



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2020**

**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

A EUROPE THAT CARES FOR ANIMALS

OUR VISION

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.

02

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

02

Fostering cohesion, exchanging experiences and disseminating knowledge

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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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



PHILIP LYMBERY

President of Eurogroup for Animals

“This past year has been extraordinary, both for its challenges and its profusion of opportunities to advance our work for animal welfare in Europe and beyond. In a world gripped by the Covid pandemic, we have all had to find new ways of working and innovative approaches to make our voice heard for animals. It has not been easy. Whether for us individually, organisationally or as a movement. What has been clear is that we are all in this together. And I believe that never before has there been a greater sense that we are stronger together.

What has also been remarkable is how this shared moment of adversity around the world has brought a more questioning attitude within society, a greater openness to the prospect of systemic change, of fundamental reform, including in the way we treat animals. The origins of the Covid pandemic itself has been linked to the illegal wildlife trade and treatment of animals in live animal markets. It has called into question the wisdom of pushing further into the world's remaining wildlands, causing wildlife extinction and bringing society into contact with novel viruses. It has shone a spotlight on how keeping

animals crowded and confined provides a perfect breeding ground for the next pandemic. In short, we have a moment like no other to push together for wholesale change in our relationship with animals.

During these unprecedented times, it has been a huge honour and a privilege to be your President. In Eurogroup for Animals, we have a strong platform and a rich history of standing together for animals. In our member societies, we have strength and energy. In Reineke and her team, we have an outstanding group of dedicated people at the heart of Eurogroup, making sure that our efforts as members societies in European Member States are harnessed to create change. To make it count in Brussels.

As we emerge from these deeply difficult times, we have an opportunity to reset the way society views animals. Centre-stage is a new Commission here in Brussels, signalling a period of change for animals, people and the environment.

I very much see this as an opportunity for our movement to move to the next stage, where animal protection is seen, not as a ‘nice to have’, but as an absolute must for a just, equitable and sustainable society. I see the unity of the Eurogroup family as hugely powerful in the fight for animals, with our member societies at the very heart of all we do.

And I see a new era for animal protection; a big picture vision based not just on ‘freedom from’, but on ‘freedom to’. Positive, life-enhancing animal welfare. Where all animals are not just free from suffering, but can truly experience the joy of living.

Thank you to everyone involved with Eurogroup in making change happen. I very much look forward to working hand-in-hand with you over the course of this crucial coming year to bring about that new dawn for animals everywhere.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



REINEKE HAMELEERS

CEO of Eurogroup for Animals

“ 2020 marked a sea change in our lives. For decades we have been confronted with zoonotic disease outbreaks such as Bird Flu and animal infectious diseases as Swine Fever but nothing has hit our societies so hard as Covid-19.

The animal origin of the virus has given Eurogroup for Animals and its member organisations unprecedented opportunities to showcase the dire need to redefine our relationships with animals and the natural world. It was amazing to see how leading global entities such as the UN and the WHO warned about the interrelationship between the spread of transmittable diseases and the way we trade wildlife and intensively keep livestock. **A fundamental reset is needed to build back better and avoid future pandemics.**

As you will read in this Annual Report, 2020 saw many breakthroughs for animals. Following our “Stop Pandemics Start here” campaign the European Commission published its Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies including a commitment to review the animal welfare legislation among many other positive future actions for animals. After 10 years of

legislative stalemate, this announcement meant a real breakthrough for our movement. 2020 was also the year in which we saw the successful European Citizen Initiative “End the Cage Age” delivering a record of 1.4 million signatures calling for an end of cages in farm systems. Backed up by science and corporate support, the European Commission will have the ultimate chance to meet the demands of citizens through the revision of the legislation.

COVID-19 also caused an earthquake in fur farming. Mink farms have become hotbeds of the virus and half of the mink production in the EU has been suspended. As the virus and its mutations are still raging across EU fur farms, we won’t rest till all have been closed, hopefully for good. Apart from serious public health risks, there are huge concerns about the welfare of animals. For long, EU citizens have expressed the wish to ban fur farming.

The year ended with the landmark ruling of the European Court of Justice allowing Member States to oblige reversible stunning methods in the context of religious slaughter. We worked so hard to inform the involved stakeholders that a more humane killing of animals and religious practices can go hand in hand. We will now work to ensure that all EU Member States will follow the ruling.

We can’t take anything for granted until we have seen actual results. 2021 will be a very important year to make sure the institutions will live up to their promises to significantly improve the well-being of all animals.

Thank you so much for your continuous support and dedication to our joint cause. We couldn’t do it without your help.

WHO WE ARE & OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

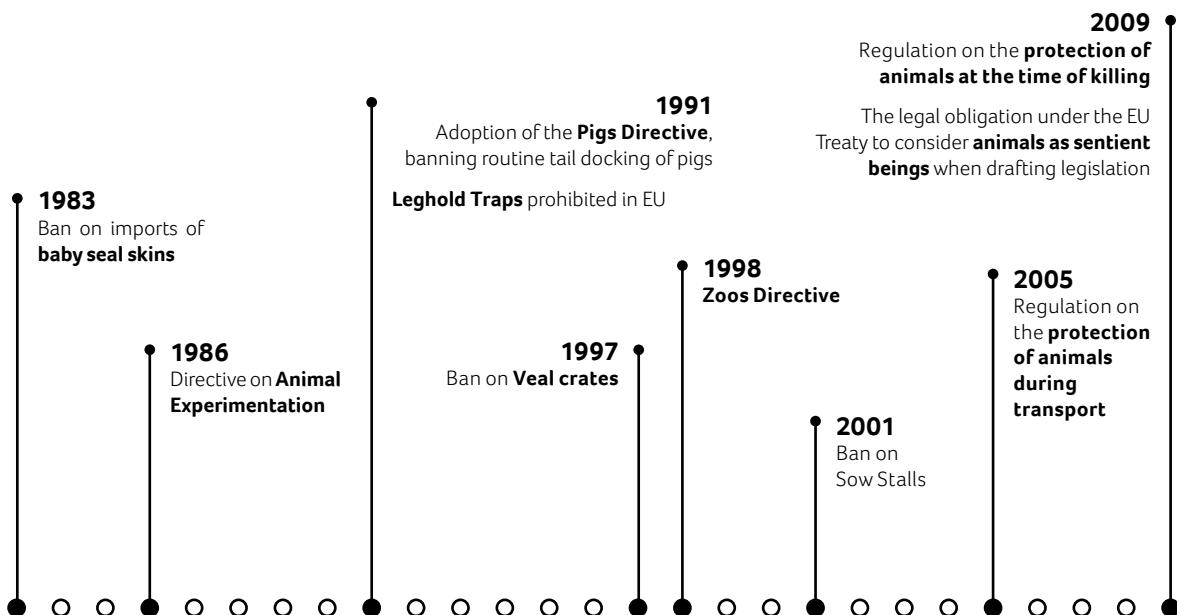
We are the Brussels-based European animal advocacy organisation, driven by members across Europe and beyond. Our vision is to build a Europe – and ultimately a world – where the well-being of all animals is assured, and where they can experience a good life.

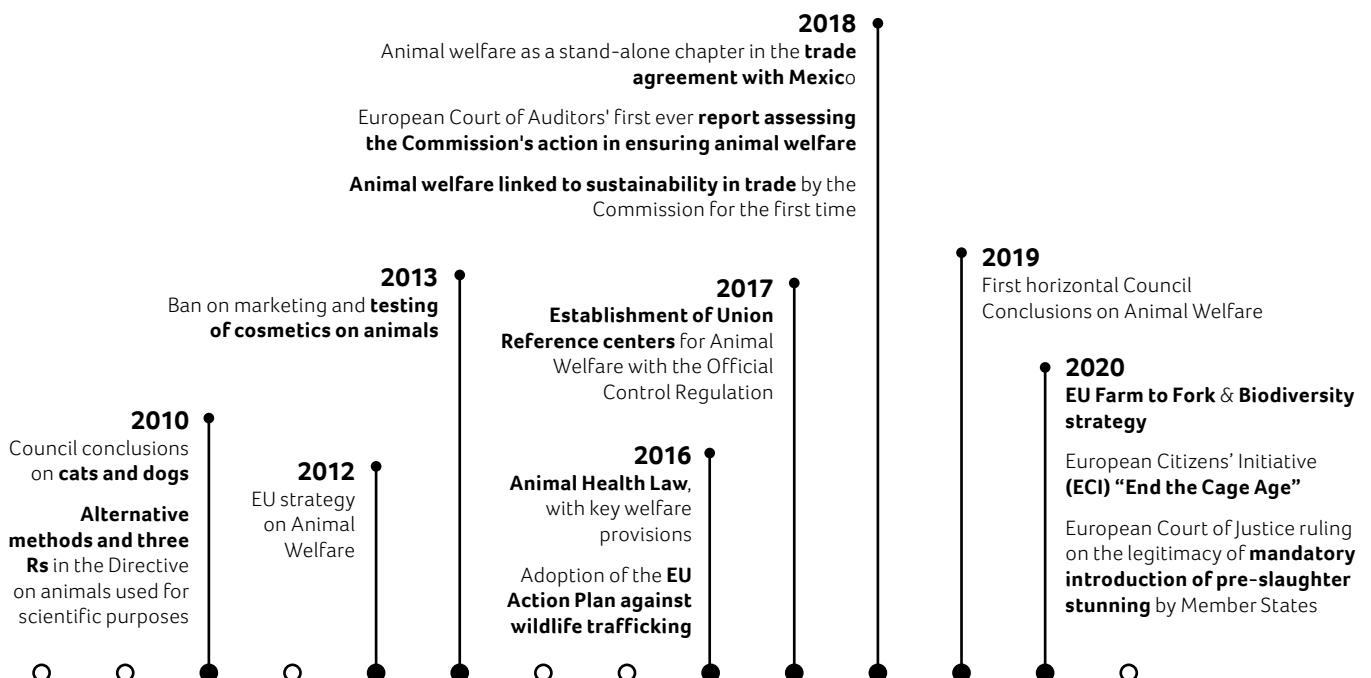
With integrated lobbying at national and EU level, we aim to permanently anchor animal protection as a central principle in European policy. We work with our members on common goals, and coordinate EU wide actions to activate civil society support and jointly influence EU law.

WE DRIVE POSITIVE CHANGE FOR ANIMALS



SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS







WORKING WITH THE EU INSTITUTIONS

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.

WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2020 was a challenging year also for members of The European Parliament (MEPs), Parliamentary Assistants and European Parliament officials. Imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Parliament (EP) entered in remote working mode in mid-March, which meant considerable changes for all involved.

Also, the daily advocacy work for animal protection had to be adapted to the new situation and demanded quite a lot of creative thinking to keep up with the planned objectives.

Throughout the year, the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals continued to hold its monthly sessions and organised several side events which were followed by an increasingly large audience. The lack of interpretation during the meetings though led to a decrease of MEPs attendance.

The Intergroup had a landmark success with an initiative it had promoted for almost three years. In June 2020, the European Parliament finally approved by a very large majority the setting up of a **Committee of Inquiry on the Protection of Animals during Transport** which is now commonly called by its abbreviation, **the ANIT Committee**. This Committee has the goal to investigate the failures to enforce EU rules on protecting animals during transport. Its findings will lead to an assessment report that will be a key document in the announced revision of the Animal Transport Regulation.

Besides the already active working groups on cage free farming and on animal transport, the Animal Welfare Intergroup created two new working groups to better coordinate its activities on animals in science and on companion animals. All these working groups have boosted the overall activities of the Animal Welfare Intergroup in 2020 and are likely to ensure a better impact of the initiatives that are promoted.

During the second half of the year the Parliament adopted its three legislative reports on the **new Common Agricultural Policy** (CAP). Whilst not all ambitions for animal welfare in the CAP have been fully satisfied, it is welcomed that **the Parliament included animal welfare in the “eco-schemes”** – a new form of direct payments to farmers that is designed to encourage investments in public goods, that go beyond legal requirements.

In its budgetary procedure for 2021, the European Parliament voted in favour of a **preparatory action**, initially tabled by MEP Fredrick Federley (RE, SE), aimed at finding **alternatives to high-concentration CO₂ stunning or killing of pigs**. By voting in favour of this research project, the European Parliament sent a strong signal on the importance of EU-funded research into animal welfare friendly alternatives to CO₂ stunning of pigs. For the first time, a substantial sum will be invested by the European Commission in an applied research project to find painless alternatives for pig stunning. The outcome of the study should lead to a prohibition of CO₂ stunning of pigs through the updating of the legislation.

The Parliament decided also to draft an **own initiative report on the EU Farm to Fork Strategy**, and an own initiative report on the **EU Biodiversity strategy to 2030**. Both strategies set ambitious long-term plans for a more sustainable development and will provide an opportunity to further raise also animal welfare and species conservation aspects. The EP also decided to draft an **implementation report on farm animal welfare related EU legislation** which will be of major relevance in the context of the European Commission's Fitness check on farm animal welfare. The adoption of these three reports will take place in 2021.



