens' perceptions on broiler chicken welfare



2019 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



As in previous years, several of our Member Organisations - including **Animals International**, the **Animal Welfare Foundation** and **L214** - carried out harrowing front-line investigations of live animal transport. One of the most disturbing of these was the on-site monitoring of the Romanian sheep sent to the Gulf in the summer, and the drowning of more than 14,000 of them in November, when **Four Paws** was able to rescue 254 sheep from the half-sunken ship.

Other actions around live animal transport included the third annual Stop Live Transport International Day of Awareness organised by **Compassion in World Farming**, and a joint letter from **Welfarm**, **Fondation Brigitte Bardot**, **L214**, **CIWF** and **La Fondation Droit Animal, Ethique et Sciences** to the French Minister urging him to stop the export of live animals and to shift to a meat and carcasses trade. A letter from **Deutscher Tierschutzbund** called on the German Federal Minister of Agriculture to clarify the unevenly regulated handling of breeding cattle transports to third countries, and in the Netherlands, **Dierenbescherming** asked for stricter heat protocols for livestock transport. **Djurens Rätt** requested that the Swedish government develop a plan for how Sweden should minimize the transport of animals for slaughter, and the **RSPCA** voiced its concern that the UK's Department of Agriculture presents 'sanitised' accounts of live animal sea voyages.

▶▶▶ IN 2020...

We will push for the Commission to work on a strategy to replace the long-distance transport of live animals both for slaughter and breeding with the trade of meat and carcasses, as well as semen and embryos.

Following the Council conclusion of last December we will work towards the revision of the Transport Regulation. Through a new legislative proposal, the Commission would have the opportunity to limit transportation time, and thus to favour meat and carcasses and genetic material trade over live animal transport.

1 EP implementation report on live animal transport

1 Report and high-level expert meeting on replacing live transport with the transport of meat and carcasses

CAGE-FREE FARMING IN THE EU IS CLOSER THAN EVER

The end of the signature collection phase of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "End The Cage Age", which saw massive participation of more than 160 NGOs, marked a milestone for the EU animal advocacy movement. Over 1.6 million EU citizens signed this ECI, asking the European Commission to take action and phase out cages from animal farming.

Eurogroup for Animals, a proud partner of Compassion in World Farming in this ECI, firmly believes that the success of End The Cage Age sends a very clear signal from civil society to the European Institutions, and one that can no longer be ignored.

1,617,405

signatures for End The Cage Age



MOVING AWAY FROM HIGH-CONCENTRATION CO₂ STUNNING OF PIGS

In all big EU slaughterhouses, pigs are stunned with high concentrations of CO₂, which is a method that causes considerable distress to the animals for up to a minute before they finally lose consciousness. Although allowed by the Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (the Slaughter Regulation), we consider high-concentration CO₂ to be unacceptable as a stunning method for pigs, not only because it is highly aversive, but also because it does not induce instantaneous loss of consciousness, thus causing unnecessary and avoidable suffering to hundreds of millions of pigs at the time of death.

With a new position paper published in 2019, Eurogroup for Animals and its members stressed the urgency of carrying out more applied research at national and EU level to find alternative and more humane stunning methods for pigs and phase out high-concentration CO₂ stunning as soon as possible and in any case by 2025, with an assessment phase in 2023.

Contributed to **1** EC report on producing and marketing pig meat from pigs that have not been surgically castrated

2 new Eurogroup for Animals position papers: Alternatives to high-concentration CO₂ stunning of pigs, and Avian influenza

2019 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



National campaigns backed up the End the Cage Age ECI's call. By April 2019, 25,000 Danish citizens had signed a petition launched by **Dyrenes Beskyttelse** to ban cages for hens. In the Netherlands, **Dierenbescherming** sent a letter to the Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality calling for a ban on all cage systems for laying hens.

►► IN 2020...

We will work strategically alongside our member organisations to make sure that the strong call of End The Cage Age translates into concrete political initiatives, such as the ban of enriched cages in egg production.

To facilitate the transition to cage-free systems, our 'Optimising Laying Hen Welfare in Cage-free Systems' guidelines are being translated into Dutch and French, and we have prepared a dedicated EP pilot project to help farmers in transitioning to cage-free egg production systems.



IMPROVING THE WELLBEING OF DAIRY COWS

In 2019 we were instrumental in pushing the EP to vote in favour of a pilot project that will produce guides to good practice on the rearing of dairy cows, including heifers and cull animals. The project will also look into the feasibility of rearing male calves close to their place of birth as an alternative to long-distance transport.

This is good news, as the dairy sector has remained largely under the radar in terms of animal welfare: there is no species-specific legislation protecting dairy cows, with the exception of calves. The provisions of the general Farm Animals Directive are insufficient to guarantee minimum standards of welfare for dairy cows, and therefore controls are also ineffective.

Yet severe animal welfare issues persist in dairy production, from a high prevalence of lameness and mastitis to inadequate cubicle size and design, to the detrimental effects of genetic selection for high productivity on health, to the increasingly popular zero-grazing systems, in which cows are housed inside year-round, never going out on pasture.

1.7 million EUR for two EC pilot projects

3 articles on farmed animal welfare in the EU published in the peer-reviewed academic journal *Animals*

SPREADING THE MESSAGE FAR AND WIDE: PIGS DESERVE BETTER

In 2019 we were tireless in our dissemination activities on the sad plight of pigs in the EU and the widespread flaunting by the pig sector of existing EU animal welfare rules, building on the awareness raised by our 2018 [EndPigPain](#) campaign.

We worked side-by-side with other stakeholders of the pork chain in the pig welfare sub-group of the European Platform on Animal Welfare, producing guidance on relevant animal-based indicators that the competent authorities can use to better enforce pig welfare rules during official controls.

We participated in several international conferences and events as speakers, stressing the extraordinary situation whereby - at the time of writing - 25 out of 27 Member States are violating the EU ban on routine tail docking, and have been doing so for the past 26 years. Additionally, we published an article on this topic in a peer-reviewed academic journal.

We also gave talks to official veterinarians participating in official training under the European Commission's Better Training for Safer Food programme.

