European Commission

EU Acquis on animal welfare

Explanatory meeting on the Acquis
19 February 2019 - Brussels

Animal Welfare G 2
Directorate for Health and Food Safety

These slides accompany the explanation of the acquis to Albania and North Macedonia and can only be used for that purpose. Their content is subject to further development of the acquis and interpretation by the Court of Justice of the European Union

Health and Food Safety

Background

- *Animal welfare is a societal concern in the EU: a* ***urban society*** *with few animals*
- *consumers and citizens raising ethical concerns*
- *Economic dimension for farmers*

The EU legislation

- *Presentation of the main EU legal texts*
- *To find EU legal text:* *http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm*

Directive 98/58 = Search by document number = Directive + Year 1998 + Number 58

Regulation 1/2005 = Regulation + Year 2005 + Number 1

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Provisions of the Treaty

Article 13 of the Treaty *on the Functioning of the EU:*

In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, *pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.*

EU Official Journal C 326 (consolidated version of EU treaties)

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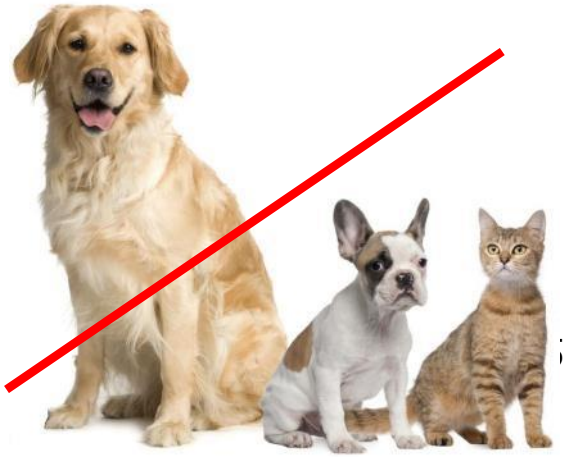
The EU competence for animal welfare

- *Farm animals: Yes*
- *Experimental animals: Yes*
- *Wild animals: Partially (zoo directive, trapping standards, seals)*
- *Companion animals: No*



More than 40 years of legislation on farm animals

- ***5 Directives*** *on animals kept in farms:*
  - Directive 98/58/EC All farm animals
  - Directive 1999/74/EC Laying hens
  - Directive 2008/119/EC Calves
  - Directive 2008/120/EC Pigs
  - Directive 2007/43/EC Broilers (chickens for meat)

- ***2 Regulations:***
  - Regulation 1/2005 Animal transport
  - Regulation 1099/2009 Killing of animals