“ By initiating several reports related to the European Green Deal and the European Commission’s Fitness Check of farm animal welfare legislation, the European Parliament has clearly shown that it intends to actively contribute to these policy developments. It is now likely that all this will lead to the long-awaited revision of at least two pieces of outdated animal welfare related EU legislation.”

Andreas Erler, Senior Political Adviser

37 years of the animal welfare Intergroup

9 Intergroup monthly online sessions in 2020

3 online side events

94 MEPs were Members of the Animal Welfare Intergroup in 2020

2020 was pivotal in setting the course for policy developments in the coming years which will be of major relevance also for animal welfare and which will lead to the revision of at least two pieces of outdated animal welfare related EU legislation (Transport and Slaughter).

WORKING WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATES

If 2019 left us hoping for change, 2020 delivered. For a decade, Eurogroup for Animals had been pushing for the existing animal welfare acquis to be looked at holistically, and revised, as is so desperately required. Finally, we got the commitment we had been seeking, and more.

The year started hot off the heels of bold, ambitious Council Conclusions (a formal expression of opinion of all Member States) that we had secured by working with the Finnish Presidency of the Council, and several other Member States – **the first ever horizontal Council Conclusions on animal welfare in the Union’s history**. Using these

as our starting point, we worked through contacts, both new and old, in the European Commission, to push for specific, clear and similarly ambitious animal welfare objectives within the new von der Leyen Commission’s Green Deal (specifically within the Farm to Fork strategy, that forms part of this).

Eurogroup for Animals also liaised with the same Member States with whom we had worked to obtain the Council Conclusions, ensuring that representations were made on differing aspects to key Commissioners, their advisers and civil servants alike.

In May, the moment finally arrived. The first (leaked) draft of the **Farm to Fork strategy** that we had obtained in December of 2019 had one mention of **animal welfare**, as nothing other than a reference. However, when the full strategy was unveiled, animal welfare was not just in it, but was now an **integral part of the strategy**. There for all to see is a clear commitment, not only to revise EU animal welfare law, but to broaden its scope and to deliver better animal welfare. As a result, and whilst there are several steps between now and then, we now know that **in 2023 we will see the first proposals to improve animal welfare in over 15 years**. Of course, we still have work to do to ensure that we make the most of this opportunity, and have plenty of work ahead of us, but this was a real breakthrough moment, the culmination of years of concerted work from the entire association.

The second half of the year saw two key developments, both relating to how Europe feeds itself in the medium to long term, and how consumers can help to move our society away from ever growing appetites for meat.



We had been working with the German delegation in the Council for some time, alongside MEPs in the European Parliament, on proposals for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (the Union's farm support system, which aims primarily at delivering food security to citizens). However, under the stewardship of the German Presidency of the Council, we saw the fruition of our efforts. From 2022, for the first time, farmers will be rewarded from a new pot of cash, worth over €50 billion, for measures that will improve animal welfare and the environment. Crucially, this money has to be used, and can only be used for "green" or animal welfare purposes, and will form part of the basic payments (pillar I in CAP jargon) that are given to farmers across the EU. Furthermore, such payments can only be made for improvements that go beyond the current legal requirements — requirements to which all farmers must still comply.

Alongside this, **the German Presidency decided to pursue the idea of new Council Conclusions focussing on animal welfare labelling**, thereby calling on the Commission to introduce an EU wide scheme. Such an idea could have been problematic at best for several existing labelling schemes that are run across the EU by, amongst others,

Eurogroup for Animals members. It was therefore imperative that any such scheme didn't result in a "race to the bottom", undermining such schemes, and merely rewarding basic compliance with the lowest legal standards. However, by working with the Presidency and a handful of other Member States, we managed to turn a potential threat into an opportunity. The final Conclusions, adopted in December 2020 by all Member States, draw on the very best labelling systems available, and call for the introduction of a '[**next generation**](#) form of animal welfare labelling – a system that can best be described as "**Method-of-Production +**" – a comprehensive system that displays the well-being of animals over the whole animal food production cycle. The European Commission, with whom we engaged in anticipation of such a result, will now take this work forward and develop proposals during 2021.

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

THE GERMAN PRESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE INTRODUCTION OF ANIMAL WELFARE LABELLING

25 Member States (MS) replied

92% of MSs consider an EU wide animal welfare labelling system as a useful measure to improve animal welfare in livestock husbandry

EU ANIMAL WELFARE LABEL: MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

MSs prefer the implementation of an EU-wide animal welfare through EU legislation

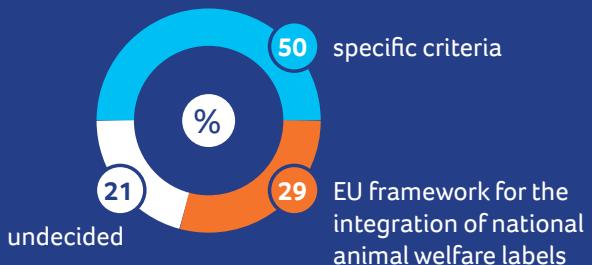
MSs prefer dedicated EU guidelines instead

MSs see no need for an EU approach

MSs see either option as feasible

MS is undecided

Should specific criteria be set for an EU-wide animal welfare label or should a framework be created at EU level for the integration of existing national animal welfare labels?



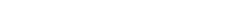
MOST IMPORTANT SPECIES:



pigs
beef cattle
dairy cows



calve
broiler chickens
laying hens



Should an EU animal welfare labelling scheme be mandatory or not?

YES | NO

75%

25%

Should an EU-wide logo be created?

22 yes | 1 no | 2 undecided



“ 2020 reminded me of waiting for a bus. You can wait for ages and ages for one to come along, and then several arrive at the same time! This is how it was with all of the hopes and commitments we had been hanging on and working towards for years. In the end our collective work paid off — work that ultimately was underpinned by the strength of our relationships and reputation with a number of Member States. We now must make the most of the opportunities that have been afforded to us, using this momentum to fundamentally transform the fortunes of billions of animals across our Union.”

Joe Moran, Interim Political Affairs Manager



STOP PANDEMICS? START HERE. CAMPAIGN

Wild and domestic animals have carried viruses and bacteria for millennia. What has changed is the way we humans interact with them. Since mid-March 2020 the world has been facing an unprecedented crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic with severe impacts on society and economy. It is still very unclear how the different EU countries will get out of the crisis and at what pace.

The coronavirus pandemic has clearly demonstrated that we can no longer address public health without also addressing the way we treat animals: how we trade, keep or farm them and how we protect their natural habitats. The legal and illegal wildlife trade, urbanisation and the destruction of wildlife's natural habitats for agricultural purposes, are pushing humans, wildlife and other animals closer than ever before. At the same time, practices within the industrial livestock sector are leading to rising antimicrobial resistance and putting public health at greater risk of both viral and food-borne zoonotic diseases.

THE EUROPEAN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ANIMAL PROTECTION AT THE HEART OF THE COVID-19 RECOVERY

Since the end of 2019, the European Commission has been working on aligning the other institutions behind the biggest policy document providing a roadmap for the coming political term and many years beyond - the **EU Green Deal**. As the process progressed, the European Commission published in May 2020 two crucial components of this strategy, namely the Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and the Farm to Fork Strategy. These two very much expected strategies have the potential to decisively change the European Commission's policy on wildlife trade and food production.



#StopPandemics #Act4AnimalsEU

But what does this mean in practice? The proposed **Farm to Fork Strategy puts the EU on a path away from intensive animal agriculture and towards a sustainable food system through revising, expanding and better enforcing the animal welfare legislation and acknowledging that plant-based diets and meat consumption reduction are good for people's health.** But the role of industrial livestock production in spreading zoonotic diseases is remarkably absent from the Farm to Fork Strategy and should be addressed in its implementation. We need to see substantial moves to curb intensive systems and more whole-hearted promotion of a diversified diet. **To ensure Food safety and security, we urgently need to rethink our food system and supply chains – and animal welfare is key to achieving these goals.**

Alongside it, the **EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030** seeks better implementation and enforcement of EU environmental policies, with ambitious **goals for the conservation of protected species, and a revised Action Plan against wildlife trafficking.** But it overlooks the fact that the unregulated wildlife trade not only increases the potential for the introduction of invasive alien species, but also the transmission of zoonotic diseases. **Specific measures to better regulate and limit the trade in wild animals in the EU need to be promptly adopted.** An EU wide Positive List for exotic pets, specifying which animal species are suitable and safe to be kept as pets subject to strict criteria, would be an important component of such measures.



“ MEPs have the power to make our voices heard and make Europe a safer place for animals and humans.”

Reineke Hameleers, CEO of Eurogroup for Animals

The “Do no harm” principle (no funding should go to projects that would harm the environment), promoted in the Green Deal should be applied more thoroughly as both these strategies are implemented. In view of the colossal impact of the current pandemic, it would be unforgivable to lose sight of how intimately people’s health is linked to animal welfare and how the health and wellbeing of people, animals and the environment are interdependent. Both policies, intended to work in tandem, may fail to rise to the challenge of significantly reducing the risk of emerging infectious diseases, of which 75% come from animals.

OUR CAMPAIGN

We first started to raise our recommendations to the European Commission in preparation of the release of the two strategies in spring 2020. Some important elements have been included but, as mentioned before, this is not enough to have a real impact on animals and humans.

The second phase of our [**Stop Pandemics, Start here**](#) campaign started early June and concentrated on influencing the strategies’ implementation process. Our goal is to include our recommendations in the forthcoming European Parliament’s Own Initiative Reports (OIR) on both topics. Since then, our Member Organisations and EU citizens have been mobilising those MEPs who are working on the Farm-to-Fork and Biodiversity to 2030 OIRs. Given the official commitment of the European Commission to better integrate the European Parliament in its decisions, we believe that this common effort can help positively shape the European Parliament’s position and address what is lacking in the European Commission’s Strategy so as to really help Stop Pandemics.



“The COVID-19 pandemic is teaching us a painful but necessary lesson. Respect for animals and their habitats is integral to human health and welfare. Beyond the general questions around biodiversity and farming, this is also worth for our long-time battle to #MakeFurHistory, with the numerous outbreaks in mink farms. If there was ever a time to be bold in stressing our obvious role in what goes wrong today, that moment is now!”

Elise Fleury, Senior Campaigner

75% of emerging infectious diseases come from animals

77% of our protected species, and **84%** of natural habitats in the EU have either disappeared or are in a very bad condition

1.7 million viruses are thought to exist in wildlife reservoirs

The next key opportunities are the upcoming Committee and Plenary votes on the EU Biodiversity and Farm to Fork reports in spring and early summer 2021. All eyes will be on those MEPs that can play a very important role to better protect animals, humans, biodiversity and help Stop Pandemics.

We see a real opportunity to push our priorities in the EU Farm To Fork and 2030 EU Biodiversity strategies by exploiting this growing attention. If successful, this could enable us to ensure that animal welfare, management and conservation become key drivers for future policies at EU level.

13 zoonoses are responsible for **2.4** billion cases of human illness and **2.2** million deaths per year, in the world

30 Member organisations have joined the several public mobilisation actions so far



ACHIEVING IMPACT FOR ANIMALS



“What a resilient network of organisations and people the pandemic showed us to be! The Eurogroup team in Brussels and all of its members throughout the world have switched smoothly to fully remote collaboration, enabling us to anticipate and react together speedily and effectively to the impacts of the pandemic on all of our work areas. Every crisis is an opportunity: hopefully the current pandemic will help our cause by raising awareness of the relationship between animal welfare and human health.”

.....
Tim Robinson, Operations Manager





TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE

Leveraging its market of 500 million consumers, the EU is currently negotiating at least 15 trade agreements. Trade liberalisation has a negative impact on animals outside the EU as it stimulates the production of animal-based products, and within the EU as cheaper and poorer quality imports put pressure on EU producers and authorities not to improve existing standards. We are lobbying EU institutions and Member States to lessen this impact, as well as push them to seize opportunities offered by these trade agreements to promote animal welfare outside the EU.

In 2020, in cooperation with our members and with other NGOs, we managed to **postpone the ratification of the EU-Mercosur agreement** and to steer a much wider debate on the compatibility between EU trade policy and the objectives expressed by the EU Green Deal. The new EU Farm to Fork strategy also contained a stronger commitment for the EU to use trade policy not only to enhance cooperation but also to obtain ambitious commitments from third countries on animal welfare.

We held three events: on the [EU-Australia negotiations](#), on [what the EU and China could achieve for animals](#), and on [animal welfare and SDGs](#); where we launched key reports, giving us more visibility. We also produced a comprehensive [briefing on EU horsemeat imports](#).

We also obtained funding to better support our UK members to address shortcomings linked to Brexit and to lobby the UK to address animal welfare in its new trade policy. This work is carried out through the newly established Trade and Animal Welfare Coalition (TAWC) UK.

