



**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

Building a Europe that cares for animals

CONTENTS

03

OUR VISION
AND MISSION

04

MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

05

MESSAGE FROM
THE CEO

06

WHO WE ARE AND
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

08

FARM ANIMALS

10

FARM ANIMALS
- CHICKEN

12

FARM ANIMALS
- LIVE TRANSPORT

14

FARM ANIMALS
- AQUATIC ANIMALS

16

FARM ANIMALS
- AQUATIC ANIMALS
- OCTOPUS

18

FARM ANIMALS
- FOOD POLICY

22

FARM ANIMALS
- INSECT FARMING

24

TRADE AND
ANIMAL WELFARE

28

ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

32

CATS AND DOGS

36

UKRAINE TASK FORCE

38

EQUINES

42

WILDLIFE

46

CAMPAIGNING 2022
- FUR FREE EUROPE

50

INTERGROUP ON
THE WELFARE AND
CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS

52

ORGANISATION

53

HOW WE ARE
GOVERNED

54

OUR BOARD

56

OUR DREAM TEAM

58

OUR RESOURCES

59

2022 ANALYTICAL
COSTS

60

COMMUNICATIONS

62

JOIN US

64

OUR MEMBERS

67

THANK YOU





OUR VISION

A EUROPE THAT CARES FOR ANIMALS

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

OUR MISSION

As the pan-European animal advocacy organisation, the primary focus of Eurogroup for Animals is to improve the well-being of as many animals as possible and defend their 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.

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

ONE

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.



TWO

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.

THREE

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

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

UNITY BRINGS STRENGTH AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ANIMALS

We are at a pivotal moment in Europe for animals. The opportunities have never been greater to drive lasting change. Through years of effective lobbying and campaigning together, we as a movement have brought decision-makers in the EU to a new level of ambition. A moment where we have created historic chances to reform the way animals are treated forever.

Together, we have achieved a great deal in this period, not least a powerful European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) petition for a *Fur Free Europe* that quickly reached the legally prescribed threshold of more than a million signatures. It comes off the back of the successful ECI to *Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics* earlier this year, and the ground-breaking shared effort to *End the Cage Age* for farm animals. There has been much to celebrate in other areas too, with key advances on the EU Positive List in the exotic pet trade, but a further example of the many ways in which our federation has driven results for animals.

Yet the stakes have never been higher, and our opposition is ever-present. Those that want the status quo for animals have been ramping up their opposition. Mustering their lobbying power in Brussels. Trying to stop humane progress.

As a family of animal welfare organisations, Eurogroup for Animals has been uniquely placed to meet this counter-lobby head on.

Looked at through a strategic lens, our federation has what I would describe as a '*strengths and opportunities*' strategy.

We have an ambitious, winning team powered by our visionary CEO, Reineke Hameleers.

We have a growing membership, with over 80 member societies across Europe and beyond.

And we have a dynamic unity, a strong willingness to work together for the common good.

Together, we are presiding over a new era of effectiveness for animals. The animal welfare movement is evolving. Eurogroup for Animals, as a federation of vibrant members, is at the heart of that evolution. Empowered by an unshakeable dedication to creating a better world for all animals.

With Europe's decision-makers in Brussels on the cusp of revealing what need to be ambitious new plans to review animal welfare rules, our time has come. Never have the stakes been so high. Never has our unity been more essential. Never have the animals needed us more.

Together, we have the strength and opportunity to ensure that many more animals are not only freed from suffering, but can experience the joy of living.

Thank you for making great things happen for animals.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Philip Lybery".

PHILIP LYBERY

President of Eurogroup for Animals

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

THE YEARS OF THE TRUTH FOR EU'S ANIMALS AND DEMOCRACY

European citizens are very clear about what they expect from the EU: a ban on force feeding, a ban on fur farming, species-specific rules for fish, rabbits and cattle (and many more species), better legislative protection for cats and dogs, humane slaughter with mandatory stunning. I can still feel my excitement when seeing the results of the public consultation on the forthcoming animal welfare legislation that is currently being drafted by the European Commission.

2022 saw further huge support for improved animal welfare on all fronts. To mention just a few campaigning successes that made me so proud of our movement:

- The Council of the EU called on the European Commission to enact a ban on the culling of male chicks.
- Thanks to our lobbying efforts, the European Commission committed to launching a new reference centre dedicated to fish welfare, a real victory for these cinderella species.
- The ECI *Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics* closed with over 1 million signatures.
- Ensuring exotic animals unsuited to captivity cannot be kept as pets: both the Council of the EU and the European Parliament supported a feasibility study for an EU Positive List of species allowed as pets. Any not on the list will be illegal to keep.
- Our new ECI *Fur Free Europe* collected more than 1 million signatures in 6 months (and as I write has ended up with over 1.7 million signatures).

After ten years in my role, these outcomes did not surprise me at all; citizens have expressed their expectations for profound change time and again. Now is the time for the decision-makers to listen. But will they?

Our organisation and its members are operating in unprecedented times. After the Covid pandemic we were shocked by the invasion and war in Ukraine and its effects on the economy and geo-political situation, as well as the acceleration of the climate crises. It seems that living in crisis mode is becoming the new norm. There are many voices exploiting these crises to moderate the ambitions of the EU Green Deal and Farm to Fork strategy. But if there's one crisis mitigation tactic, it's about investing in the highest animal welfare standards possible.

I truly believe that animal welfare can serve as the indicator of a resilient, robust and humane society. Animals have suffered long enough. It's time to face the truth and build a different, kinder reality in which the extreme commodification of sentient beings will no longer have a place.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reineke Hameleers".

REINEKE HAMELEERS

CEO of Eurogroup for Animals

WHO WE ARE & OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

We are the Brussels-based European animal advocacy organisation, driven by members across Europe and beyond.

1983

1986

Directive on **Animal Experimentation**

1993

Revised **Slaughter Directive**

1998

Zoos Directive

The Protocol on Animal Welfare in the **Amsterdam Treaty**

Ban on the use of **driftnets**



2001

Ban on **Sow Stalls**

2004

Rules on **shell egg labelling**



2009

Regulation on the **protection of animals** at the time of killing

Amendment to the Treaty of the Functioning of the EU, through the Lisbon Treaty, recognising animal sentience and placing a duty on EU institutions to pay "full regard" to animal welfare when formulating Union-level policy or law

Ban on the placing on the EU market of **seal products**

1983

Ban on imports of **baby seal skins**

Formation of the European Parliament's Intergroup on the **Welfare and Conservation of Animals**



1997

Ban on **Veal crates**

1999

Laying Hens Directive

1991

Adoption of the Pigs Directive, **banning routine tail docking of pigs**

Leghold Traps prohibited in EU

Common rules on **live transport**

Creation of the European Centre for the **Validation of Alternative Methods** (ECVAM)

2006

Provisions included in REACH to **reduce testing on vertebrates**

First **EU Animal Welfare Action Plan**

2007

Broilers Directive

A ban on the placing on the market and the import to, or export from, the **Union of cat and dog fur**, and products containing such fur

2005

Ban on the import of **wild-caught birds** into the EU

2003

Law creating **pet passports**

7th amendment to the **Cosmetics Directive**



Here you can see the highlights of four decades of achievements of the Eurogroup for Animals network. These continued apace in 2022 as we present in this report. As always, this progress for animals is only possible thanks to the collaboration of the 80+ organisations that we are proud to serve and represent at the EU level."

TIM ROBINSON
Operations Manager



2013

Ban on marketing and testing of cosmetics on animals

2017

Legal obligation for the European Commission to **establish new Union Reference centres** for Animal Welfare within the Official Control Regulation

Formation of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare

2018

Animal welfare as a stand-alone chapter in the **trade agreement with Mexico**

European Court of Auditors' first ever report assessing the Commission's action in ensuring animal welfare

Animal welfare linked to sustainability in trade by the Commission for the first time

2022

Over one million European citizens signed the **ECI Save cruelty free cosmetics**

Launch of the **ECI Fur Free Europe** which reached more than 1 million signatures of support in little over six months

Creation of a new **Reference Centre for Animal Welfare for aquatic animals**



2012

EU Strategy on Animal Welfare

2016

Animal Health Law, with key provisions to improve welfare

Adoption of the EU Action Plan against **wildlife trafficking**

2019

First horizontal Council Conclusions on Animal Welfare, calling for a revision of the **animal welfare acquis**

European Parliament implementation report on **animal transport**

2020

Animal welfare actions included as an integral component of the **EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies**, with commitments to revise the existing law

Creation of an European Parliament Committee of Inquiry on **Animal Transport (ANIT)**

European Court of Justice ruling on the legitimacy of **mandatory introduction of pre-slaughter stunning** by Member States

2010

Alternative methods and 3Rs in the Directive on animals **used for scientific purposes**



2021

European Commission commits to phase out cages for farm animals across Europe thanks to the **"End the Cage Age"** European Citizens' Initiative

Animal welfare included as an objective of the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** for the first time, along with its recognition as a public good and incentivisation through new "Eco-schemes"

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

FARM ANIMALS

Crucial, and potentially hard years, that will determine the course of farm animal production in the EU and beyond are due to come. On the one hand, animal welfare has the potential to be substantially improved via the revision of the animal welfare legislation, and on the other hand, via the sustainable food systems framework law and other policy actions from the Farm to Fork strategy, the EU has the potential to lay the foundations for a paradigm shift in food production systems all over the world.



Our team spent 2022 preparing to harness the multitude of upcoming opportunities for farm animals. It was a year to gear up, produce resources and get our expertise and positions heard across the EU and the world. At the same time, we worked hard to be ahead of any potential new moves to factory farm new species, and started work to increase awareness for newly factory farmed sentient beings like octopuses, decapods and insect species.

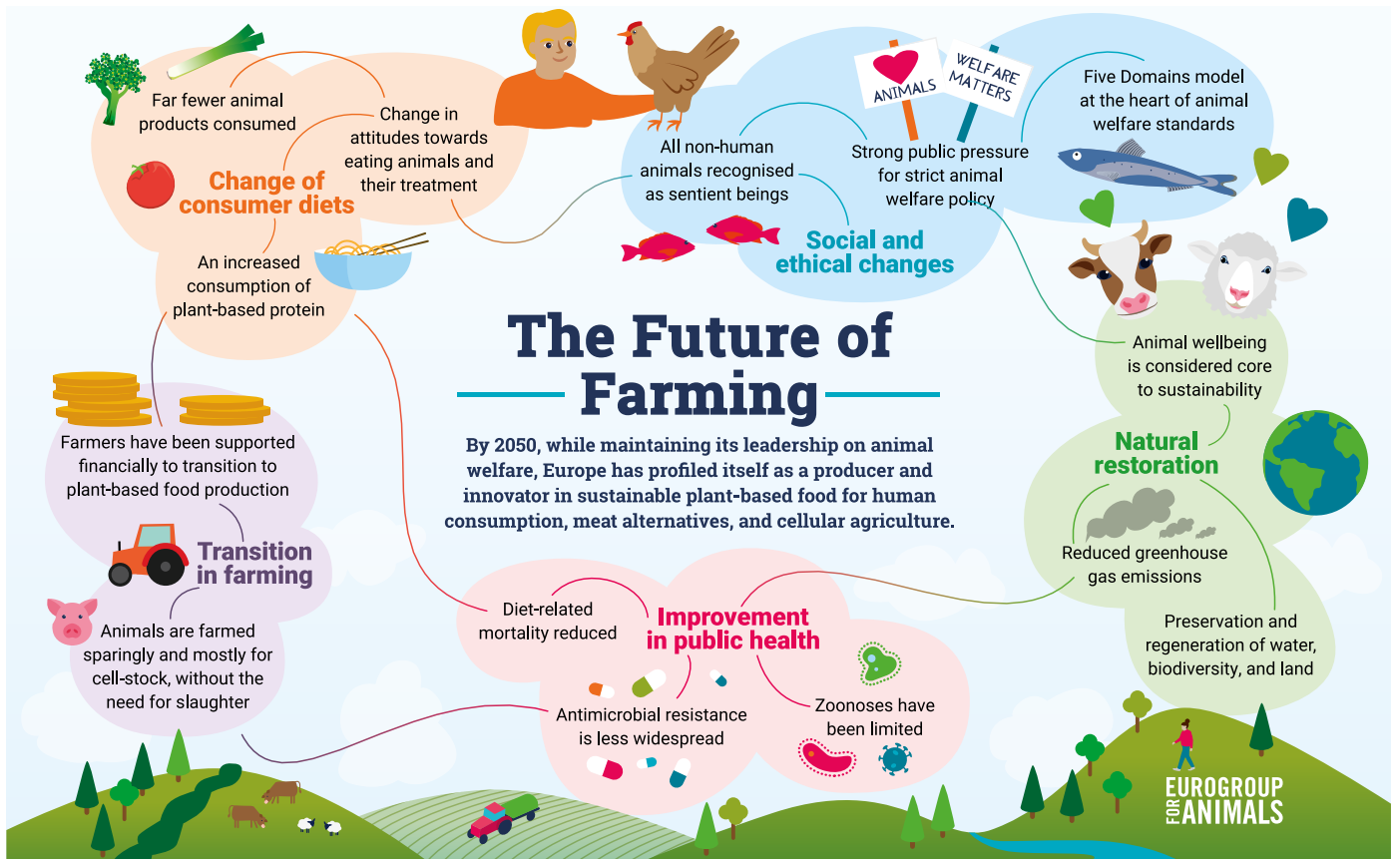
The publication of the [results of the fitness check of the animal welfare legislation](#) from the European Commission was the first indication of how our efforts to unify the animal welfare movement towards the revision of the animal welfare legislation are starting to show. The document reveals very strong participation by citizens and NGOs, the urgency of the need for the revision of the animal welfare legislation, as well as the clear role of animal welfare in sustainability.

In 2022, we worked on our position towards [new genomic techniques](#), reflecting why these should not be a quick fix to a much needed major change in our food system. At the same time we published our [vision for the future of farming in the EU](#). This vision shows an EU that, whilst still maintaining its leadership in animal welfare, has become a global leader in protein production with plant-based and non-slaughter animal products.



The momentum is building for the moment where we will see the draft of the new animal welfare legislation for farm animals all over Europe and (hopefully) beyond as well as the new Farm to Fork food policy laws. Yet in the political environment, we see increasing polarisation between positions regarding our food system, with several stakeholders defending business as usual with a very strong stance. During 2022, we have been preparing for the hard marathon we have in front of us, but now we are ready to endure it and finish it with flying colours!"