▶▶▶ IN 2020...

We will continue to push the European Commission to launch infringement procedures against Member States that are non-compliant with important provisions of the Pig Directive. We will continue our work advising on the dissemination of the results of the EC study on producing and marketing pig meat from pigs that have not been surgically castrated. We will also increase our efforts within the 3 Ts (teeth, testicles, tails) Global Stakeholder Alliance - established by World Animal Protection - to encourage food giants to adopt better pig welfare practices.



“With the end of this legislative term, we have high hopes for fresh policies that will bring about radical changes for the better for billions of farmed animals.”

Dr Elena Nalon, Senior Veterinary Adviser





FISH WELFARE CLIMBS UP THE EUROPEAN POLICY AGENDA

In March fish were on top of the political agenda, with a plenary debate specifically on the welfare of fish in aquaculture taking place in the European Parliament in Strasbourg. The debate confirmed the importance of the issue and brought contributions from all of the political groups in the Parliament, and participating Commissioner Neven Mimica committed to integrating welfare into the development of EU aquaculture.

The EU Animal Welfare Platform's own-initiative subgroup on fish held four meetings in 2019. This Member State-led, multi-stakeholder group has

2019 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



With the help of fish programme grants during 2019, government lobbying by **Loomus** in Estonia resulted in a formal announcement that killing eels with salt is not acceptable, and initiated a dialogue with industry to phase out the practice. Spain's **FAADA** reached 400,000 people with posters and 70,000 with cinema adverts, triggering debates on fish sentience in regional and national media.

well advanced drafts of best practice guidelines on handling and water quality in aquaculture. The subgroup consolidates current knowledge and develops consensus behind practical advice to reduce distress and suffering in a range of aquaculture systems.

As attention on the welfare of fish continued to increase, we continued to seek broad alliances and expand the arena for fish welfare. In June we hosted a coordination meeting of animal advocacy organisations, sustainable seafood labelling schemes, and other stakeholders actively pursuing change, including organisations active on six continents. Participants were able to share knowledge they have generated, identify future collaborations, and share views on the future of welfare in aquaculture. Major seafood certifiers and corporate programmes reached out to us to engage with them as they develop fish welfare criteria for their standards.

Welfare at the time of slaughter was kept on the agenda when the Aquaculture Advisory Council adopted its second formal position paper on this issue in July. This joint position of all aquaculture stakeholders calls on the EU to use all of its non-legislative tools to bring EU aquaculture up to international standards and achieve the objectives of the EU's slaughter regulation.

In December we secured the explicit inclusion of fish in the first transversal Council Conclusions on animal welfare from the European Council. This anchors a place for fish in the approach to animal welfare taken in the new political term.

▶▶▶ IN 2020...

We expect to see the EU Animal Welfare Platform adopt fish welfare guidelines. The implementation of these guidelines through regulatory regimes and through voluntary adoption at Member State level will bring real improvements to fish across European aquaculture and beyond, reducing the distress caused by regular handling practices and poor water quality.

The EU will also adopt the policy document 'Strategic Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture', which sets policy priorities for 2021-2027. We expect to see this document commit resources to the development and implementation of best practice guidelines, fish welfare indicators and steps to improve slaughter practices in European aquaculture.

2020 will be the year that we become active on welfare in wild capture fisheries. We will publish a report, take our first lobby actions on fishery regulations under review, and establish fish welfare as an important part of the discussion on fishery regulations and methods.

Grants made to our Member Organisations are enabling them to carry out their own fish welfare projects on awareness raising, political advocacy, and especially corporate outreach. 2020 will see many projects coming to fruition, as well as the start of a new coordinated communication action on fish.

31 of our member organisations actively advocate for fish welfare



“In many respects fish are still finding their place in welfare discussions, but the momentum is enormous and we see that the issue is now embedded as a priority in EU policy discussions. It's very exciting that we're at a turning point and about to see the work of recent years translate into improved conditions for fish and improved policies.”

Douglas Waley, Fish Welfare Programme Leader

100 newly elected MEPs have pledged to improve fish welfare rules



BENDING THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABILITY

Towards the beginning of 2019, the European Parliament voted on the Commission's proposal for the new CAP. We were pleased to see the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on the Environment vote for amendments which, taken altogether, cover Eurogroup for Animals' propositions for a more humane European agricultural policy.

Our activities on the CAP in the Parliament culminated in an Intergroup session dedicated to the topic in December, which was one of the best attended sessions of this legislature, and where MEPs engaged with one another the most. Eurogroup for Animals' efforts also led to securing solid support within key Member States in the Council to ensure success further down the road to adopting the new CAP.

LABELLING

Our publication on the compliance of method-of-production labelling with WTO rules made a strong case for method of production labelling by dismantling one of the counter-arguments often used by its adversaries, namely that such labelling is not compliant with WTO rules. The arguments were presented and welcomed by academics during the WTO public forum we organised with the Trade team the members of our working group on labelling.

We also mapped and closely monitored the developments on animal welfare and method-of-production labelling in all EU Member States, identifying the relevant regulation. We aligned like-minded stakeholders behind our case for support when initiating contact with the relevant private and public stakeholders to ensure convergence towards a single labelling format at EU level.

6 EC training sessions on farmed animal welfare given to official veterinarians under the EC “Better Training for Safer Food” programme

11 billion animals slaughtered for food in the EU every year

FOOD POLICY

We were pleased to see that the proposed European Green Deal, which was revealed in December, concedes that stricter standards are needed for farm animal welfare. With the aim of making Europe the first climate-neutral continent, the European Green Deal lays out a series of actions for the coming years that will contribute to the fight against climate change and other environmental concerns.