TRADE EXPERTISE FOR MEMBERS

The Trade Programme is now financed both by members, which are part of its Steering Committee (**Four Paws, Deutscher Tierschutzbund, Dierenbescherming, Djurens Ratt, World Animal Protection**) and by the **Open Philanthropy Project** and the **Solberga Foundation**. These sources of funding concern specific objectives, all related to farm animals for the former, and to UK trade policy for the latter. This additional push has allowed the Trade Team to grow, but this work could not exist without the foundation and the direction of our members. We thus continue to provide these organisations, and other interested members, with a training session on trade and animal welfare and tailor-made lobbying tools.



“ 2020 saw impressive progress in the field of trade policy, notably with the Farm to Fork Strategy calling for the EU to use trade policy to obtain ambitious commitments on animal welfare from third partners. COVID-19 has drawn the spotlight on the impact of unconditional trade and it’s high time we change this! ”

Stephanie Ghislain, Trade & Animal Welfare Programme Leader

STRONGER LANGUAGE ON ANIMAL WELFARE IN TRADE DEALS

In 2020, the EU did not conclude any new trade agreement, nor did it ratify the EU-Mexico or the EU-Mercosur agreement, the text of which is too weak to protect animals. We are monitoring ongoing negotiations, notably with Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and Chile, and lobbying on them.

►► IN 2021...

We will continue lobbying to ensure:

- Either that the EU-Mercosur deal is renegotiated or that the Protocol added to it addresses our issues.
- That the EU does not grant any additional market access to Ukrainian animal products in the context of the revision of the EU-Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA).
- UK trade policy addresses animal welfare.
- Future other EU agreements contain adequate language on animals.

We will also organise a key event and launch our report on animal welfare in the context of EU-India negotiations.



ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

2020 was a year of unexpected events having a big impact on animals in science. The pandemic saw unprecedented funding made available to scientists, who rushed from across a range of disciplines to study the coronavirus. Some of this research involved the use of animals. The closure of universities and other laboratories around the world also led to the halting of many non-COVID related projects and in many places, the immediate killing of large numbers of animals. Also of concern, the EU ban on animal testing for cosmetics became at risk of being completely undermined. But there were also further opportunities highlighted for how advanced non-animal scientific tools and approaches can be more widely promoted to improve the search for disease treatments and the safety assessment of chemicals.

In 2020, we worked together with other organisations, scientists, and Members of the European Parliament to call on national and international authorities to **encourage the use of human-relevant, non-animal methods in the development of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments**, as well as to adopt the necessary changes to the current regulatory frameworks and scientific guidelines to make full use of and prioritise these methods under research and innovation calls. Namely, we joined forces with other international animal protection NGOs to call on authorities – under the leadership of the World Health Organization (WHO) – to work together with a focus on humane, human-relevant research in the search for a better understanding and treatments of COVID-19. We also joined leading scientists and MEPs in a meeting of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals to put forward the important steps to be taken if we are to move towards animal-free science. We also publicly promoted research on COVID-19 not involving the use of animals, or significantly contributing to its reduction, through our communication channels. These actions gave visibility to the scientific and policy making communities that work to improve our chances of tackling this pandemic (and those that will occur in the future) by investing in human-focused studies of disease.

In August, two decisions of the **European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) Board of Appeal found that ingredients used exclusively in cosmetics are not exempted from animal tests**, if these are carried out to satisfy EU legislation other than the Cosmetics Regulation. These decisions may be in line with the Commission's interpretation of the EU law, but clearly go against public expectation and the intention of original legislators when the ban on animal testing for cosmetics was enshrined in the EU law. Together with the new Green Deal's Chemical Strategy for Sustainability, **ECHA's Board of Appeal decisions may lead to the use of many more animals** to test the safety of cosmetics ingredients and other chemicals. To oppose these decisions, we have joined forces with other organisations, industry and MEPs to **call on the European Commission to protect and strengthen the cosmetics animal testing ban**, and to commit to actions that can

ensure human health and the environment are in the future protected without the use of animals.

During 2020, the Commission and the Member States continued to establish priorities for a number of research and innovation initiatives and programmes which will intersect, at least partially, with life sciences. Namely, establishing the strategy 2021-2024 for Horizon Europe, the future of research and innovation and the European Research Area, and establishing priorities for the European Research Council and the European Innovation Council. We engaged with the European Commission and with Member States to highlight the opportunities for innovation without the use of animals in these programmes and the importance of coordinated strategies to ensure an effective promotion of, and transition to, non-animal science.

1 new working group on animals in science of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

18 MEPs sent a letter to the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Commission directorates of Innovation and Research and Health and Food Safety to encourage a wider use of non-animal models to speed up the development of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments

152 people attended the Intergroup meeting on the role of non-animal approaches in COVID-19-related research

473 brands joined the call for the EU cosmetics animal testing ban to be upheld as intended, with no new tests on animals allowed

2020 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



In 2020, our member organisations worked tirelessly to further push for an ambitious implementation of the 3Rs and animal-free science:

- **RSPCA** commissioned a number of research projects revealing the insufficient legal protection for rats in EU laboratories and highlighting the importance of the 3Rs with regards to Horseshoe crabs. Additionally, **RSPCA** launched an establishment-wide commitment for laboratories in the UK promoting a Culture of Care.
- **Animalfree Research** launched a petition to steer the Swiss public funding towards research without animal testing.
- **Doctors Against Animal Experiments** asked for more funds in Germany towards non-animal testing to tackle COVID-19.
- **L214 Éthique & Animaux** released an investigation showing the conditions in which dogs are living in breeding facilities in France.
- **ADI** prompted an open letter directed to the World Health Organisation calling for advanced non-animal research methods to be prioritised to tackle COVID-19.
- **Stichting Proefdiervrij** co-organised and co-funded a grant call for animal free research into COVID-19. Five research projects were awarded funding

▶ IN 2020...

We will continue to:

- Work with our member organisations and the scientific community to identify and promote key elements of a strategy for phasing out the use of animals in research, testing and education.
- Gather support from the European Parliament, Member States and the European Commission.
- Disseminate knowledge and build confidence in non-animal approaches.
- Promote the latest developments and potential increased applications of advanced non-animal models in specific disease areas.
- Play an active role in the dialogue with the European Commission as it establishes its ethical and regulatory position regarding the widening use of gene editing techniques: a practice only likely to continue increasing due to its accessibility.
- Work with all stakeholders to promote an ambitious implementation of the animals in science Directive 2010/63/EU.

And with all Member States to encourage the implementation of the recommendation on the use of non-animal methods for the development and production of antibodies by the EU Reference Laboratory for alternatives to animal testing. Additionally, we will be working for increased transparency where animals are still being used for these purposes to help plan a transition to non-animal alternatives.



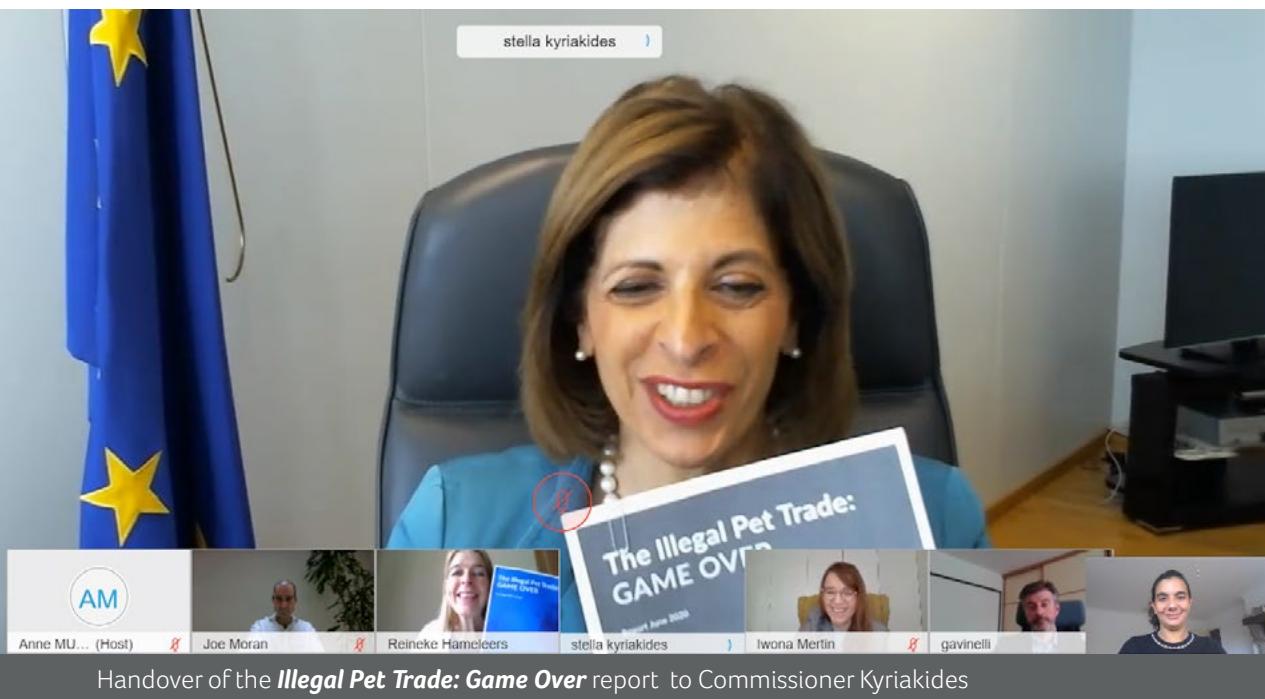
“It is exciting to see the growing acceptance that the future of human health lies in advanced human-relevant, non-animal models, but the anchor to the past is still strong. We need everyone to move it forward.”

Dr Luísa Bastos, Animals in Science Programme Leader



CATS AND DOGS

The desire to own cats and dogs boomed in the COVID-19 pandemic with skyrocketing prices and local supply impossible to meet such increased demand. Naturally, the illegal channels of pet supply increased in scale with online means of sale in the lead. Despite well-evidenced negative effects of illegal pet trade to the health and welfare of the animals involved, but also to consumers or public health, still not enough measures have been put in place to curb the illegal trade in particular online.



The past year was a year of challenges for cats, dogs and animal welfare organisations. Due to COVID-19 the demand on pets, including those from shelters, have surged with still unclear impact on the relinquishment should the new pet owners resume their pre-COVID-19 life. In parallel animal protection organisations received hard blows due to cuts in volunteer support and fundraising. That is why the focus of our work was to ensure information and best practice sharing across member organisations and Member States. We also kept a close eye on any developments in terms of links between SARS-CoV-2 and cats and dogs, as well as any research on these topics.

Despite lockdowns, the large majority of cats and dogs still kept on coming from illegal cross-border, online trade, but also theft. Due to limited requirements in place, poor enforcement and anonymity, **it is easy for the market participants**

to acquire and sell animals online regardless of their origin, putting animal health and welfare, human health and public finances at risk and fuelling organised criminal activity.

In order to tackle illegal pet trade in a comprehensive way policy makers must consider all the elements of the animals supply chain. That is why in 2020, together with the EU Platform on Animals Welfare voluntary initiative group on health and welfare of pets in trade, we developed **guidelines on responsible breeding, transport and online sale**. This is particularly important in the context of developing a healthy pet supply chain which is non-existent at the moment.

On 21 April 2020, together with the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, we organised an expert workshop [Illegal Pet Trade: Game Over](#) followed by the release of the [report](#) under the same title.



“Any action matters. Cats and dogs tend to be important to individuals yet they skip the radar of policy makers. Our goal is to make sure they are not left behind.”

Iwona Mertin, Companion Animals Programme Leader

72 members of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare supported **3** sets of cat and dog guidelines on breeding, transport and online sale

The event and the report explored the **shortcomings of the control systems of the online pet trade** that are currently in place and looked at best practices on how to better protect animals, consumers and ultimately taxpayers, including how these could be rolled out across Europe as a whole.

Top recommendations:

- For the European Commission to issue a delegated act on mandatory identification and registration of dogs and cats under the Animal Health Law.
- For the Digital Services Act to set up clear rules on the responsibilities of online platforms to fight and remove illegal content, including illegal pet ads.
- For the European Commission to fund the enforcement projects under the European Regional Development Fund and Internal Security Fund.

The report was a first of its kind providing a comprehensive overview of problems and solutions. With 100 experts elaborating on the topics of pets, traceability, consumers, online platforms, organised crime and tax evasion, it became a reference point and mandatory read for policy makers and stakeholders who wish to make the European pet trade safer.

Together with the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union we organised the expert workshop Illegal Pet Trade: Game Over with

100 participants **22** EU Member States present

IN 2021...

We will continue to:

- Work with relevant Directorate Generals of the European Commission, as well as with the European Parliament and the members of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare.
- Focus on positioning the illegal pet trade in the framework of the EU Strategy to tackle Organised Crime (2021-2025) of the European Commission, and the Digital Services Act that is currently in the European Parliament.
- Develop amendments to the latter and push for their inclusion in the opinion of the European Parliament with two peak moments in June and November, to which all the Member Organisations who are interested in the topic are warmly invited.
- Work with the Intergroup's Companion Animals Working Group and the Member States to press the European Commission to come up with the Delegated Act on Identification & Registration.

