



Animal Health Matters.  
For Safe Food Solutions.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
**State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO**

## Animal welfare

*“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”*

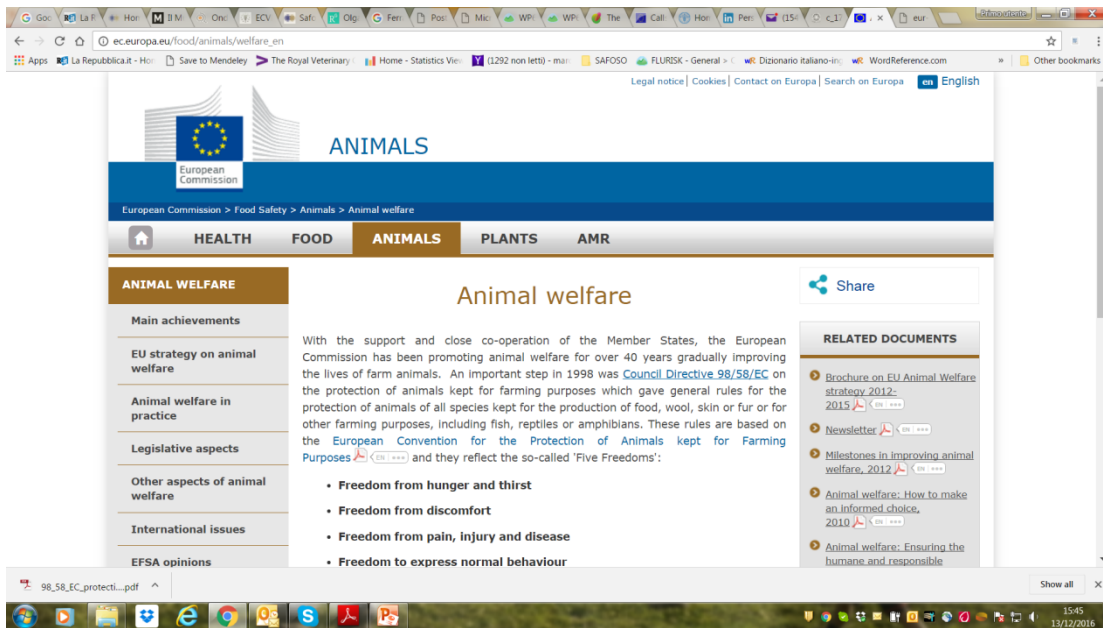
Mahatma Gandhi



<http://news.nationalgeographic.com>



# EU legislation



Harmonised EU rules are in place covering a range of animal species and welfare-affecting issues.

Whilst Council Directive 98/58/EC lays down the minimum standards for the protection of all farmed animals, **specific directives** are addressed at the protection of individual animals.

EU legislation also sets welfare standards for their **transport** and conditions at the time of **stunning and slaughter**.



# EU legislation

8. 8. 98

EN

Official Journal of the European Communities

L 221/23

**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 98/58/EC**  
of 20 July 1998  
concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

## Article 3

Member States shall make provision to ensure that the owners or keepers take all reasonable steps to ensure the welfare of animals under their care

## Article 6

Member States shall ensure that inspections are carried out by the competent authority to check compliance with the provisions of this Directive. Such inspections may be carried out at the same time as checks for other purposes.



**Staffing**

1. Animals shall be cared for by a sufficient number of staff who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence.

**Inspection**

2. All animals kept in husbandry systems in which their welfare depends on frequent human attention shall be inspected at least once a day. Animals in other systems shall be inspected at intervals sufficient to avoid any suffering.
3. Adequate lighting (fixed or portable) shall be available to enable the animals to be thoroughly inspected at any time.
4. Any animal which appears to be ill or injured must be cared for appropriately without delay and, where an animal does not respond to such care, veterinary advice must be obtained as soon as possible. Where necessary sick or injured animals shall be isolated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry comfortable bedding.

**Record keeping**

5. The owner or keeper of the animals shall maintain a record of any medicinal treatment given and of the number of mortalities found to each inspection.