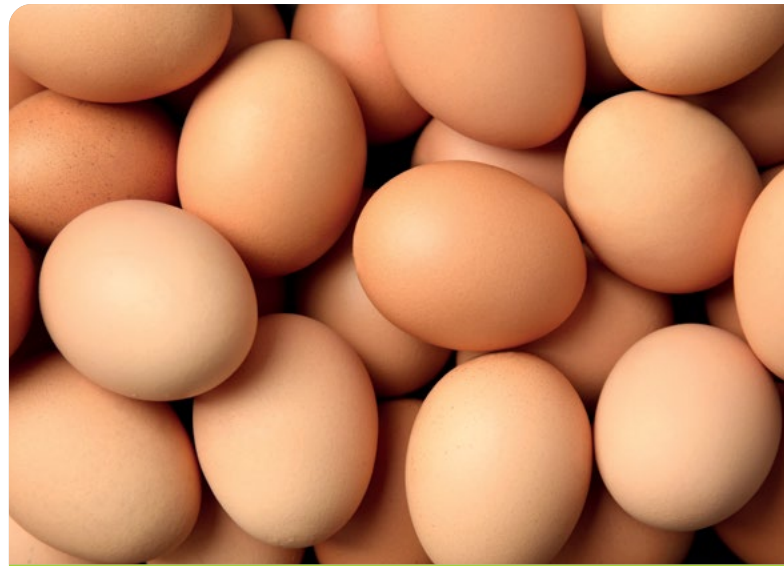
The Deal includes legislation to meet the EU’s 2050 Climate Neutrality target, as well as a strategy on the protection of biodiversity, the development of the circular economy, and the development of rural areas across the EU. This aligns with the persistent and growing demands – both from animal welfare advocates and from society at large – for a Europe that is more effective in delivering on farm animal welfare and wildlife conservation objectives.

The Deal’s ‘Farm-to-Fork’ strategy, for example, recognises the value of circular agriculture, which tries to minimize the use of external resources by relying on natural processes, producing resources locally and reusing waste streams, thus being more sustainable. Eurogroup for Animals will therefore seize this unique opportunity to anchor a more favourable treatment of farm animals, and the transition away from animal-based products as key objectives of a sustainable food production.



“We will continue our efforts to make the EU’s agricultural and food policy more humane through measures that encourage the best animal welfare practices and a significant reduction in the production of animal source foods. The European Commission’s Farm-to-Fork Strategy will be a unique opportunity to have the improvement of animal welfare recognized as a priority for the next legislature.”

Alice Di Concetto, Farm Animals Programme Officer



▶▶ IN 2020...

Eurogroup for Animals will pursue its efforts towards ensuring that the new CAP no longer neglects farm animal welfare and instead provides the blueprint for a sustainable, more humane food policy. We want to see the best animal welfare practices supported to the fullest extent under the CAP, as well as the end of harmful subsidies which contribute to flooding the EU market with cheap, inhumane, and low-environmental food products. We will make sure the CAP aligns with the EU Green Deal’s objectives for agriculture in the Farm-to-Fork Strategy.

We will start Eurogroup for Animals’ strategy towards the implementation of method-of-production labelling for poultry meat.

We will call on the Commission to ensure that animal welfare will be recognised as a major contributor to climate neutrality in agriculture. This should be translated in clear actions under the EU Farm-to-Fork Strategy.



WILDLIFE

Human-wildlife conflicts are common in highly populated Europe, where they are generally addressed by trapping, hunting or poisoning. Wild animals are also being illegally traded, inappropriately kept as exotic pets, or cruelly used in performances. We continue to work for a more ethical and humane management of wildlife, better conditions for wild animals in captivity, and to end the use of wild animals in entertainment.

At the beginning of the year, the European Parliament's AGRI Committee voted in favour of a worrying Motion for Resolution urging the EC to downscale the protection of wolves and to allow more flexibility to Member States in managing large carnivore populations - one attempt among many occurring both nationally and at EU level. Eurogroup for Animals immediately took action by consulting the European Commission, building a coalition with conservation organisations, and successfully lobbying MEPs in the ENVI Committee to oppose the AGRI Committee's initiative. Consequently, the Motion for a Resolution was withdrawn from the agenda of the EP's Plenary session in March. In October, the Court of Justice of the European Union confirmed the strict protection of the wolf in Europe, saying that hunting permits should be delivered only in exceptional cases, and as a very last resort after non-lethal measures have been adequately implemented and have failed.

In summer, England banned the use of wild animals in circuses. Coming into effect in January 2020, the ban comes after more than 20 years of investigations and campaigns by animal protection organisations, including many of our members.

A ban on the trade on wild-caught live elephants was adopted at the eighteenth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP18) in Geneva in August, thanks in no small part to the prompt mobilisation of many of our members. As well as putting an end to the cruel export of young wild elephants from southern African countries for zoos and circuses, this shows that animal welfare legitimately justifies severely restricting trade. In addition, CITES gave more protection to several species threatened by the exotic pet trade.

▶▶ IN 2020...

We will actively advocate for an EU Positive List for exotic pets alongside the 94 elected MEPs who committed to supporting this by signing our *VoteforAnimals2019* pledge for the EU elections.

Through a coordinated communication action with our member organisations, we will continue to promote coexistence with large carnivores and oppose the growing pressure to decrease the level of protection granted to wolves and bears by the EU legislation.

We will also play an active role in the selection of the best practices that will be identified by the EC Pilot Project on the Humane Management of Invasive Alien Species.

We will actively participate in the EC stakeholder forum for better implementation of the Zoos Directive, and we will urge the EC to draft an ambitious Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and a new EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking that will also ensure the welfare of confiscated animals and financial support for rescue centres.

Joining forces with our member organisations, we will continue to push for the adoption of EU-wide bans on the ivory trade, the use of wild animals in circuses, and the import of kangaroo meat and leather.

Finally, we will continue to oppose any initiative which may provide EU endorsement to the fur industry.



“Future pandemics are likely to be more frequent, spread more rapidly, kill more people and inflict even worse economic damage if we don't change the way we are destroying the environment and exploiting wildlife. The EU should start by reducing the wildlife trade and strictly regulating the exotic pet trade to protect the health of people and animals and biodiversity.”

Ilaria Di Silvestre, Wildlife Programme Leader



In September, Eurogroup for Animals and the UK Representation to the EU organised an exhibition at the European Parliament on wildlife trafficking, which was hosted by Dinesh Dhamija MEP. It was a great opportunity to promote the work of our member organisations Four Paws and AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection in rescuing confiscated animals.