In our work we never forget the least fortunate: stray cats and dogs of Europe. That is why at the end of the year we are aiming to launch an EU-wide guide on population management of dogs and cats, hopefully in partnership with the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

We issued a report under the same title with:

18 recommendations

For **4** Directorate Generals of the European Commission: DG SANTE, DG HOME, DG JUST, DG CNCT



EQUINES

Equines are graceful animals whose fate is not only intertwined with ours but it is often put in human hands from birth till death. This type of relationship carries immense responsibility on keepers, breeders, carers and owners. Our objective is to make sure that while policymakers set up the rules to protect health and welfare of equines, individuals are able to live up to this expectation, also at times of crisis.

FINISH LINE AHEAD

In 2020 we focused our activity on raising awareness over the key concerns around equidae welfare and we did that together with our allies across all the institutions. The EU Member States gathered around the EU Platform on Animal Welfare endorsed the first ever pan-European [Guidelines to Good Animal Welfare Practice for the Keeping, Care, Training and Use of Donkeys and Donkey Hybrids](#), as well as the [Horse Factsheets](#) on basic care. The documents are the first of their kind and are currently being translated into multiple languages. In parallel the previously developed [horse guide](#) is now available in six languages (English, French, Danish, German, Spanish and Greek) with new languages coming up (Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, Romanian).

Following the December's Council Conclusions, where the **Member States called for an EU Reference Centre for Equines and Ruminants**, the seventh meeting of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare saw the actual announcement of it. Throughout the year a consortium of Member States, consisting of Sweden, Italy, France, Austria, Ireland and Greece, was established and was lucky enough to win the call. It still remains to be seen what will be the exact working areas, however, we are going to make sure that our voice is heard in the process of recommendation development.

EQUINES WORKING THEIR WAY UP THE AGENDA

Throughout the year we maintained our relationship with MEP Hilde Vautmans, the Chairwoman of the MEP Horse Group, who joined us at our June meeting to discuss joint work areas. We did not rest on laurels there and just a month later the European Parliament Intergroup on Animal Welfare held the Animal Welfare Intergroup meeting, were almost 100 participants including 12 MEPs discussed the Role of the Third Sector during Crisis and Recovery with the focus on the impact of COVID-19 on **Equine Welfare Charities**.

Indeed, COVID-19 did not only affect human health but it put a huge strain on the European economies, with the realistic option of a future economic crisis as seen back in 2008. It still remains to be seen if, similarly as in 2008, equines will become victims of financial constraints and will start being abandoned with currently no capacity in place to absorb all the potentially unwanted and uncared for animals.

End of the year offered us a Christmas gift. The European Parliament's report on **the New EU-Africa Strategy included a reference to the working equidae welfare** calling on the European Commission, in view of the documented growing risk of dissemination of zoonotic pathogens in Africa, to promote more stringent standards in African countries in terms of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and animal welfare, through regulatory cooperation and dialogue.



“Equines tend to suffer in silence. Our objective is to give this suffering a voice and we will continue to do so hand in hand with our members.”

Iwona Mertin, Companion Animals Programme Leader

► IN 2021...

- After finalising the initial documents on responsible care, the Voluntary Initiative Group on Equidae, established within the EU Platform on Animal Welfare with a new chair, will take a turn and look into new areas that need urgent attention such as tourism.
- In parallel all the acknowledged documents so far will continue to be translated and uploaded to the European Commission website.
- In terms of our other objectives, we will look into any additional opportunities for equine meat and derived products, including elaborating strategies on labeling and eCG.
- In June we will make a mark for working equidae and their role within the EU and sustainable development goals by facilitating an event at the European Parliament.
- Last but not least, we will put all our energy into embedding our recommendations for equidae in the upcoming EU revision of the Reg. 1/2005 on animal transport.

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

2020 was characterised by a true willingness to improve animal welfare legislation with two crucial new components: the 2030 Biodiversity and the Farm to Fork strategies. The proposed strategies, combined with more specific acknowledgments such as fish welfare, welfare related animal labelling , reduction of the overall consumption of processed and red meat, marked a change for the better for farm animals across the EU.

2020 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



On the first step of the revision of the animal welfare acquis, our member organisations heavily participated on the roadmap consultation, making clear to the European Commission, amongst other points, that the revision of the animal welfare acquis, should include:

- Ban on the export of live animals to thirds countries
- Ban on the use of all cages
- Ban on slaughter without stunning
- More species-specific legislation such as for farmed fish, rabbits and dairy cows
- An EU-wide animal welfare labelling scheme.

The road ahead is still long to translate these projects into a concrete, meaningful reality for animals and it's not time for us to slow down. Animal welfare legislation needs to be improved, extended and made more species-specific.

We expect to see the EU adopt a strong position on **live export, shift to a meat-and-carcasses only trade and ban cruel practices such as slaughter without stunning**. Eurogroup for Animals will also pursue its efforts towards the **ban on cages, improvement of broiler welfare and the implementation of method-of-production labelling** to accelerate a transition to a more humane and transparent animal agriculture industry. Finally, we will actively advocate for food systems transformation **making sure the CAP aligns with the EU's objectives** for a more sustainable agriculture and that animal welfare is at the heart of the sustainability workstreams at EU level.

THE FARM TO FORK STRATEGY

The Farm to Fork strategy, gave us the opportunity to start concretely working on the revision of the animal welfare legislation as well as animal welfare related labelling. Furthermore, it gave us the basis to create our strategy on food systems transformation to advocate for reduction and replacement of animal products. Finally, it provides the farm animal welfare movement a chance to come together and advocate for an EU change.

► IN 2021...

We will continue to:

- Follow the animal welfare legislation revision process , as well as raise awareness for the importance and urgency of the revision of the animal welfare legislation
- Integrate the other opportunities of the Farm to Fork strategy on our own strategy making sure we don't miss any!

BETTER LIVES FOR BROILERS AND LAYING HENS

In May 2020 we were able to step up our work on chicken welfare. This workstream focuses on **banning cages for laying hens at EU level and bringing the reality of higher broiler welfare to the Brussels Bubble**, ensuring that EU policy accompanies the great work our member organisations are doing at Member States level. Among other activities, we granted Member Organisations (FAADA and LAV) in southern European countries to work on national bans on enriched cages; we **advocated for a EU-wide "Method-of-Production +” labelling** scheme with the aim to reduce the consumption of chicken meat, and we worked in parallel with the Trade team to improve the animal welfare standards of imported products into the EU, focusing on Mercosur and Ukraine. More specifically:



- On broilers, we engaged with six top-animal welfare independent scientists and we published the report [The welfare of broiler chickens in the EU: from science to advocacy](#) which forms the basis of our requests with a view to a revision of the Council Directive 98/58/EC and 2007/43/EC (General Farm Directive and Broiler Directive, respectively). The co-authors also shared their ideas for the future of broiler chicken farming in a short publication entitled [A vision for the future broiler farming](#). The report was launched during the ad-hoc event [From minimum legal standards to “good lives”: What needs to change for broiler chickens in the EU?](#) organised by the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals.
- We received a grant from Open Philanthropy which will be used to improve the protection of broilers and laying hens from breeding to slaughter. It will also include a regranting programme to help lead the way towards national bans on enriched cages in southern European countries; reduce the amount of chicken consumed by increasing the transparency to consumers through advocating for an European wide MOP+ labelling scheme.
- The European Commission published the call for tender for the pilot project on the drafting and dissemination of guides to “Best Practices for Alternative Egg Production Systems”. The project, whose budget is **750,000 EUR**, looks at “alternative (i.e., cage-free) egg production systems, preparing practical support to egg producers in moving to sustainable alternatives and disseminate the results of the findings”.
- We launched the **Hens Asks**, a set of technical requirements meant to enhance the welfare of laying hens throughout the production cycle. These asks serve the dual purpose of providing members with a document to approach food businesses, and can be used to lobby the EU Institutions should a revision of the Laying Hens



2020 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



- **Dyrevernalliansen and Dyrenes Beskyttelse** launched big campaigns against the fast growing breed used on broiler intensive production and **RSPCA** published a report on broiler breed welfare examining the welfare of the leading breed from each of the three breeding companies which dominate the global supply. **Compassion in World Farming** handed over the signatures of the End the Cage Age ECI to the European Commission in October, making it the first successful ECI for farmed animal welfare.

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- Within the End of the Cage Age campaign, several organisations like **Djurens Ratt** campaigned against cages for laying hens.
- Our French member organisations, **CIWF**, **La Fondation Droit Animal** and **Welfarm**, founders of the French label “*Étiquette de bien être animal*” got more retailers to join the label.

Directive be announced. To promote the use of this document, the Asks were translated in 5 languages (English, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, French and Swedish).

- This year we also saw the handing of the signatures of the ECI “End of the Cage Age” to the European Commission. Eurogroup for Animals was a strategic partner in this movement, specially at Council level. If everything goes according to plan, we will see Member State declarations (Sweden, Austria and Denmark), noting the ECI, their actions on going cage free in areas (laying hens and pigs in the case of SE) and saying that these should be the areas for the European Commission to focus on going forward as part of any legislative review.

► IN 2021...

We will continue working on:

- Chicken welfare via our labelling work
- The revision of the animal welfare legislation
- Increasing standards at a national level as well as within our trade programme.



“ This year saw a real change for chicken welfare with the first big step being given towards initiating the procedures for the end of the cage debate, after the handover of the signatures in October. Also, with our new chicken welfare strategy we are prepared to continue bringing higher broiler welfare to the political discussion in the EU institutions.”

Inês Grenho Ajuda, Farmed Animals Programme Leader



ECI END THE CAGE AGE:

CAGE FARMING IS A NIGHTMARE THAT WE CAN END

2020 marked the official launch of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "End the Cage Age" in the European Parliament. It was a historical moment for more than 100 animal advocacy organisations – the largest number of organisations so far – to join forces and put an end to the cage age.

Hundreds of millions of farm animals are kept in cages for most of their lives throughout Europe and endure great suffering. Cages keep animals isolated, or tightly packed in confined areas, provide minimal space and prevent even moderate exercise. Being kept in these conditions, even with excellent stockmanship, can have severe health and welfare implications for the animals involved.

The [End The Cage Age](#) initiative was launched in September 2018, by **Compassion in World Farming** in partnership with Eurogroup for Animals, and was promoted by 170 NGOs. It closed exactly one year later, having gained **over 1.4 million signatures**. The ECI easily exceeded the

required threshold of 1 million signatures, with a total of 1,397,113 validated signatures across the EU. It also outstripped the minimum number of signatures threshold in 18 EU Member States.

MAKING HISTORY FOR FARM ANIMALS

The ECI End the Cage Age is the:

- 1st successful ECI on farm animals welfare
- 3rd with the highest signature count
- 6th to succeed among 75 registered initiatives in the last eight years



“The hand-in of the End the Cage Age is the culmination of a great effort by 1.4 million European citizens who came together to call on the EU to end the cruelty of confining farm animals in cages. The massive public backing for the Initiative confirms the overwhelming level of interest EU citizens have in animal welfare. Now, the EU Commission must listen and come forward with substantive legislative proposals to phase out the use of cages in EU animal farming.”

Reineke Hameleers, CEO of Eurogroup for Animals

The aim of the End the Cage Age is to end the use of cages for farm animals across the continent, **where over 300 million pigs, hens, rabbits, ducks, quail and calves are imprisoned**. Most cages are barren, cramped, and deny animals the space to move freely. Cages are cruel and completely unnecessary since alternatives are available.

The success of this campaign has been a collaborative effort, with Eurogroup for Animals joining forces with **170 NGOs from across Europe: environmental, consumer rights and animal protection groups formed a broad-based coalition to rally citizens from every corner of the continent**.

⌚ The Eurogroup for Animals' team members showing their strong support to the End of the Cage Age campaign

►► IN 2021...

Following the submission of the End the Cage Age ECI in October 2020, we have entered the most critical phase of the ECI – now is the time to put pressure on the European Commission and convince the European Parliament to support the phase-out of all cages in farming.

Here are the next steps to be foreseen in 2021:

- In April, the campaign was presented at a public hearing held by the EU Parliament.
- Afterwards, there will be a debate in the EU Parliament, where MEPs will discuss the possibility to phase out cages.
- By July 2021, the EU Commission will have made their decision whether they will start a legislative process to ban caged farming.

Farm animals have never had so many people standing up for them. Together we can make a difference!





2020 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



Despite the limitation imposed by the COVID-19 outbreak, our member organisations (**Animal Welfare foundation, Animals International, Welfarm, Animal Equality, Compassion in World Farming, Deutscher Tierschutzbund, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, L214**) continued investigating the conditions of animals during intra- and extra-EU transport showing cases for an urgent limitation of maximum journey time, an upgrade of the transport conditions and a re-definition of fitness for transport.