Where equivalent information is required to be kept for other purposes, this shall also suffice for the purposes of this Directive.

6. These records shall be retained for a period of at least three years and shall be made available to the competent authority when carrying out an inspection or when otherwise requested.

**Freedom of movement**

7. The freedom of movement of an animal, having regard to its species and in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge, must not be restricted in such a way as to cause it unnecessary suffering or injury.

Where an animal is continuously or regularly tethered or confined, it must be given the space appropriate to its physiological and ethological needs in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.

**Buildings and accommodation**

8. Materials to be used for the construction of accommodation, and in particular for the construction of pens and equipment with which the animals may come into contact, must not be harmful to the animals and must be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
9. Accommodation and fittings for securing animals shall be constructed and maintained so that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury to the animals.
10. Air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations must be kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals.
11. Animals kept in buildings must not be kept either in permanent darkness or without an appropriate period of rest from artificial lighting. Where the natural light available is insufficient to meet the physiological and ethological needs of the animals, appropriate artificial lighting must be provided.

**Animals not kept in buildings**

12. Animals not kept in buildings shall where necessary and possible be given protection from adverse weather conditions, predators and risks to their health.

**Automatic or mechanical equipment**

13. All automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well-being of the animals must be inspected at least once daily. Where defects are discovered, these must be rectified immediately, or if this is impossible, appropriate steps must be taken to safeguard the health and well-being of the animals.

Where the health and well-being of the animals is dependent on an artificial ventilation system, provision must be made for an appropriate backup system to guarantee sufficient air renewal to preserve the health and well-being of the animals in the event of failure of the system, and an alarm system must be provided to give warning of breakdown. The alarm system must be tested regularly.

**Feed, water and other substances**

14. Animals must be fed a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age and species and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health and satisfy their nutritional needs. No animal shall be provided with food or liquid in a manner, nor shall such food or liquid contain any substance, which may cause unnecessary suffering or injury.
15. All animals must have access to feed at intervals appropriate to their physiological needs.
16. All animals must have access to a suitable water supply or be able to satisfy their fluid intake needs by other means.
17. Feeding and watering equipment must be designed, constructed and placed so that contamination of food and water and the harmful effects of competition between the animals are minimised.
18. No other substance, with the exception of those given for therapeutic, or prophylactic purposes or for the purposes of zootechnical treatment as defined in Article 1(2)(c) of Directive 96/22/EEC (<sup>1</sup>), must be administered to an animal unless it has been demonstrated by scientific studies of animal welfare or established experience that the effect of that substance is not detrimental to the health or welfare of the animal.

**Mutilations**

19. Pending the adoption of specific provisions concerning mutilations in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 5, and without prejudice to Directive 91/630/EEC, relevant national provisions shall apply in accordance with the general rules of the Treaty.

