



European Commission Health & Consumers Directorate General

Welfare of intensively kept pigs: EU legislation in force and its evolution in last 15 years

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The views expressed may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission

Introduction

- Current EU Legislation and its implementation
- EFSA Scientific opinions on pig welfare
- Scientific research supported by the Commission
- On-going initiatives of the Commission



The objectives of the Animal Welfare Unit of DG Health and Consumers

- Improve the welfare of animals in Europe and abroad through policy initiatives in particular for farmed animals
- Act as coordinator and facilitator for EU animal protection initiatives.
- Prepare EU legislation, to perform studies and to promote research programs and scientific reviews.
- Raise awareness among stakeholders as well as to develop international cooperation



The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (1)

- No legal basis in the Treaties directly aimed at adopting policies on animal welfare
- However Article 13 requires that the Union and the Member States pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals when formulating and implementing certain EU policies such as agriculture and internal market.



The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (2)

- Art 13: *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***

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (3)



- EU animal welfare rules adopted under several legal basis depending on the main EU policy affected
- Agriculture for farmed animals
Art 43

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (4)

- The treaty attributes precise roles to each institution in the legislative process
- Commission has the power of initiative: proposes to the European Parliament and the Council Union legislative proposals
- European Parliament and Council can make amendments and adopt the proposals
- Procedure for the adoption of the acts: ordinary legislative procedure for animal welfare

Developing animal welfare legislation (1)

- Based on scientific knowledge
- European Food Safety Authority: independent scientific opinions to policy makers
- Evaluation of the situation ex-ante
- Impact assessment study on socio-economic and environmental impacts of different options and administrative burden
- Transparency: evaluation and impact assessment on the web
- Legislative proposal



Developping animal welfare legislation (2)

- Stakeholders' opinion taken into account during the evaluation ex-ante and the impact assessment
- Meetings
- Web consultation
- Concrete example with the evaluation on animal welfare policies
- Consumers' interests:
 - 2010 EFSA Eurobarometer: welfare of farmed animals is a concern for **64%** European Citizens (60% in 2005)
 - 2005 Commission Eurobarometer: **74 %** of European Citizens state that they can influence the welfare of farmed animals
 - **44 %** judged good the welfare of pigs socio-demographic variables (women, younger people)

The development of EU policies on AW

- First EU AW legislation adopted in **1974**
- **EC Treaty Protocol** enters into force **1999**: pay “full regard” to the welfare of animals as “sentient beings”
- **White Paper on Food Safety**: full integration of AW into EU food chain policy, “farm to fork approach”
- **OIE guidelines 2005**
- The **Community Action Plan** on the protection and welfare of animals 2006-2010
- The New **Animal Health Strategy** (2007-2013) - “Prevention is better than cure”
- **Lisbon Treaty**: legal qualification of animals as sentient beings
- EU legislation covers several areas from farming to killing of animals

XXI century evolutions in the legislative area

- 1974 / 1993 / 2009 Stunning and Killing
- 1977/1995 / 2005 Transport
- 1986 / 2010 Animal in experiments
- 1988 / 1999 Laying Hens
- 1991 / 1997 / 2001 Calves – Pigs welfare at farm
- 1998 General farm animal protection Directive
- 1999 Treaty Protocol
- 2006 **Community Action Plan**
- 2007 Ban on trade in cat and dog fur
- 2007 Council Directive on broiler chickens
- 2009 Regulation concerning the trade in seal products
- 1 December 2009 **TREATY OF LISBON – Art. 13**
- 2009 Council Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing

Main pieces of legislation

■ Farming

- General directive (European Convention)
- Specific rules for:
 - Poultry (laying hens and broilers)
 - Pigs
 - Calves

■ Transport

■ Killing

Current EU Legislation

- **Council Directive 98/58/EC**
General minimum welfare requirements for the protection of farm animals
- **Council Directive 2008/120/EC**
Codified version of Council Directive 91/630/EEC and 2001/88/EC

Specific minimum welfare requirements for the protection of pigs



Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs (1)