1

European Parliament inquiry

1

F2F

LIVE TRANSPORT

In 2020 we were glad to hear the European Commission announcing the revision of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 (Transport Regulation) and the European Parliament approving an Inquiry on the implementation and enforcement of such EU regulation (ANIT Committee). This was the first Inquiry on animal welfare approved by the European Parliament, and the third one approved since its establishment.

Additionally, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was mandated to assess animal welfare during certain transport practices, following up on the experts' advice that the current Regulation is not in line with the latest scientific knowledge.

►► IN 2021...

We will engage the EU Institutions in our vision about the future Transport Regulation, and thus to have less and better intra-EU live transports and an extra-EU trade in meat/ carcasses and genetic material only.

BETTER PROTECT ANIMALS AT THE TIME OF KILLING

Among other issues, the derogation to mandatory stunning as set forth by Regulation 1099/2009 (Slaughter Regulation) is a major concern and we followed the related **Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) case** at the end of 2020. At stake there was the possibility of having national laws banning slaughter without stunning. In an attempt to inform the Court, Eurogroup for Animals worked on the submission of an Amicus Curiae and sought Member States to secure a positive outcome. In December 2020, the CJEU released its ruling acknowledging the great importance of animal welfare and therefore the **legitimacy of Member States to ban any slaughter without stunning**.

From an Institutional standpoint, the European Commission committed to revise the Regulation 1099/2009, in the framework of the EU Farm-to-Fork strategy, and following up on the delivery of the EFSA scientific opinions on the slaughter and killing of several farmed species.

SLAUGHTER WITHOUT STUNNING AROUND THE WORLD

- **In many Countries** there are bans on slaughter without stunning while halal meat is still produced (e.g. **Sweden** and **Denmark**). Moreover, acceptance of stunning methods is increasing among religious communities in **Malaysia, India, Middle East, Turkey, Germany, New Zealand** and **the United Kingdom**.
- **New Zealand** banned slaughter without stunning and made reversible stunning mandatory. The meat produced is not only certified as Halal by the country local communities, but also by religious communities in **Malaysia, India, Middle East, Canada** and **China** that import halal meat produced in **New Zealand**.

2020 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



Some of our members participated in an opinion poll showing a case for a ban of slaughter without stunning, regardless of the killing context. The opinion poll results unmistakably show what European citizens think of slaughter with stunning:

- It should be mandatory to make animals unconscious before they are slaughtered - **89% agree**.
- Countries should be able to adopt additional measures that ensure higher animal welfare standards - **92% agree**.
- The European Union should require all animals to be stunned before being slaughtered, even for religious reasons - **87% agree**.
- The European Union should prioritise funding for alternative practices for slaughtering animals in humane ways that are also accepted by religious groups - **80% agree**.



► IN 2021...

Despite the fact that a clear timeline for the revision of the Slaughter regulation has not been released yet, as well as the prioritisation of the revision of the Transport Regulation, Eurogroup for Animals will gather information that will be instrumental to prepare a set of key demands for the revised texts.



“The current plight of pigs and dairy cattle in the EU is emblematic of the failure of animal welfare legislation - be it species-specific or not - to guarantee that farmed animals are given acceptable standards of well-being. While we wait for the alternatives to industrial animal farming to become mainstream, we urgently need to profoundly revise and enhance EU legislation on farmed animal welfare. But we also need better enforcement mechanisms, underpinned by robust animal welfare indicators.”

Dr Elena Nalon, Senior Veterinary Adviser

SPREADING THE MESSAGE FAR AND WIDE: PIGS AND COWS DESERVE BETTER

Our Member's sub-group “**Curly Tails Task Force**”, continued their efforts to push for the **enforcement of the Pig Directive concerning the ban on routine tail docking**. In 2020, the group prepared an overview of the findings of the official audits carried out by DG SANTE in the past years; drafted three questions for written answer that were tabled by MEP Federley; and drafted a letter addressed to national sectoral veterinary organisations stressing the importance of pig veterinarians in driving a transition towards keeping pigs with intact tails.

As part of our strategy to push for more applied research on commercial alternatives, **Compassion in World Farming** and Eurogroup for Animals commissioned a report to the RISE institute in Sweden. The [executive summary](#) was published as well as the [full study](#) in a peer-reviewed version. Based on the recommendations of this study we formulated a proposal for a **preparatory action on alternatives to high-concentration CO2 stunning** which was tabled in the European Parliament by MEP Federley and obtained a “priority” assessment by the European Commission, being then adopted by end of the year.

In preparation for a revision of the Union's animal welfare acquis, the European Commission published a call for tender included an economic impact assessment of rearing calves close to their place of birth (as opposed to live transport to specialised fattening countries), with a total budget of around **950,000 EUR**. This was the result of our draft on **a pilot project on best practices for the welfare of dairy cattle** including heifers and “cull” animals that was tabled and approved in the European Parliament in 2019.

►►► IN 2021...

We will develop a set of **Pig Asks** which will guide our political lobbying work at EU and national level in view of a revision of all EU animal welfare legislation, preparing a better protection for pig welfare. The call for tender for the research project on alternatives to high-concentration CO2 stunning will be launched by the end of 2021. This will be the first time that the European Commission invests public funds in research on alternatives to high concentration CO2 stunning since the coming into force of the Slaughter Regulation. The allocated funds should be in the region of **2 million EUR**. We will also closely follow the dairy welfare project.



FISH WELFARE IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN EU POLICY INITIATIVES

The EU's Farm to Fork Strategy paved the way for the welfare of farmed fish to be firmly rooted in both EU animal welfare and fisheries policies for the next decade, with the announcement that **the Commission's new Sustainable Aquaculture Development Guidelines will feed into the process of revising existing animal welfare legislation.**

The work of the **own-initiative subgroup on fish in the EU Animal Welfare Platform** was key to this success, demonstrating the interest and demand among Member States and stakeholders to consolidate technical knowledge into concrete and implementable criteria that improve fish welfare.

Securing political support from industry stakeholders led to the adoption of guidelines on handling and on water quality by the EU Platform on Animal Welfare plenary in June. The guidelines, applicable across species and across production systems, were formally endorsed by all members of the platform including all EU and EEA Member States, industry representatives, and international organisations including the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Also critical to the high level policy commitments was the **sustained engagement with stakeholders through the EU's Aquaculture Advisory Council (AAC)**. Introducing the welfare elements across the range of issues addressed in AAC position papers created familiarity among producers with fish welfare issues, and recognition of the important role that welfare will have to play in their sector.

Our member organisations working group developed and promoted social media tools on fish welfare in aquaculture, bringing the essential message that civil society is alert and concerned about fish welfare. The group also focussed on preparations for future coordinated corporate campaigning on fish welfare, developing model criteria for corporate asks on farmed fish welfare and exploring strategic approaches to corporate campaigning in fast evolving aquaculture certification and animal advocacy landscapes.

2020 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



Welfarm and Dierenbescherming initiated corporate campaign work with projects exploring the nationally relevant technical criteria and market dynamics.

Djurskyddet Sverige reached over 4,000 policy makers and leaders with their fish welfare seminar at Sweden's Almedalsvechan political festival.

Djurens Rätt had 130 participants in their seminar on fish slaughter associated with publication of a Swedish government report on the issue.

Catholic Concern for Animals held a seminar with high level delegates from around the world on the place for fish welfare in church sustainability policy.

We also published our briefing on welfare in [wild capture fisheries](#), with the full report following in early 2021, and could immediately **secure content on fish welfare in wild capture fisheries in a European Parliament position on low impact fishing** produced by the fisheries committee.

► IN 2021...

We will see the delayed adoption of the EU's new Strategic Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture, setting the scope of what is eligible for EU subsidies, establishing new priorities for technical support mechanisms and for research programmes. We are expecting to see the mapping and development of best practice guidelines, research to validate fish welfare indicators, and a big focus on supporting low-trophic aquaculture and especially algae production. We will have an advocacy plan to ensure that these activities feed into implementable and enforceable legal provisions for farmed fish throughout their lifecycle.

2021 will also see the delayed adoption of the EU's new fishery and aquaculture subsidy regulation (EMFAF) and new fisheries control regulation, the first regulations to reach final adoption that our fish welfare programme has advocated on to include recognition of fish sentience as well as specific measures.

The fish welfare programme, together with the dedicated working group, will work continuously on the revision of the farm animal welfare legislation at EU and national level, on corporate engagement, and on establishing a vision for aquaculture where fish welfare is seen as an enabler for a sustainable and resilient EU sector.



“Fish have arrived high up the animal welfare policy agenda just as animal welfare itself has been elevated to the top of the wider political agenda at EU level. We can look back on our actions of recent years on fish and trace a line straight into the preparation of new animal welfare legislation. Nothing is guaranteed and we need to keep engaging constantly, but it’s fantastic to see fish being included as the policy processes ahead are defined.”

Douglas Waley, Fish Welfare Programme Leader

ANIMAL WELFARE RECOGNISED AS A ‘PUBLIC GOOD’ WHICH DESERVES INVESTMENT THROUGH THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Despite a process in the European Parliament that lacked transparency, Eurogroup for Animals obtained the adoption of a significant number of amendments in favor of farm animals’ welfare, even if few pertained to key issues. One positive key amendment enabled the payment for animal welfare good practices under a newly-created program called “**eco-schemes.**”

This program will be mandatory in all Member States. Another positive amendment was the **rejection of a proposed amendment seeking to further restrict the use of reserved terms for plant-based meat products**, even though MEPs voted in favor of further restricting such terms for plant-based dairy products. Finally, MEPs voted in support of **excluding a significant part of subsidies going to the breeding and feeding of bulls for the purposes of bullfighting.**

►► IN 2021...

The fight to get animal welfare stronger with the CAP is still not over. The Trilogue negotiations (between the European Parliament, European Commission and the European Council) will carry on as well as National Strategic Plans will start being formed by Member States.

Eurogroup for Animals will lobby the co-legislators during the Trilogues, as well as take on a coordinating role amongst our member organisations, to aid a better result for animal welfare of the National Strategic plans.



“With this exciting new workstream, we will use the momentum to work towards a significant reduction in the consumption of animal products, promote plant-based food and meat alternatives and make sure that improved animal welfare is high on the sustainability agenda. We have an unprecedented opportunity to achieve a real transformation of the food system and create impact for billions of animals.”

Camilla Björkbom, Political Adviser Food Policy

FOOD POLICY

The new opportunities provided by the Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F), and the growing interest of our members, gave us the opportunity to consolidate this workstream. To strengthen our work on this topic we created a **Reduction and Replacement subgroup** with our member organisations.

We also engaged with cultivated meat start-ups to better understand their business and how to best integrate it with the efforts of the animal movement to reduce the number of animals and animal products consumed as well as the quantity of slaughtered animal products.

Finally, we took a more **active role in the Food Policy Coalition** as we identified the need to expand our network to achieve a meaningful food systems transformation. We are now part of several subgroups within the Food Policy Coalition, where we are for example working on green public procurement, and are co-leaders of the subgroup on Sustainable Food Systems Framework Law.

►► IN 2021...

We will carry on using the Farm to Fork Strategy opportunities, such as the Code of Conduct for responsible businesses and the creation of the Sustainable Food Systems Framework Law, to make sure animal welfare is at the center of the EU’s sustainability agenda. We will also widen our network and work to promote alternatives such as cultivated animal products.

LABELLING

In September, we hosted an online event gathering more than 120 experts from a wide range of sectors: private, public, non-profit, as well as academia, and representing 24 EU Member States.

With a multitude of expert speakers and break-out sessions for discussion, the event was a success. We later published a report entitled [Animal Welfare And Food Labeling: Initiating The Transition Through High Quality Consumer Information](#).

This report provides an overview of existing animal welfare-related labels in the EU, a summary of the September event, as well as a case in support of the enactment of an “Method-of-Production +” (MOP+) label for all animal source foods.

Finally we got accepted for one of the experts' seats at the **European Commission's Animal Welfare Platforms labelling Subgroup**.

►► IN 2021...

We will carry on:

- Influencing the political agenda on labelling whilst maintaining our expert's position established in the last years.
- Turning the concept of MOP+ into a more concrete proposition, by producing a blueprint for an MOP+ label for chicken products and conducting an impact assessment together with our Member Organisations'.