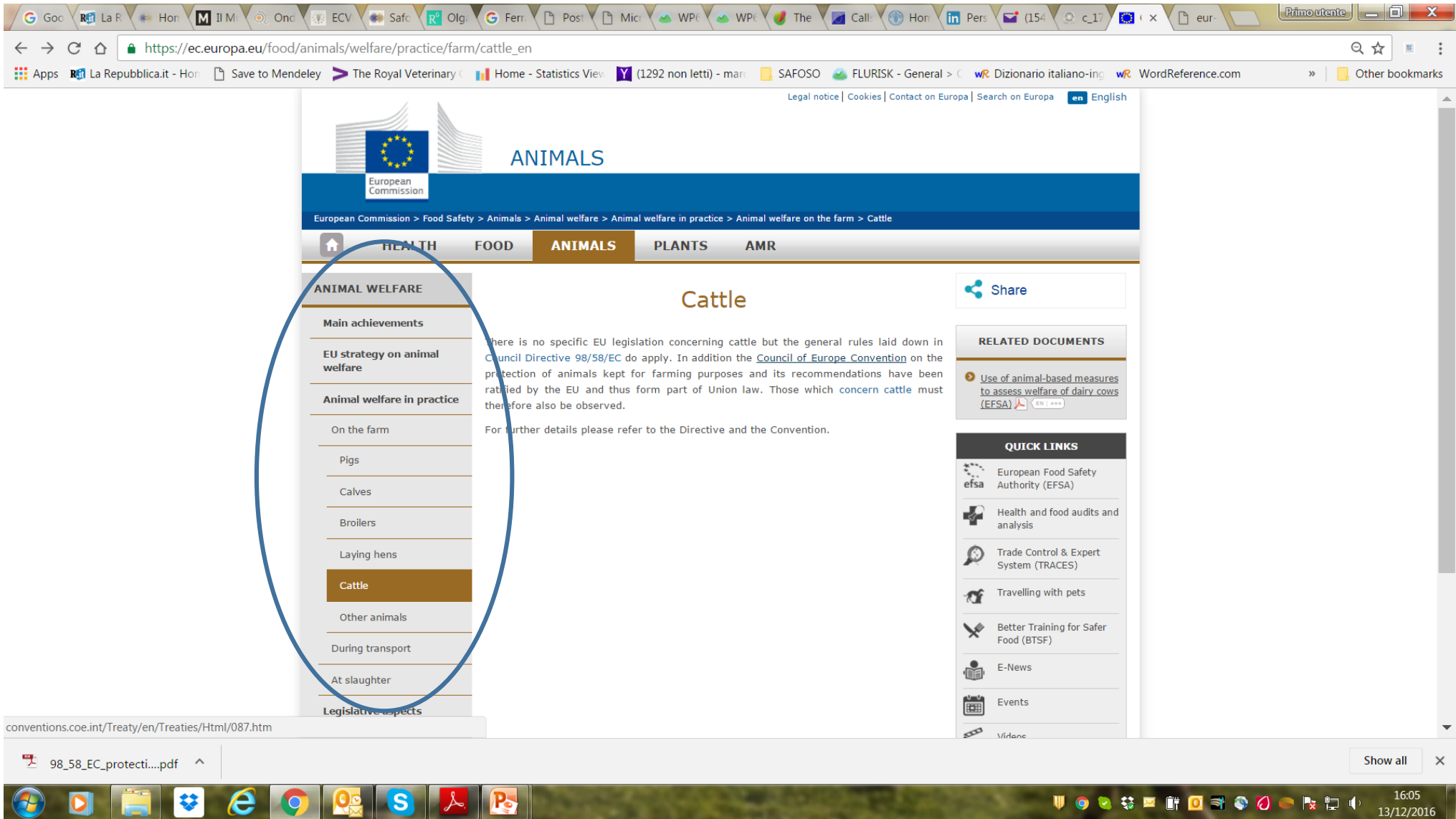
**Breeding procedures**

20. Natural or artificial breeding or breeding procedures which cause or are likely to cause suffering or injury to any of the animals concerned must not be practised.

