

EU NEWS

JUNE 2025



Union Européenne des Vétérinaires Praticiens – AISBL
Union of European Veterinary Practitioners – AISBL



Dear UEVP members,

This month again has been marked by several developments at EU level that are particularly relevant to the veterinary profession.

*In the field of **animal health**, a number of implementing acts were adopted in response to recent outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza, African swine fever, peste des petits ruminants, and sheep and goat pox. In parallel, the European Commission provided an update on the implementation of the Regulation on transmissible animal diseases. The European Parliament also contributed to the ongoing debate by adopting an initiative report on the sustainability and resilience of the livestock sector, highlighting the health and food security challenges faced by European farmers.*

***Animal welfare** also remained high on the EU agenda. The Danish Presidency of the Council set animal welfare as one of its priorities, while the European Commission progressed with the revision of EU legislation through a public consultation and expert meetings held under the EU Platform for Animal Welfare. While divisions among Member States persist on animal transport, the European Parliament adopted its position on welfare and traceability of cats and dogs. Lastly, the Commission announced that the roadmap for phase out animal testing in cosmetics is expected by the first quarter of 2026.*

*On **international trade**, discussions are ongoing regarding an additional protocol to the EU-MERCOSUR agreement, a development that may have long-term implications for veterinary controls and standards.*

Volker MOSER, UEVP President

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRIORITY ISSUES	2
UPDATE ON EMA ACTIVITIES	2
LATEST NEWS ON ANIMAL HEALTH AT EU LEVEL	3
OTHER ISSUES	7
LATEST NEWS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE	7
LATEST NEWS ON ANIMAL WELFARE AT EU LEVEL	8

PRIORITY ISSUES

UPDATE ON EMA ACTIVITIES

Meeting highlights from the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP)

The Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP) met from 10 to 12 June and adopted several important decisions regarding veterinary medicines in the EU.

Marketing authorizations

The committee adopted positive opinions for marketing authorisations for 4 veterinary products:

- **Biobhyo** : for the active immunisation of pigs against infections caused by *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae*.
- **Numelvi** : for treatment of pruritus associated with allergic dermatitis in dogs.
- **BRAVECTO CombiUNO** : for treatment of tick and flea infestations in dogs.
- **Zenrelia** : for treatment of pruritus associated with allergic dermatitis in dogs.

For **Innovax-ND-H5**, the Committee recommended to extend by one year the validity of the marketing authorisation under exceptional circumstances.

Variations requiring assessment

Positive opinions were also adopted for variations requiring assessment for **Daxocox, NexGard and NexGard Spectra, Bravecto, Nobivac L4, Nobivac LoVo L4**.

Additional positive opinions concerned variations requiring assessment applications concerning quality-related changes for **Ecoporc Shiga** and **Nobilis IB Primo QX / Nobilis IB 4-91**.

Futhermore, the Committee approved variations requiring assessment to align the product information with version 9.0/9.1 of the QRD template for **Imoxat, Meloxidyl, Mometamax Ultra and Reconcile**.

A negative opinion was issued regarding a variation application for **Poulvac E. coli (avian colibacillosis vaccine (live))**, concerning the inclusion in the product information of data showing that vaccination reduces antibiotic use in treated chicken flocks.

Product classifications:

The Committee classified 3 products as follows:

- one product for **cats** (not intended for a limited market and not eligible for authorization under the [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/6](#)),
- one for **European seabass** (intended for a limited market and not eligible for authorisation under the [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/6](#)) and;
- one product for **Common carp** (intended for a limited market and eligible for authorisation under the [Regulation \(EU\) 2019/6](#)).

Other scientific developments:

- Adoption of a [concept paper](#) for the development of a guideline on the methodology of environmental risk assessment for parasitocidal (VMPs) **for cats and dogs**.
- Adoption of a [draft concept paper](#) on the need for revision of note for guidance **on quality aspects of pharmaceutical veterinary medicines for administration** via drinking water.