INÉS GRENHO AJUDA
Farm Animals Programme Leader



2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

- ✓ Eurogroup for Animals, together with **World Federation for Animals, Aquatic Life Institute, Compassion in World Farming, FOUR PAWS** and **World Animal Protection**, hosted an exhibition at COP27.
- ✓ **Compassion in World Farming** launched their new campaign "*End of the Line for Factory Farming*" to bring factory farming and high meat consumption to the end of the line once and for all.
- ✓ **Welfarm** launched their new campaign "*Chaud Dedans*" which exposes the suffering of farm animals in hot weather.
- ✓ **Essere Animali** released an investigation carried out in seven Italian rabbit farms giving a complete picture of the living conditions of rabbits reared for meat in Italy.
- ✓ **Animal Equality** released disturbing footage of deliberate violence and neglect on a large dairy farm in South Wales which holds over 650 cows.
- ✓ **Dyrenes Beskyttelse** and REMA 1000, a leading discount chain in Denmark, have recently signed an agreement to raise animal welfare to the highest level for more products produced from pigs, chickens, and cows.

IN 2023 WE WILL



Publish our demands for dairy cows, pigs and rabbits via policy briefings.



Develop our new strategy together with our member organisations for the years to come with a new European Parliament, a new European Commission and based on our vision for the future of farming.

FARM ANIMALS

CHICKEN



2022 was a breakthrough year for poultry, as the process of the revision of the animal welfare legislation made progress alongside massive wins for chickens reached by our members engaged with corporate stakeholders.



2022 was a year of important steps towards a better world for farm animals. By working together we made significant progress in the process of ending the use of cages on European farms. Soon cages will become a relic of the past."

PAWEŁ RAWICKI
CEO, Otwarte Klatki

In the [public consultation](#) carried out by the European Commission, 93% of the respondents claimed that cages should be phased out within 5 years or less, clearly supporting a smooth and swift transition to a better life for millions of caged laying hens.

To harness this momentum, we have been active on many fronts, making sure to make the most of the vast opportunities that surfaced in 2022. We brought poultry welfare issues driven by genetic factors to the limelight in January during the European Parliament's Animal Welfare Intergroup session "[Selective breeding issues in livestock farming](#)" with speakers from the European Commission (Kirsten Vornhagen) and our member [Dyrenes Beskyttelse](#) (Mia Bonnichsen) ([see section Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals](#)).

[The EU Platform on Animal Welfare](#) subgroup on poultry recommendations concluded with a strong statement on the cage-free transition, which is another promising step towards a better future for laying hens. Another project in which we participated, [Best Practice Hens Project](#), also concluded with robust recommendations, and is now in the dissemination phase, preparing producers for the transition.

On an organisational level, we have been very successful in finalising major documents that will help guide our work throughout the next years – [the Chicken Strategy 2022-2024](#) and the [policy briefing on laying hen welfare](#). We held a productive meeting of the chicken subgroup in November, with 36 active participants in the discussion. One of the outcomes of the meeting was creating the male chick culling Task Force, which swiftly produced a position on day-old poultry culling.

This was a direct reaction to the opportunities provided by the European Commission during the AGRIFISH Council in October, when Commissioner Kyriakides expressed support for a ban on male chick culling.

To expand the work of our members on mobilising political support for higher laying hen or broiler welfare at national level, we allocated €100,000 through our regranting programme. We opened grant applications in October and received seven applications in total. We are proud to provide members with financial support for these crucial activities and hope to continue such operations in the future.

We have also commissioned a [study](#) comparing the costs of conventional and European Chicken Commitment-aligned broiler production to support our work on broiler welfare. This was key to proving to the European Commission that the transition to higher welfare standards will not be as costly as our opponents say, and that the costs can be offset.

Our collaboration with the [Open Wing Alliance](#) has flourished, with Maya Cygańska representing us in the [European Chicken Commitment \(ECC\) Advisory Committee](#) and Inês Grenho Ajuda in the ECC Technical Working Group. We have also been invited to co-host important meetings such as the ECC review.

In direct communication with the European Commission, we have been continuously stressing the need to include unprotected poultry such as turkeys and quail in the revised legislation. We also ran a [successful digital campaign](#) in December 2022, to highlight the mistreatment and abuse of turkeys and waterfowl in intensive farming systems.



Taking the lead on our work on poultry in 2022 was a huge and exciting responsibility, as this year provided so many opportunities to expand our activities and make an impact for these animals. Our members have been so inspiring, sharing their knowledge and making a joint effort throughout the year to promote poultry welfare. I am very grateful for their tireless work and am excited for all that awaits us in 2023 with such a fantastic team of animal advocates.”



MAYA CYGAŃSKA

Farm Animals Programme Officer



2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

- ✓ **Djurens Rätt** produced a short animated film *"The World's Best Animal Welfare"* about the reality of broiler chickens. They also took police action against a Swedish factory farm after receiving images showing chickens living in atrocious conditions.

- ✓ **Animal Equality** released an [investigation](#) in Italy revealing how the biological condition of faster-growing chickens condemns them to a life of suffering.

- ✓ Huge victory for **Dyrenes Beskyttelse** after the Danish government has decided to ban the production of cage eggs in Denmark, beginning in 2023.

- ✓ On behalf of the Italian End the Cage Age coalition, **LAV** and **Compassion in World Farming** co-hosted an event in Rome on 25 May to urge the Italian government to support the European Commission's initiative to ban the use of cages, as well as to start the national transition to cage-free systems.

- ✓ **Essere Animalì** released a [shocking video](#) that exposes how quails are being treated on two farms in Lombardia and Veneto, Italy.

- ✓ **Equalia** and **Animal Equality** have spoken out against Lidl, following the release of a [video taken undercover](#) that shows chickens living in atrocious conditions.

- ✓ **GAIA** launched a [petition](#) to end the force feeding of ducks and geese in Wallonia.

- ✓ Norwegian producer Norsk Kylling has improved standards for broiler chickens by providing additional space, natural light and improved killing methods, thanks to a collaboration with **Dyrevernalliansen**.

- ✓ **Equalia** [exposed appalling conditions](#) for animals at a chicken farm linked to Europe's fourth-largest poultry producer, AIA, which sells its product in shops across Europe.

IN 2023 WE WILL



Launch a white paper on implementing higher welfare for broiler breeds in legislation.



Work on policy briefings laying out recommendations for turkey and broiler welfare.



Draw up a strategy for the chicken subgroup.



Strengthen our position as experts in EU lobbying for better chicken welfare.

FARM ANIMALS

LIVE TRANSPORT

Every year billions of farm animals (ovines, bovines, poultry, and pigs) are transported alive across the European Union and to non-European countries. Live transport is a major concern as animals are exposed to stress at loading and unloading, and can suffer hunger, thirst, exhaustion, and lack of space and rest during transit. Transporting live animals not only poses serious risks for the animals but also, potentially, for public health due to the possible spread of diseases.

Eurogroup for Animals and its members have been campaigning for decades to end the transport of live animals.

In January 2022, following the ANIT Committee Report published in December 2021 and the resulting Recommendation of the European Parliament, the European Commission activated a new thematic working group on transport within the EU Platform on Animal Welfare.

In April 2022, in the position paper [“Animal Welfare during transport”](#), we called on the European Commission and co-legislators to revise and enlarge the scope of the Transport Regulation in line with the latest recommendations made by the European Food Safety Authority, the World Animal Health Organisation and the Federation of the Veterinarians of Europe.

In May 2022, Eurogroup for Animals, **FOUR PAWS** and Henk Staghouwer, Dutch Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality organised “*Moving Matters II*” a workshop aimed at going deeper into stakeholder views with regard to three key issues:

- Transport for slaughter of end-of-career animals;
- Transport of unweaned animals;
- Regional production and knowledge sharing of already existing best practices.



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IN 2023 WE WILL



Maintain pressure for an ambitious revision of the Transport regulation to prevent animals from being transported unnecessarily, especially over long distances;



Push for a ban on live export and sea transport;



Raise awareness of the fact that the transport of farm animals should be reduced, refined and replaced by meat/carcasses and semen/embryos, as recommended by the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).



Publish a business case for a transition from the export of live animals to the export of meat and carcasses to third EU countries in France, Spain and Portugal.

2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



Many road checks were carried out by **Essere Animali** investigators highlighting the problems associated with live animal transport.



Dyrenes Beskyttelse published a new report "*Long-distance transport of calves*" calling for a ban on live exports of unweaned calves.



Animal Welfare Foundation, Compassion in World Farming and **Animals International** witnessed how an old, former cargo ship with nearly 8,000 animals on board needed to be replaced while at sea.



Several public campaigns like **Stop The Trucks** and **No Animal Left Behind** have echoed European citizens' demands regarding live animal transport over the years. It has become clear that The Transport Regulation needs to be thoroughly revised to finally improve the transport conditions of billions of animals every year."



SUSANNA BLATTNER

Policy Officer Transport and Slaughter

FARM ANIMALS

AQUATIC ANIMALS

Aquatic animals have gained a deeper level of attention in the legislative review. Early in the year, we brought Commission and national officials together with experts for a mock training session and to connect the dots between welfare activities happening under the Commission's separate animal welfare and aquaculture work programmes.

The [fish welfare guidelines](#), previously adopted by the EU Platform on Animal Welfare, were translated into 22 languages by the European Commission, taking a huge step in disseminating best practices in this often neglected area.

Engaging intensively with the aquaculture sector, we have built considerable shared understanding and, through the Aquaculture Advisory Council, we published consensus position papers on [fish transport](#) and a [fish welfare reference centre](#). Publishing our own comprehensive asks for on-farm welfare in aquaculture was a great achievement thanks to our member organisations providing technical knowledge and finding a common position.

We also managed to get a mention of fish welfare into the European Parliament [report on aquaculture](#), and in the [Council conclusions](#) published in July. The year closed with the European Commission [announcing](#) that the next EU Reference Centre on Animal Welfare will be for fish. This is a great indication that the legislative review is still placing high importance on fish welfare, and a tangible, early investment in strong implementation measures.

As major sustainable aquaculture labelling schemes introduce welfare criteria, we have been providing input directly to their drafting committees, and have supported member

organisations in driving increasing levels of ambition in the standards with each consultation round.

To expand the work of our members on mobilising political and corporate support for higher fish welfare at national level, we allocated over €60,000 to six member organisations through our regranting programme in 2022.

Fish were out of sight for a long time, but they were never alone under the waterline. All of our work on fisheries, aquaculture and trade now extends to decapod crustaceans and cephalopod molluscs. The legislative review has them within scope for new legislation, and we were able to start a project focused on opposing the emergence of octopus farming.





It's been a great year of knowledge coming together and showing what can be done to make change for fish. Our member organisations came to a shared view on comprehensive welfare standards in aquaculture. The legislative process is driving the next steps in generating and consolidating knowledge. Next year it gets handed over to politics for a very different phase!"

DOUGLAS WALEY

Senior Fish Welfare Programme Leader



2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

- ✓ Following a committed campaign of lobbying and actions by **Crustacean Compassion**, decapod crustaceans and cephalopod molluscs were recognised as sentient in law in the UK.
- ✓ **Humanny Pokrok** led a successful campaign to secure retailer commitments to end the sale of live carp from four retailers, leaving only two retailers continuing to sell them in Slovakia. They also gathered over 13,500 signatures in support of a national ban.



The scientific and legal recognition of decapod and cephalopod sentience is a vital step towards achieving humane treatment for these fascinating animals. We will continue to work for their inclusion within other animal welfare legislation and to ensure their welfare is adequately addressed within industry policies and practices. It is exciting to see this momentum building not only in the UK but also within other countries in the EU and beyond, as together we have the potential to positively impact the welfare of billions of decapods around the world."



CLAIRE HOWARD

Director, Crustacean Compassion

IN 2023 WE WILL



Expect to see detailed provisions for fish welfare during slaughter to be published and come under scrutiny and negotiation by policymakers. It is the first topic that we will see detailed proposals on. It is particularly important that we provide technical and economic justifications in support of meaningful new provisions, and that we push to maintain political support throughout the different institutions and negotiations.



Follow up on the EU institutions' discussion on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). This is our opportunity to ensure the welfare of target species in wild capture fisheries is recognised as a neglected issue and becomes an objective for increasing research, market incentives, and standards.

FARM ANIMALS

AQUATIC ANIMALS - OCTOPUS

During 2022, we officially kicked off our project to slow developments in octopus farming. We initially focused our attention on three main project areas: restricting access to EU funding, challenging the licensing and operations of this first industrial farm, and working to ensure the revised animal welfare legislation bans production and imports of farmed octopus.

Relating to our work on blocking EU funds from supporting octopus farming, a key moment was our meeting with representatives of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) of the European Commission. This meeting followed indications that the Spanish multinational aquaculture company, Nueva Pescanova, would submit a request to use these funds for the development of the world's first industrial octopus farm. Our meeting revealed opportunities for monitoring and disrupting the disbursement of these funds if they were to be approved for unsustainable purposes. We will use these important insights to monitor and guide appropriate actions.

We also engaged the members of our Animal Law Working Group to help lay the groundwork for challenging the licensing procedures and operational plans for this first farm in Spain. With their expertise, we successfully commissioned lawyers in Spain who have been critical in aiding our understanding of the relevant permission processes and uncovering information to guide effective future campaign tactics.

In terms of legislative progress, our team initiated a dialogue with the European Commission on the myriad issues surrounding industrial octopus farming. An important tool used was that of parliamentary questions, which we coordinated alongside several of our member organisations in Spain and suggested to supportive MEPs.

Through these questions, a request was made on planned measures for banning industrial octopus farming under the current animal welfare legislative review. It was also explicitly noted that octopus farming does not align with several EU principles relating to animal welfare and sustainable aquaculture, including: Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, EU Strategic Aquaculture Guidelines, and the Farm to Fork strategy. This engagement served as the necessary first step in lobbying for a ban on intensively farmed octopus production and imports within EU animal welfare legislation.

Finally, we had a successful campaign around World Octopus Day. For this, we helped to coordinate a joint letter with 37 NGOs calling for the European Commission to ban octopus farming, co-hosted a webinar with **In Defense of Animals** and the **Animal Save Movement** reaching over 1,000 people, and participated in a *#StopOctopusFarming* social media action with 14 member organisations.

All the activities mentioned above also helped to forge new relationships with external partners, including several key relationships in Spain.

FOR WORLD OCTOPUS DAY:

Joint letter with 37 NGOs

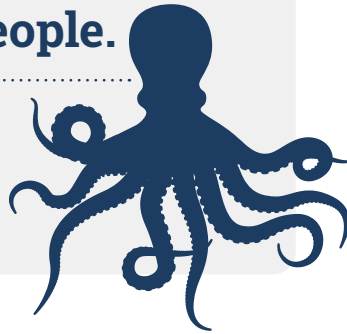
calling on the European Commission to ban octopus farming.

Webinar event with **In Defense of Animals** and the **Animal Save Movement**

reaching over 1,000 people.

#StopOctopusFarming social media action with

14 members.



IN 2023 WE WILL



Launch a report, "*Uncovering the horrific reality of octopus farming*" in partnership with Compassion in World Farming.