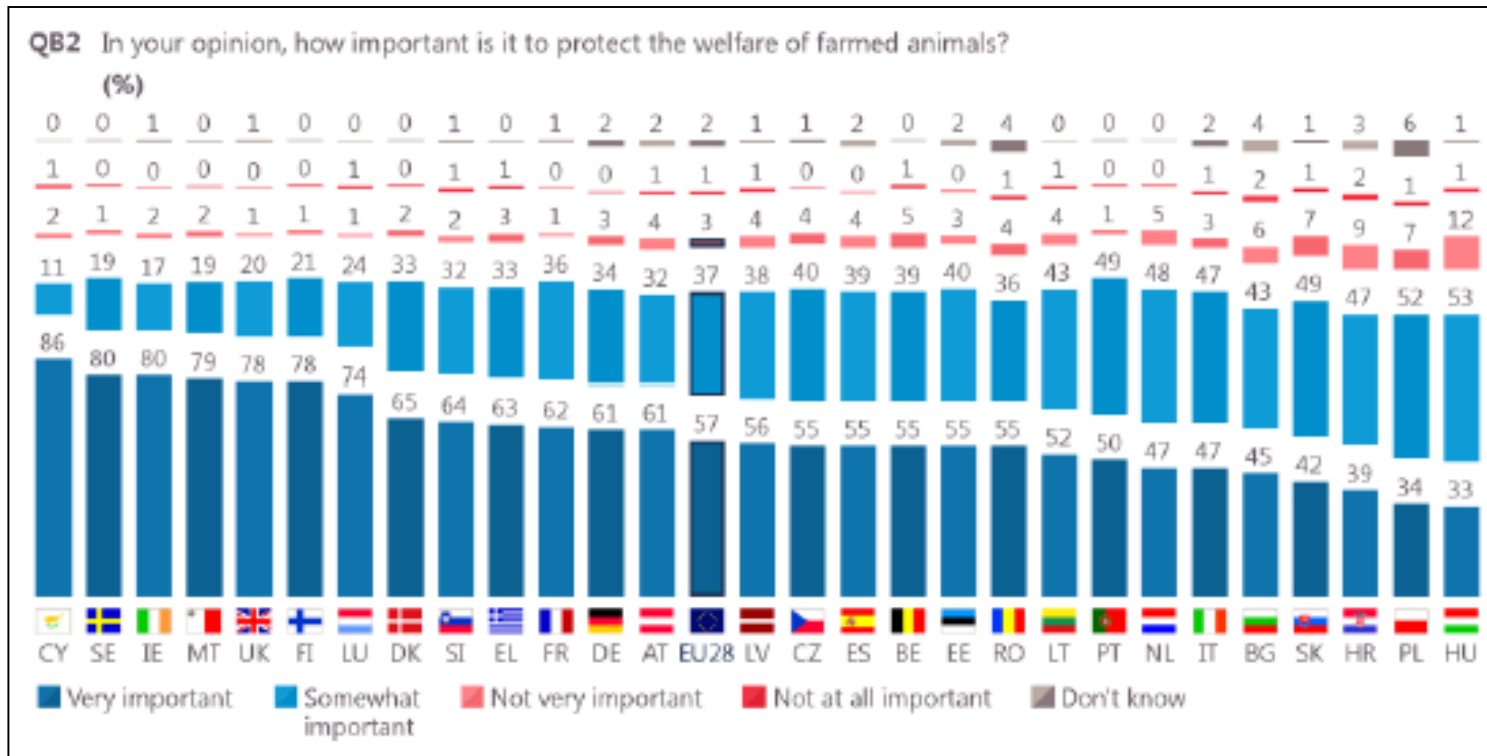
This provision shall not preclude the use of certain procedures likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering or injury, or which might necessitate interventions which would not cause lasting injury, where these are allowed by national provisions.

21. No animal shall be kept for farming purposes unless it can reasonably be expected, on the basis of its genotype or phenotype, that it can be kept without detrimental effect on its health or welfare.

Browser window showing the European Commission website page for Cattle animal welfare. The URL is [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/farm/cattle\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/farm/cattle_en). The page title is "ANIMALS" and the sub-page is "Cattle". The navigation menu includes HEALTH, FOOD, ANIMALS, PLANTS, and AMR. The main content area is titled "Cattle" and contains text about EU legislation. A sidebar on the left lists "ANIMAL WELFARE" topics, with "Cattle" highlighted. A blue circle highlights the sidebar menu. The right sidebar contains "Share", "RELATED DOCUMENTS", and "QUICK LINKS". The taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock displays 16:05 on 13/12/2016.