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Nutrition

2. Water

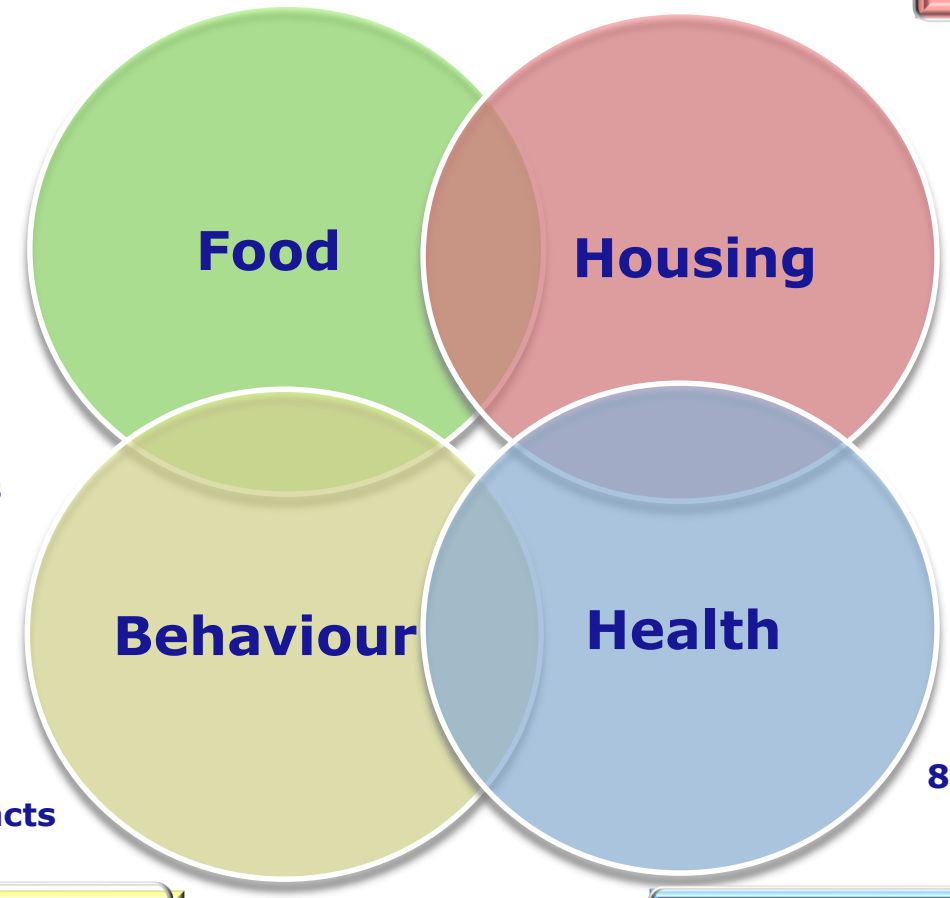
1. Food

Zootechnics

3. Comfort

4. To lie and move

5. Not too hot not too cold



12. No negative emotions

11. Human-animal relationship

10. Species specific behaviours

9. Social contacts

6. No injuries

7. No painful procedures

8. Hygiene and care

Farm Management

Veterinary science

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Directive 98/58 All farmed animals

- *To all vertebrate animals used for production of food, wool, skin, fur, etc.*

- *General requirements on staff, record keeping, freedom of movement, accommodation, equipment, feed and water, mutilations and breeding procedures*

- **Refers to the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for farming purposes** : http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_co-operation/biological_safety_and_use_of_animals/farming/A_texts_documents.asp

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Directive 98/58 All farmed animals (2)

European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for farming purposes with recommendations on:

- Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs
- Domestic fowls, turkeys, ducks, geese, ratites,
- Fur animals
- Farmed fish

Reference: http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_co-operation/biological_safety_and_use_of_animals/farming/A_texts_documents.asp

Directive 1999/74 Laying hens

3 categories of farming systems

- Alternative = no cage + max 9 hens /m2 (>1111 cm2/hen)
- Enriched cages = cage with nest and perch + >750 cm2/hen
- Unenriched cages = **banned from 1st January 2012**

Labelling system for eggs

- *Compulsory information for eggs:*
- *0 = organic eggs*
- *1 = free range eggs*
- *2 = barn eggs*
- *3 = eggs from caged hens*

- *Reference: Regulation 589/2008 (marketing standards for eggs)*

Directive 2008/119 Calves

- *Group housing if >8 weeks age*
- *Minimum size of pen*
- *No complete darkness*
- *No permanent tethering*
- *Balanced feeding iron and fibers*

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Directive 2008/120 Pigs

Accommodation

- *Space requirements for each category of pigs*
- *Requirements on slatted floors*
- *Group housing for dry pregnant sows from 1 January 2013*

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Directive 2008/120 Pigs (2)

For all pigs:

- *Manipulable materials*
- *Rules on mutilations*
  - tooth clipping: Not in routine
  - tail-docking: Not in routine
  - Castration: < 7 days of age
  - nose-ringing: only outdoors

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Directive 2008/120 Pigs (3)

Specific rules for:

- *Boars (10 m2/animal)*
- *Sows and gilts*
- *Piglets (weaning age 28 days)*
- *Rearing pigs (preventing fighting)*