Release a call for proposals to our member organisations in Spain to provide funding for national-level campaign activities. This will come at an opportune time to influence the regional elections in the Canary Islands and respond to any permission approvals for Nueva Pescanova's farm.



Conduct a targeted letter campaign with the World Federation for Animals' International Financial Institutions Working Group. This will be aimed at discouraging aquaculture financiers and investors from putting funds toward any new and unsustainable aquaculture developments.



Launch pilot studies focused on Spain and Belgium as well as one at the EU level, each covering monitoring points to bring transparency into the processes of new animal-based farming developments. The goal will be to allow for earlier and more effective interventions from the animal protection movement.



Focus on lobbying activities to include a ban on octopus farming and imported octopus products under the animal welfare legislative review.

2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES



Dr Elena Lara of **Compassion in World Farming** drafted a joint letter to the European Commission calling for a ban on octopus farming, which was signed by 37 international NGOs for World Octopus Day ([mentioned above](#)).



Compassion in World Farming also drafted a letter targeting the Canary Islands Government earlier in the year in partnership with environmental organisations in Spain, including **WWF**, **Greenpeace** and **Ecologists in Action**.



The **Aquatic Life Institute** launched their *#BanOctopusFarming* campaign website and established an Aquatic Animal Policy focus group whose first mission will be to target octopus farming.



Several of our members participated in the public inquiry process related to Nueva Pescanova's farm permissions by signing on to a [joint letter](#).



Our work on octopus farming is a unique opportunity to prevent horrible animal suffering at the industrial level before it begins. I am thrilled to be leading such critical work with a member base that has been willing to share their trove of knowledge and expertise with me from day one. We have a long way to go to achieve a ban, but I feel hopeful that we can make a difference for these beautiful and fascinating creatures."



KERI TIEGE

Octopus Project Consultant

FARM ANIMALS

FOOD POLICY

2022 was an important year for food policy. The European Commission started work on the Framework for an EU Sustainable Food System and the revision of the EU School fruit, vegetables and milk scheme, and, together with our member GAIA, we hosted Europe's first symposium on cultivated meat and precision fermentation.

A key initiative under the EU Farm to Fork strategy is the framework for a sustainable food system (FSFS) that aims to integrate sustainability into all food-related policies. During the year we, along with our members, participated in the European Commission's public consultation and stakeholder interviews on the new legislation. In line with our aim to put animal welfare at the heart of EU sustainability policy, we asked that the framework clearly establish the link between animal welfare and food system sustainability, achieve system change in animal agriculture and promote enabling food environments where it becomes easier for people to choose the plant-based option.

In order to influence this major new law and the wider food system transformation towards less and better animal products we managed to get funding from **Healthy Food Healthy Planet** and the **European Climate Foundation** for a new project: *"Put Change on the Menu"* together with our two partners the **European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)**, and the **European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)**.



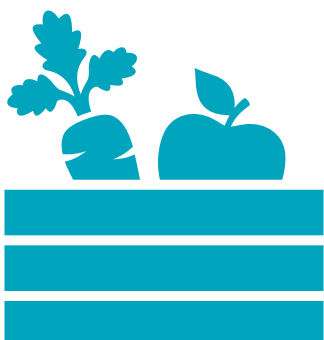
DYRENES BESKYTTELSE

How we treat farm animals in the future is strongly connected to how we shape our food system and dietary habits today. As these years will see significant political decisions about the future food system both at EU and at national level, we, as the voice of animals, must stand together. While it is not easy to push for a change in diets and better food environments, it inspires me to drive change together with other dedicated Eurogroup for Animals members from all over Europe."



SOPHIE HASTRUP CHRISTENSEN

Senior policy adviser, DVM, Dyrenes Beskyttelse



PUTTING CHANGE ON THE MENU – OUR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS PROJECT

In September 2022, we kicked off our Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Project, now named *"Put Change on the Menu"*. The two-year project with BEUC and EPHA pools the strengths of consumer, health and animal advocates to accelerate the shift to sustainable food systems by moving the debate around food environments to the forefront. Specifically, we aim for the new EU legislative framework for sustainable food systems (FSFS) to create food environments that promote plant-based diets with less and better animal products. Food environments are the spaces in which people make decisions about food: what to take, where to buy it, where to cook it, and when, where and with whom to eat it.

The FSFS can address several food environment elements including advertising and marketing, labelling and public procurement. Current food environments largely push consumers towards unhealthy and unsustainable foods, which are the most available, advertised, and often the cheapest options too. Enabling food environments, however, can support a dietary shift towards plant-based and away from industrial animal products and thus boost animal welfare.

Moreover, we aim to influence the EU elections in May 2024 by mobilising our networks around sustainable, mainly plant-based diets with less and better animal products. Ultimately with a long-term view to changing the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) from focusing only on production and instead becoming a policy for a healthy, sustainable food system (a Common Food Policy).

The project was met with great interest by members of the Reduction and Replacement Sub-Working Group. A mapping exercise with 16 member organisations that are active in 11 countries showed the many ways in which our members are already active in promoting less and better and sustainable food systems. Within the project we developed a set of shared policy demands around food environments that support sustainable healthy diets in order to align and amplify the messages from consumer, health and animal protection organisations. Since the launch of the SFS project, we have intensified our lobbying efforts around the FSFS and, together with BEUC and EPHA, have organised lobbying meetings with key European Commission officials.

BUILDING A EUROPE THAT CARES FOR ANIMALS



Strong call for plant-based dairy alternatives in the EU school milk scheme

The EU school scheme supports the supply of fruit, vegetables and milk to children. Up to €90.1 million is spent per school year on distributing milk to school children, but currently, plant-based dairy alternatives, such as those made from oat and soy, are not included in this support. In line with the goal of promoting healthy, sustainable food consumption, the Farm to Fork strategy announced the revision of the school scheme.

Together with our member organisations we helped mobilise a large number of EU citizens to participate in the European Commission's public consultation: it shows strong support for plant-based drinks to be included (72% of respondents).

In addition, we have called on the European Commission to only include higher animal welfare milk from organic farms in the scheme, in line with the EU Organic Action Plan. The European Commission is expected to put forward a proposal for the revised school scheme at the end of 2023.

Putting cultivated meat on the sustainable food system agenda

In addition to our work for more plant-based food and less and better animal products, we have engaged with start-ups in the cultivated meat sector to create a favourable political environment for the first novel food applications, both in Brussels and at Member State level. We have raised awareness among other NGOs about cultivated meat as a piece in the puzzle towards food systems transformation. Together with our member **GAIA**, we organised Europe's first-ever symposium on animal-free and sustainable meats, where we explored opportunities, barriers and benefits as well as the perception of consumers. We also held a VIP roundtable that brought together key policymakers and cultivated meat start-ups.

Advocating for animal welfare and dietary shift at the climate meeting COP27

Animal welfare has for a long time been absent from the UN sustainability agenda although animal welfare is intrinsically linked to most of the Sustainable Development Goals. The way we treat animals has major negative impacts on the environment and climate change. Improving animal welfare has co-benefits for animals, people and the planet. Together with **Aquatic Life Institute**, **Compassion in World Farming**, **FOUR PAWS**, **World Animal Protection** and **World Federation for Animals** we showcased this at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, through our exhibition "[Protecting animals to protect the planet – animal welfare and sustainable development](#)".

Together with our member **World Animal Protection**, we hosted the official UNFCCC side event at COP27, "*Transitioning agriculture systems for sustainability and climate resistance*", focusing on a Just Protein Transition to plant-based protein and agroecology.



WELCOME SYMPOSIUM

'THE EVOLUTION OF FOOD: TOWARDS
ANIMAL-FREE AND SUSTAINABLE
TECHNOLOGY'



Together with GAIA, we organised Europe's first-ever symposium on cultivated meat and precision fermentation

2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

- ✓ Europe's first-ever symposium on cultivated meat and precision fermentation co organised with **GAIA** "*The evolution of food – towards animal-free and sustainable technology*" gathered scientific experts, industry representatives and advocates to discuss the future of our food system.
- ✓ **GreenREV's** European Vegan Summit gathered European lawmakers, leading scientists, business, media, NGOs and activists committed to accelerating the increasingly necessary food system transformation.



What exciting times to start my job on sustainable food systems! With the EU framework law underway and the European elections around the corner, this is the moment to put change on the menu – for animals, people and the planet."



JONATHAN SANDER
Sustainable Food Systems Project Officer

IN 2023 WE WILL



We will continue our work to shape the Framework for a Sustainable EU Food System and promote our message of less and better animal products. This includes organising a large public event to make the concept of food environments tangible for EU policymakers.

FARM ANIMALS

INSECT FARMING

Over the past years, the European Commission has been working towards the development of an intensive insect production industry. In 2017, insect meal was authorised in aquaculture feed, effectively launching the sector.

Insects will become the most farmed animals in the world.

Over **50 trillion** individuals could be intensively farmed by 2030.

Today, it is estimated that there are...

19.6 billion farmed chickens

1.4 billion cattle

980 million pigs



During 2022, we have continued to engage with our member organisations, the European institutions and other stakeholders, firmly anchoring insects in our farm animal advocacy portfolio. Insect farming is, now, part of Eurogroup for Animals' long-term vision, the *"Future of farming"*.

The year-long scoping that we have conducted on the insect farming industry has allowed us to better understand how the European institutions approach insect farming authorisations and identify how a lack of joined-up thinking within the European Commission allows the industry to develop, with little contextualisation in EU agri-food strategies and animal welfare priorities.

Moreover, we have conducted research into the main industrial players, where they obtain funding and what this means for the future development of the industry that, as identified at the beginning of the project, is firmly based on feed, rather than food. In the first quarter of 2023, we will publish a report outlining these findings.

A key deliverable of the project was the publication of a review on the welfare needs of certain insect species in farming facilities: [*"Insect farming and sustainable food systems: the precautionary principle"*](#). It makes the link between insect farming and the food system, advocating application of the precautionary principle. The report was widely disseminated within the EU institutions and presented to our member organisations during a meeting of the Reduction and Replacement Working Group.

We have also begun interacting more directly with the insect farming industry, by reaching out to banks that are funding the sector, through industry media, such as [Feed and Additive](#) magazine, an industry welfare roundtable scheduled in February 2023, and participation in an [Italian prime-time TV](#) broadcast (broadcast in February 2023).



2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

This is a new topic for us, so to begin scoping the issue our member organisations:

- ✓ Actively participated in a debate on insect welfare in farming facilities in the Reduction and Replacement Working Group.
- ✓ Co-signed a letter to the International Finance Corporation.



I feel that we are repeating with insects the same mistakes we made in the past with other intensively farmed species. Insects may not be as cuddly as other animals, but they also deserve a life worth living."

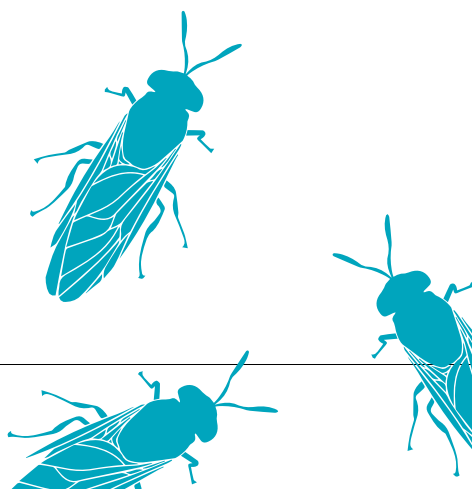


JACOPO MOCCIA
Political Adviser, Insect Farming

IN 2023 WE WILL



Thanks to renewed funding, we will prepare a long-term strategy for our continued work on insect farming, including the feed supply chain, and the welfare of newly farmed species such as insects. This also includes the recognition of sentience in insects.



TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE

The EU imports a significant amount of animal products, yet European animal welfare standards do not apply to these imports. This unconditional trade stimulates the production of cheaper and poorer animal-based products abroad, while giving local producers and authorities – who feel economically disadvantaged – the means to fight any ambitious revision of the EU’s animal welfare legislation.

In March 2022, together with the French Presidency of the Council of the EU and in collaboration with our members **Fondation Brigitte Bardot, Welfarm** and **Compassion in World Farming**, we organised an event on the trade dimension of the revision of European legislation on animal welfare. During the event, we launched our joint report with Compassion in World Farming **“Bye Bye cages”**, on the legality of an EU ban on the sales of meat and eggs produced from caged animals including imported food. Prior to this public event, we organised a closed-door workshop on the legality of imposing future cage rules to imports, attended by key policymaking officials, from DG AGRI, DG TRADE, DG SANTE, Member States and other relevant stakeholders, including Members of the European Parliament, farmers’ associations, and environmental organisations.

In June, a report published by the European Commission confirmed the ability to extend the application of EU animal welfare standards to imported agricultural and agri-food products, in compliance with World Trade Organization’s standards.




End of June, the EU and New Zealand concluded negotiations for their future trade deal. While the agreement still contains tariff-rate quotas for New Zealand beef and sheep meat, the deal contains an animal welfare condition: the beef quota will be reserved for meat derived from animals fed with grass, hence excluding feedlots.

In June, we also got our first success regarding animal welfare in sustainability-related legislation: the European Parliament and the Council agreed to include animal welfare within the scope of the revised Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. The reformed Directive recognises that animal welfare is linked to sustainability and should be taken into account by companies when establishing and reporting about their impacts on sustainability. This is a further success following the EU Code of Conduct on responsible business and marketing practices that successfully incorporated animal welfare concerns, and it has supported conversations about including animal welfare in the proposed directive on Due Diligence, which is now being discussed in the European Parliament.

In 2022, we also launched a **policy briefing** explaining how trade in animal products fuels deforestation, which contributed to the adoption of the EU regulation on imported deforestation at the beginning of December. The new regulation will require companies to trace their commodities back along the supply chain to prove that a forest was not recently cleared to produce it, or face fines. The future regulation conditions imports of beef and leather to deforestation-free standards, but for now leaves out other animal products that contribute to deforestation, as well as other natural ecosystems beyond forests that are destroyed by EU-driven deforestation.



In response to the war in Ukraine, the EU has temporarily suspended all tariffs and quotas on Ukrainian exports, resulting in significant increases in imports of egg, poultry and dairy products in 2022.

IN TONNES	2021	2022
 EGGS AND EGG PRODUCTS	3,208	14,814
 POULTRY-RELATED PRODUCTS	50,747	84,126
 DAIRY PRODUCTS	560	7,248



After the pandemics, the war in Ukraine has exacerbated the willingness to negotiate, conclude and ratify new trade deals in order to diversify our supply chains. This renewed appetite for trade agreements with a special focus on the sourcing of raw materials that will adversely impact local ecosystems should not come at the expense of the planet and all living species. On the contrary, the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022 and the announced revision of the animal welfare legislation should be mirrored in trade policy so as to leverage it to achieve progress for our partners. The expertise and the persuasiveness of Eurogroup for Animals will be key in this endeavour and in the monitoring of the effectiveness of the new provisions.”