- Minimum welfare standards for housing and management
- Ventilation
- Light
- Stocking densities for the different categories of animals
- Minimum weaning age 28 days
- Enrichment material
- Mutilations (castration, tail-docking tooth clipping)
- Record keeping mortalities and medicines



Directive 2008/120/EC on the protection of pigs

- Ban the use of tethers since 1 January 2006
- Ban on the use of individual stalls for pregnant sows and gilts during a period starting from 4 weeks after service to 1 week before the expected time of farrowing.
- Improve the quality of the flooring surfaces,
- Increase the living space available for sows and gilts,
- Allow the sows and gilts to have permanent access to materials for rooting

From 1 January 2003 these requirements are applicable to all holdings newly built or rebuilt. From 1 January 2013 these provisions shall apply to all holdings.

Implementation of the current EU Legislation

- Overall progress in MS to implement AW requirements for pigs (e.g. end of tethering of sows)
- However, the Commission Inspection Service of DG SANCO shows the lack of implementation of specific requirements

EFSA Scientific Opinions

Scientific Opinions on pig welfare from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in Parma

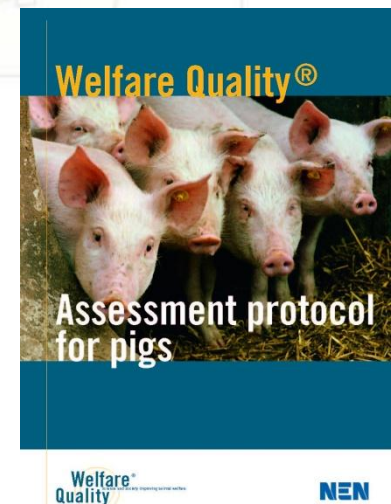
1. Welfare aspects of the castration of piglets (2004)
2. Effects of space allowances and floor types on the welfare of weaners and rearing pigs (2005)
3. Housing and husbandry of fattening pigs (2007)
4. Housing and husbandry systems for adult breeding boars, pregnant, farrowing sows and unweaned piglets (2007)
5. Risks associated with tail biting in pigs and possible means to reduce the need for tail docking considering the different housing and husbandry systems (2007)

Scientific Research Projects funded by the Commission

■ « **Welfare Quality-Science and society improving animal welfare in the food chain quality** ».

- develops Animal Welfare Indicators which should contribute to a better assessment of the situation on farm

- Assessment protocol for pigs already available



Scientific Research Projects funded by the Commission

- **PIGCAS « Attitudes, practices and state of the art regarding piglet castration in Europe »**

Study funded by the European Parliament

- **ALCASDE** to explore practical alternatives to **piglets castration** and ways to define EU quality criteria for meat originating from non-castrated pigs

Current initiatives: European Partnership on Pig Castration (1)

- The Commission facilitated the elaboration of the European Declaration on alternatives to surgical castration of pigs.
- The Declaration was signed in December 2010 by main organisations of the pig sector.



European Partnership on pig castration (2)

- European Representatives of the pig sector commit to voluntarily stop surgical castration by **1 January 2018** provided certain tools are available such as harmonised methods at European Level to detect Boar Taint.
- From **1 January 2012** surgical castration of pigs will be performed with prolonged analgesia and/or anesthesia.
- The Declaration establishes a **European Partnership on Pig Castration**.
- http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/farm/initiatives_en.htm

European Partnership on pig castration (3)

- Financial support from the EU to develop the tools to achieve this objective
- Reference methods to detect boar taint 2011
- Study on consumers' acceptance 2012
- Economic study 2012
- Study breeding, feeding and management 2012
- Dedicated website for the European partnership on pig castration 2011



Ongoing activities:

- **Community Action Plan 2006-2010**
- **Paulsen's report: May 2010**
- **Evaluation on the EU policy on animal welfare: Dec 2010**
- **New Strategy** foreseen for December 2011

The EU strategy for AW: Main issues

- Enforcement
- Competitiveness of farmers
- Communication to consumers and stakeholders
- Science and innovation
- Scope of EU legislation





Our ambitions

■ New strategy for 2011:

- Defining clearly the line on future EU policies
- Market oriented responding to citizens concerns
- Fully integrated with other sustainable policies
- Responding to the international challenges for EU producers

Our objectives

■ General objectives:

- A level of protection in line with citizens concerns
- Consistency between EU policies within and outside EU
- Level playing fields between operators

Our objectives

■ Specific objectives

- To maintain and enhance the welfare of animals through legislation and enforcement; (Legislation area)
- To develop a common understanding of animal welfare issues at international level; (international area)
- To improve understanding of animal welfare issues by the public and stakeholders; (communication area)
- To improve our overall understanding of animal welfare issues and develop knowledge to guide effective and efficient delivery policy (research area).