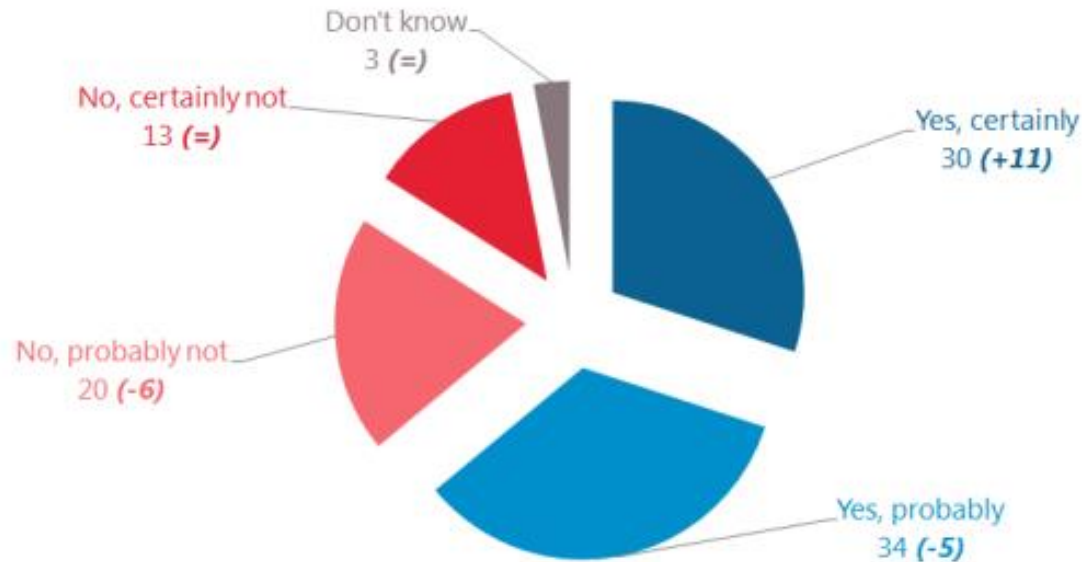


# Introduction



# Introduction

- Increasing demand for transparency on animal welfare  
*Would you like to have more information about the conditions under which farmed animals are treated in your country?*



(December 2015 - September 2006)

Base: all respondents (N= 27,672)

*Eurobarometer: Attitudes of Europeans towards Animal Welfare, Mar 2016*



# Introduction

- **In your opinion how important is it to protect the welfare of farmed animals?**
  - Very important
  - Somehow important
  - Not very important
  - Not at all important
  - Don't know

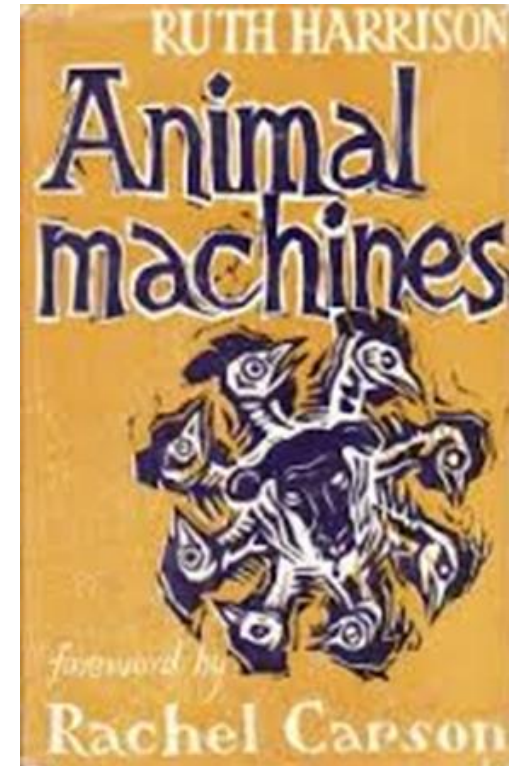
Go to **[www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)** and use the code **20 56 2**





# Introduction

Animal welfare is not a term that came from science but arose out of society's concern about the way animals were treated.