SASKIA BRICMONT

Member of the European Parliament,
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance



The war in Ukraine froze our lobbying activities for an Ukrainian legislative approximation to EU standards. However, as trade in poultry and egg products have significantly increased in the past year, and now that Ukraine is a candidate country to join the EU, we will work towards prioritising animal welfare in the reconstruction and accession process that should benefit all animals in Ukraine.

This year the trade team also published two reports on the EU's trade agreements with **Japan** and **Vietnam**. Our Japan report identifies promising areas for EU-Japan cooperation on animal welfare, including on key areas such as the welfare of broiler chickens, laying hens and pigs. Our Vietnam report calls for the partners to make full use of the free trade agreement's provisions on animal welfare cooperation, particularly on aquaculture and poultry welfare, and also on Trade and Sustainable Development.

2022 was the year where the Trade programme transitioned from a Steering Committee with five members (**World Animal Protection, FOUR PAWS, Deutscher Tierschutzbund, Djurens Rätt** and **Dierenbescherming**) to a full-fledged Trade and Animal Welfare member group.



We are at a turning point in trade policy. The EU is now very slowly starting to look at how trade impacts production methods abroad and discussions on trade and animal welfare have never been so high on the agenda. We need to continue our work to make sure the next Commission and Parliament won't disappoint!"



DANIEL PÉREZ VEGA
Trade and Animal Welfare Programme Officer

IN 2023 WE WILL



Continue to lobby to condition imports of animal products to animal welfare standards with the publication of a report *"Stop fuelling cruelty"*.



Continue to oppose the EU-Mercosur deal as it stands, unless adequate unilateral measures are adopted.



Work on the ratification of various trade agreements (EU-Chile, EU-Mexico, EU-New Zealand).



Work towards an inclusive strategy for all animals in the accession negotiations of Ukraine to the EU.



Monitor the negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council on the Due Diligence directive.



Continue our work with TAWC (Trade and Animal Welfare Coalition) to promote animal welfare in UK trade policy.

ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

The European Commission's plans to revise EU legislation under the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability are expected to have a major impact on millions of animals. European citizens, industry, academia, and politicians have made it clear how important it is for the European Commission to step up its efforts to limit the impacts on animal testing in the short term, along with a need to rethink the EU regulatory system in the long term, with the ambition of phasing out the use of animals for the safety assessment of chemicals altogether. We are working towards full support for a broad and EU-wide coordinated strategy for transitioning to non-animal approaches and technologies in research, regulatory testing and education.

In January 2022, a Commission survey for the revision of REACH triggered [reactions of discontentment](#) from all stakeholders by depicting non-animal approaches for chemical safety assessments as inferior to animal testing strategies. REACH is the EU Regulation for Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals, which currently relies heavily on animal testing for the safety assessment of chemicals. With additional testing categories being added to the legislation under the scope of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, and in the absence of a strategy to rethink the current chemicals framework, the REACH revision is expected to lead to further increases in animal testing.

In February 2022, the European Commission gave a weak response to the European Parliament's request for an Action Plan to phase out the use of animals in science. In its reply, the Commission largely listed existing initiatives in place for promoting non-animal approaches and the 3Rs of Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement, with no significant new plans for identifying concrete actions and goals towards achieving sustainable reductions in the use of animals in research, regulatory testing and education.

The ECI *Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics – Commit to a Europe without animal testing* gathered [1.2 million validated signatures](#) from EU citizens and exceeded the threshold of citizens' support in no less than 21 Member States. This is the [second successful ECI](#) within the past ten years that has called on the Commission to increase efforts to phase out the use of animals in science.

The overwhelming public support adds to the voices of scientists, industry and politicians who ask for coordinated and targeted policies to reduce and replace the use of animals in science.

In the last quarter of 2022, the European Commission has committed to [developing a roadmap](#) for conducting chemical safety assessment without animal testing. The roadmap aims to: **(1)** evaluate the regulatory landscape and identify critical needs; **(2)** increase the use of non-animal approaches under the current chemical regulatory systems; and **(3)** look beyond current regulatory settings for a completely animal-free system.

Eurogroup for Animals has published its own [position paper](#) laying out the key elements we believe are necessary in a strategy for transitioning to non-animal science. After exchanging views with all stakeholders and regulators, we pulled together the steps necessary to accelerate progress, in order to achieve sustainable reductions in the use of animals in science and support researchers, educators, students and regulators in changing working practices.

We also reached out to hundreds of EU scientists and research funders to make them aware of the [latest developments of non-animal models](#) in three disease areas. As the Joint Research Centre continued to review and highlight opportunities for using non-animal methods in a variety of disease areas in biomedicine, we helped to disseminate this knowledge to those involved in funding and using animals in these research fields.



Our goal is to help raise awareness, and expand and promote the use and development of non-animal approaches in biomedicine.

We helped to organise sessions at the [congress of the European Society for Alternatives to Animal Testing \(EUSAAT\)](#) aimed at opening up the discussion around the transition to non-animal science, including highlighting the importance of considerations related to social science aspects as well. This scientific field brings an essential and different element to the discussion: scientific practices do not change through the development of new technologies alone. Effective governance models, policies and support for scientists need to be put in place in order to accelerate this transition.

We developed [clear recommendations](#) to all Member States in order to improve transparency and harmonisation of information on their implementation of the EU animals in science Directive. By November 2023, Member States will be required to provide the European Commission with up-to-date information on various aspects of how they are implementing Directive 2010/63/EU. We have analysed the information previously provided by Member States and found shortcomings in the reporting of, for example: **(1)** the criteria and expertise for assessing project applications; **(2)** the measures taken to ensure that the 3Rs are satisfactorily addressed; **(3)** the main findings of inspections; and **(4)** education and training requirements for conducting experiments on animals.



1.2 million EU citizens

supported the ECI *Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics – Commit to a Europe without animal testing*.

550 emails

were exchanged with EU scientists and research funders to help raise awareness of the latest developments of non-animal models in breast cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and immuno-oncology.

15 reports were published,

aimed at [“Improving the reporting on the implementation of Directive 2010/63/EU”](#) within Member States.

7 key elements

were identified in our [position paper](#) for a strategy to transition to non-animal science.

2 events at the European Parliament

discussed non-animal approaches in the context of the EU chemicals legislation.



The ECI **Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics** powerfully backs up the demand of the European Parliament to accelerate the transition to non-animal science. With the voice of the citizens added to the chorus, the Commission cannot ignore the loud calls for an EU-wide strategy to phase out the use of animals in science for good.”

.....

TILLY METZ

Member of the European Parliament,
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance



We trust what we know. This year, it became clear that some major players relevant to the transition to non-animal testing apparently still view non-animal approaches as second class science. Moving forward, it will be important to improve the dialogue among all parties to build familiarity and confidence in the new methods.”

.....

DR LUÍSA BASTOS

Animals in Science Programme Leader



Words are important, but it is actions that matter. We have set out the 7 clear steps we think are necessary for accelerating the transition towards a place where science is done without harming animals. Our work will now focus on achieving progress on these.”

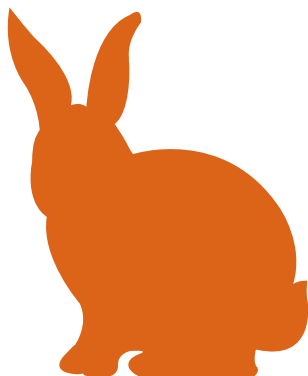
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BARNEY REED

Senior Scientific Officer, RSPCA and Chair of the
Animals in Science Working Group

2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

- ✔ **Doctors Against Animal Experiments** won the "Training" prize on the occasion of the ten-year anniversary of the Lush Prize, for raising public awareness on human-based research through their [Non-Animal Technologies \(NAT\) Database](#).
- ✔ On the occasion of the "Second Luxembourg 3R Symposium", **Lëtzebuenger Déiereschutzliga** awarded a 3R prize to the "Environmental Health Group" of the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology for the development of in vitro models of the human alveolar region.
- ✔ The **RSPCA** held several events for those involved in the regulation, use or care of laboratory animals. They also produced a [short video](#) envisioning a phase-out of animal use in science.
- ✔ **Proefdiervrij** published several [podcasts](#) on the broad topic of animal-free research, and launched a campaign and petition calling for non-animal science solutions to [human organ shortage](#). They also started a public campaign last summer to raise support to increase public funding of animal-free innovations. In November, they organised the first edition of the event "The Future of Non-Animal Research", at which they awarded the winner of the Hugo van Poelgeest Prize.
- ✔ **Animal-free Research** conducted a survey among [high school biology teachers](#) in Switzerland, which revealed the continued harmful use of animals in high school biology classes where non-harmful teaching media has been around for many decades.
- ✔ **Deutscher Tierschutzbund** organised a workshop on Replacing Foetal Bovine Serum in their own cell culture lab, and integrated a session and panel discussion on [alternatives to the use of animal-derived materials](#) at the EUSAAT congress.
- ✔ **Menschen für Tierrechte** worked on a phase-out strategy together with the newly formed German government, and published an [information brochure](#) on cruelty-free antibodies.



IN 2023 WE WILL



Seek the commitment of the European Commission to develop a concrete plan for accelerating the transition to non-animal science, as part of its reply to the ECI *Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics – Commit to a Europe without animal testing*.



Work in collaboration with the EU Institutions and supportive stakeholders to minimise the increase of animal testing due to legislative revisions under the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, and plot a longer-term roadmap to transition to non-animal testing.



Work with key experts to identify where animals are still being used in education and training in the EU, and raise awareness of the alternatives that exist to replace them.



Continue to work with the European Commission to improve animal welfare provisions under the animals in science Directive.



Reach more EU scientists and research funders to make them fully aware of advances and recommendations on advanced non-animal models in science.

CATS AND DOGS

There are around 70 million dogs and 80+ million cats in Europe where they are largely considered family members, yet companion animals do not receive the attention they deserve. We will continue working hard for this situation to change through the development of species-specific legislation for the best protection of their health and welfare.

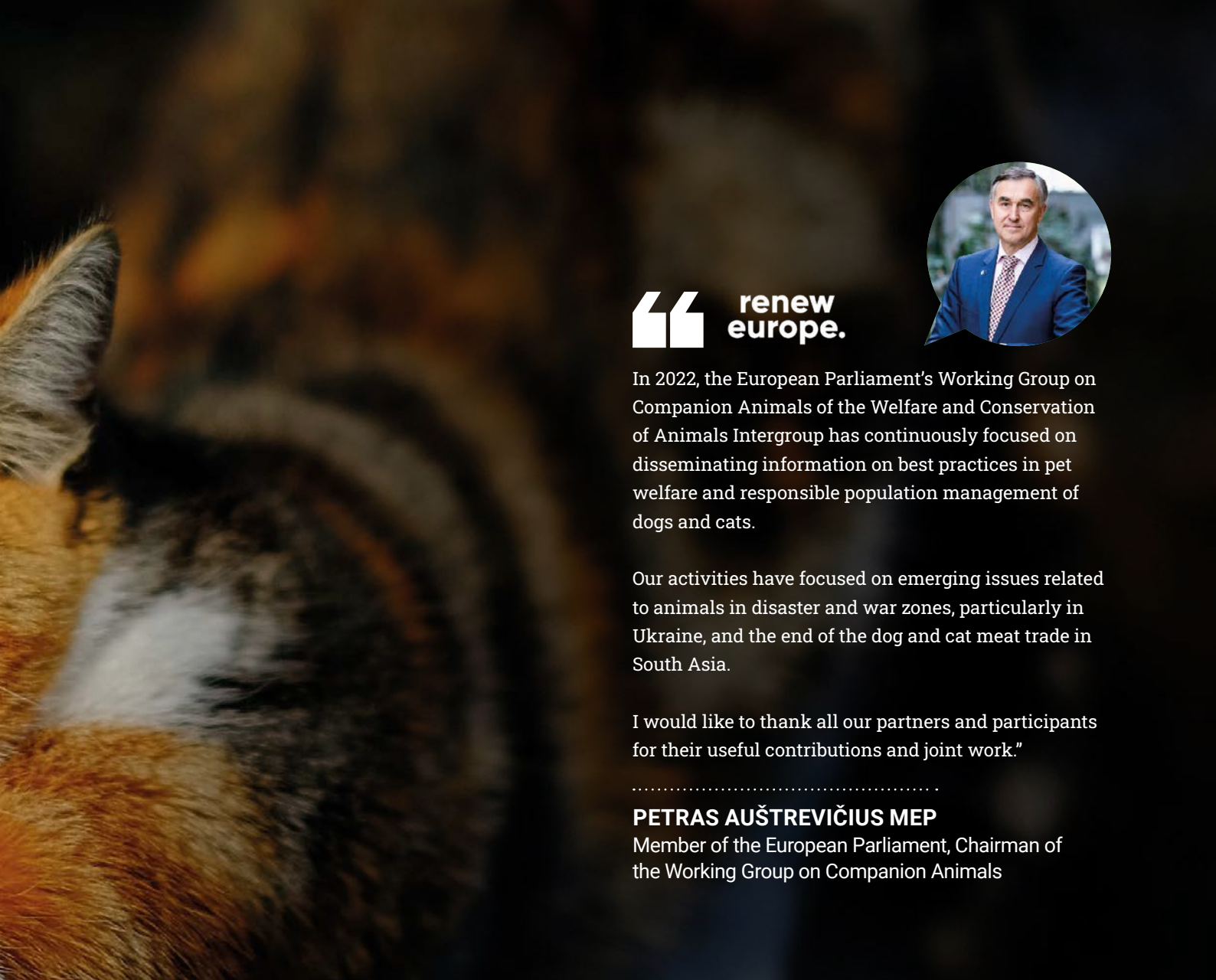
In March 2022, the European Commission launched a proposal for a Directive on **combating violence against women and domestic violence**. As there is a clear correlation between domestic violence and violence against companion animals, we called on the EU to include in the text provisions to protect all victims of domestic violence, thus not only women and children but also animals. Potential amendments to the draft decision produced by the European Parliament, which will be discussed in 2023, include these notions.

2022 also saw consensus between nine Member States and civil society organisations on two important documents within the Voluntary Initiative created under the EU Platform on Animal Welfare on the health and welfare of pets (dogs and cats) in trade. The first text, the Breeding Guidelines, calls among others for a ban on cosmetic surgeries and on breeding from animals with exaggerated features with the potential to compromise their own health and welfare and that of their offspring. The second looks at specific transport provisions for cats and dogs. Both Breeding and Transport Guidelines will be presented for endorsement at the Platform Plenary in mid 2023.



I am grateful for having started my journey within Eurogroup for Animals at such a historic moment for animal welfare and being part of such an enthusiastic and devoted community."