In the same month we heard the good news that the consortium we're on, which also includes the International Union for Conservation of Nature and other NGOs and research institutes, had been chosen by the European Commission to implement the Pilot Project on the Humane Management of Invasive Alien Species. Over the next three years, the project will develop EU guidance for humane methods to manage the species that are presently included in the EU list of Species of Union Concern.

The EC published the Zoos Directive Good Practices Document in seven more languages. The translation of this important document was one of our main calls during the EC's evaluation of the Zoos Directive, as it is crucial if the level of implementation of the Directive is to increase. The EC has committed to translating the document into all the Member States' languages within the next two years.

Towards the end of 2019 Eurogroup for Animals, AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection and the European Alliance of Rescue Centres and

Sanctuaries (EARS) highlighted the work of rescue centres in Europe and drew attention to some key challenges during an event at the European Parliament hosted by Martin Hojsík MEP.

8 Zoos Directive Good Practices Document available in 8 languages

94 elected MEPs committed to support the EU Positive List in our Vote for Animals pledge

1 Motion for a Resolution to downscale the protection of wolves withdrawn

2019 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



AAP Animal Advocacy And Protection was active in the push for Positive Lists for exotic pets, publishing a report which shed light on the alarming lack of EU regulation covering the private ownership of the vast majority of all 5,488 known mammal species, most of which can be kept as pets somewhere in the EU. They also co-organised the EP event 'Breaking Point: Solving the European Wildlife Rescue Crisis' in November.

CURRENT LEGISLATION/RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF WILD ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES IN EACH EU MEMBER STATE

- National ban on all animals
- National ban on wild animals
- Regional bans of wild animals
- Legally binding national restrictions on the use of animals in circuses
- No legally binding national restrictions on the use of animals in circuses



LOOKING AHEAD

In 2020 Eurogroup for Animals turns 40. This was to be an exceptional opportunity to celebrate our four decades as a changemaker for animals - being there with so many and united behind one cause.

As well as looking back at our achievements, we'd planned to take a long look forward: another 40 years, in fact. We planned to ask key figures from our movement – including CEOs of our member organisations, founders, and celebrity supporters – to tell us what they hope life will be like in the EU for animals in 2060. We were going to harness social media, our annual event and many other channels to broadcast the movement's hopes for the future.

However, as we were putting the finishing touches to the text of this report, Europe went into lockdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This new reality will have long lasting effects on the fabric of our societies, and consequently our work.

We know that crises on any scale can mean that animal welfare gets pushed far down the list of political priorities, and that our work will be made all the more difficult as a result. But one thing the pandemic has done is shed new light on areas of animal suffering and brought them to the attention of new audiences. There's a strong call from many quarters for change because of the zoonotic origin of the coronavirus, and the role of the wildlife trade and intensive livestock farming.

The rush for medical solutions poses serious challenges for our work on animals used for testing, research and education. We foresee a large increase in the use of primates, ferrets, mice, cats and dogs – but we also believe this crisis could help us make the case for science without animal models, and push for more open science.



In the first phase of the pandemic, we experienced serious issues with regard to live transport. Lorries were getting stuck at closed borders, and the enforcement infrastructure was failing. This only strengthened our case for a thorough revision of the Transport Regulation.

Conversely, though, some of the suffering being caused by the crisis is due to misguided concerns or 'fake news'. Animal shelters are under immense pressure, not only as a result of taking in animals from ill owners or owners who have died, but also because of coping with animals that have been abandoned or relinquished through misguided concerns over the transmission of COVID-19, sometimes by breeders or pet shops as well as by owners.



Lockdown may force NGOs and municipalities to pause the sterilization programmes that make up part of their humane stray dog or cat population management, and many food sources for stray animals, such as restaurants or rubbish stations, are closed.

Rescue centres in Europe operate thanks to the generosity of private donors and, in some cases, to the tickets sold to their visitors. However, with the COVID-19 restrictions adopted in locked down European countries, visitors aren't coming anymore. In the longer term, the disruption of countries' economies and people's savings could worsen the situation.

In the end, 2020 hasn't turned out to be an appropriate year for any kind of celebration. There's one thing, though, that we're still able to

enjoy that hasn't been affected by COVID-19. Our brand new website – which aims to be THE digital hub of all animal advocacy news across Europe – is being launched during our 40th anniversary year. We hope that this treasury of animal protection news will be an oracle of information for Member Organisations, journalists, decision-makers and other stakeholders – and that now more than ever, it will represent an essential knowledge source in the fight for a better Europe for animals.



ORGANISATION

HOW WE ARE GOVERNED

As a membership organisation, we are democratically governed by our members, who provide us with a mandate at our annual General Assembly.

The General Assembly is our supreme decision-making and oversight body, establishing our direction and adopting our strategic plan. It is made up of representatives from all of our member organisations, and each member can vote. It has sole power to amend the Articles of Association and elect members to the Board, to which it delegates its authority.

The Board is currently made up of 10 Member Organisations that have been elected by the AGM, plus the President, Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer. It meets five times a year and delegates operational authority to the CEO, who manages the Eurogroup for Animals team.

In 2019 Eurogroup for Animals' 24-person, multinational 'team' worked within a framework provided by the organisation's 2027 strategy, five-year sub-strategy and annual work plans.



“There’s nothing like making a face-to-face connection with someone. By bringing our Member Organisations together at the Annual Conference and AGM, we hope to inspire the attendees and make them feel welcome in our ever-growing network of animal advocates.”

Christine van Horen, Events Manager

ANNUAL #ACT4ANIMALS CONFERENCE AND AGM

2019's **Annual #Act4Animals Conference and AGM** in June saw speeches from Corine Pelluchon, Full Professor in Philosophy and Applied Ethics at the University of Paris-Est-Marne-La-Vallée on 'The animal cause: ethical issues and political strategies'; Alberto Alemanno, Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law, HEC Paris and Global Professor of Law, NYU School of Law, Paris, on 'The Impact of the EU elections on the climate for interest representation'; and Hermes Sanctorum, former Belgian parliamentarian and now consultant at GAIA, on 'Cell-based meat: road to a slaughter-free future'. The conference also included a debate with MEPs about the political opportunities for animal welfare, a masterclass in 'flip thinking' and the announcement of the Campaign4Animals award winner.