Animal Health; Veterinary Medicinal Products; Marketing Autorisation

LATEST NEWS ON ANIMAL HEALTH AT EU LEVEL

Publication of an implementing act on emergency measures relating outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in certain Member States

On 6 and 16 June 2025, the European Commission adopted implementing acts ([here](#) and [here](#)) concerning emergency measures in response to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in specific regions of Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

The following measures have been established:

- In **Latvia**, emergency measures apply for the *Ogres County*.
- In **Lithuania**, emergency measures are in effect in *Kaunas County*.
- In **Poland**, emergency measures, including the establishment of protection and surveillance zones, apply for the *Warmińsko-Mazurskie voivodeship*.

Following those outbreaks, Poland, Latvia and Lithuania have taken the disease control measures required.

In addition, the [EFSA published](#) on 24 June its quarterly review on avian influenza. The report concludes that the incidence of avian influenza declined among wild birds and poultry between March and June 2025. According to the EFSA, the risk of exposure for humans and other mammals has therefore decreased, although "*the virus persists in wild birds in Europe.*" It is expected to continue circulating in the coming months. **Hungary** and **Poland** have seen their poultry farms affected by the virus, and **Latvia** has reported its first outbreak. The EFSA recommends, for example, avoiding the establishment of farms near high-risk areas and implementing preventive measures such as confinement and vaccination.



Animal Health; Avian Influenza; Latvia; Lithuania; Poland; Hungary;

Publication of an implementing act laying down special control measures of African swine fever in Italy, Slovakia, Greece and Poland

On 19 June 2025, the European Commission adopted an [implementing act](#) introducing special control measures in response to new outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF).

The following regions have notified outbreaks:

- in the State of *North Rhine-Westphalia* in **Germany**,
- in the *Emilia Romagna* region in **Italy**,
- in the *Pomorskie* and *Świętokrzyskie* regions in **Poland**,
- in the *Florina* and *Thessaloniki* regions in **Greece**.

The implementing act also revises the classification of certain areas where ASF control measures have been effective:

- Regions in a restricted zone III being listed instead as a restricted zone I:
 - Certain zones in the *Vukovar-Srijem*, *Brod-Posavina* and *Osijek-Baranja* counties in **Croatia**;
- Regions in restricted zones I and III being delisted:
 - Zones in the *Sisak-Moslavina*, *Karlovac*, *Brod-Posavina* and *Osijek-Baranja* counties in **Croatia**.



Animal Health; African swine fever; Poland; Germany; Italy; Greece; Croatia;

Publication of an implementing act concerning emergency measures relating to infection with *peste des petits ruminants* virus in Romania

On 24 June 2025, the European Commission published an [implementing act](#) concerning emergency measures in relation to infection with *peste des petits ruminants* virus in **Romania**.

While the movement of sheep and goats from *Bihor County* to areas outside its outer perimeters was already prohibited, the ban has now been extended to the entire Romanian territory for any movement to another Member State.

This measure will remain in place until **30 September**, due to ongoing uncertainty and the lack of information regarding the current epidemiological situation in Romania.



Animal Health; *Peste des petits ruminants*; Romania

Publication of implementing acts concerning emergency measures relating to sheep pox and goat pox in Romania and Greece

On 25 and 27 June 2025, the European Commission adopted implementing acts ([here](#) and [here](#)) concerning emergency measures in response to outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in specific regions of Romania and Greece.

The following measures have been established:

- In **Romania**, emergency measures apply for the *Teleorman county*.
- In **Greece**, emergency measures are in effect in the regional units of *Chalkidiki*, *Aetolia-Acarnania*, *Phocis*, *Xanthi*, *Magnesia*, *Evros* and *Larisa*

Following those outbreaks, Romania and Greece have taken the disease control measures required.



Animal Health; Sheep pox and goat pox; Romania; Greece

EU Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare answers written question on recent outbreaks of sheep and goat pox and peste des petits ruminants

The EU Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, Olivér VÁRHELYI, responded to two written questions regarding recent outbreaks of sheep and goat pox (SGP) and *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) in the European Union.

