A EUROPE THAT CARES FOR ANIMALS

Photo by Andrew Skowron
EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS, the pan-European animal advocacy organisation, was launched forty years ago.

We unite and amplify the voices of over 60 national and international animal protection organisations across Europe, the US and Australia.

Together we provide a voice for the billions of animals kept in laboratories, farms and homes, and for those living in the wild.

We drive positive change by working with our members to identify common goals and coordinate EU-wide action to influence laws and policies that offer higher standards of animal protection.

We deliver concrete results through dedicated programmes and a strategic approach to campaigning and advocacy based on our scientific knowledge and technical expertise.

Only by legislating at an EU level can we be sure that animals will be respected as sentient beings across all Member States.

About Us

We believe wholeheartedly in the power of unity and collective strength. Animal welfare knows no borders. All our efforts and successes for animals have been achieved thanks to our commitment to a cause that goes beyond political colours and geographical boundaries.

Reineke Hameleers, CEO

We play a pivotal role in bringing about change for animals by bringing people together and facilitating greater coordination. This amplifies our impact at the national level and ensures that our voices are heard in Europe.

Britta Riis, President

I have cared about animals all my life. As a politician in Finland I was active in the national parliament’s animal welfare intergroup and so it was logical to join the European Parliament’s Intergroup. It is a very important and powerful group with very broad support from civil society and the scientific community.

Sirpa Pietikäinen, Honorary President of the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals

Vision

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

Mission

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

This mission has been translated into a triple role. These roles are intertwined, mutually reinforce each other and reflect our advocacy approach:

1. Representing civil society at EU level regarding animal welfare

As the only 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.

2. Campaigning to drive change in favour of animals across Europe

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

3. Fostering cohesion, exchanging experiences and disseminating knowledge

We act as a facilitator, bringing together people, knowledge and expertise, and develop our members’ capacities to help us reach our common vision.
PURPOSE

We expect and demand that Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, which acknowledges the sentence and intrinsic value of animals, is valued and effected in all relevant EU legislation.

We expect that the EU institutions, the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the EU, include animal welfare and the humane treatment of animals as integral elements of all relevant impact assessments and legislative proposals.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

FOR 40 YEARS, Eurogroup for Animals has been instrumental in obtaining and improving EU legislation in the area of animal welfare. Here are a few of the successes resulting from our four decades of advocacy.

1983
Ban on imports of baby seal skins

1986
Directive on Animal Experimentation

1991
Adoption of the Pigs Directive, banning routine tail docking of pigs

1991
Leghold Traps prohibited in EU

1997
Ban on Veal crates

1998
Zoos Directive

2001
Ban on Sow Stalls

2005
Regulation on the protection of animals during transport

2009
Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing

2009
The legal obligation under the EU Treaty to consider animals as sentient beings when drafting legislation

2010
Council conclusions on cats and dogs

2010
Alternative methods and three Rs in the Directive on animals used for scientific purposes

2012
EU strategy on Animal Welfare

2013
Ban on marketing and testing of cosmetics on animals

2016
Animal Health Law, with key welfare provisions

2016
Adoption of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking

2017
Establishment of Union Reference centers for Animal Welfare with the Official Control Regulation

2018
Animal welfare as a stand-alone chapter in the trade agreement with Mexico

2018
European Court of Auditors’ first ever report assessing the Commission’s action in ensuring animal welfare

2019
First horizontal Council Conclusions on Animal Welfare

2019
Animal welfare linked to sustainability in trade by the Commission for the first time

2021
First ever report assessing the Commission’s action in ensuring animal welfare

2021
Animal welfare linked to sustainability in trade by the Commission for the first time
Animals used for food are not just agricultural products but sentient beings. From the moment they are born until they reach the slaughterhouse they need to be treated accordingly.

We campaign for the development and enforcement of higher animal welfare standards in food and farming through EU legislation and voluntary actions by retailers and others. We encourage financial compensation for farmers who invest in higher welfare production systems and highlight cases where EU subsidies lead to animal suffering. We believe that supporting more sustainable, environmentally and animal friendly food is our shared responsibility.

**EXAMPLE:** We were instrumental in pushing the EP to vote to implement two pilot projects which have won EU funding of €1.7m. Starting in 2020, the projects will produce best practice guidelines for the welfare of dairy cows and look into higher-welfare alternative systems for laying hens.

Over 11 million animals, including dogs, rabbits and even our closest genetic relatives, primates, are used in laboratory research and testing throughout Europe every year.

We work with legislators, experts and industry to ensure their protection, with the aim of ultimately replacing all animal experiments with viable alternatives. We do all we can to improve the lives of those animals currently used for research, testing and education.

**EXAMPLE:** We participate in platforms to promote the development and uptake of alternative methods and promote the spread of animal-free methodologies in areas where the use of animals is still common.

There are around 66 million owned cats and 60 million owned dogs in the EU. For many, dogs and cats are loved family members, but others see them as an income source, through breeding or commercial trading. We work to guarantee a safe environment for all cats and dogs.

**EXAMPLE:** In 2019 we had meetings with the European Commission’s DG for Communications Networks, Content and Technology and the DG for Justice and Consumers to raise awareness of the illegal puppy trade and identify joint areas of cooperation, especially in the context of platform responsibility under the upcoming Digital Services Act.