LABELLING

ON THE EU AGRI-FOOD MARKET

DENMARK

Anbefalet af Dyrenes Beskyttelse ● ○ ⚡ 🐾 🤝

Bedre Dyrevelfærd ● ○ 📄 🐾 🇩🇰

UNITED KINGDOM

RSPCA Assured ● ○ 🐾 🤝

LIDL Method-of-Production Labeling ● ○ 📄 🎨 🤝

THE NETHERLANDS

Beter Leven ● ○ 🐾 🤝

GERMANY

Für Mehr Tierschutz ● ○ 🐾 🤝

Tierschutz Kontrolliert ● ○ 🐾 🤝

Initiative Tierwohl ● ○ 🐾 🤝

BMEL Tierwohl Initiative ○ 🐾 🇩🇰

Haltungsform ● ○ ↵ 🤝

AUSTRIA

Tierschutz Kontrolliert ● ○ 🐾 🤝

FRANCE

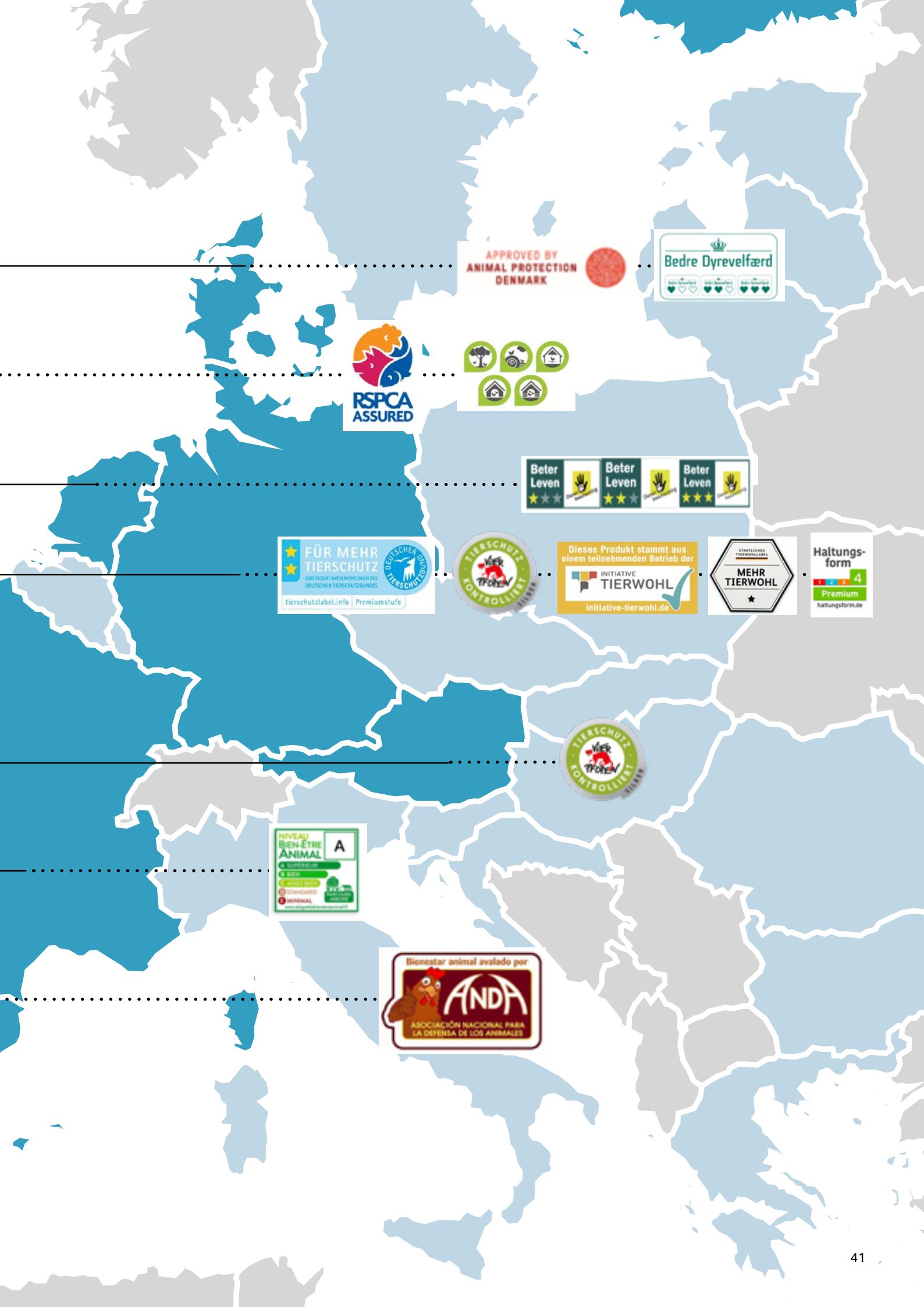
Etiquette bien-être animal ● ○ ↵ 🤝

SPAIN

ANDA Huevos ● ○ 🐾 🤝

LEGEND

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ● Voluntary | ○ Method-of-Production label |
| ! Mandatory | ⤳ Combined: AW/MoP |
| 🟡 Certification (single level) | ⤠ Umbrella label |
| 📄 Multi-level | ⬤ Private |
| 🐾 Animal welfare label | 🔴 Public |





WILDLIFE

In 2020, the worldwide outbreak of the SARS-COV-2 made the risks originated by wildlife exploitation and trade painfully clear. Our calls on the European Commission for a stricter regulation of the exotic pet trade, the protection of wildlife, the end of fur farming and the non-consumptive use of biodiversity have sparked renewed interest among stakeholders and decision makers. The drafting of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and of the related Own Initiative Report of the European Parliament have then offered great opportunities to secure commitments from the Commission for a transition to a more wildlife-friendly society.

We began 2020 organising multiple meetings with the elected MEPs who committed to supporting the EU Positive List by signing our [**VoteforAnimals2019**](#) pledge for the European elections. We identified champion MEPs in each political group and those willing to work on an Own Initiative Report on the EU Positive List. We urged the European Commission to take into account our calls during the drafting of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 and, **in collaboration with AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection, we published the results of an opinion poll showing that EU citizens from six countries overwhelmingly support better regulation of the exotic pet trade within the EU.**

In May we welcomed the publication of **the new EU Biodiversity Strategy which took most of our recommendations on board**. These included commitments to keep existing environmental policies strong and stimulate enforcement and implementation of the “Birds and Habitats Directives”, with ambitious goals in terms of conservation status of protected European species, further tightening the rules of the EU ivory trade, and revise the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking to step up efforts to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

However, while the Strategy highlights that reinforced regulation of the wildlife trade is crucial to both prevent and build resilience to future zoonosis outbreaks, clear commitments in this sense are missing. We have then initiated a collaboration with other international animal protection and conservation NGOs to make sure that the strict regulation of the legal trade of wildlife through an EU Positive List is part of the Biodiversity Strategy's implementation.

Over the summer, we implemented a **coordinated communication action with our member organisations to promote the coexistence with wolves** and oppose the growing pressure to decrease the level of protection granted to the species by current EU law.



FUR FARMS = PANDEMIC HOTSPOTS

Mink are highly susceptible to SARS-CoV-2. Scientific studies demonstrate that American mink, as well as raccoon dogs, can act as a reservoir for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It is therefore evident that mink (and most likely also raccoon dog) farming creates a potential reservoir for SARS-CoV-2 and future strains of the coronavirus. The virus can jump back and forth between humans and mink, with the potential for the virus to mutate in mink prior to infecting humans with new variants.

In April, the SARS-CoV-2 virus was first detected in animals in a mink farm in the Netherlands. In the months that followed, coronavirus outbreaks have continued to affect hundreds of mink farms not only in the Netherlands, but also in Denmark, Sweden, Greece, Spain, Italy, France, Poland and Lithuania. Given that the rapid and uncontrolled spread of SARS-CoV-2 among mink farms has not been halted by the implementation of biosecurity measures, the animals have become the source of viral transmission to people; not only those who work on fur farms occupationally, but also the broader human community. Even more alarmingly, the uncontrolled spread in mink also increased the opportunity for the virus to evolve and develop potentially dangerous mutations.

This offered an unprecedented opportunity to call for the EU-wide end of mink farming. Through a joint strategy with the **Fur Free Alliance**, we started to expose the threat to public health posed by fur farming and we engaged with the European Commission and with Member States to highlight that the only way to prevent the virus spreading from mink to humans is to end mink farming.

In September, after years of hard work by our member organisation **GATO, Lithuania adopted a Positive List of allowed mammal pets** (becoming the 5th Member State with a Positive List system) **and a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses**.

In the same month, the French Minister for the Ecological Transition, announced the gradual ban on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses and on mink farming, as well as the end of the captivity of dolphins and orcas in inadequate dolphinaria, and the implementation of support to improve the detention of wild animals in zoos. This was an **historic win of our French member organisations**.

In October, with the support of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, we held the online event [Animal welfare in the EU-Australia trade negotiations and the EU's role in commercial kangaroo hunting](#). The well attended event was also the occasion to launch our new report [Kangaroo: From Australian Icon to Meat and Luxury Leather for the EU](#), where the severe threats of the current practice are clearly explained.

During the whole year, we actively participated in the European Commission stakeholder forum for **better implementation of the Zoos Directive** (the **European Commission Zoos Directive Good Practices** Document is now published in 15 languages), and we worked on the three years' European Commission pilot project for the selection of **best practices for the humane management of invasive alien species**.

► IN 2021...

We will continue to

- Use opportunities offered by the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy at the time of COVID-19 crisis to push for an EU Positive List for exotic pets.
- Engage with the European Commission and MEPs in the evaluation of the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking and in the process of drafting of the European Parliament Initiative Report on the Biodiversity Strategy, while lobbying for a dedicated Own Initiative Report on an EU Positive List.
- Enjoy the opportunities offered by the revision of the Environmental Crime Directive and also by the Digital Services Act, which aim to modernise and create an EU-wide uniform framework on the handling of illegal or potentially harmful content online.
- Join forces with our member organisations and launch the **Stop Circus suffering** campaign to push for the adoption of an EU-wide ban on the use of wild animals in circuses.
- Join forces to end fur farming, taking full advantage of the current health crisis and of the implementation of the Animal Health Law.
- Work on the European Commission Pilot Project on the Humane Management of Invasive Alien Species, to actively participate in the European Commission stakeholder forum for better implementation of the Zoos Directive and to promote coexistence with large carnivores and the adoption of EU-wide bans on the ivory trade and the import of kangaroo meat and leather.



“ We are in the midst of a viral pandemic that emerged as a result of exploitation of wild animals. We welcome the explicit connection made by the EU Biodiversity Strategy between wildlife trade and the emergence of zoonotic diseases. The strict regulation of wildlife trade must now be prioritised as a key part of the renewed EU Action Plan Against Wildlife Trafficking, through a truly precautionary approach.”

Ilaria Di Silvestre, Senior Wildlife Programme Leader



THE TRADE OF EXOTIC PETS



Millions of exotic animals are currently being kept as pets in European homes, causing serious animal welfare problems and posing a threat to our public health and biodiversity.



87% of respondents agree that **exotic animals should not be kept as pets**.



88% agree that the EU should have a greater role in this as part of Common Market rules.

92% agree that trade in exotic pets should be better regulated.



The risks of the global wildlife trade have become painfully clear in recent weeks with the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus.



of respondents agree that **capturing animals from the wild to be kept as pets is wrong**.



© Moritz Kindler

Research was carried out by Savanta ComRes on behalf of AAP Animal Advocacy Protection and Eurogroup for Animals between 11 February 2020 and 17 February 2020 using an online quantitative survey. 6,137 adults across Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain were interviewed. Data were weighted to be representative of adults 18+ by age, gender and region in each of the 6 countries. Data tables can be viewed at www.comresglobal.com.

2020 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



Thanks to the hard work of our French animal advocacy organisations, including our Members **Fondation Brigitte Bardot**, **C'est Assez!**, **Code Animal**, **Fondation Droit Animal Éthique & Sciences** and **L214 Éthique & Animaux**, the French Minister for the Ecological Transition, Barbara Pompili, announced on 29 September 2020 the gradual ban on the use of wild animals in travelling circuses and on mink farming, as

well as the end of the captivity of dolphins and orcas in inadequate dolphinaria, and the implementation of support to improve the detention of wild animals in zoos.

In April 2020, **FOUR PAWS** conducted an extensive investigation around tiger trade and revealed shocking discrepancies between figures held by European authorities and the reality. **FOUR PAWS** recommended the issuing of an EU guidance document proposing that Member States suspend the export and re-export of live tigers and tiger parts or derivatives as well as a comprehensive ban on commercial tiger trade.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our key focus in 2021 is to ensure that animals' interests will be part of the post-crisis "building forward" agendas. We need to keep the attention on tackling the root causes of the Pandemic moving beyond the management of its symptoms.

The European Commission and Council have clearly indicated that they want to use the crisis recovery and its huge funding programmes as an opportunity to boost environmental protection and tackle climate change, improve our health system and health prevention, and invest in more resilient and sustainable economies and trade arrangements. Much of our animal advocacy work

is related to these priorities and we have to make sure we link our agendas to these political priorities and that the animals won't be forgotten.

2021 will be a historic year for the animals with the legislation finally being reviewed. But so much more critical developments require our attention.