In [response](#) to a [question](#) about the spread of SGP in the *Evros region* of **Greece**, particularly on the *island of Samothrace*, the EU Commissioner explained that strict EU measures apply, including the culling of infected animals and the establishment of restricted zones with movement controls. In Greece, such zones have been put in place on *Samothrace* to prevent the spread of the disease. These measures are “*tailored to each outbreak and closely monitored by the European Commission to ensure their proportionality and effectiveness*”, he explained.

A [second question](#) raised concerns about disparities between Member States in responding to recent animal disease outbreaks, noting that **Austria** banned sheep imports from **Romania** and **Hungary**, where cases of goat and sheep plague have been reported, while **Greece** did not implement similar restrictions despite confirmed cases nearby. MEP Galato ALEXANDRAKI (ECR, Greece) asked the European Commission about the effectiveness and harmonisation of EU-level measures.

In response, the EU Commissioner [stated](#) that harmonised EU-level measures apply in the event of SGP or PPR outbreaks, replacing national restrictions to avoid unjustified trade barriers. He stated that these emergency measures are adapted to each situation, continuously evaluated, and implemented with Member States to protect animal health and maintain the integrity of the internal market.



Animal Health; Sheep pox; Goat pox; *Peste des petits ruminants*; Romania; Greece; Austria; Hungary

Commission update on the implementation of the Regulation on transmissible animal diseases

On 19 June, the European Commission published a [report](#) reviewing the exercise of its delegated powers under [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases](#), also known as the ‘Animal Health Law’.

This regulation, which entered into force in 2021, aims to modernise and harmonise the health rules applicable to animals in the European Union, by strengthening prevention, traceability and epidemic control measures.

Since the adoption of the Regulation in 2016, the European Commission has adopted 85 of the 110 delegated acts it is authorised to enact, and it plans to extend this delegation beyond 2026 in order to continue adapting and updating the regulation framework.

Among the powers that the European Commission has not yet exercised is Article 14(3), which concerns **the tasks that national authorities may delegate to veterinarians other than official veterinarians**. The regulation distinguishes between official veterinarians (appointed by Member States) and other veterinarians, to whom certain tasks may be assigned: *"The Commission continues to assess the need to prepare specific acts"* the report states.

Beyond this provision concerning veterinarians, the report highlights several other delegated powers that the Commission has not yet exercised, including :

- The possibility to establish rules **on the notification of certain diseases and reporting obligations by Member States**. The Commission indicates that it is awaiting to gain more experience with the implementation of current rules before deciding on potential changes.
- The ability to lay down requirements for **recording in databases animals of terrestrial species** not covered by the basic regulation (for example, less common species) in central databases. This power is being retained in case such a need arises in the future.
- The power to restrict Member States from establishing their own national lists of third countries authorised to export to the EU, in case where no EU-wide list has been adopted.
- **As for non-commercial movements of pet animals, the Commission is currently preparing a delegated act aimed at regulating these movements. Its adoption is expected in 2025.**



Animal Health; Veterinary;

European Parliament initiative report on the sustainability and resilience of the livestock sector in the face of health and food security challenges

On 16 June, the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) presented its [draft own-initiative report](#) entitled *"How to secure a sustainable future for the EU livestock sector while ensuring food security, farmers' resilience, and addressing challenges posed by animal diseases?"*

An own-initiative report aims to express the European Parliament's position on a specific topic, to foster debate, and, where appropriate, to encourage the European Commission to propose legislative initiatives. Although adopted by Parliament, the report is not legally binding.

Led by rapporteur Carlo FIDANZA (ECR, Italy), the report recognizes livestock farming as a key pillar of Europe's economy, food security, and environment. However, the sector faces increasing challenges, notably in terms of animal health and welfare.

To respond to these challenges, the draft report proposes the following key measures:

- Creation of a High-Level Group to coordinate policies tailored to the diversity of European farming operations.
- Support for the optimization of livestock practices, including innovation and genetic improvements;
- Improvement of farmers' income and working conditions, notably through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The draft report also reflects the evolving consumer expectations, with growing demand for improved animal welfare and a shift towards less intensive farming systems. It recognises the mounting environmental and welfare requirements, while underlining the importance of maintaining the competitiveness of European farms.