Depending on where and how they are used, equines may be legally defined as farm animals, companion animals or even wild animals, and a single equine can cover several of these classifications within its lifetime. This leads to serious challenges across the EU, including overpopulation, irresponsible breeding, illegal trading, poor levels and over-use of transportation and inhumane slaughter.

**EXAMPLE:** The EU Platform on Animal Welfare endorsed the “Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses”, produced by its own-initiative equines subgroup, for which Eurogroup for Animals and World Horse Welfare share the secretariat.

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One million animals are transported every day in Europe, most of them for slaughter. We fight to improve legislation to reduce and replace live animal transport, and call for existing rules to be better enforced.

**FISH** We work to put fish welfare on the European policy map and to ensure it is integrated more broadly into the regulatory framework addressing animal welfare.

**PIGS** We work to decrease the significant number of violations to EU pig welfare legislation.

**CHICKENS** We advocate for a shift towards free-range and organic systems to ensure more humane egg production and advocate for closer attention to the proper management of poultry farms and genetics issues.
Wild animals across the world are exploited, improperly kept as pets, cruelly trapped, poisoned and hunted.

We advocate for effective legislation to protect them and for better enforcement of existing legislation to safeguard their welfare. We contribute to EU policy and legislative developments that regulate the keeping and sale of exotic pets, that reduce wildlife trade and trafficking and that ensure the application of humane methods to manage Invasive Alien Species. We support national campaigns and explore EU opportunities to ban wild animals from circuses.

**Examples:**

- In 2019, the European Commission published the English-language “Zoos Directive Good Practices Document” in eight more languages. The translation of this important document was one of our main calls during the EC’s evaluation of the Zoos Directive, as it is crucial if the level of implementation of the Directive is to increase.

Billions of animals and their products are traded across the globe each year without adequate welfare protection.

We seek to ensure that animal welfare is included within multilateral and bilateral trade agreements by taking a holistic, long-term and strategic approach. We want EU animal welfare standards to be maintained and standards in other countries improved.

**Examples:**

- Our advocacy efforts have led to the impact of trade on animal welfare being more highly recognised by the EU institutions. In 2019, a grant awarded to Eurogroup for Animals by the Open Philanthropy Project allowed us to expand the scope and depth of our trade-related work. This new funding concerns objectives specifically related to farm animals, and has allowed the trade team to grow.

**Our Advocacy Work with EU Decision Makers is Central to Delivering Our Strategic Goals.**

We have relationships with experts throughout the European Commission, the European Council and the European Parliament, work hand in hand with many Member States and hold seats in the Commission’s main stakeholder consultation groups.

We are the secretariat for the Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals. This brings together MEPs from all political groups to debate and learn about these issues, encouraging them to ensure that all EU legislation respects animals and their welfare.

**We Are Democratically Governed by Our Members and Receive Our Mandate from Them at the Annual General Assembly (AGM).**

The AGM is our supreme decision-making and oversight body which establishes our direction via the adoption of a Strategic Plan.

The General Assembly is composed of voting members from all member organisations. It delegates its authority to an elected Board, which is made up of representatives from 13 member organisations, together with an independent President and Treasurer.
OUR MEMBERS
UPDATED IN JANUARY 2020

AUSTRIA
Four Paws

BELGIUM
GAIA

BULGARIA
Four Paws*

CROATIA
Animal Friends Croatia

CZECH REPUBLIC
Compassion in World Farming*
Spolecnost Pro Zvirata

CYPRUS
The Donkey Sanctuary

DENMARK
Dyrenes Beskyttelse
World Animal Protection*

ESTONIA
ESPA
Loomus

EU
Compassion in World Farming*
Four Paws*
World Animal Protection*

FINLAND
Animalia
SEY
The Wolf Action Group

FRANCE
Association L214
C’est assez
Code Animale

Compassion in World Farming*
Fondation Brigitte Bardot
LFDA
WELFARM

GERMANY
Animal Equality
Animal Welfare Foundation
Arzte gegen Tierversuche
Deutscher TierSchutzbund
Four Paws*
Menschen für Tierrechte

GREECE
Animal Action Greece/GAWF*
Ippothesis

HUNGARY
Four Paws*
MAOSZ
VAE

IRELAND
The Donkey Sanctuary*
Dublin SPCA
Irish SPCA

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

LATVIA
Christine Chilver’s Animal Friends Society

LITHUANIA
Lithuanian Animal Rights
Protection

LUXEMBOURG
LNPA

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

NORWAY
Dyrevern Alliansen

POLAND
Compassion in World Farming*
Otwarte Klatki

PORTUGAL
Animais de Rua

ROMANIA
Animals International*
Four Paws*

SERBIA
ORCA

SLOVAKIA
Sloboda Zvierat

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

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

SWITZERLAND
Animalfree Research
Four Paws*
Schweizer Tierschutz STS

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

OUTSIDE EUROPE

AUSTRALIA
Voiceless
Animals International

UNITED STATES
World Animal Net

* Regional/national offices
EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS IS THE STRONGEST VOICE FOR ANIMALS IN EUROPE.

Our strength comes from our members, our friends and our partners.

Animal suffering is a reality, but with your help there is an alternative.

Come and join your forces to ours to fight for a better future for all animals.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HELP:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.eurogroupforanimals.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/eurogroupforanimals

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
@Act4AnimalsEU

SIGN OUR LATEST PETITION

CONTACT US TO BECOME A MEMBER

MAKE A DONATION

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