IZASKUN ARRIETA
Companion Animals Programme Manager



**renew
europe.**

In 2022, the European Parliament’s Working Group on Companion Animals of the Welfare and Conservation of Animals Intergroup has continuously focused on disseminating information on best practices in pet welfare and responsible population management of dogs and cats.

Our activities have focused on emerging issues related to animals in disaster and war zones, particularly in Ukraine, and the end of the dog and cat meat trade in South Asia.

I would like to thank all our partners and participants for their useful contributions and joint work.”

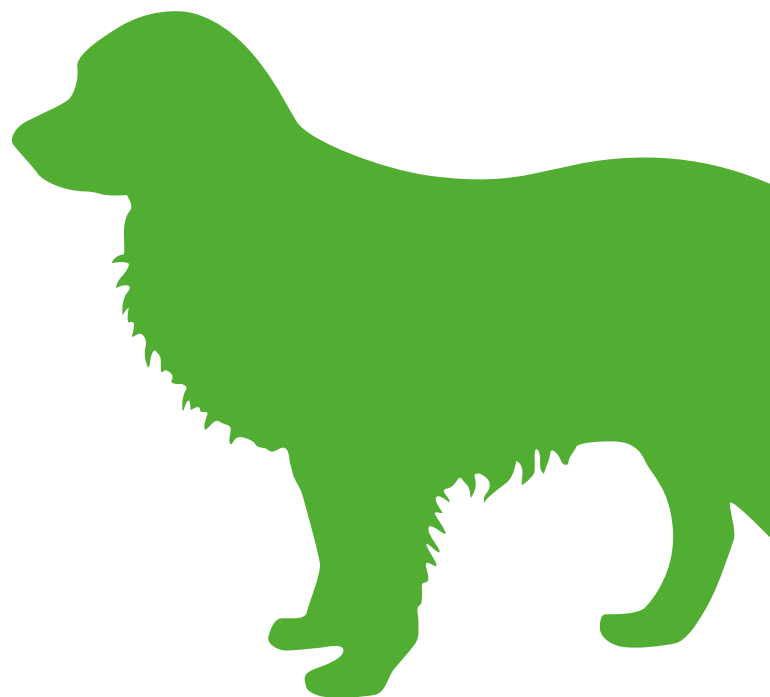
PETRAS AUŠTREVČIUS MEP

Member of the European Parliament, Chairman of the Working Group on Companion Animals

In September 2022, all the energy invested in the [“Dog and Cat Population Management Guidelines”](#) paid back handsomely during the launch event at the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of animals. We will continue lobbying for Member States to support and implement these Policy Guidelines ([see section Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals](#)).

Within the Companion Animals Working Group and the Animal Shelter Veterinary Platform we came together sharing knowledge and best practices aiming at improving companion animal welfare. Topics ranged from the European Commission Action Plan on the illegal trade of pets and animal hoarding, to management and rehabilitation of aggressive behaviour in cats and dogs in shelters.

We shared our views on new EU policies and existing laws through the European Commission’s [“Have your say” mechanism](#) advocating for better consumer and animal health and welfare protection during online purchases as well as advocating for the need to acknowledge the role played by animal welfare in ensuring the mental health of EU citizens.





In 2022, the VeriPet system for safe online trade that was developed by Europetnet and FOUR PAWS was piloted in Switzerland with the participation of Amicus, that is the Swiss national pet registration database and anibis.ch, one of the country's biggest online marketplaces. Since 2021, VeriPet has been up and running in Ireland, as part of a partnership between FIDO, one of the country's four databases and dogs.ie, the main dog marketplace."



GEORGIA DIAMANTOPOULOU

EU Companion Animal Policy Coordinator,
FOUR PAWS

2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

- ✓ **FOUR PAWS**, along with Europetnet, successfully implemented the "Veripet" system in the largest online classified portal in Switzerland allowing only registered and verified sellers to advertise their pets.
- ✓ **Deutscher Tierschutzbund** launched a report documenting *Animal Hoarding* cases in Germany since 2012 and successfully contributed to the drafting of the new Law for dog protection including a much sought after prohibition on the exhibition of dogs with exaggerated features. A new regulation on assistance dogs was also largely influenced by **Deutscher Tierschutzbund** advocating for specific requirements for these dogs' suitability, appropriate training and approval of training centres.
- ✓ **Dyrenes Beskyttelse** carried out a large campaign on responsible ownership under the heading "*The rabbit is not a shut up sweetie*" (i.e. compensation for a dog or a cat) so owners are fully aware and knowledgeable of what it entails to welcome a rabbit in their lives.
- ✓ **Fondation Brigitte Bardot** presented a legal proposal for banning shock and electric collars, which was adopted by the French National Assembly.
- ✓ Thanks to the efforts of **SEY Finland**, a long-awaited animal welfare legislation concerning breeding practices and pet sales was adopted.
- ✓ After many years lobbying for it, **LAV** managed to set up a national companion animals register and made mandatory both the identification of companion animals and a veterinary health certificate when selling or placing an advertisement to sell a companion animal. **LAV** also facilitated new legislation to make veterinary fees and medicines more affordable, offsetting spiralling prices and contributing to more affordable animal care. Along with the Italian Ministry of Health, **LAV** successfully conducted microchipping awareness campaigns in the southern regions, microchipping 1,000+ cats and dogs.
- ✓ After many years campaigning for it, **Animal Advocacy and Protection** and **Dierenbescherming** succeeded in making the Dutch Government adopt a *Positive List* for mammals to be kept as pets with more lists to follow on birds, reptiles and amphibians.
- ✓ Together with other organisations, **Dierenbescherming** managed to make the Identification and Registration of cats compulsory.
- ✓ **Animais da Rua** in partnership with Ukrainian national authorities, successfully delivered 4,000+ sterilisations, helped the adoption process of 160+ animals and provided 11,000 kg of pet food. They also proudly edited their third children's book: "*O Cão Que Leu*", written by actor Heitor Lourenço and illustrated by Simone Nico, a story that helps children understand the consequences of animal abandonment.

IN 2023 WE WILL



See the endorsement of the EU PAW Breeding and Transport Guidelines.



Finish drafting the Recommendations on the Marketing and Sales of pets which we aim at being endorsed in the next EU PAW Plenary meeting in June.



Witness the drafting of species-specific legislation for both cats and dogs as part of the animal welfare legislation review.



See the results of the EU Action Plan on combating the illegal pet trade and develop next steps.



Lobby to ensure the inclusion of our proposition adding the protection of companion animals in the forthcoming proposal for the European Commission directive on domestic violence.

UKRAINE TASK FORCE

In early March 2022, right after the outbreak of Russia's war in Ukraine, the journey of the Ukraine Task Force began. Its members did everything possible and even slightly impossible to help animals in war.

Our biggest achievement was uniting our efforts in the fight against the plight of Ukrainian animals. Regular Task Force meetings were held with member organisations, external members and partner organisations in Ukraine. We successfully shared information about the needs of animals in Ukraine, each other's projects, partners, and knowledge of the situation on the ground.

It would be wrong to highlight just the biggest achievements because they are the sum of many smaller successes, such as finding ways to send pet food to animals in need in Ukraine, coordinating with partners on the ground while they are experiencing mass missile attacks, procuring and sending a 700 kg generator to a veterinary centre in Odesa, operating locally to sterilise cats and dogs, as well as organising the evacuation of a lion from Kharkiv or a bear from Bakhmut.

Nevertheless, it is worth highlighting how many of our members went to the Ukrainian border point in Medyka, Poland. Without hesitation they put up the blue tents so veterinarians could be ready to assist Ukrainian refugees arriving in the EU with their pets.

The latter was only possible thanks to the prompt response of the European Commission to the crisis. It called on Member States to lessen administrative obstacles for the non-commercial movement of owned companion animals and they responded with unprecedented unity in allowing the entrance of up to five pets per refugee without European pet passports, proof of anti-rabies vaccination, a rabies antibody titration test or a microchip.

The activities of the Task Force also prompted our thinking about the wider issue of animals in disasters. More specifically it pointed at the missing elements for animals in the disaster response frameworks at both EU and Member State levels. We successfully published a report called *"Animals in Disasters: the need for protection and coordination across Europe"* to advocate for the inclusion of animals in EU disaster laws and for EU-wide coordination of animal welfare actors. We also organised the Intergroup working group on Companion Animals side event dedicated to the protection of animals in disasters ([see section Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals](#)).

IN 2022

The Ukraine Task Force members partnered with **60 veterinary clinics all over Ukraine.**

The members helped sterilise at least **5,782 cats and dogs.**

In addition, we supported **3 mobile clinics,** which even journeyed to the Donetsk and Kharkiv regions to provide much needed aid to animals there.



I do not know a person who can watch the plight of animals in disasters without being touched by it. If you are one of such people, I am calling for you to start helping, donating, translating, coordinating or doing anything else within your capabilities to help animals. It becomes much easier when you start acting."

VALENTYNA VOZNA
Ukraine Task Force Coordinator





Alongside human rights violations, war affects every aspect of everyday life, including animal protection. It became obvious that we needed to give greater consideration to managing animals in disasters, a structural gap filled now by the Task Force assembled by Eurogroup for Animals. We also have the highest respect for our colleagues at the animal shelter in Odesa, who continue their work in these uncertain times despite all the obstacles, and we of course support them in every possible way.”



LUCA SECKER

Scientific Officer for Companion Animals, Deutscher Tierschutzbund

2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

- ✓ **Animalia** supported the Best Friend Shelter Reconstruction Project.

- ✓ **Dyrenes Beskyttelse** was present at Medyka border crossing point helping Ukrainian refugees with pets for two months at the beginning of the war. They supported a cat mini-shelter in Odesa. They also helped animals in zoos in Ukraine through the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) network. Last but not least, they successfully evacuated two lions to the Knuthenborg Safaripark in Denmark.

- ✓ **Cat Care Community** supported a shelter in Kramatorsk and helped Ukrainians arriving in Latvia with pets.

- ✓ **Deutscher Tierschutzbund** set up an animal aid camp at the Medyka border crossing in Poland for pets from Ukraine, in cooperation with the **Bunderversband GDT e.V.** and **IFAW**. They supported German member shelters, Polish shelters and organisations active in Poland to help Ukrainian pets, including advocating for pet-friendly refugee camps and quarantine facilities for evacuated animals. They evacuated an Asian black bear from a rescue centre near Kyiv to the Wiedefeld animal welfare centre. With the help of **Tierhilfe Hoffnung e.V.** animals with no alternative option were evacuated from their animal welfare centre in Odesa (and other locations).

- ✓ **Djurskyddet Sverige** launched a sterilisation project in Zhytomyr with the support of **Animal Help ZT**, sterilising and vaccinating the animals of refugees and even animals brought by soldiers from the front.

- ✓ **FOUR PAWS** launched the Kishka project – a sterilisation project to sterilise 10,000 cats throughout Ukraine. They prepared a Shelter Adoption Programme in Ukrainian. They also cooperated with **USAVA** to provide veterinary care for pets and strays. **FOUR PAWS** also carried out sterilisation and vaccination projects in 20 municipalities with a mobile clinic and a catching team. They helped launch the UPAW platform. Finally, they helped rescue several bears (including on the front lines such as Bakhmut) and admitted them to their sanctuary in Domazhyr.

- ✓ **RSPCA** collected aid for Ukrainian pets and made a donation to **FOUR PAWS** to support their team in Ukraine.

IN 2023 WE WILL



Serve as an overarching umbrella to the members working in Ukraine.



Facilitate the exchange of information between the members of the Task Force.



Gather and share information about sterilisation projects in Ukraine, partner clinics and regions covered.



Liaise with World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) colleagues and the Ukrainian Chief Veterinary Officer on the possibility of vaccination projects.



Share information on the delivery of pet food to Ukraine.

EQUINES

2022 was a year to prepare for the milestones and legislative opportunities to come. In this context, we have refined our strategies and gathered evidence to disseminate information to the public and policymakers, raising awareness on issues affecting equine welfare, especially horse meat, eCG and working equids.





After all the services equines have rendered humans over the centuries, it is our duty to ensure their protection today. The legislation remains inappropriate to cover the welfare of animals with a hybrid status such as equines, but such loopholes should never be an excuse to keep the status quo.”

.....
LÉA BADOZ

Programme Officer
(Companion Animals and Wildlife)

We launched the campaign *“A horse with no name”* focused on horse meat to bring attention to the poor welfare conditions, lack of traceability, and public health risks related to horse meat consumed in the EU. We visited rescued horses at the animal shelter, *Animaux en Péril*, in Belgium, with European Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski and presented him our **updated “Stable to Fork” report** integrating the latest figures and evidence on the horse meat trade. The report also emphasised the need to introduce Country of Origin Labelling Requirements for horse meat. In this context, we also participated in the public consultation on the revised Food Information to Consumers Regulation, asking for horse meat to be included within its scope.

At the end of the year, we held a successful session of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals dedicated to equine welfare, at which our members **World Horse Welfare**, **the Donkey Sanctuary** and **Animal Welfare Foundation** presented issues surrounding equine welfare and what is at stake with the upcoming animal welfare legislation ([see section Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals](#)).

During this meeting, we also launched the report on *“Working equids in the European Union”*, co-published with **World Horse Welfare** and **the Donkey Sanctuary**. This document details the conditions and needs of currently invisible working equids in the EU and aims at raising awareness among policymakers about this important issue, as we continue our work to shed a light on the necessity to improve the life of all equids.

Similarly, we continued to work as the secretariat of the Voluntary initiative on responsible ownership and care of equidae, organised under the auspices of the EU Platform on Animal Welfare (EU PAW), a responsibility we share with **World Horse Welfare**, which published important [guidelines](#) for competent authorities and tour operators to ensure the welfare of working equids in tourism as well as [factsheets](#) based on the *“Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids”*.

We continued our work towards an EU ban on eCG. In this context, we published [a briefing](#) to inform EU policymakers and to highlight solutions and future opportunities to stop production, imports and use of the hormone in the EU. Jointly with 16 animal protection organisations, we also filed a complaint to the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Surveillance Authority regarding blood farms in Iceland and participated in two public consultations on the Icelandic bill to ban the production of eCG in the country.





“Don't be silent in their abuse, be their voice.”