Regarding animal health, the draft report identifies as **major priorities the fight against serious diseases** such as African swine fever and avian influenza, exacerbated by climate change, as well as the growing threat of **antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**. It calls for **strengthened surveillance, prevention, early detection, vaccination, and biosecurity measures**. It recommends improving rapid support and compensation mechanisms in the event of outbreaks, as well as developing risk management tools such as insurance schemes. The draft report also stresses the importance of **maintaining high animal health standards**. It also highlights the need to include reciprocity of environmental and health standards in all negotiated trade agreements, along with enhanced import controls to protect European producers. Noted that the report also mentions the importance of specific animal diets and targeted feed formulations to prevent certain diseases and improve animal health and resilience.

The proposal to create a high-level group on livestock received strong support during the AGRI Committee meeting on 30 June. Several political groups – including S&D, Renew, and EPP – backed the idea of convening experts, Member States, and the European Commission to tackle the sector's challenges collectively. Benoît CASSART (RE, Belgium) announced his intention to table amendments calling for the creation of an *“early warning and rapid response mechanism”* against epizootic diseases. Meanwhile, the European Commission (DG SANTE) emphasised the need to simplify **vaccination procedures** and reaffirmed the effectiveness of regionalisation and entry rules in **preventing zoonoses**.

Next steps:

- The deadline for submitting amendments was **7 July**.
- The vote within the AGRI Committee is scheduled for **November 2025**.
- Once adopted, the report will be submitted for a vote in plenary session.



Animal Health; Animal Welfare; EU Livestock ; African Swine Fever; Avian Influenza; Antimicrobial Resistance

OTHER ISSUES

LATEST NEWS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

EU- MERCOSUR : Ongoing discussions on an additional protocol

The European Commission is considering adding a non-binding "additional protocol" to the EU-Mercosur trade agreement. This protocol is intended to strengthen safeguard measures for agricultural products, addressing concerns related to the importation of meat from Latin America and potential disruptions to the European market.

While the conclusion of the EU–Mercosur agreement had initially been expected by the end of June, both the proposed protocol and its legal basis have yet to be formally presented. According to Commission spokesperson, the Commission remains committed to presenting the texts by the end of the summer. This delay appears to be linked to ongoing work aimed at incorporating provisions requested by France, which is calling for stronger safeguards on certain sensitive agricultural products.

Meanwhile, Brazilian President Lula da Silva declared on 3 July that he is "convinced" the agreement can be signed **before the end of the year**.

in parallel, the European Parliament's Intergroup on Animal Welfare and Conservation organized [an event](#) on 19 June in Strasbourg, titled: "*EU-Mercosur: Why the Trade Agreement Still Fails to Protect Animals*". The Intergroup reaffirmed its concerns that, despite the announcement of an additional sustainability protocol, the EU-Mercosur trade agreement remains insufficient in terms of animal welfare. The event focused on the potential consequences of the agreement for farmed and wild animals, including issues related to deforestation, sustainable food systems, and broad animal welfare concerns.



Animal Welfare; Mercosur;

LATEST NEWS ON ANIMAL WELFARE AT EU LEVEL

Denmark sets animal welfare as a priority for EU Council presidency

Denmark, which will take over the Presidency of the EU Council, representing the member states, from July 1st until December 31st, presented its [priorities](#) on 19 June. The Presidency stated that it "*will place animal welfare high on the agenda*".

It emphasized its intention to advance negotiations on the proposal relating to **the protection of animals during transportation** and negotiate the proposal concerning the **welfare and traceability of dogs and cats** with the European Parliament.

Regarding animal health, the Presidency stated that "**antimicrobial resistance** poses a major threat to European citizens, and animal welfare must therefore be addressed with a One Health approach, linking animal and human health".