REWARDING POSITIVE ACTION



A highlight of our annual conference is the awards ceremony at which we recognise exceptional contributions to animal welfare in Europe. In 2019 we presented an award for the best campaign for animals by one of our Member Organisations, for which there were 9 excellent campaigns nominated. The quality was so high that it was difficult to choose a winner, but the attendees voted for **Essere Animali** for their 'Anche i Pesci' (Fish Too) campaign.

OUR BOARD IN 2019-2020:



President: **Britta Riis**,
Dyrenes Beskyttelse (DK)



Vice-President: **Philip Lymbery**,
Compassion in World Farming (UK)



Honorary Treasurer:
Chris Carey

ORDINARY BOARD MEMBERS 2019-2020:



AAP - Animal Advocacy and
Protection (NL), represented by
David van Gennep, CEO



Animalia (FI), represented by
Sami Saynevirta,
Animalia board Vice-chairman



Dierenbescherming (NL),
represented by **Gemma
Willemsem**, Manager of
Programmes and Lobbying



Djurens Rätt (SE),
represented by
Benny Andersson,
Executive Director



GAIA (BE), represented by
Michel Vandenbosch,
President (2019)



GAIA (BE), represented by
Ann De Greef,
President (2020)



La Fondation Brigitte Bardot (FR),
represented by
Elodie Gérôme-Delgado, Manager -
General Advocacy and Wildlife



LAV (IT), represented by
Roberto Bennati,
CEO



Lëtzebuurger Déiereschutzliga (LU),
represented by **Lucien Bildgen**,
President



Royal Society for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) (UK),
represented by **David Bowles**,
Head of Public Affairs



FOUR PAWS International,
represented by **Gerald Dick**,
Member of the Executive Board



Deutscher Tierschutzbund (DE),
represented by **Roman Kolar**,
Director of Animal Welfare Academy



IN MEMORIAM

At the beginning of January 2020 it was with great shock and sadness that we heard about the sudden death of Heli Dungler, CEO of VIER PFOTEN, our Board member and lifelong animal advocate. His fellow Board members, the President, Vice-President, CEO and team at Eurogroup for Animals will miss him greatly.



OUR RESOURCES

It was good to see the growth trend, initiated by our organisation in 2016, pull through in 2019 too. With more members supporting our work than ever before, we have also continued to diversify and strengthen our other sources of income.

For the fourth consecutive year we have seen our income grow and 10 new Member Organisations join our ranks, with none leaving. We were pleased to see many of our members grow and reinforce their investments and relationships with Eurogroup for Animals.

At the same time, we are grateful to have been granted continued and additional financial support from the Open Philanthropy Project. This stronger financial position enabled us to grow our turnover for the year by 15% compared to 2018, bringing it up to €2,651,890. We were able to increase investments across the board of our five distinct programmatic areas, namely animals in science, companion animals, equines, farm animals (including fish) and wildlife (including fur).

As in previous years, it also enabled us to invest in strengthening our organisation's position in the EU landscape by investing in general advocacy activities that create a favourable political environment (including the work with the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, the EU PAW and the 2019 Election campaign), and in stepping up efforts advance animal welfare in international trade.

These horizontal activities benefit all the thematic initiatives we undertake because they contribute to creating a supportive political environment and increase receptiveness to the thematic calls to actions we put out.

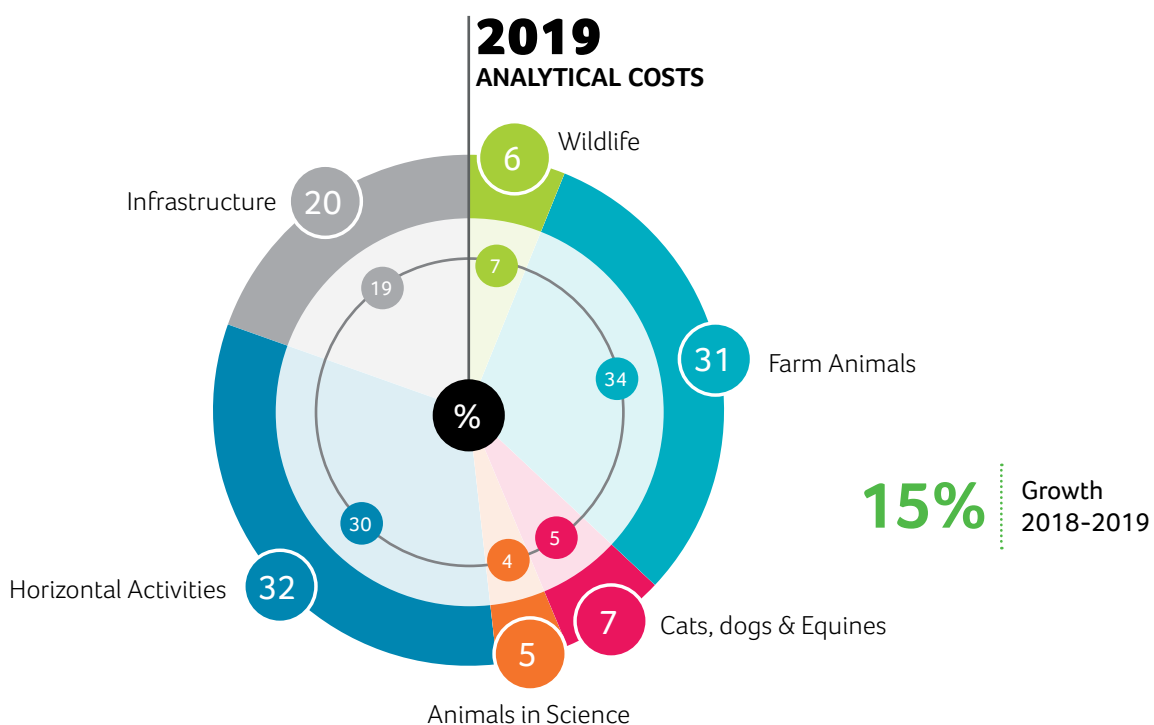
By cost type, staff salaries by far continue to constitute our highest expenditure (72%) which reflects the nature of our work of convincing EU stakeholders, often through face-to-face meetings, to improve animal welfare standards. The team's headcount grew from 21 to 24.3 full-time staff in 2019. With the expansion of our pan-European campaigns we have also made



The EU's primary competence in agriculture explains why Eurogroup for Animals has proportionately invested more in advocacy for farm animals. Additionally, we have also been able to secure additional funding for our animal advocacy work for chicken and fish from the Open Philanthropy Project, empowering us to continue the work started in previous years, as well as a new grant to boost our Trade Programme and step up our efforts to address the impact of international trade on animal welfare.