ROZA ROUSSOU

Founder and President, Ippohesis



2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

- ✓ **Ippohesis** reported major achievements as, following written complaints, Greece has finally adopted legislation implementing the EU Regulation on the identification and registration of equines. The organisation also continued to report abuse and neglect of equines. They also filed a complaint against Greek authorities to the EU Commission for failure to declare cases of equine infectious diseases at the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS).
- ✓ **World Horse Welfare** published a [report](#) on challenges and recommendations for amending Council Regulation 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.
- ✓ **The DSPCA** “Building Bridges” programme delivered educational talks in schools and ran an education programme in Basic Horse Care for horse owners in disadvantaged areas of Dublin. The course includes classroom and practical sessions.
- ✓ A joint programme, involving **DSPCA** and the Fingal County Council, supported by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, was set up to work with horse owners on the Dunsink landfill in Finglas, Dublin, where over 120 unregulated horses are left to graze.
- ✓ **Animal Welfare Foundation** continued the work to raise awareness on the conditions of horses whose meat is imported into the EU resulting in a major achievement: imports from third countries to the EU have declined by 60 % since 2012. In addition, the number of American horses destined for slaughterhouses has been reduced from 350,000 in 1990 to 20,000 in 2022 and an assembly centre in Montana closed down in 2022.
- ✓ **Animal Welfare Foundation** continued investigating the conditions of mares on blood farms that produce eCG.

IN 2023 WE WILL



Work for equines to be appropriately considered within the scope of the upcoming animal welfare legislation, especially the revised Kept Animals and Transport Regulations.



Start gathering information on the conditions to guarantee equine welfare, providing evidence to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which is due to start working on such recommendations in 2025.



Continue to explore ways and opportunities to introduce Country of Origin Labelling Requirements for horse meat, share investigations on the topic depicting the poor conditions for animals slaughtered in third countries but also frauds in the EU, where horse meat improper for human consumption enters the food chain.



Continue to call on the European Commission to explicitly ban the production, imports and use of eCG and recognise that eCG production is in breach of EU legislation.



Raise awareness of EU policymakers about the services rendered by working equids and the need to protect their welfare.

WILDLIFE

All the challenges facing wild animals, whether in captivity or in the wild, stem from a human-centred attitude to what nature can do for us. But the tide is beginning to turn, towards a world where wild animals are highly valued in their natural state and managed in a way that recognises their sentience.



Our work on the EU Positive List accelerated following a series of advocacy and political successes, such as the inclusion of the EU Positive List in the [Conference on the Future of Europe Digital Platform](#) report in February, followed by a successful debate in the [European Parliament PETI Committee](#). For this debate, we coordinated with our members **Animal Advocacy and Protection** and **Dyrenes Beskyttelse** to present the case for an EU-wide Positive List which received unanimous support from the MEPs present in the room. This translated into a dedicated European Parliament resolution, which was adopted later in November with a strong majority in the Plenary.

Moreover, in May, a position paper presented to the AGRIFISH Council, co-signed by Cyprus, Malta, Luxembourg and Lithuania, was supported by 19 Member States. These two political milestones led to Commissioner Kyriakides announcing that the European Commission would indeed undergo an assessment of the added value and feasibility of an EU-wide Positive List. During this period, we produced two reports in collaboration with **Animal Advocacy and Protection**: [“The Current Pet Trade in the EU and its Variation between Member States”](#) and [“Pets in the EU: scale, protocols and online apprehension”](#).

These actions led to language on the Positive List to be included in the [Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking](#), released in November 2022. We seized the opportunity at several stakeholders events to coordinate our members’ messaging on, among others, the positive list, rescue centre capacity, trophy hunting and the ivory trade. These interventions, several written feedback documents and an Intergroup event in Strasbourg ([see section Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals](#)), on [preparing for the 19th CoP and on trophy hunting](#), allowed our calls to be included in the revised Action Plan.

Meanwhile, CITES CoP19 was underway in Panama, where our advocacy efforts were successful to help include amendments on the Live Transport Guidelines, and make key content of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations and IATA Perishable Cargo Regulations accessible to all Parties. Nearly [250 species’ protection status was improved](#) through the joint work of the Species Survival Network. We also released a joint statement with over 140 organisations and contributed to a report against trophy hunting: [“For a revision of the trophy hunting regime in the European Union”](#).

Regarding zoos, Eurogroup for Animals helped to coordinate member organisations’ voices at Stakeholder Consultations held as part of the follow-up of the REFIT evaluation in 2016. We made our presence strongly felt at these events, calling for more opportunities for dialogue at EU level. Since then, several internal meetings have allowed news updates, but the European Commission has not presented further opportunities. We are developing strategies to help at Member States level, while re-igniting the conversation at EU level.

Along with **LAV** and **World Animal Protection** we submitted [three petitions to the PETI Committee of the European Parliament](#), calling for an EU ban on kangaroo products imports due to welfare, food safety, and health concerns. The issue was then debated by the Committee in the European Parliament on World Kangaroo Day, resulting in unanimous support from the present MEPs .

The important topic of humane management of wild animals saw two Intergroup sessions, one on the [Humane management of Invasive Alien Species](#), including the presentation of the [Manual on feasible and humane management measures for vertebrate Invasive Alien Species](#), and another on [Livestock Farming and Wolf Protection in the EU](#) ([see section Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals](#)). Important policy position papers were released regarding the [“European Union’s list of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern”](#).

The creation of a group of interested member organisations, the Wolf Pack, has allowed for rapid information flow and reactions to the motion for resolution on the protection of livestock farming and wolves in Europe, voted in the European Parliament in November. This motion was postponed multiple times, and considerable pressure to call for the demotion of wolves’ conservation status under the Habitats Directive was resisted. The European Commission showed strong support in favour of wolf conservation. Moreover, a few weeks later, a proposal to decrease wolf protection was not approved by the Bern Convention.

We also supported coordinated efforts towards the inclusion of deterrent sanctions related to poaching and wildlife trafficking in the Environmental Crime Directive, as well as provisions to guarantee the welfare of confiscated animals.



This year has seen a major acceleration in acceptance and drive towards an EU Positive List of allowed pets. All the issues facing wildlife, whether wild animals in captivity or those in the wild, stem from a human-centred attitude of what nature can do for us. I am excited to see the needle start to move, towards a world where wild animals are highly valued in their natural state, and managed in a way that recognises their sentience.”

NICHOLAS CLARK
Wildlife Programme Leader





In 2022...



2 Motions for Resolution

on the EU-wide Positive List



19 Member States

support our position in the Council



2 successful debates

in PETI Committee in European Parliament (on an EU-wide Positive List and a ban on the imports of kangaroo products)



4 Intergroup Sessions

on wildlife issues



1 Manual

on feasible and humane management measures for vertebrate Invasive Alien Species



250 Species

with stricter protections at CITES



1.7 million people

signed our ECI #FurFreeEurope



Working with Eurogroup for Animals on the Wildlife Action Plan and the introduction of an EU Positive List has been both fruitful and a pleasure. Thanks for navigating us through the European jungle.”



LAURENS VAN DE NOORT
Head of Public Policy,
Animal Advocacy and Protection



2022 MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

- ✓ In October 2022, thanks to the very hard work of our member **LAV**, Italy adopted a Positive List of animals taken from the wild allowed to be imported into Italy.
- ✓ **Dierenbescherming** and other Dutch animal protection organisations have been actively striving for changes in hunting legislation. In the Netherlands, hunting of hares and rabbits has been closed in several provinces (during the 2022-2023 hunting season).
- ✓ The long work of **Dyrevernalliansen** for banning fur farming in Norway has been rewarded, with the announcement that the last two fur farms in Norway would close permanently by the end of January 2023.
- ✓ **Respect for Animals** could finally celebrate years of efforts to ban fur farming in Ireland, expecting that the three remaining operational fur farms in the country would close in 2022.
- ✓ With help of **FOUR PAWS**, three foxes and two raccoon dogs rescued from a Polish fur farm have been spared the fate of being killed for their fur, finding a permanent home at their TIERART Wild Animal Sanctuary in Maßweiler, Germany.
- ✓ In October 2022, a political event, organised by **Deutscher Tierschutzbund** and other animal protection organisations, took place presenting a legal study on the legitimacy of the introduction of a positive list in Germany.

IN 2023 WE WILL



Launch our EU Positive List White Paper during an event at the European Parliament.



Use the Spanish Presidency as an opportunity to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.



Ensure the strict implementation of the Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.



Gather evidence on the adherence of zoos to the Zoos Directive, particularly with animals in entertainment and dolphinarium.



Continue our work on humane management of wild animals and develop an updated strategy focusing on the coexistence of humans and wildlife.



Develop and implement a consolidated strategy for humane management of all wild animals based on the latest evidence.



Organise an opinion poll in Australia on attitudes towards kangaroos.



Launch a detailed briefing on wolves and wolf-dog hybrids in Europe.



Ensure that the success of the ECI *Fur Free Europe* is recognised by the EU institutions, and that a ban on fur farming and the placement of farmed fur products on the European market obtains support from the European Parliament and the Council.

CAMPAIGNING 2022 - FUR FREE EUROPE

Fur farming is inherently cruel and it is widely rejected by EU citizens. Given the political support and opportunities ahead, we decided to mobilise our network and solicit the support of over 1 million citizens to finally get a Fur Free Europe.



I could not be prouder of our joint efforts. This citizens' initiative gained momentum from day one and proves that European citizens, represented by all the organisations involved, are sending a crystal-clear message to the European Commission: it's high time for a Fur Free Europe. Fur farming represents a massive moral blind spot and, with the new animal welfare legislation coming up, the European Commission has the opportunity to end this unnecessary suffering once and for all."

REINEKE HAMELEERS CEO



respect for animals
FIGHTING THE INTERNATIONAL FUR TRADE

Respect for Animals and Eurogroup for Animals'

relationship has recently been cemented with the joint publication of a new and ground-breaking report, which updates the scientific case against fur factory farming.

The unprecedented success of the ECI, launched in 2022 to bring an end to cruel and unnecessary fur farming is a testament to Eurogroup for Animals' commitment to this campaign. Its dedication and professionalism are pushing forward boundaries of animal welfare on many fronts and we are proud to be a member."

MARK GLOVER
Director, Respect for Animals

A European response needed to the dramatic suffering of animals raised for fur

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic in 2020, the debate on fur farming has grown exponentially. It has been acknowledged that its continuation represents a risk to public health, with farms acting as reservoirs of pathogens and zoonoses. There is scientific evidence that mink and raccoon dogs in fur farms can efficiently transmit, mutate and serve as intermediate hosts for Covid.

There are also other, less direct, risks to human health such as those linked to the chemicals used to process fur. Moreover, the fur farming industry can affect human health through damage caused to the environment. And, sadly, mink and other animals used for fur farming (namely raccoon dogs and foxes) are listed as Invasive Alien Species of Union concern and are subject to restrictions and measures, as they can be seen as a threat to our native biodiversity.

At the institutional level, crucial steps were taken in 2021. During the June meeting of the AGRIFISH Council, the Netherlands and Austria presented a declaration on fur farming. This initiative was supported by ten other Member States calling on the European Commission to investigate the possibility for an EU ban on fur farming based on animal welfare, veterinary-public health and ethical considerations.

Members of the European Parliament also shared their concerns: the Report on the EU Biodiversity Strategy adopted by the European Parliament acknowledged that fur production can significantly compromise animal welfare and increase susceptibility to infectious diseases including zoonoses.

In addition, the European Commission launched the revision of the General Farming Directive, amongst other laws, and this represents a critical window of opportunity to push for an EU-wide ban. We believe that the legal pathways in conjunction with strong public opinion is a winning formula to call for the revision of the General Farming Directive to include measures on fur farming.

While it is possible to improve welfare standards for domesticated animals, science has clearly shown that this is not possible for wild animals on fur farms. Consequently, a ban on fur farming should be included in the proposal. Moreover, since imports of animal products should follow EU standards, it should also include a ban on placing farmed fur products on the European market. Indeed, we do not want to export cruelty to third countries but aim to definitively end the suffering created by the fur industry in Europe.

LAUNCH:

18 May 2022



+80 organisations

actively involved throughout the EU



DAY 1:

50k signatures

and Finland reaching National threshold on day 1



06 DECEMBER 2022:

+1M reached



21 Member States

above national threshold



EARLY CLOSING ON
01 MARCH 2023:

1,701,978 signatures collected





Party for
the Animals

It's exciting to see that **Fur Free Europe** didn't need the full available year to collect the required signatures, proving that the issue is clearly a priority for European citizens. After the validation process is over, the parliamentary one will start. As chair of the **Fur Free Europe** working group at the European Parliament, I am honoured to lead the process and make sure that citizens demands are heard and we can finally put an end to fur in Europe."

.....
ANJA HAZEKAMP MEP

(Party for the Animals, NL),
Chairwoman of the Fur Free
Europe working group,
Intergroup on the Welfare and
Conservation of Animals



What an honour it has been to work together with all the amazing individuals in our network, all joining forces together to get a **Fur Free Europe**. I am impressed and proud of what a group of people can do together for the animals. Citizens have spoken, now all eyes on the European Commission, which cannot ignore such massive support!"

.....
ELISE FLEURY

Senior Campaigner



Working on the **Fur Free Europe** ECI was rather impressive. Despite little time to prepare, the network pulled together, overcame all challenges and jointly collected more than 1.7 million signatures in 9.5 months! In terms of EU citizens mobilisation, **Fur Free Europe** is one of the most successful animal welfare ECIs to date. It is great to be a part of such an important project with the potential to achieve a historic milestone in animal welfare."

.....
THOMAS PIETSCH

Head of Wild Animals in
Entertainment and Textiles,
FOUR PAWS





Fur Free Europe ECI

Based on the above, we were and remain convinced that there is sufficient momentum at present to bring about an EU ban on fur farming. We also believe that, in order to achieve this historical step, we needed to showcase the immense civil society support for the ban and decided to run a European Citizens' Initiative (ECI), an official democratic tool created by the European Commission. When ECIs obtain a million signatures, the European Commission is obliged to respond.

The ECI *Fur Free Europe* was launched in May 2022 by Eurogroup for Animals and received the support of more than eighty organisations from all around Europe. It calls for a ban on fur farming and on the placement of farmed fur products on the European market.

Successful from the get go, *Fur Free Europe* collected 50,000 signatures on its launch day and, by March 2023, two and a half months before its official closing deadline, it had reached 1,701,892 signatures, offering a safe margin for the achievement of 1 million validated signatures. The ECI also successfully reached the signatures threshold in twenty-one Member States, three times the minimum requirement of seven Member States.

The decision to close the ECI earlier was taken due to its potential impact on the upcoming revision of EU animal welfare legislation. By the end of 2023, the European Commission will publish a proposal aimed at improving the EU's animal welfare legislation to align it with the latest scientific evidence. This will be the moment of truth for, we trust, a *Fur Free Europe*. Regarding the ECI process, the official response from the European Commission can be expected in early 2024.





INTERGROUP ON THE WELFARE AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMALS

We are the secretariat for the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals, which brings together Members of the European Parliament from all political groups to debate and take action on animal welfare issues.

2022 marked the beginning of the second half of the term involving the habitual switch in the leadership of the Intergroup. In January, the new President, Tilly Metz MEP (Greens/EfA, LU), chaired her first session on [selective breeding in livestock farming](#). Kirsten Vornhagen, DG SANTE, spoke on how breeding issues are currently dealt with in EU legislation and Mia Bonnichsen, **Dyrenes Beskyttelse**, gave a presentation about keel bone fractures in laying hens, a selective breeding issue that affects a majority of laying hens.