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Group housing for sows

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Directive 2007/43 Chickens for meat

- *Max density 33 Kg/m2 but derogation until 39 kg/m2 if*
  - Better control of environmental parameters (NH3, temperature, humidity)
  - Alarm system and back-up system
  - Monitoring in farm (mortality) and at slaughterhouses (post-mortem)
- *Training courses for farmers*

First EU legislation with outcome-based indicators (contact dermatitis)

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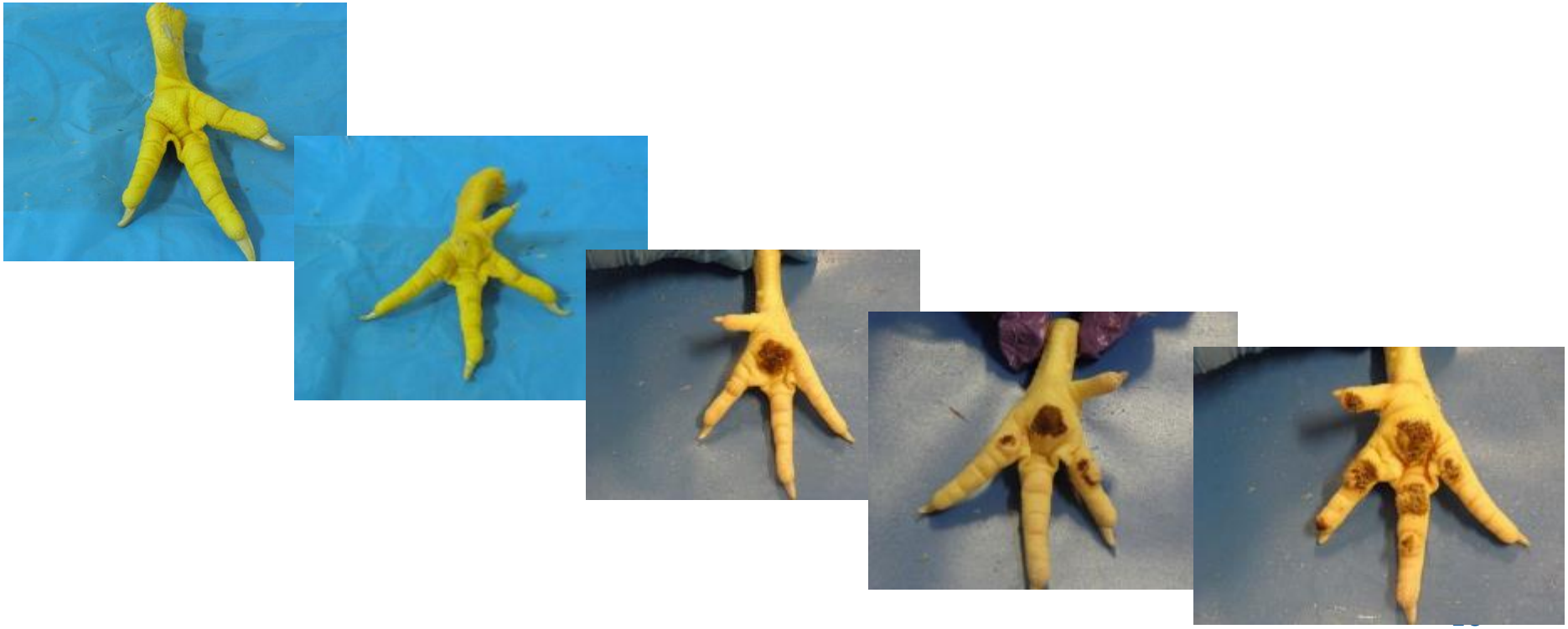
Pododermatitis: grading system



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Regulation 1/2005 Animal Transport

Administrative requirements:

- *Long journeys > 8 hours*
- *Autorisation of all transporters*
- *Certificate of competence for drivers (livestock species)*
- *Approval of vehicles for long journeys*
- *Journey log for long journeys*
- *Rules for assembly centres, livestock markets*