Here are Eurogroup for Animals main battlegrounds:



CATS & DOGS

- Obtain EU-level mandatory identification & registration
- Use the new Digital Services Acts to improve responsible online sales of pets
- Ensure proper protection of pets during commercial transport
- Launch an EU-wide guide on population management of dogs and cats

FARM ANIMALS

- Revision of the animal welfare legislation: fitness check and beyond
- Ensure fish welfare will be anchored in the revised animal welfare legislation
- End the use of cages in farmed systems and a better life for broiler chickens through the revision of the general farming directive
- Obtain commitment for MOP+ as the gold standard for an EU-wide label related to animal welfare
- Drive reduction and replacement of animal products





WILDLIFE

- Obtain a commitment for an EU positive list to regulate the exotic pet trade and keeping
- Reduce wildlife trade and trafficking
- Campaign for EU ban on the use of wild animals in circuses
- Campaign to end fur farming within the EU



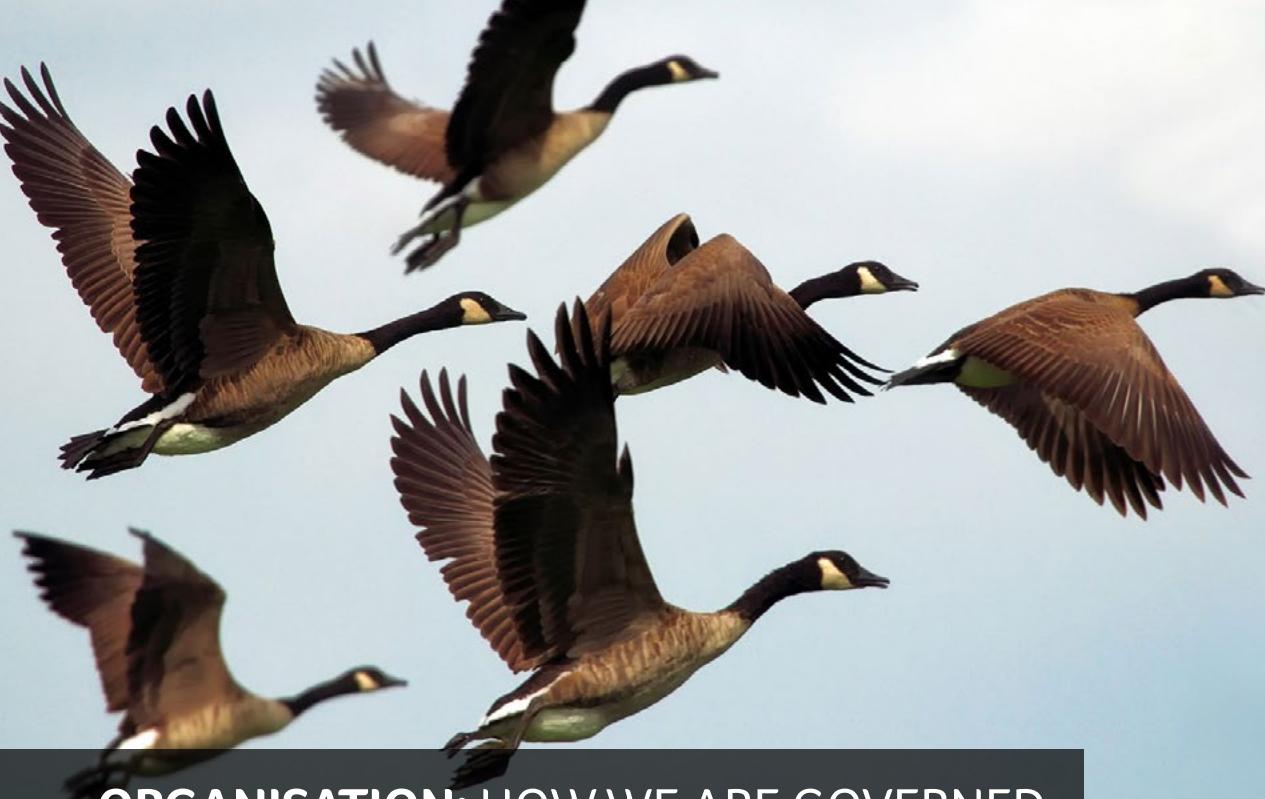
TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE

- Block the EU-Mercosur Agreement, as it stands
- Put Animal Welfare on the agenda of EU-China and EU-India trade relations
- Increase our UK members' visibility on Animal Welfare and Trade
- Ensuring no further market access is granted to Ukrainian animal products until EU-equivalent animal welfare standards are applied



ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

- Promote an ambitious implementation of the animals in science Directive
- Promote the 3Rs and non-animal models
- Lobby for a phase out strategy



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 Meeting (AGM).

The AGM 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 four times a year and delegates operational authority to the CEO, who actively manages the Eurogroup for Animals organisation.

Eurogroup for Animals ended 2020 with 22 multinational staff members all working (remotely!) within a framework provided by the organisation's 2027 strategy, a five-year road map and annual work plan.

ANNUAL #ACT4ANIMALS CONFERENCE & AGM

As it has been said before, 2020 saw us adapting to a new normal in all sorts of ways. One of them being that we had to cancel our plans to host our **40th anniversary celebration**.

Each year, we very much look forward to welcoming our member organisations to Brussels to celebrate our achievements, so the pandemic was especially unfortunate timing, as we had looked forward to celebrating this milestone together.

Instead, for the first time ever, we hosted our AGM virtually and had a larger turnout than in previous years. We want to thank you for your commitment and look forward to finding the right time to celebrate our successes together in the future.

“The need for connection with others has become increasingly important since we moved to a world of online events. This year, we have hosted more events than ever before, thereby reaching a wider audience and demonstrating the continued strength of our animal advocacy network.”

Christine van Horen, Events Manager

OUR BOARD: 2020-2021



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



Vice-President:
Gemma Willemsem, Manager
of Programmes and Lobbying,
Dierenbescherming (NL)



Honorary Treasurer:
Chris Carey (BE)

ORDINARY BOARD MEMBERS 2020-2021:



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



Animal Protection Denmark (DK)
represented by **Lena Rohn**, Food
and Environmental Policy Manager



Animalia (FI) represented
by **Sami Säynevirta**,
Vice-President



Deutscher Tierschutzbund (DE)
represented by **Jürgen Plinz**,
Treasurer



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



Fondation Brigitte Bardot (FR)
represented by **Elodie Gérôme-Delgado**,
Director of Development and Quality
Assurance



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



GAIA (BE) represented by
Ann De Greef, President



Lega Anti Vivisezione - LAV (IT)
represented by **Roberto Bennati**,
General Manager



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

OUR DREAM TEAM



Reineke Hameleers
CEO



Tim Robinson
Operations Manager

FARM ANIMALS



Inês Grenho Ajuda
Programme Leader



Dr Elena Nalon
Senior Veterinary Adviser



Francesca Porta
Senior Programme Officer



Douglas Waley
Fish Welfare Programme Leader



Jana Villwock
Political Adviser for Fish Welfare



Camilla Björkbom
Political Adviser for Food Policy

TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE



Stéphanie Ghislain
Programme Leader



Daniel Pérez Vega
Programme Officer



Morgane Dejean
Junior Programme Officer

WILDLIFE



Ilaria Di Silvestre
Senior Programme Leader



Bethania Malmberg
Project Leader Fur Farming



Dr Luísa Bastos
Programme Leader

POLITICAL AFFAIRS



Joe Moran
Interim Political Affairs Manager



Andreas Erler
Senior Political Adviser



Shannon Huggard
Political Assistant

COMPANION ANIMALS



Iwona Mertin
Programme Leader

PROGRAMME SUPPORT



Maya Cyganska
Junior Programme Officer
for Wildlife, Companion Animals
and Animals in Science

EXTERNAL CONSULTANT



Sophie De Jonckheere
Development Strategist

COMMUNICATIONS



Agnese Marcon
Interim Communications Manager



Marie Cochet
Communications Officer



Ruby Le Galle
Digital Strategist



Christine van Horen
Events Manager



Elise Fleury
Senior Campaigner



Maren Schmid
Campaigner Farm Animals

OPERATIONS



Laurent Lamouline
Finance Manager



Maryna Lafontaine
Administrative Officer



Ellen Greve
Membership Officer

INTERNS



Camille Bertaux



Garance Hemeleers



Jakub Rybníkář



OUR RESOURCES

The steady growth in our financial resources since 2016 continued in 2020, enabling us - with our members - to do ever more for animals. Contributions from a very stable membership increased as per our fee model: when members grow, so does Eurogroup for Animals. We also continued to strengthen other sources of income, notably with grants to fund additional work that otherwise would not be possible.

During the pandemic we were heartened by the even closer collaboration that we had with our members on all the topics we work on together. While we were sad to see two members leave the network, we welcomed three new ones, ending the year with a total of 71. We are also pleased to report that we get a steady flow of enquiries and ended 2020 with a number of promising conversations underway with potential organisations that would add value to the network.

We were able to count on the support of our trusted partner Open Philanthropy for our different programmes on farm animals. We secured additional, though more modest, grants to bolster our work on EU-UK issues (from the newly-created Solberga Foundation), on advocacy in Portugal (from B2C2), and as part of a consortium working on invasive alien species (funded by the European Commission).

This stronger financial position enabled us to grow our turnover for the year by 7% compared to 2019, bringing it up to €2,856,561. We were able to increase investments across the board of our five programmatic areas, namely animals in science, cats and dogs, equines, farm animals (including fish), and wildlife (including fur), and our two horizontal areas, trade and animal welfare and EU advocacy.

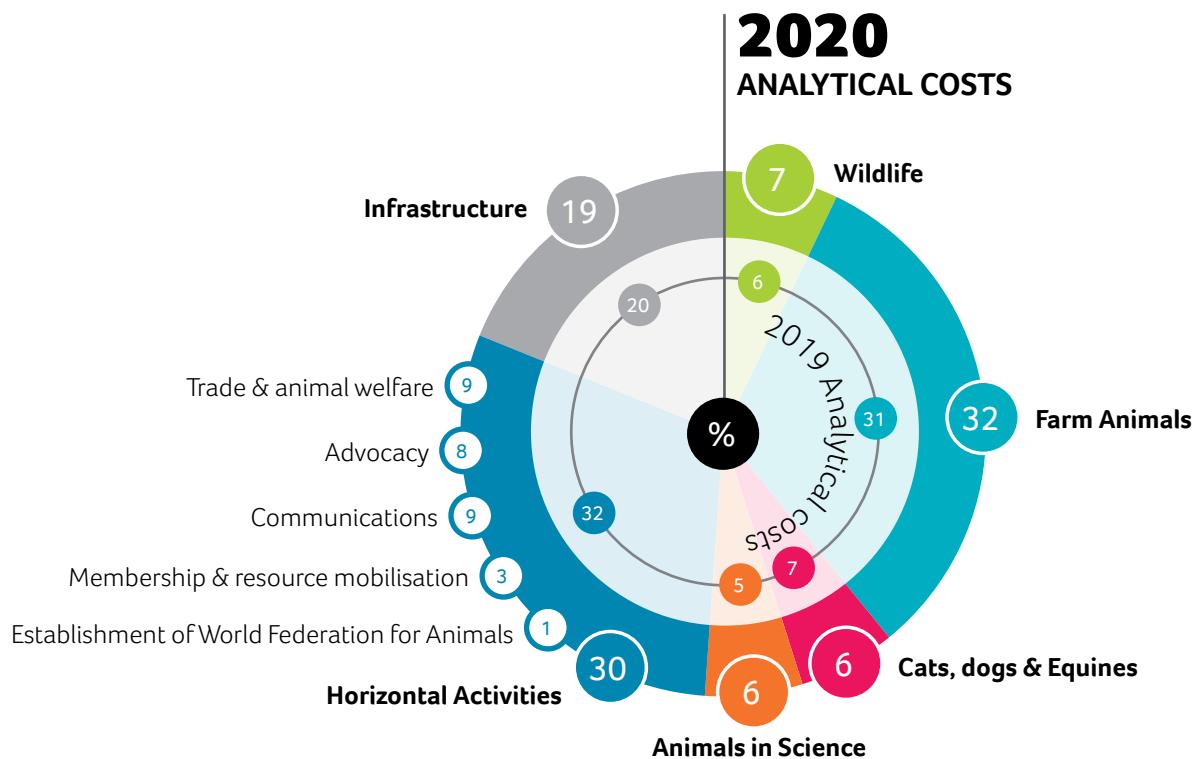


By cost type, staff salaries are as always by far our highest expenditure (70%) which reflects the nature of what members set us up to do 40 years ago: advocating for better legislation to make Europe a place that cares for animals. We ended 2020 with 22 full-time staff members, but with five open positions, showing our continued growth trajectory.

We quickly leveraged the potential of the pandemic and campaigned with members to “Stop Pandemics” and to shine the light on the fur industry, also linked to the spread of COVID-19. This was in addition to our planned campaign on fish welfare. Accordingly, throughout 2020 we invested in the production of campaign materials also for members to use when mobilising their audiences across Europe and beyond.

The EU’s primary competence in agriculture and the sheer scale of the industry explains why Eurogroup for Animals proportionately invested more in advocacy for farm animals than in other areas in 2020, as in all previous years.

As always we keep our infrastructure costs under strict control and in 2020 they fell slightly compared to the previous year to 19% of our total costs.