Eurogroup for Animals aims to keep its infrastructure costs under strict control. We are pleased to say that we have been able to keep our infrastructure costs proportionally at the same level as in 2018 – 19% of our total costs. Because we succeeded in subletting part of our new offices, we have been able to offset some of our infrastructure costs, despite the growth of our team and our increased infrastructure needs. We strive to keep these costs as low as possible while still preserving the value and functionality of the organisation's administrative support. During 2019, we continued to streamline our cost management processes by further refining our time registration system and setting better analytical cost structures and controls in our accounts reporting tools.

increasing investments to produce campaign materials and strengthen our communications infrastructure to effectively get the message across our networks and mobilise public opinion.



COMMUNICATIONS

WHAT WAS TRENDING IN 2019?

Eurogroup for Animals' communications activities help us engage effectively with target audiences, showcase our own and our members' achievements and successes, and embody our role as the central hub on animal welfare at the European level.

In 2019 we sent out around 20 press releases, and produced countless news items and social media posts about the year's animal advocacy activities and successes.

EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS IN THE MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA PEAKS

Almost 2m hens living in cages with space 'the size of A4 sheets' in Ireland

Irish Times, Ireland, <https://bit.ly/2KYFyGU>

MEPs rubber-stamp first portion of next CAP, shed spotlight on wine and 'real' steak

Euractiv, Brussels, <https://bit.ly/2T7GGn0>

The curse of tail-docking: the painful truth about Italy's pigs

The Guardian, UK, <https://bit.ly/2Z8u6rv>

Social media peak: DG SANTE audit slams Croatia for insufficient protection of animals during transport

Le Parti animaliste crée la surprise aux européennes parmi les petits

Le Monde, France, <https://bit.ly/2X0ZTrI>

Animal rights organizations: Fish slaughter requires rules at EU level

Altinget, Sweden, <https://bit.ly/35ZzLI5>

Against cage farming, citizen pressure is intensifying in Europe

Liberation, France, <https://bit.ly/2WxcN1r>

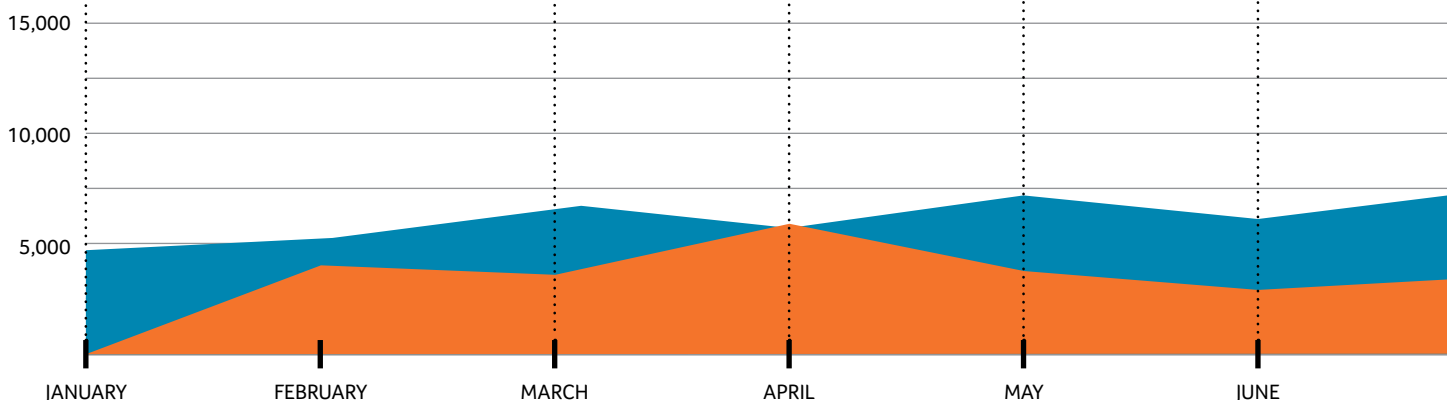
Social media peak: EU Elections 2019 and closure of our election campaign "#Vote4Animals2019"

6 Reasons Monkeys Should Never be Pets

How Stuff Works, US, <https://bit.ly/35VHyOO>

The EU election results represent an opportunity to take animal protection seriously

EuroNews, Brussels, <https://bit.ly/2yM2KwA>



WEBSITE VISITORS IN 2019 AND 2018



“For social media, 2019 was definitely the year of Instagram Stories, but also the year of Twitter banning all political ads, making lobbying paid activities on social media a little harder and pushing us to think outside of the box. As confirmed by the rise of TikTok and IGTV, video was still the #1 tool to create an emotional connection with our followers, and ultimately to give society a shocking inside look into the cruel treatment of animals.”