Conclusion

Continuous work going on at the Commission in order to improve the welfare of pigs and to increase awareness on this issue among stakeholders and consumer

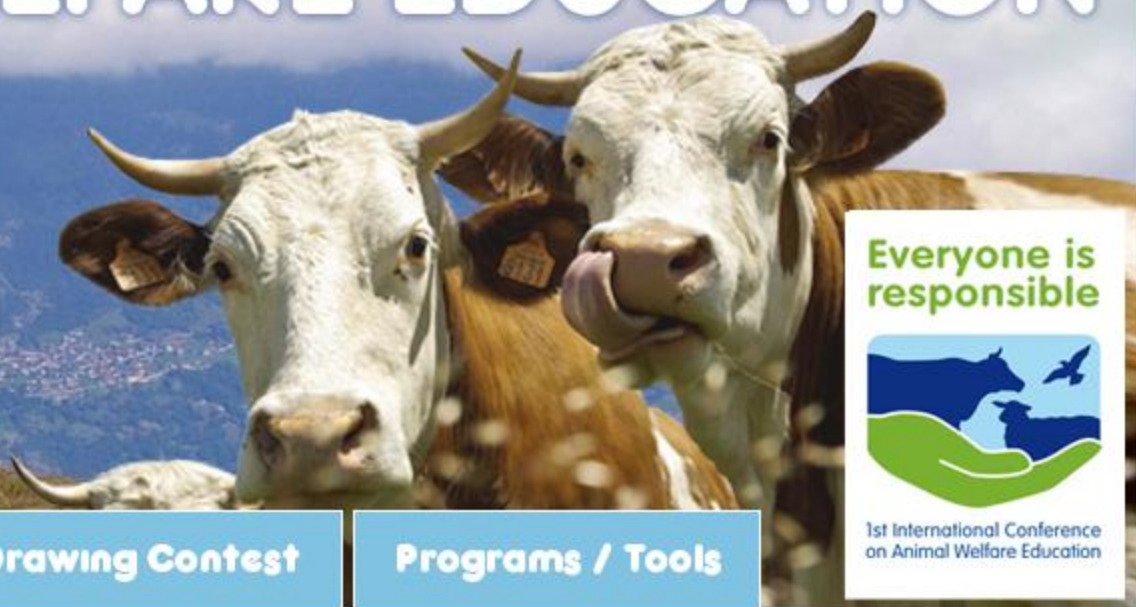




ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION

The starting point of animal-welfare policy is the recognition that animals are sentient beings and should be treated in such a way that they do not suffer unnecessarily. It concerns the animals that are under human care

{e.g. on the farm, during transport, or at the time of slaughter}.



Everyone is
responsible



1st International Conference
on Animal Welfare Education

Information

Conference

Drawing Contest

Programs / Tools

Education about animal welfare

Humans interact with animals for many reasons

To provide food, wool, leather and other materials...

To guard property, assist the disabled, transport goods and people...

For recreation, for sport, for companionship...

To play a role in safety testing, medicinal research, replacement of human organs...

The starting point of animal-welfare policy is the recognition that animals are sentient beings and should be treated in such a way that they do not suffer unnecessarily. It concerns the animals that are under human care {e.g. on the farm, during transport, or at the time of slaughter}.

For this, EU is determined to widen the impact of education about animal welfare.

REGISTER ONLINE

SEE THE FIRST
VIDEO ON
ANIMAL WELFARE
CREATED BY THE
EUROPEAN
COMMISSION.

WATCH THE VIDEO



www.farmland-thegame.eu

Thanks