**Science**

*Deals with facts*

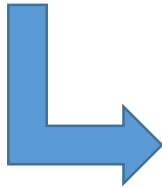
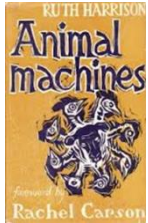


**Ethics**

*Concerned with values*



# Introduction



www.welfarequalitynetwork.net/network/44186/5/0/40

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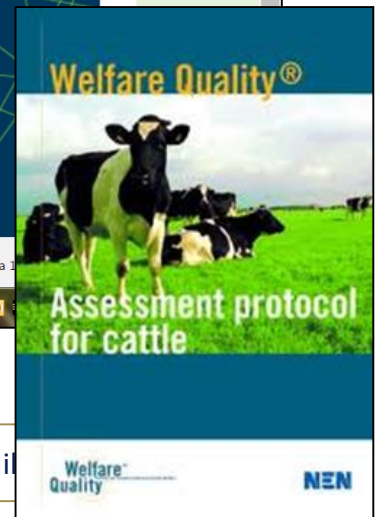
The Welfare Quality Network is a collaborative effort of a large group of former partners of the Welfare Quality<sup>®</sup> project. The importance of retaining the collaboration and expertise established in the Welfare Quality<sup>®</sup> project has been highlighted in numerous official communications. See [welfarequality.net](http://welfarequality.net)

The Welfare Quality Network focuses on scientific exchange and activities to contribute to the further development of the Welfare Quality<sup>®</sup> animal welfare assessment systems. The Welfare Quality Network also aims to provide relevant knowledge and services to support actors in animal production chains who would like to implement or use the Welfare Quality<sup>®</sup> animal welfare assessment systems.

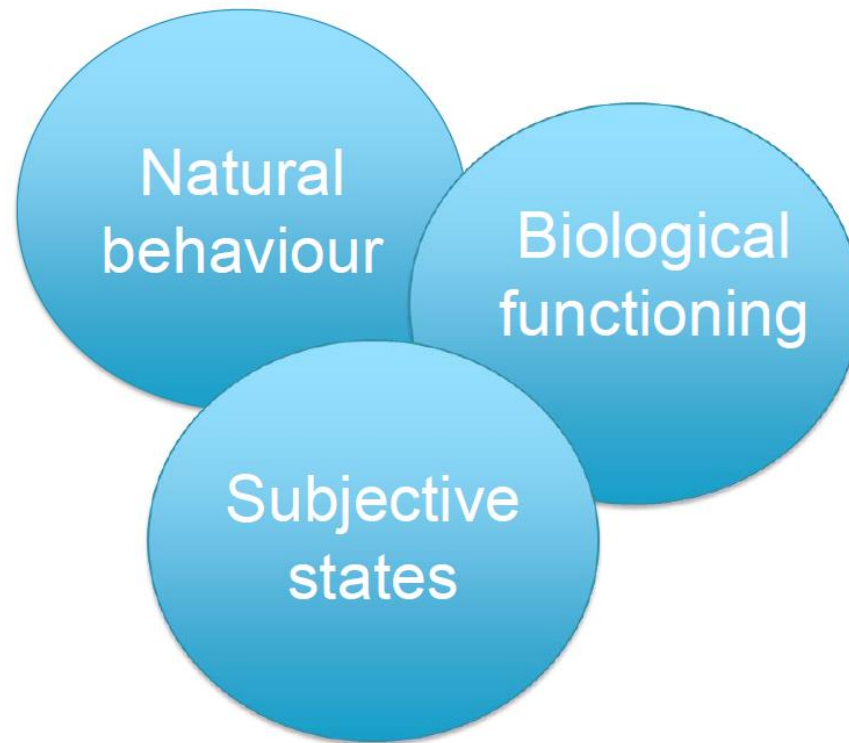
The activities focus on the following main areas:

- Management of the system and support instruments (including training in their use by Network partners)
- Maintenance of the system
- Upgrading the system
- Promoting stakeholder involvement
- Prioritizing and facilitating research

The Management Team of the Welfare Quality Network consists of the co-ordinator and chair Harry Blokhuis and the following members: Isabelle Veissier, Mara Miele, Hans Spoolder and Brian Jones



# Three approaches when considering animal welfare



# Definition



- World Organisation for Animal Health

- (Office International des Epizooties; OIE).

- *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*

- (OIE, 2011a)

“Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives

An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) he/she is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if he/she is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress.

**Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing.”**



# Definition

- **Coping definition**

‘The welfare of an individual is its state as regards to its attempts to cope with its environment’ (*Broom, 1986*)



# How to define animal welfare?

- «The Five Freedoms» definition

- Freedom from hunger, thirst & malnutrition
- Freedom from pain, injury & disease
- Freedom from thermal & physical discomfort
- Freedom from fear & distress
- Freedom to perform natural behaviours

*(The Brambell Committee, 1965 and the  
Farm Animal Welfare Council, 1992)*

→ A definition still widely used, including in the OIE  
Terrestrial Animal Health Code



## Principles and criteria of good Animal Welfare

### Criteria that underpin the Welfare Quality<sup>®</sup> assessment systems

1. Animals should not suffer from prolonged **hunger**, i.e. *they should have a sufficient and appropriate diet.*
2. Animals should not suffer from prolonged **thirst**, i.e. *they should have a sufficient and accessible water supply.*
3. Animals should have **comfort** around resting.
4. Animals should have **thermal comfort**, i.e. *they should neither be too hot nor too cold.*
5. Animals should have **enough space** to be able to move around freely.
6. Animals should be free of **physical injuries**.
7. Animals should be free of **disease**, i.e. *farmers should maintain high standards of hygiene and care.*
8. Animals should not suffer pain induced by **inappropriate management**, handling, slaughter, or surgical procedures (*e.g. castration, dehorning*).
9. Animals should be able to express normal, non-harmful, **social behaviours**, e.g. *grooming*.
10. Animals should be able to express other normal behaviours, i.e. *it should be possible to express species-specific natural behaviours such as foraging.*



## Principles and criteria of good Animal Welfare

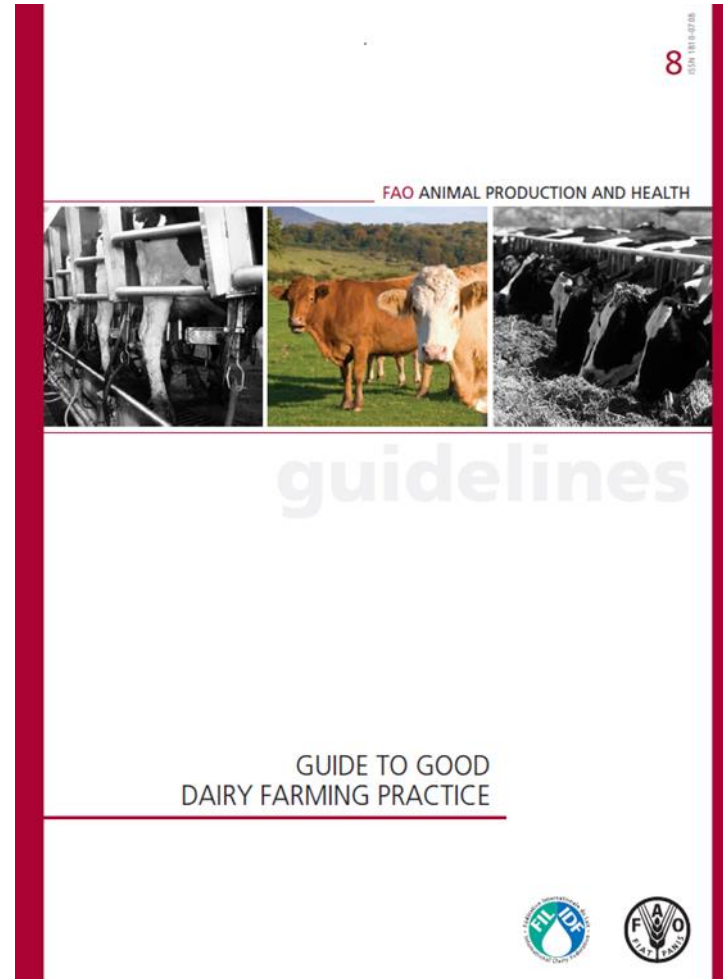
### Criteria that underpin the Welfare Quality<sup>®</sup> assessment systems

11. Animals should be **handled well** in all situations, i.e. *handlers should promote good human-animal relationships*.
12. Negative emotions such as **fear, distress, frustration** or apathy should be avoided whereas positive emotions such as **security or contentment** should be promoted.