Emy De Nardi, Digital Communications Officer

109,357
WEB SESSIONS

+56% compared
to 2018 (69,871)

82,390
USERS

+73% compared
to 2018 (47,524)

● **Pourquoi l'accord avec le Mercosur est si critiqué**

Le Monde, France, <https://bit.ly/2T3Pkma>

● **Romania irks EU over controversial export of 70,000 live sheep to Persian Gulf**

Euronews, Brussels, <https://bit.ly/3btRfXS>

- **Social media peak:** Despite the call from Health Commissioner Andriukatis, Romania is exporting 70,000 sheep to the Persian Gulf

● **Misery for 70,000 Gulf-bound sheep continues**

BuzzDept, US, <https://bit.ly/2LrjXcv>

● **EU imposes hen welfare standards on egg imports for first time**

The Guardian, UK, <https://bit.ly/3dQ7CQ9>

● **Momento histórico para el bienestar de los caballos en Europa**

<http://www.diarioveterinario.com>, Spain,
<https://bit.ly/2yNUrjQ>

● **Des animaux exportés par l'Union européenne victimes de mauvais traitements**

Le Monde, France, <https://bit.ly/2Z1V181>

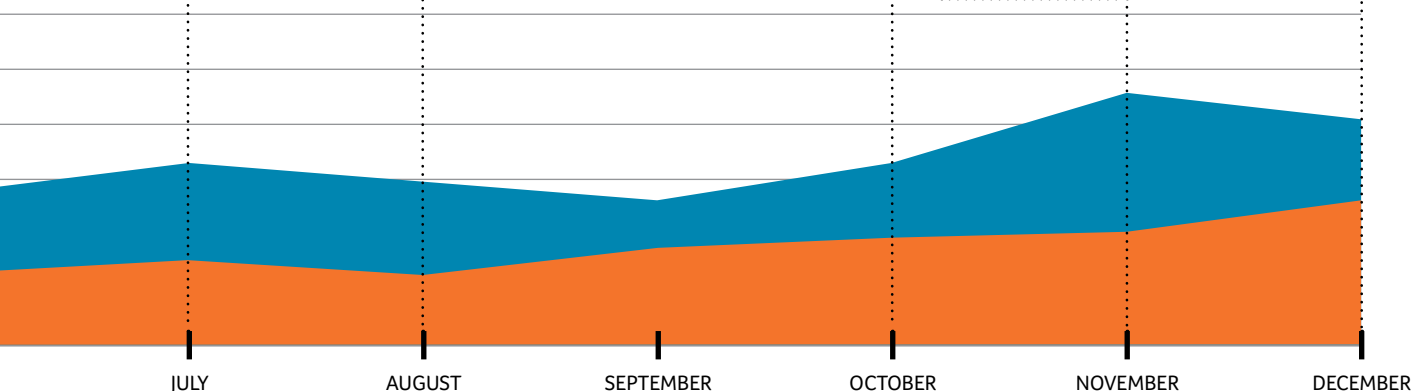
● **14,600 Sheep Trapped on a Capsized Ship. 'We Have Saved 254.'**

New York Times, US, <https://nyti.ms/2Aszll8>

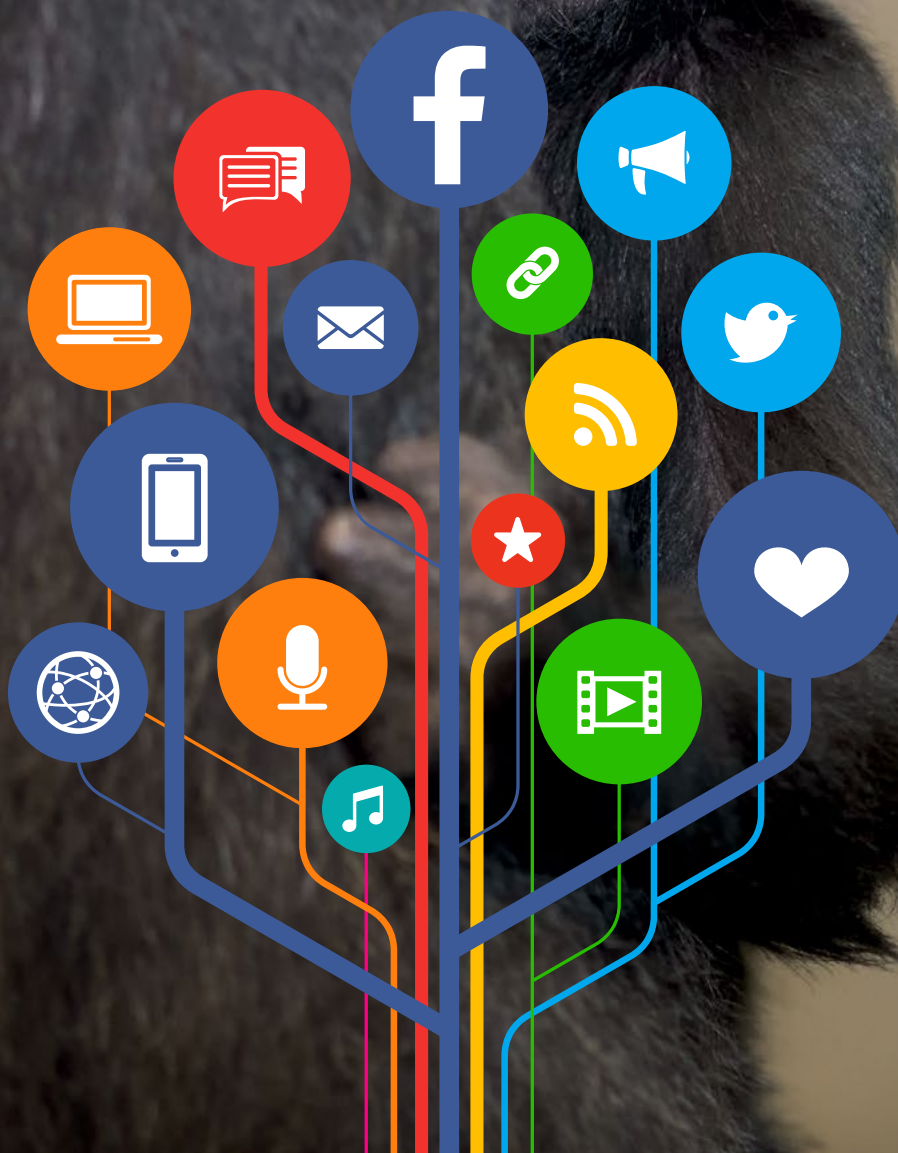
- **Social media peak:** 14,600 sheep drowned in the Black Sea after a ship overturned shortly after leaving Midia harbour in Romania

● **Biodiversity must be a key plank of the European Green Deal**

Euronews, Brussels,
<https://bit.ly/2y0hEPa>



WE ARE SOCIAL



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 > Eurogroup for Animals



www.eurogroupforanimals.org



[www.instagram.com/
eucare4ourcompanions](http://www.instagram.com/eucare4ourcompanions)



MEMBERS

JOIN US

HELP US GO FURTHER

Animal suffering is a reality, but there is an alternative. Eurogroup for Animals is a loud voice for animals in Europe, but we couldn't do it without our members, friends and partners. Together our advocacy and campaigning activities improve the lives of animals, but it's an uphill struggle.