[Livestock farming and wolf protection](#) was on the agenda in February following the publication of a related motion for a resolution in the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee. Humberto Delgado Rosa, DG ENV, stressed that the European Commission had no intention of opening up the Habitats Directive and solutions to potential problems could be found via alternative means. Jean-Marc Landry, a biologist and wolf expert, presented a study demonstrating the efficiency and capability of livestock guarding dogs to keep wolves at bay.

In March, the Intergroup discussed the [recurrent outbreaks of avian influenza](#). Professor Thijs Kuiken, Erasmus University Medical Centre, shared information on the ways avian influenza remains a threat to humans and farmed birds. Iulia Delia Cohen, DG SANTE, spoke on how this issue is being addressed by the EU Animal Health Law in terms of reaching the objectives laid out to mitigate the development of widespread cases.

In April 2022, after two years of online meetings due to the Covid crisis, the Intergroup was able to reinstate its monthly sessions in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, and discussed the [inclusion of animal welfare related aspects in Member State CAP Strategic Plans](#) with Pierre Bascou, DG AGRI, and Andreas Manz, **FOUR PAWS**.

One of the year's highlights was an exchange of views with European Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski, who addressed the Intergroup in early May on [various animal welfare related issues within his remit](#).

During the June session, David Cormand MEP (Greens/EFA, FR), Rapporteur of an initiative report on the financial activities of the European Investment Bank (EIB) gave an overview of the EIB's investments in the agricultural sector and Jennifer Black, **World Animal Protection**, spoke about the need for coherence in the EIB's investments and the discrepancy between policy rules and actual money flows into intensive animal farming.

In July, the Intergroup gathered in [advance of the CITES COP19 meeting](#) to discuss various priority points related to animal welfare, including trophy hunting. Jorge Rodríguez Romero, DG ENV, shared Europe's priorities, Ville Niinistö MEP (Greens/EFA, FI) those of the European Parliament and Daniela Freyer, Species Survival Network (SSN), the welfare perspective. Rodríguez Romero and Dr Joanna Swabe, **Humane Society International Europe**, also provided insights into how to strengthen the EU regime covering the import of hunting trophies.

[Animal welfare labelling: voluntary versus mandatory](#) was discussed in September. The ongoing work on EU level was described by Denis Simonin, DG SANTE, and Claudia Salzborn, **Deutscher Tierschutzbund**, reported on the mandatory Method of Production Label in Germany. Sarah Wiener MEP (Greens/EFA, AT) made the proposal of setting up an Animal Welfare Intergroup working group on labelling which was established in October.

In September, the Intergroup held a side event on [the responsible care of cats and dogs, a political guidance for population management](#). Alexandra Hammond-Seaman, **RSPCA**, spoke about the dos and don'ts in population management and Petya Georgieva, Ekoravnovesie, presented [a case study from Bulgaria](#). The presentations were followed by an expert panel debate with Ann Criel, Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA), and Paolo Dalla Villa, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

In October, a stunt was organised outside the European Parliament followed by an Intergroup meeting where MEPs showed strong support for the [ECI Fur Free Europe \(see section Campaigning 2022 – Fur Free Europe\)](#).

[The revision of the EU Chemicals legislation as a step towards non-animal testing](#) was discussed with various speakers from the EU institutions, the industry and academia during the October session.

Juan Pérez Lorenzo, DG ENV, and Kevin Smith, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), debated with Intergroup members in November about the [humane management of Invasive Alien Species](#). A [manual](#) on feasible and humane management measures for vertebrate Invasive Alien Species was also presented at this meeting.

Issues related to [equine welfare](#) were discussed during the December session. Sabrina Gurtner, **Animal Welfare Foundation**, stressed the need for an EU ban on eCG and Dr Joe Collins, **The Donkey Sanctuary**, presented a new report on ["Working equids in the European Union"](#) highlighting the necessity of including equine-related aspects in the upcoming Regulation on animals kept for commercial purposes.



The most successful initiative promoted by the Animal Welfare Intergroup in 2022 was a Parliament resolution on improving EU regulations on wild and exotic animals to be kept as pets in the European Union through an EU Positive List."

ANDREAS ERLER
Senior Political Adviser



In 2022...



Eleonora Evi MEP (Greens/EFA, IT) and Jytte Guteland MEP (S&D, SE), who were among the most proactive Intergroup members, returned to national politics.

Membership fluctuated between
96 and 100 MEPs

All political Groups and
25 out of 27 Member States
are represented in the Intergroup



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 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 for the oversight of the association.

The Board is made up of a maximum of thirteen member organisations that have been elected by the AGM, with three being nominated as President, Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer. The Board meets four times a year and it delegates operational authority to the CEO, who is responsible for the daily management of the organisation. At the end of 2022, the Eurogroup for Animals team had 38 team members representing 33 full-time equivalents.

Our Board

The Board is currently made up of ten 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.

OUR BOARD 2022-2023



PRESIDENT

Philip Lymbery

CEO, Compassion
In World Farming (UK)



VICE- PRESIDENT

Gemma Willemsen

Manager of Programmes
and Lobbying,
Dierenbescherming (NL)



Honorary Treasurer

Chris Carey (BE)

ORDINARY BOARD MEMBERS



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



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



Dyrenes Beskyttelse (DK)
represented by
Lena Rohn,
Food and Environmental
Policy Manager



Deutscher Tierschutzbund (DE)
represented by
Jürgen Plinz,
Treasurer



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



Fondation Brigitte Bardot (FR)
represented by
Lorène Jacquet,
Deputy Director of the
Animal Protection Division



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



GAIA (BE) represented by
Ann De Greef, CEO



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



Legambiente - Lega Anti Vivisezione - LAV (IT) represented by
Roberto Bennati,
General Director

OUR DREAM TEAM

Because our advocacy for animals is driven by people,
discover who makes our daily work happen (in May 2023):

TRADE AND ANIMAL WELFARE



Reineke Hameleers
CEO



Daniel Pérez Vega
Programme Officer



Karl O'Reilly
Programme Officer



Dr Luísa Bastos
Programme Leader



Laurence Walder
Consultant

ANIMALS IN SCIENCE

FARM ANIMALS



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Octopus Project Consultant



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Marta Klimczak
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Political Adviser Food Policy



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Programme Leader



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Programme Officer Fur Animals



Léa Badoz
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Isild Gueudet
Intern

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Outreach Manager and Companion Animals Programme Leader



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Programme Manager



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Programme Officer Companion Animals and Wildlife



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Ukraine Task Force Coordinator



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Adviser



Shannon Huggard
Political &
Legal Officer



Florence Dossche
Political &
Legal Adviser



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Adviser

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Laura Demaude
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Officer



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Giovanna Lastrucci
Social Media
Officer



Elise Fleury
Senior
Campaigner



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Events Officer



Theresa Bonnici
Press Officer

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Development Strategist



Ellen Greve
Membership Officer



Mpho Hlalele
Philanthropy
Partnerships Lead



Daniela Yamamoto
Donor Development
Lead

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Tim Robinson
Operations Manager



Sandra Moreau
Finance Manager



Imane Aeraki
Finance Assistant



Aurélie Cassart
Talent Manager



Beta Ferro
Office Manager and
Personal Assistant
to the CEO



**Bernard
Van Heuverswyn**
Business
Information Manager

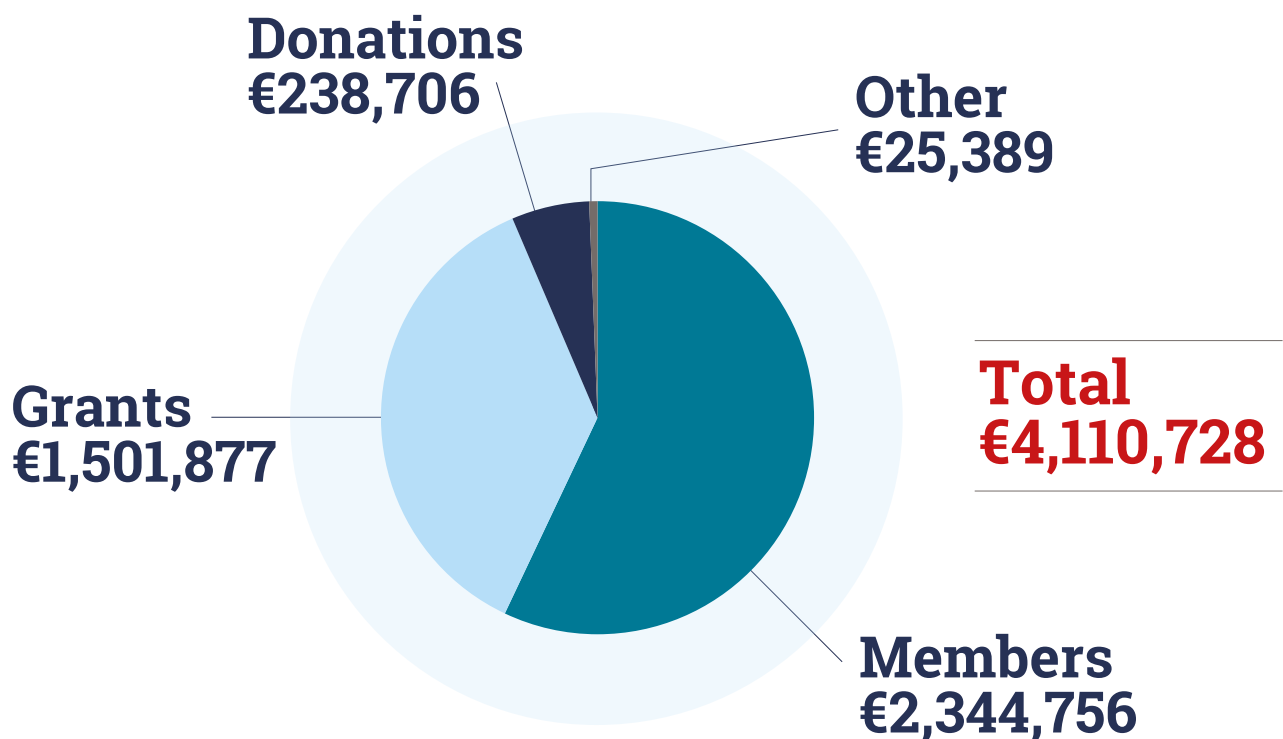
OUR RESOURCES

Our financial resources continue to be stable in 2022, with the majority of the funds coming from our members and a growing portfolio of projects.

Our strategy to diversify our sources of funding continues and we were pleased to see several new donors support the expansion of our advocacy work for animals. With a turnover that grew about 30% compared to the previous year, we have been able to grow our team substantially in 2022 and are keen to take this development forward to seize the many promising advocacy opportunities ahead of us.

As per previous years, we have spent comparatively most in creating a favourable EU political environment benefiting all our animal advocacy dossiers (horizontal advocacy initiatives). While our work on farm animal welfare remained dominant in the thematic portfolios, 2022 also saw increases of investments in our animals in science programme ([see section Animals in Science](#)) and on wildlife ([see section Campaigning 2022 – Fur Free Europe](#)) with other thematic dossiers remaining at a proportionate level of investment.

Main sources of funding



2022 Grants

- Open Philanthropy
- Center for Effective Altruism
- FTX Foundation
- European Climate Foundation
- Healthy Food Healthy Planet
- European Commission



2022 Donations

- Delaval
- RSPCA
- Animalia
- Djurens Rätt
- Djurskyddet Sverige
- Dyrenes Beskyttelse
- Essere Animali
- Four Paws
- LAV
- SEY



We also receive donations from private citizens through our [website](#).

2022 ANALYTICAL COSTS

26%
Horizontal Activities
 (33% in 2021)

Trade and animal welfare	9%
Advocacy	6%
Communications	6%
Membership and resource mobilisation	5%

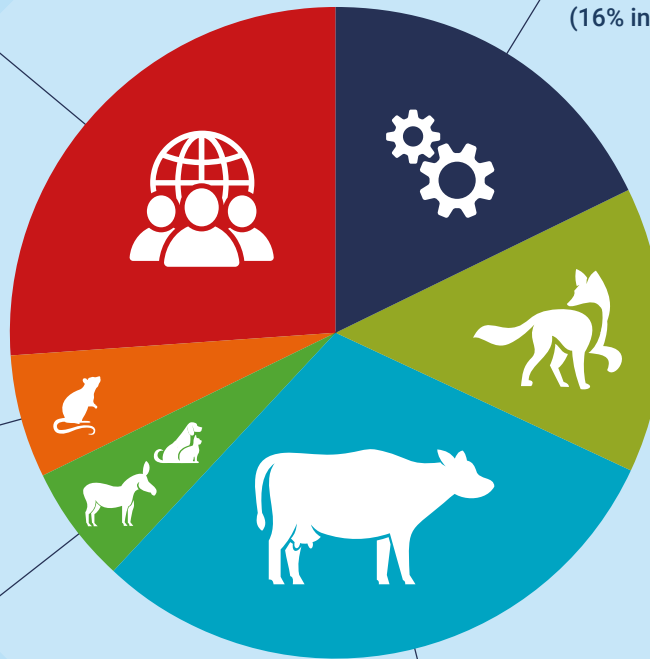
18%
Infrastructure
 (16% in 2021)