- The 5 freedom in practice!



# 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst

- sufficient amount of food and water (based on physiological needs) for all animals every day
- adjust stocking rates and/or supplementary feeding for all animals
- protection against poisonous plants and other harmful substances
- providing quality water



## 2. Freedom from pain, injury and disease

- inspect animal regularly
- have an effective herd health management program
- protection of animals against lameness
- follow appropriate calving and weaning practices
- avoid unnecessary procedures causing pain



## 2. Freedom from pain, injury and disease

- Milk lactating animals regularly
- Avoid poor milk practices
- When animals have to be euthanized in farm, avoid unnecessary stress or pain



<http://thedairymom.blogspot.ch/2011/11/milks-journey-from-cow-to-table.html>

<http://freefromharm.org/dairyfacts/>

## 2. Freedom from pain, injury and disease



[news.vitebsk.cc](http://news.vitebsk.cc)

### 3. Freedom from the discomfort

- construction of premises without obstacles and dangers
- sufficient space and clean beddings
- protection of animals against adverse weather conditions
- providing with:
  - good ventilation
  - slip-proof floor



[director.by](http://director.by)



# 3. Freedom from the discomfort

- Avoid!

- What should be done



### 3. Freedom from the discomfort

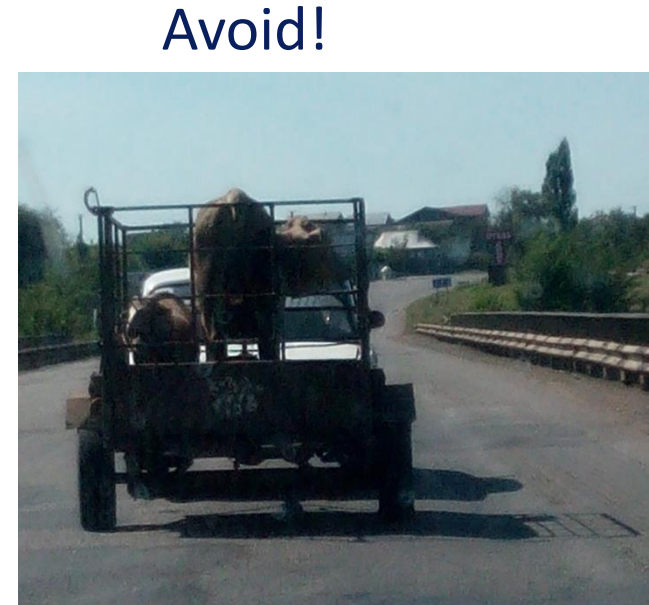




# 3. Freedom from the discomfort

- protect animals from injury and stress during loading and unloading
- Provide adequate condition for transport

What should be done



<http://pravdapfo.ru/news/krs>



## 4. Freedom from fear and stress

- consider animal behaviour when developing farm infrastructure and herd management routine
- provide husbandry skills and appropriate training for personell
- use facilities and equipment that are suitable for stock handling



## 4. Freedom from fear and stress

High acoustic level

Low acoustic level



© 2010 Bobcat Company



## 4. Freedom from fear and stress

- Fear of loneliness



## 4. Freedom from fear and stress

- regulating the amount of flies in rest zone



## 5. Freedom to perform normal behavior


- Have herd management and husbandry procedures that do not unnecessarily compromise the animals resting and social behaviour



- <http://www.compassioninfoodbusiness.com/awards/good-dairy-award/>

*Rev. sci. tech. Off. int. Epiz., 2009, 28 (3), 1165-1172*




**International Dairy Federation Guide to Good Animal Welfare in Dairy Production – 2008**



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guidelines

GUIDE TO GOOD  
DAIRY FARMING PRACTICE



- Thanks!
- Questions?