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Regulation 1/2005 Animal Transport (2)

General technical rules

- *Fitness for transport: no weak or sick animals*
- *Means of transport: no risk for injuries or discomfort + specific rules for certain modes of transport (road, air, sea, etc.)*
- *Transport practices: Loading and unloading, handling of animals*

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Regulation 1/2005 Animal Transport (3)

Specific technical rules

- *Livestock vessels and sea containers*
- *Journey times and resting periods*
  - Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses (max between 24 to 29 hours)
  - Poultry (max 12 hours except chicks)
- *Additional rules for long journeys*
  - Ventilation equipment
  - Navigation system
- *Space allowances (for livestock species)*

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Regulation 1099/2009 Killing of animals

- *General requirements*
- *Stunning (except ritual slaughter)*
- *Authorised stunning methods and parameters*
- *Check on stunning*
- *Standard operating procedures*
- *Staff competence in slaughterhouses*
- *Instructions for stunning/restraining equipment*

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Regulation 1099/2009 Killing of animals (2)

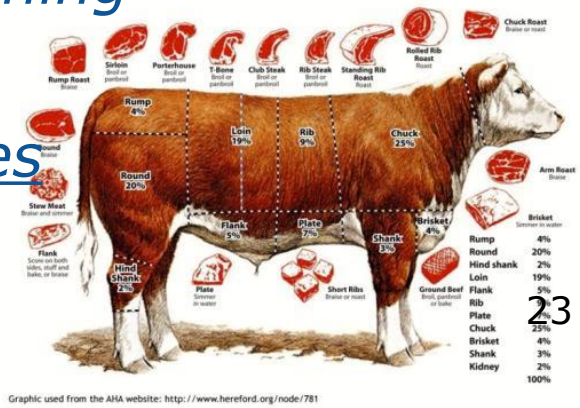
Specific rules for slaughterhouses

- *Rules for the construction and equipment*

(Lairage, restraining equipment, stunning equipment)

- *Operational rules (Arrival, handling, lairage, restraining and bleeding of animals)*
- *Monitoring procedure to check stunning*
- *Animal welfare officer*

Specific rules outsides slaughterhouses (depopulation,etc.)



Graphic used from the AHA website: http://www.hereford.org/node/781

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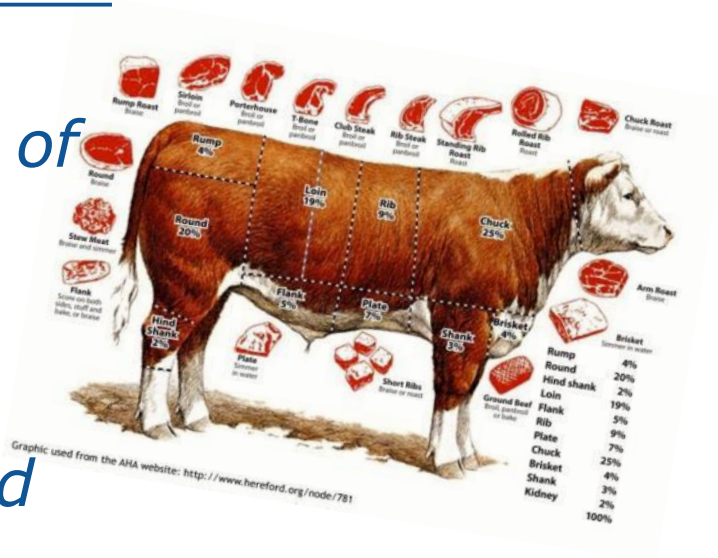
Regulation 1099/2009 Killing of animals (3)

Imports of meat from third countries

- *Requirement for at least equivalent requirements to those of the EU*
- *Reference to OIE standards*
- *Part of the import health certificate accompanying imported meat*



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Thank you for your attention!

ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/index_en.htm