COMMUNICATIONS

2020 PEAKS

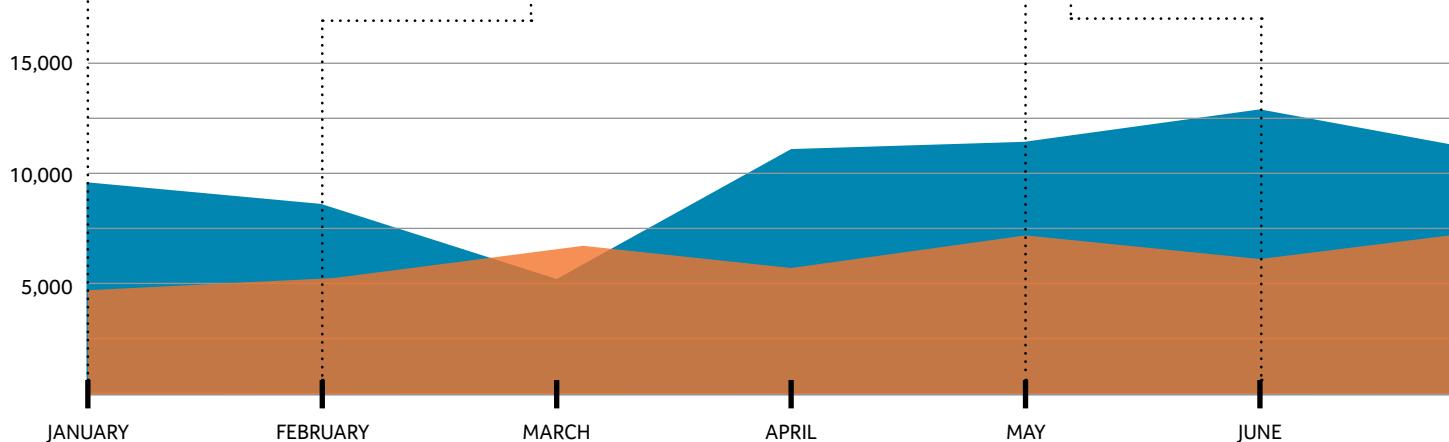
Eurogroup for Animals' communications activities are our loudspeaker to reach out to the world and let everybody know about ours and our members' achievements. In 2020 we revamped our website, published numerous reports and briefings, and engaged our audiences with key social media campaigns.

OUR MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA PEAKS

- MEDIA
- TWITTER
- FACEBOOK
- LINKEDIN

- The Guardian
[Live export: animals at risk in giant global industry](#)
- Post from Fondation Brigitte Bardot on
[Carrefour ending their sale of kangaroo meat](#)

- Euractiv
[EU pressed to address meat reduction, plant-based diet in new food policy](#)
- Politico
[Coronavirus fuels calls to clamp down on EU wildlife trade](#)
- The Brussels Times
[The EU is trading in dead tigers](#)
- An Intergroup session on alternative approaches in the research related to COVID-19
- The Guardian
[Campaigners welcome 'historic' EU inquiry into live animal transport](#)
- The announcement of decision to approve the [Committee of Inquiry on live transport](#), the first inquiry ever on animal welfare in the EU



WEBSITE VISITORS IN 2020 AND 2019



“In 2020, due to the COVID-19 crisis, our lives were mostly online. Thanks to our website and social media channels we were able to keep our members, and other audiences, informed about our activities but also to feel a little closer. Advocacy actions, members successes and network wide campaigns told the story of a weird but busy year for animal protection.”

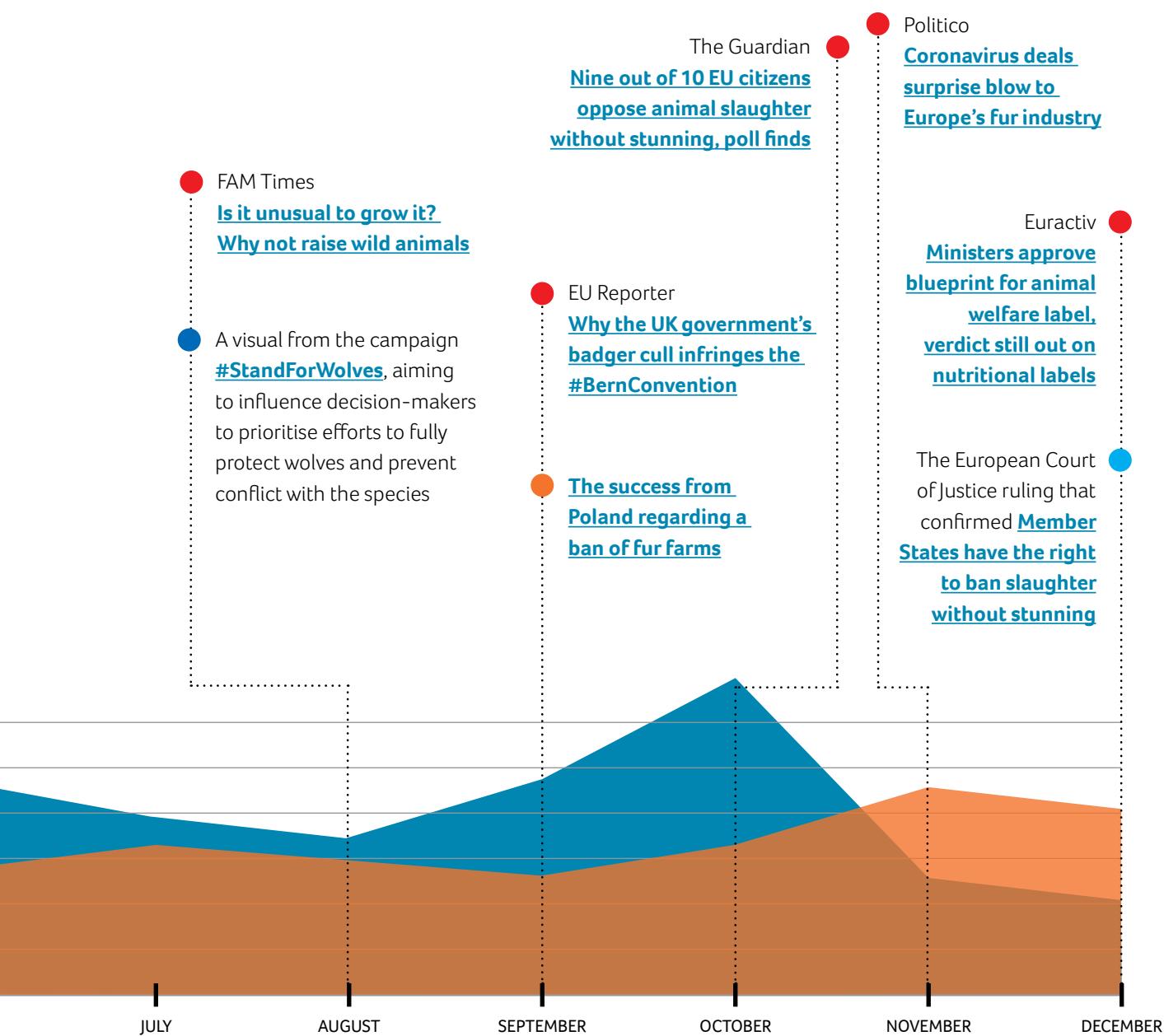
Agnese Marcon, Interim Communications Manager

150,103
WEB SESSIONS

+37% compared
to 2019

111,944
USERS

+36% compared
to 2019



ANIMALS IN EUROPE PODCAST



As a brand new project, we launched the **Animals in Europe podcast series**, a bi-weekly appointment to meet animal advocates, decision-makers and experts building together a Europe that cares for animals. Guided by our host and CEO Reineke Hameleers we dive into news and current events surrounding animals in Europe.



SUBSCRIBE:



WE ARE SOCIAL

TWITTER

Tweets 722
Impressions 2,786,000
Profile visits 40,525,000
Mentions 7,723
New followers 1,398
Total followers 12,538

FACEBOOK

Facebook page reach 161,466
Page likes 16,839
New followers 1,235
Total followers 17,214

LINKEDIN

Visitors 6,384
Updates 84
New followers 792
Total followers 489



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[@eurogroupforanimals](#)



[@eurogroup-for-animals](#)



[@EurogroupforanimalsOrg](#)



[eurogroupforanimals.org](#)



MEMBERS

JOIN US

HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR WORK

In 2020 we celebrated our 40th anniversary and since our inception, we have come a long way. Our mission is still the same: we strive towards a Europe that cares for animals, where the well-being of all animals is assured and where they experience a good life.

We united animal advocates across Europe and beyond to measurably improve the protection of animals. Although we have reached a number of milestones, changing the legislation in Europe for the benefit of animals is a long and complicated process. There is still plenty of work ahead of us as millions of animals are still suffering.

We are a strong voice for animals in Europe and our strength comes from our members, friends and partners with whom we relentlessly advocate to improve the welfare of millions of animals across Europe and beyond. As you can imagine, it's an uphill battle. That's why we constantly strive to attract new supporters to join our movement and why we also need your help.

Animal suffering is sadly still a reality, but we can change it together. There are many ways to help: visit our website to check the latest campaigns and activities, read our publications and follow us on social media.

You can also contact us to become a member or make a donation.

Join us to fight for a better future for all animals!



“We should not let the pandemic take the attention nor the funding away from the sheer necessity to improve the lives of millions of suffering animals. Even when income decreases, freeing up funds to support our cause is more pivotal and valuable now than ever before as there are unprecedented opportunities we should make use of. Will you join us?”

Ellen Greve, Membership Officer

OUR MEMBERS

"Putting Members at the core of our work" is our motto. In 2020, we represented over 70 animal advocacy organisations in **25 EU Member States**, the **UK, Switzerland, Serbia, Norway, Australia** and the **USA**. We are happy to see a continuous growth of our membership which also showcases a great diversity. First and foremost, we are proud of every member because of their relentless energy in improving animal welfare in their own country or region. They inspire us to continue. Together we stand.

THANK YOU!

We are very grateful for the support and the friendship of our members, donors and other partners. Thanks to them, we have been able to achieve the animal welfare goals we had set for 2020. The support, financial contributions, advice and expertise they so generously shared with us made our advocacy work, our campaigns and communications in 2020 possible.

They also enabled us to develop our plans for the years to come which we wish to realise with their help yet again.

AS ONLY TOGETHER CAN WE MAKE AN IMPACT FOR ANIMALS.





GREECE

Ippothesis
Dog's Voice
NEW: Hellenic Animal Welfare Federation



HUNGARY

MAOSZ Magyar Állatvédők
Országos Szervezete
VAE



IRELAND

DSPCA
ISCPA



ITALY

Essere Animali (Being Animals)
LAV - Lega Anti Vivisezione
Lega Nazionale per la difesa del cane
(Lega del cane) LNDC



LATVIA

Christine Chilver's Animals Friends Society - Animal Friends Society



LITHUANIA

GATO (Givuny Apsaugos ir teisių organizacija)



LUXEMBOURG

LNPA (LËTZEBUERGER DÉIERESCHUTZLIGA - Ligue nationale pour la protection des animaux)



NETHERLANDS

Sea First Foundation
Proefdiervrij
Caring vets
Dierenbescherming
AAP Animal Advocacy and Protection
Vissenbescherming
Bont voor dieren



NORWAY

Dyrevernalliansen
(The Norwegian Animal Protection Organisation)



POLAND

Otwarte Klatki (open cages)
NEW: Green REV Institute



PORTUGAL

Animais de Rua



SERBIA

ORCA - Organisation for the Respect and Care of Animals



SLOVAKIA

Sloboda Zvierat
Humánny Pokrok



SPAIN

FAADA
ANDA (Asociacion Nacional para la defensa de los animales)
AVATMA (Asociación de Veterinarios Abolicionistas de la Tauromaquia y del Maltrato Animal)

NEW: Equalia

NEW: Valencia Animal Save



SWEDEN

Djurskyddet Sverige
Djurens Rätt
Svenska Djurskyddsföreningen



SWITZERLAND

Animal free Research
Schweizer Tierschutz STS (Swiss Animal Protection)



UNITED KINGDOM

Animal Defenders International (ADI)
One Kind
Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (USPCA)
World Horse Welfare
The Donkey Sanctuary
World Animal Protection (WAP)
Greek Animal Welfare Fund
Animal Protection Agency Foundation (APA)
RSPCA Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Badger Trust
Catholic Concern for Animals
Compassion In World Farming (CIWF) International
Cats Protection

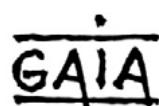


UNITED STATES

World Animal Net



Dyrevernalliansen





AnimalfreeResearch



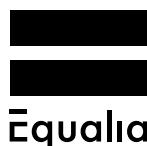
vissen bescherming



GAWFO ANIMALACTION
ΔΡΑΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΑ ΖΩΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΣ



Ärzte gegen Tierversuche e.V.



Πανελλήνια
Φιλοζωική
Ομοσπονδία



ANIMAL PROTECTION
DENMARK



Luonto-Liiton SUSIRYHMÄ

voiceless
the animal protection institute

PROEFDIERVRIJ

Menschen für Tierrechte
Bundesverband der Tierversuchsgegner e.V.



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FOR
ANIMALS**

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