We're constantly striving to attract new supporters to join our movement, so please contact us to become a member or to make a donation. It is only by working together – and because of the huge generosity of our members and other donors – that we can create a powerful impact. Your financial support is essential, but we also benefit enormously from your advice and expertise.

There are many other ways to help. Visit our website, sign our latest petition, follow us on social media, share our posts. It is only because of your support and input that we can do the work we do.

Help us fight for a better future for all animals.

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank all of you, our members and donors, for your crucial support – financial or otherwise. Without it, we wouldn't be able to achieve our animal welfare goals.

We're grateful for your incredible advice, expertise and feedback on our advocacy work, campaigns and communications, and also in helping us draw up our game plan to maximise the impact of our work over the next few years.

UNITED, WE CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.

“Since the COVID-19 crisis, staying together and helping each other is paramount. We're anticipating changes in work plans in the next 12 months, as well as financial consequences, and we'll work together on measures to mitigate any losses.”



Sophie De Jonckheere,
Communications & Development Manager

OUR MEMBERS

New members (from May 2019)

Caring Vets (The Netherlands): Veterinary professionals calling for better implementation of the existing animal protection regulations.

Code Animal (France): Advocates for the well-being of wild animals in captivity, with a special focus on animals in zoos and circuses.

Doctors Against Animal Experimentation (Germany): Association of doctors and scientists who fight for the immediate abolition of all animal experiments on ethical and scientific grounds.

Dog's Voice (Greece): Collaborates with municipalities, shelters and veterinarians to permanently reduce the number of stray animals in Greece.

Humánný Pokrok (Slovakia): After achieving a fur farming ban in Slovakia in 2019, the organisation continues to campaign for chicken well-being and promotes veganism.

MÁOSZ (Hungary): Coordinates the work of stray animal shelters across Hungary and advocates for improvements in national animal health law.

Stichting Proefdiervrij (The Netherlands): Aims to end animal experimentation in medical research and education by funding programmes to support alternatives.

VÁE (Hungary): Promotes veganism and the vegan lifestyle; campaigns against fur farming and the use of animals in entertainment.

Voiceless (Australia): Focused on animal law educational programmes and promotes progressive animal protection legislation.

“It has been a real pleasure to see our membership further grow and diversify in 2019. Although our work has been disrupted by the COVID-19 crisis, our now 70-strong movement is showing once again how to get through this together!”

Biljana Lalic, Membership and Development Officer



* Regional/national offices

**GREECE**

Animal Action Greece (GAWF/AAG)*
Dog's Voice
Ippohesis

**HUNGARY**

MÁOSZ
VÁE

**IRELAND**

The Donkey Sanctuary*
Dublin SPCA
Irish SPCA

**ITALY**

Animal Equality*
Compassion in World Farming*
The Donkey Sanctuary*
Essere Animali
LAV
Lega Nazionale per la Difesa del Cane

**LATVIA**

Christine Chilver's Animal Friends Society

**LITHUANIA**

Lithuanian Animal Rights Protection

**LUXEMBOURG**

LNPA

**NETHERLANDS**

AAP - Animal Advocacy and Protection
Bont voor Dieren
Caring Vets
Compassion in World Farming*
Dierenbescherming
Four Paws*
Sea First Foundation
Stichting Proefdiervrij
Vissenbescherming
World Animal Protection*

**NORWAY**

Dyrevern Allianzen

**POLAND**

Compassion in World Farming*
Otwarte Klatki

**PORTUGAL**

Animais de Rua

**ROMANIA**

Animals International*

**SERBIA**

ORCA

**SLOVAKIA**

Humánný Pokrok
Sloboda Zvierat

**SPAIN**

AAP - Animal Advocacy and Protection*
ANDA
Animal Equality*
AVATMA
Compassion in World Farming*
The Donkey Sanctuary*
FAADA

**SWEDEN**

Compassion in World Farming*
Djurens Rätt
Djurskyddet Sverige
Svenska Djurskyddsföreningen
World Animal Protection*

**SWITZERLAND**

Animalfree Research
Four Paws*
Schweizer Tierschutz STS

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Animal Defenders International
Animal Equality*
Animal Protection Agency
Badger Trust
Catholic Concern for Animals
Cats Protection
Compassion in World Farming
Four Paws*
Animal Action Greece / Greek Animal Welfare Fund
One Kind
RSPCA
The Donkey Sanctuary
Ulster SPCA
World Animal Protection
World Horse Welfare

OUTSIDE EUROPE**AUSTRALIA**

Voiceless
Animals International

**UNITED STATES**

World Animal Net



LOOMUS
LOOMADE EESTKOSTE



**Luonto-Liiton
SUSIRYHMÄ**



vissen **bescherming**



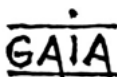
Menschen für Tierrechte
Bundesverband der Tierversuchgegner e.V.



AnimalfreeResearch



animalEQUALITY



SCHWEIZER TIERSCHUTZ STS



**ANIMAL PROTECTION
DENMARK**



GAWF ANIMALACTION
ΔΡΑΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΖΩΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ



animalia



AWF ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION
Im Einsatz für Tiere



Lëtzeburger
Déiereschutzliga

Ärzte gegen Tierversuche e.V.



VEGÁN
ÁLLATVÉDELEM
EGYESÜLET

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

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