The Presidency also acknowledged that "*European farmers face **increasing outbreaks** of communicable **animal diseases**, threatening farming operations, finances, public health, and international trade*". It announced that it "*will focus on identifying potential solutions to these challenges*".



EU Council; Animal welfare; Animal health; AMR; Cats & dogs

EU Animal Welfare: Public consultation on the future revision of EU animal welfare legislation

On 18 June, the European Commission launched a [public consultation](#) on the framework for its **upcoming proposal to revise EU legislation on animal welfare**. The consultation, open until **16 July 2025**, will inform the Commission's upcoming legislative proposal, now expected in **Q4 2026** (a significant delay compared to the initial pledge to legislate in **September 2023**).

This revision follows the Commission's commitment to gradually **phase out cages** for farmed animals, as called for by the End the Cage Age European Citizens' Initiative. The planned measures include:

- A **progressive ban on cages** for laying hens, pigs, calves, rabbits, ducks, geese, quails, and breeder hens, with **transition periods** for farmers;
- The **end of male chick culling**, with support for alternatives such as in-ovo sexing;
- **New animal welfare indicators** and promotion of digital tools to improve monitoring and reduce administrative burdens;
- **Reciprocal requirements** for imported products to ensure fair competition.

Some EU stakeholders have publicly reacted to this consultation. The NGO Eurogroup for animals [welcomed](#) the consultation, as a key milestone but urged the Commission to **include all species** (such as fish) and to harmonize action on **extreme dog breeding**, praising national initiatives in Denmark (ban on breeding dogs with hereditary conditions from July 2025) and the Netherlands (ban on pedigree certificates for 25 brachycephalic breeds).

On this topic, Eurogroup for Animals had already [reacted](#) to a new [investigation](#) by [AGtivist](#) revealing poor conditions in industrial pig and poultry farms across the EU. According to the report, the number of such mega-farms grew by 56% between 2005 and 2020, while the EU lost 5.3 million farms over the same period, mostly small-scale holdings. The investigation identifies over 22 000 large-scale chicken and pig farms in the EU, housing more than 516 million animals. The report notes that the growth of such farms has been particularly **significant in Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands and the UK**. Eurogroup for animals had considered that the study should be "*a wake-up call for decision-makers in Brussels*" and had called for the European Commission to revise the EU "*on-farm*" legislation to include minimum space requirements, limits on fast-growing breeds, and provisions for outdoor access and environmental enrichment.

On 23 June, MEP David CORMAND (Greens/EFA, France) supported by 22 other MEPs from across the political spectrum, sent a [letter](#) to the European Commission calling for a ban at EU level on the killing of male chicks and female ducklings culling. They cited the 2023 Eurobarometer, where 70% of EU citizens opposed the practice, and pointed to viable alternatives already adopted in several Member States. They argued that technically and economically viable alternatives, such as in-ovo sexing, are now available. Several Member States have already introduced or committed to bans, but the absence of a harmonised framework creates risks of distortion on the internal market. The MEPs therefore urged the European Commission to remove maceration (shredding) from the list of authorised slaughter methods and to ban embryo culling after the 12th day of incubation, when, according to some scientific studies, the embryo may begin to feel pain.

Finally, the EU Platform on Animal Welfare [addressed](#) cage farming in the pig sector on 30 June. A [study](#) presented during the meeting recommended at least 6.5 m² of space for lactating sows; temporary movement restrictions post-farrowing to reduce piglet crushing; greater use of the CAP

to fund the transition to cage-free systems; and addressing the lack of animal welfare incentives in both domestic and export markets.

Next steps:

- **16 July 2025:** End of the public consultation
- This consultation, aimed at collecting feedback from EU stakeholders, will serve as a basis for the Commission's work in drafting its legislative proposal.



Animal Welfare; killing of male chicks; in-ovo sexing; cage-farming;

Member states remain divided animal welfare during transport

In brief: Legislative work is [ongoing](#) in the European Parliament and in the EU Council regarding the European Commission's [regulation proposal on the welfare of animals during transport](#). Discussions on the text are proving difficult within both institutions with some EPP and far-right MEPs calling for a full rejection of the text, and some countries such as Hungary voicing strong criticism in the EU Council.