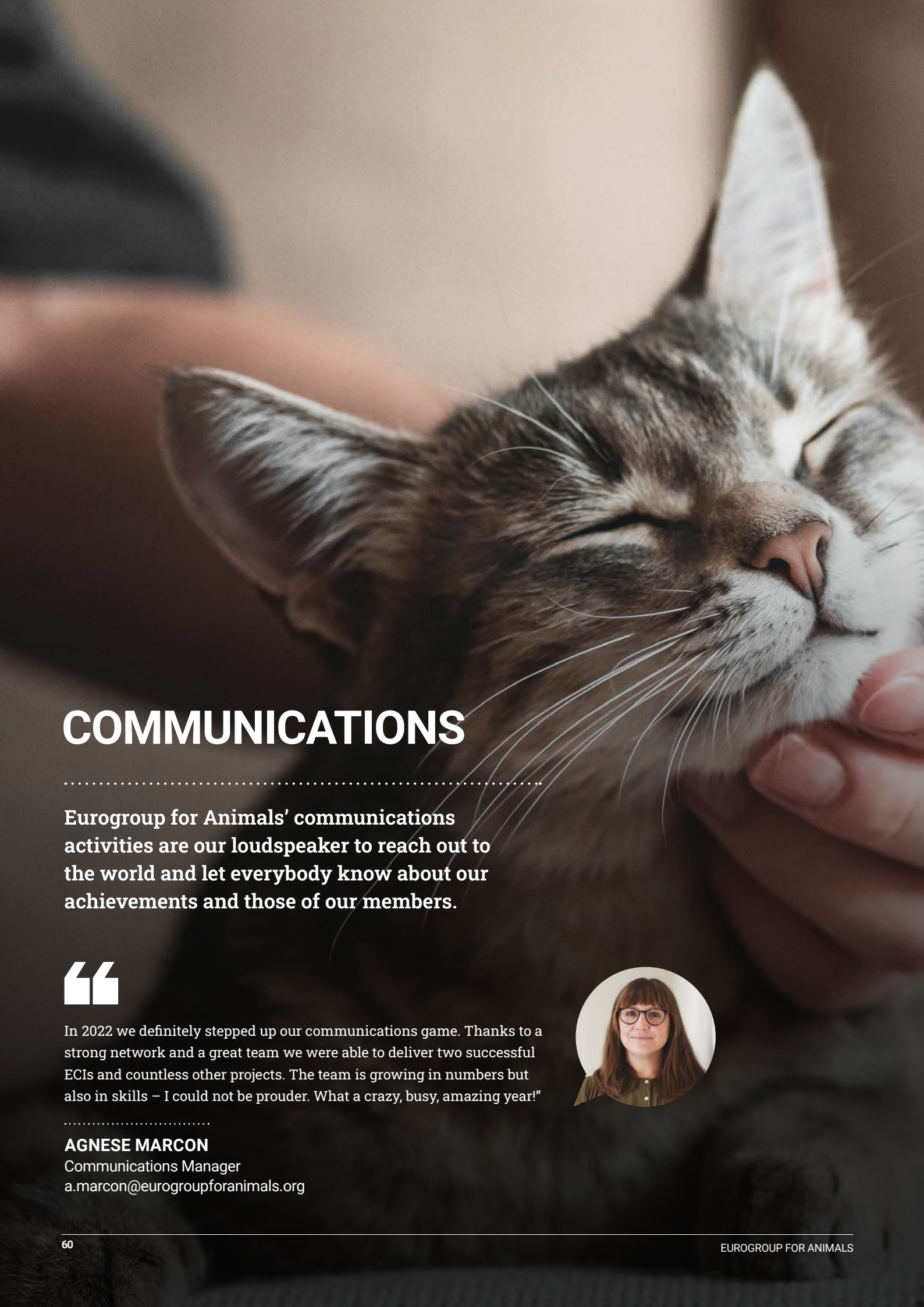
6%
Animals in Science
 (5% in 2021)

14%
Wildlife
 (9% in 2021)

6%
Cats Dogs & Equines
 (6% in 2021)

30%
Farm Animals
 (31% in 2021)





COMMUNICATIONS

Eurogroup for Animals' communications activities are our loudspeaker to reach out to the world and let everybody know about our achievements and those of our members.



In 2022 we definitely stepped up our communications game. Thanks to a strong network and a great team we were able to deliver two successful ECIs and countless other projects. The team is growing in numbers but also in skills – I could not be prouder. What a crazy, busy, amazing year!"

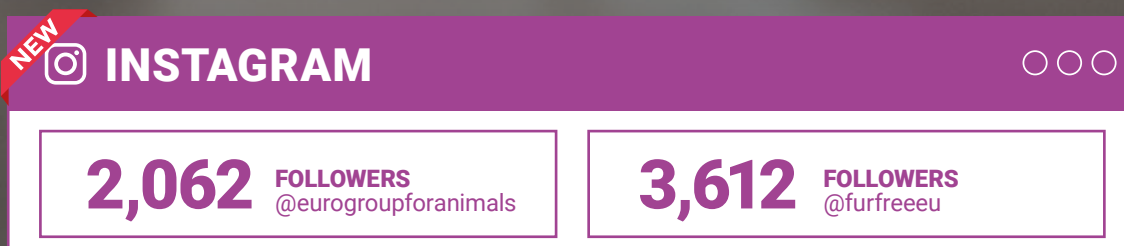
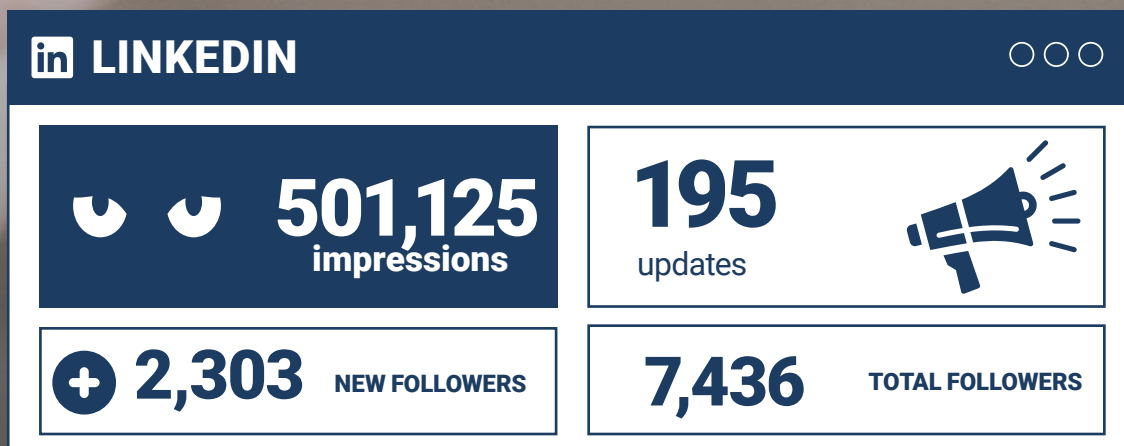
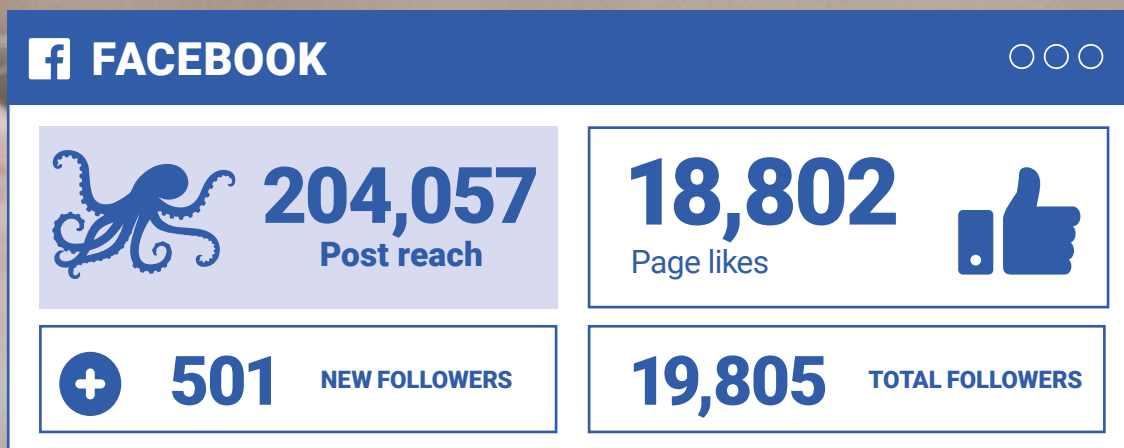
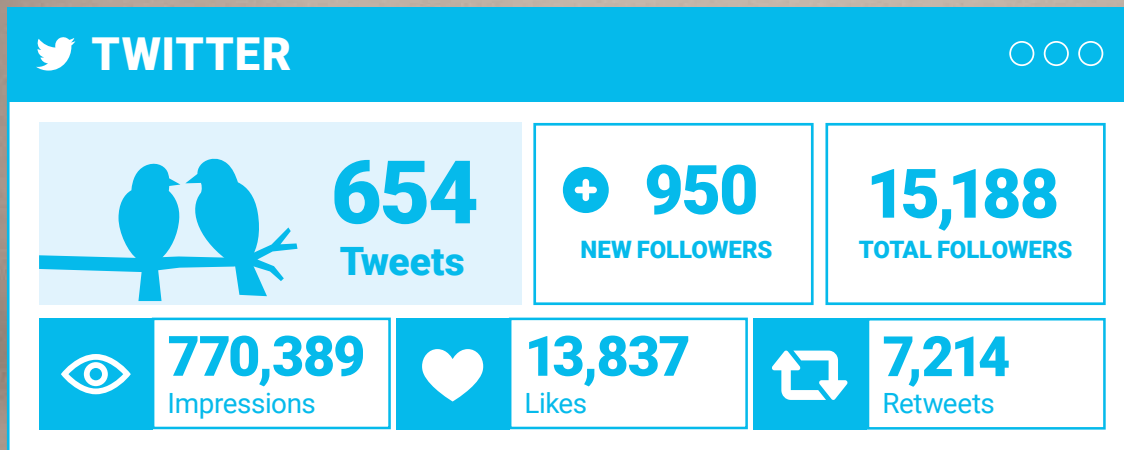


AGNESE MARCON

Communications Manager

a.marcon@eurogroupforanimals.org

SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMARY



JOIN US

Eurogroup for Animals represents over eighty animal protection organisations across the EU, UK, Switzerland, Serbia, Norway, and Australia.

Since its foundation in 1980, the organisation has succeeded in encouraging the EU to adopt higher legal standards for animal protection. We reflect public opinion through our members and have both the scientific and technical expertise to provide authoritative advice on issues relating to animal protection. We are a founding member of the **World Federation for Animals** which unites the animal protection movement at the global level.

Together with our members we aim to influence EU legislative and policy processes, we campaign for change, and we foster cohesion within the movement to jointly deliver a Europe that cares for animals. To be able to do that, we aim to build long-lasting relationships with our members for the triple promise we make.

Firstly, we promise our members that joining Eurogroup for Animals places them at the heart of animal welfare issues in the EU. We are at the forefront of influencing EU decision-makers and, as a recognised stakeholder in all European Commission consultative platforms and expert groups relating to animals, we are in a unique position to influence the development and implementation of legislation from within.

Secondly, we offer our members an overview and privileged access to EU animal welfare affairs. As a member, you are only a phone call away from someone who can provide you with an instant update on the latest developments in a given area. We put our members in touch with the relevant decision-makers and provide answers to the often technical questions that an issue may raise.

Finally, we offer our members the opportunity to connect with similar organisations and provide them with a platform to present their work. Our infrastructure can help you promote your work to new audiences, as well as target it at relevant policy makers. It can also enable you to connect with your peers, to exchange knowledge, ideas and skills more easily. By bringing together like-minded organisations, we promote the cohesion of the animal protection movement and facilitate the exchange of good practice.



HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR WORK



Inspired? Then please join our movement in creating a Europe that truly cares for animals!"

ELLEN GREVE

Membership Officer

e.greve@eurogroupforanimals.org



OUR MEMBERS

“Putting members at the core of our work” is our motto. As the pan-European advocacy organisation for animals, we have gratefully used the collective power of our members to improve the well-being of as many animals as possible and defend their interests.

Without our highly valued members we would not be able to generate impact. That is also why we are thrilled to see the continued growth of our membership. Above all, we are proud of each and every one of our members for their tireless efforts to improve animal protection in their own country or region. They inspire us to continue.

Our members in May 2023:

<p>AUSTRALIA</p> <p>Animals INTERNATIONAL for a kinder world</p> <p>voiceless! the animal protection coalition www.voiceless.org.au</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL</p>	<p>FINLAND</p> <p>animalia</p> <p>SEY SUOMEN ELÄINSUOJELU</p> <p>Luonto-Liiton SUSIRYHMÄ</p>
<p>AUSTRIA</p> <p>FOUR PAWS</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL</p>	<p>FRANCE</p> <p>AQUATIC LIFE INSTITUTE</p> <p>C'EST ASSEZ!</p> <p>CODE ANIMAL</p> <p>FONDATION BRIGITTE BARDOT</p> <p>La Fondation Droit Animal Éthique & Sciences</p> <p>welfarm Protection animale des animaux de ferme</p>
<p>BELGIUM</p> <p>GAIA Voice of the Voiceless</p>	<p>GERMANY</p> <p>animaleQUALITY INTERNATIONAL</p> <p>NEW MEMBER</p> <p>albert Schweitzer Albert Schweitzer Foundation</p> <p>AWF ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION</p> <p>Ärzte gegen Tierversuche e. V.</p> <p>Menschen für Tierrechte Bundesverband der Tierversuchgegner e. V.</p>
<p>BULGARIA</p> <p>CAAI THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS</p> <p>NEW MEMBER</p> <p>2001 на ТУ с руподано</p>	<p>GREECE</p> <p>ANIMAL ACTION GREECE</p> <p>DEUTSCHER TIERSCHÜTZER</p> <p>Hellenic Animal Welfare Federation</p> <p>ippothesis</p>
<p>CROATIA</p> <p>ANIMAL FRIENDS CROATIA</p>	<p>HUNGARY</p> <p>MÁOSZ Magyar Állattudományi és Állatvédelmi Társaság</p>
<p>CZECH REPUBLIC</p> <p>SPOLEČNOST PRO ŽIVOTNÍ SPOLEČNOST PRO ŽIVOTNÍ SOCIETY FOR ANIMALS</p>	<p>IRELAND</p> <p>DSPCA The Dublin Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals</p> <p>NEW MEMBER</p> <p>EFI Ethical Farming Ireland</p> <p>ISPCA CARING FOR ALL ANIMALS</p>
<p>DENMARK</p> <p>ANIMAL PROTECTION DENMARK</p>	
<p>ESTONIA</p> <p>LOOMUS LOOMADE NIMEL</p>	

ITALY



ANIMAL LAW ITALIA
"leggi eque per gli animali"



KOSOVO



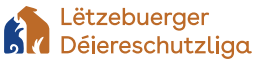
LATVIA



LITHUANIA



LUXEMBOURG



MALTA



MONTENEGRO

KORINA

NETHERLANDS



NEW MEMBER

INTERNATIONAL



NEW MEMBER

NORWAY



Dyreveralliansen

POLAND



PORTUGAL



NEW MEMBER

ROMANIA



SERBIA



SLOVAKIA



SLOVENIA



SPAIN



SWEDEN



SWITZERLAND



UNITED KINGDOM



NEW MEMBER



INTERNATIONAL



NEW MEMBER



NEW MEMBER



INTERNATIONAL




INTERNATIONAL



WorldHorseWelfare









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 protection goals we had set for 2022. The support, financial contributions, advice and expertise they so generously shared with us have made our advocacy, campaigning and communications work in 2022 possible.

They also enabled us to develop our plans for the coming years, which we hope to achieve with your help once again.

**THANK
YOU!**

**AS ONLY
TOGETHER
CAN WE MAKE
AN IMPACT
FOR ANIMALS**

-  Act4AnimalsEU
-  eurogroupforanimals
-  eurogroup-for-animals
-  eurogroupforanimals

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© Eurogroup for Animals, 2023
Published by Eurogroup of Animals in May 2023
Design by [Blush design agency](#)

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