On 24 June, EU agriculture ministers were divided during the [Agriculture Council](#) over the **level of ambition for strengthening the rules on the transport of live animals**.

Indeed, the Polish Presidency of the EU Council presented a [progress report](#) on animal welfare during transport, in which it proposed relaxing several key provisions of the European Commission's initial proposal. Poland suggested extending maximum journey durations and modifying temperature requirements. It recommended measuring temperature inside transport vehicles rather than outside and proposed wider acceptable ranges depending on the species. For example, poultry could be transported for up to 21 hours under certain conditions, instead of the 12-hour limit initially proposed by the Commission. The Polish Presidency also proposed excluding loading and unloading times from the total transport duration and extending permissible transport times for ruminants, both for regular journeys and those to slaughterhouses. Additional recommendations included harmonising feeding and watering intervals across all transport modes and reducing administrative burdens through digitisation.

This presentation was followed by a discussion during which several member states voiced strong concerns on the revision of animal transport rules, several delegations:

- **Spain** expressed strong reservations about the proposed conditions, particularly regarding transport duration, temperature limits, and animal density in vehicles, and did not support the text in its current form.
- **Finland** highlighted potential implications for its imports of day-old chicks and considered the proposed criteria for calves to be overly restrictive.
- **France**, meanwhile, welcomed the absence of a ban on exports of live animals to third countries.
- **Hungary** called on the European Commission to withdraw the proposal, arguing that it would harm producers.

- **Romania** set a red line on reducing transport times and restricting maritime shipments, fearing a loss of competitiveness for the livestock sector.

By contrast:

- **The Netherlands** advocated for more ambitious requirements to improve animal welfare.
- **Sweden**, broadly supportive of the proposal, emphasised the need for science-based, proportionate, and cost-effective rules, accompanied by an adequate transition period.

To conclude, Denmark - which took over the Presidency on 1 July - has announced that it will give particular priority to this issue within the EU Council.

Following, several EU stakeholders have also commented on this point. For example, FOUR PAWS [described](#) the outcome of the EU Agriculture Ministers' Council disappointing. The organisation also reacted to Hungary's call for the proposal to be withdrawn, stating that "*withdrawal is not the solution*". The organization thanked several countries for their ambitious positions: Sweden for promoting a sustainable food system based on higher animal welfare standards, Germany for supporting better transport conditions for young calves, the Netherlands for backing limits on journey times, **Slovenia** for reaffirming the ethical value of animal treatment in Europe, and **Austria** for insisting on internal temperature monitoring during transport.

Conversely, FOUR PAWS regretted the positions of **Portugal**, Romania, **Italy** and others, who opposed limits on journey duration, temperature, or maritime transport, instead calling for more "*flexibility*" and "*proportionality*".

FOUR PAWS concluded that animal welfare must be a baseline requirement, not an economic bargaining chip, and called on the Danish presidency to push the file forward with ambition.



Animal Welfare; Animal Transport; Spain; Finland; France; Hungary; Romania; The Netherlands; Sweden; Slovenia; Austria; Portugal; Italy;

17th meeting of the European Platform for animal welfare

The 17th meeting of the [European Platform for Animal Welfare took place](#) on 30 June 2025. Launched in 2017, this dialogue platform aims to strengthen the coordination of actions in the field of animal welfare. It brings together each year representatives from Member States, European and international organizations, the scientific community, as well as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Among the items on the agenda were notably:

- An [update](#) on European legislation related to the welfare of farm animals and a follow-up to the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) "Fur Free Europe"
- A [review](#) of technical issues associated with the replacement of farrowing crates for sows
- A [presentation](#) of the [WelFarmers](#) project
- A panel on global animal welfare, with presentations from [WOAH](#) and [FAO](#);
- The European Commission's legislative proposal on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats, with the [presentation](#) of a study on genetics of dog and cat breeding and digital solutions for their traceability;
- A [report](#) by [TDS](#) on the impact of global trade in donkey skins;

- Priorities of the Danish Presidency regarding animal welfare;
- Studies on the genetics of dog and cat breeding and the digital traceability of animals;
- Animal welfare during transport and ongoing consultation activities.

This meeting was held in the presence of Mr. Bernard VAN GOETHEM, Director of the Directorate-General for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (DG SANTE), as well as the Head of the “Animal Welfare” unit of this Directorate-General.

The Platform [announced](#) its mandate was extended until 30 June 2030 and that it was recruiting experts on cats and dogs following the Commission’s proposal for a regulation on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats.



Animal welfare; Cats and dogs; Farming;

European Parliament adopts its position on animal welfare and traceability for dogs and cats

On 19 June, the text on animal traceability and welfare was [adopted](#) in a plenary session of the European Parliament, with 457 votes in favor, 17 against, and 86 abstentions.

The text approved by the European Parliament sets minimum EU-wide standards for the breeding, housing, and treatment of dogs and cats. It aims to enhance animal welfare, fight illegal trade, and improve transparency and traceability across the Union.

Key provisions of the text adopted by the European Parliament:

On registration and identification:

- Mandatory microchipping and registration of all dogs and cats kept in the EU.
- Registration of microchipped dogs and cats in interoperable national databases.
- The microchip identification number, along with information related to the relevant national database, must be centralized in a unique index managed by the Commission.
- The rules are extended to both commercial and non-commercial imports of these animals:
 - Unregistered dogs and cats entering the Union must be registered immediately by a veterinarian at the border, in the database of the member state of entry. Registration must be done in the name of the owner or responsible person and should mention the country of origin.
 - Member states may also allow individuals other than veterinarians to register animals, provided the reliability of the data is ensured.

On animal welfare:

- Ban on the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops;
- Prohibition of inbreeding (breeding of animals within the same family);
- Ban on the breeding of dogs or cats with excessive conformational traits that could negatively impact their welfare;
- Ban on presenting these animals – as well as mutilated animals – in exhibitions, contests, or competitions.

Following the European Parliament's [vote](#) on the legislation proposal concerning the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats, several political groups and organizations have issued their reactions.

From the political side, **Renew Europe group** [welcomed](#) the adopted provisions, describing them as “*significant steps forward*”. MEP Michal WIEZIK (RE, Slovakia), shadow rapporteur on the file, underlined that the text responds to citizens’ growing expectations regarding action against abuse in the pet trade, particularly online sales, which now account for over 60% of the market. The group reiterated its commitment to supporting strong legislation ensuring full traceability of all dogs and cats within the EU.

ECR Group also welcomed the vote, while [expressing](#) some reservations. They considered that the version adopted by the European Parliament introduces new obligations for individual pet owners, something they argue was never the Commission’s initial intention. Noting that the rapporteur of the file, Veronika VRECIKOVÁ, also Chair of the AGRI Committee, belongs to the ECR Group. She expressed her intention to “*continue the dialogue with the Commission and the EU Council in the next steps*”. She will be required to uphold the mandate granted to her by the European Parliament during the negotiations and to report to the shadow rapporteurs and the competent parliamentary committee accordingly.

From the EU stakeholder side, the **FVE** [welcomed](#) the outcome of the vote and highlighted its advocacy work carried out in cooperation with **FECAVA**, “*in favour of essential measures to improve companion animal protection at EU level*”.

The FVE particularly welcomed several key advances introduced by the Parliament, including:

- The adoption of minimum welfare standards applicable to all breeders (with two or more litters);
- The ban on the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops;
- And strengthened veterinary oversight, notably through “*unannounced visits carried out by official veterinarians to advise on animal welfare, health, and environmental risks*”.

The FVE also expressed its gratitude to “*its members and veterinarians who helped make a difference by defending animal welfare, fighting illegal trade, and promoting responsible breeding across the EU*”. In the context of the upcoming trilogue negotiations, the organisation expressed hope that a final agreement can be reached and adopted “*by the end of the year*”, recalling that it has been advocating for such regulation for many years.

FOUR PAWS and **Eurogroup for Animals** also [welcomed](#) the amendments adopted by the European Parliament. They particularly applauded the introduction of welfare requirements for all breeders, including proper nutrition, regular veterinary checks, protection from abuse, and environments allowing freedom of movement. They also welcomed the obligation to identify and register all dogs and cats, as well as the ban on pet shop sales. Looking ahead to the next phase of negotiations, both organisations called on the EU Council and the European Parliament to strengthen the provisions on identification and registration (I&R) in order to ensure a harmonised, comprehensive and enforceable framework.

Next steps:

- This text now constitutes the official position of the European Parliament.

- The Parliament, the EU Council, and the European Commission will now begin negotiations ("trilogues") to reach a final agreement on the regulation.



Animal Welfare; Cats and dogs;

European Commission enhances Animal Welfare Platform with new experts focused on dogs and cats

On 5 June, the European Commission published a decision regarding its expert group known as the "**Platform on Animal Welfare**". Following the Commission's recent proposal for a regulation on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats, the platform will expand its membership to include specialists in this field.

The platform's primary role is to:

- Support the Commission in designing and exchanging measures that facilitate the implementation of EU animal welfare legislation.
- Promote a better understanding of both EU legislation and international standards on animal welfare.
- Encourage the formulation and adoption of voluntary commitments in this area, fosters dialogue on animal welfare-related topics,
- Facilitate the exchange of scientific and technical knowledge, innovations, and best practices.

Recognized as a key forum for open dialogue, the platform also assists the Commission in drafting guidance documents and developing non-legislative acts by providing valuable technical, scientific, and practical input.

Regarding cats and dogs, the platform will add:

- Three members representing professional organizations and federations of enterprises active at the EU level in sectors related to animals or animal-derived products, with specific expertise in the breeding and trade of dogs and cats.
- Two members representing civil society organizations operating EU-wide and specialized in dog and cat welfare will also join the group.

These new members will be appointed following a public call for applications published in the Commission's register of expert groups.

The platform will comprise up to 85 members, appointed until 30 June 2030, with the possibility of renewal. In principle, it meets at least twice annually, and additionally whenever deemed necessary by the European Commission.



Animal Welfare; Expert Group; Cats and dogs;

European Commission to finalize roadmap for eliminating animal testing in cosmetics by the first quarter of 2026

In a [response](#) to a [written question](#) from Tilly METZ (Greens/EFA, Luxembourg), Executive Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, Stéphane SÉJOURNÉ, declared the Commission's intention to finalize **the roadmap for eliminating animal testing in cosmetics by the first quarter of 2026**.

He explained that implementation would begin immediately after the publication of the roadmap, following a **progressive approach**. Certain actions, such as replacing animal testing for assessing complex effects, will take several years due to the development of alternative solutions.

He added that the roadmap will serve as an action plan to integrate new methodological approaches into 15 legislative areas, including those related to chemical safety, and will cover a wide range of European legislative texts, including the REACH regulation.



Animal Welfare; Animal Testing

EU debate on wild animals as pets

On 3 June, an [event](#) titled “*Wild Animals Not Pets: The Case for an EU Positive List*” was held at the European Parliament. The event was organized by the Animal Protection Party (APP) and hosted by MEP Niels FUGLSANG (S&D, Denmark) – also President of the intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of animals.

During the event, MEP Manuela RIPA (EPP, Germany), as the ENVI Rapporteur for the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability, shared insights on animal welfare “that were not to be missed”. Her contributions highlighted the critical need for stronger measures to protect animals within the EU.

APP used this occasion to call for the establishment of an EU-wide positive list to safeguard wild animals. Such a list would regulate which wild animals can be kept as pets, aiming to protect animal welfare and prevent illegal trade and inappropriate ownership.



Animal Welfare; Wild Animals;

With the support of



info@euralia.eu