



Stakeholder Meeting  
Brussels – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

# Protection of animals kept for fur production

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# Mandate on the welfare of fur animals on farm



Mandate received:  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Mandate deadline:  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

## EU Legal background



There is currently no specific EU animal protection legislation covering these animal species



Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes applies



**FUR FREE  
EUROPE**



## Previous Scientific outputs



SCAHAW, 2001 – The welfare of animals kept for fur production



# EFSA approach to the mandates on fur animals



## EC Mandate requests to EFSA

**Article 31** in accordance to **Regulation (EC) 178/2002**– **Technical Report**

**Article 29** in accordance to **Regulation (EC) 178/2002**– **Scientific Opinion**

Methodological guidance for the development of animal welfare mandates in the context of the Farm to Fork Strategy

[EFSA AHAW Panel, 2022](#)

1.2.2002

EN

Official Journal of the European Communities

L 31/1

I

*(Acts whose publication is obligatory)*

REGULATION (EC) No 178/2002 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL  
of 28 January 2002

laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety

SECTION 5

Article 31

OPERATION

Scientific and technical assistance

Article 29

### Scientific opinions

1. The Authority shall issue a scientific opinion:

1. The Authority may be requested by the Commission to provide scientific or technical assistance in any field within its mission. The tasks of providing scientific and technical assistance shall consist of scientific or technical work involving the application of well-established scientific or technical principles which does not require scientific evaluation by the Scientific Committee or a Scientific Panel. Such tasks may include in particular assistance to the Commission for the establishment or evaluation of technical criteria and also assistance to the Commission in the development of technical guidelines.



## Species included in the mandate



**Mink**

*Mustela vison*



**Red Fox**

*Vulpes vulpes*



**Arctic Fox**

*Vulpes lagopus*  
(previously  
*Alopex lagopus*)



**Raccoon Dogs**

*Nyctereutes procyonoides*



**Chinchillas**

*Chinchilla laniger*





# Mandate Terms of Reference



## Technical report

### ToR1a

- An **update** of the **literature review** of the report "*The welfare of animals kept for fur production*" (SCAHAW, 2001), on:
  - Section 4: General aspects of **carnivore biology** (foxes, mink and raccoon dogs)
  - Section 5: General aspects of **rodent biology** (chinchillas)

### ToR1b

- A **review** of the **most common husbandry system(s)** (including field-tested systems) and **rearing practices** for keeping **animals for fur production** for the species named.

## Scientific opinion

### ToR2a

- **Identify the most relevant welfare consequences** and corresponding **hazards in relation to common husbandry systems and practices** for fur production

### ToR2b

- For the **most relevant welfare consequences** (max 5), assess whether the welfare consequences identified above can be **prevented** or **substantially mitigated under current farming** conditions or **other field-tested farming systems**.
- The **welfare assessment** will be **focused** on the **welfare consequences** considered highly relevant in a certain animal category.



## DATA and methodologies

To carry out risk assessment, EFSA will produce outcomes following:

<b>Literature search and data extraction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature review and systematic literature review</li><li>• Grey literature</li><li>• Data extraction, metanalysis</li></ul>
<b>Data recording and analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of tools for monitoring data on a certain topic</li><li>• Questionnaires and survey to Member States and stakeholders</li><li>• Organization of network meetings</li><li>• Outsourcing activities for data recording in the field</li></ul>
<b>Expert Knowledge Elicitation (EKE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tool to get expert judgements (and their related uncertainty) in the case of scarce empirical evidence (<i>Guidance on expert knowledge elicitation in food and feed safety RA</i> <a href="https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/efsajournal/pub/3734">https://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/efsajournal/pub/3734</a> )</li></ul>

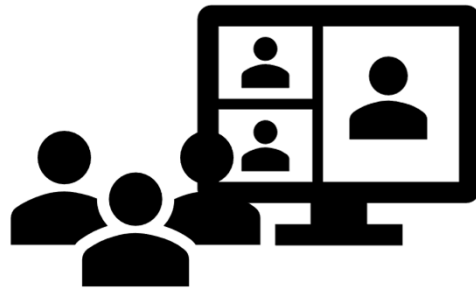


# From the 'question' (mandate) to the 'answer' (scientific output)

## Mandate



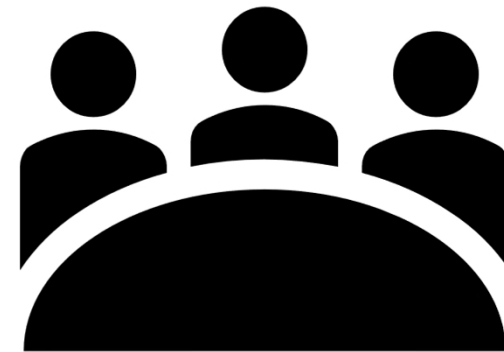
## WORKING GROUP



Draft  
scientific  
opinion



## AHAW PANEL



Adoption of the  
Scientific  
Opinion



Publication in EFSA  
Journal

## SCIENTIFIC OPINION



ADOPTED: 29 March 2023  
doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2023.7992

### Welfare of ducks, geese and quail on farm

EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (AHAW Panel),  
Søren Saxmose Nielsen, Julio Alvarez, Dominique Joseph Bicout, Paolo Calistri,  
Elisabetta Canali, Julian Ashley Drewe, Bruno Garin-Bastuji, Jose Luis Gonzales Rojas,  
Christian Gortázar Schmidt, Mette Herskin, Virginie Michel, Miguel Ángel Miranda Chueca,  
Barbara Padalino, Helen Clare Roberts, Hans Spoolder, Karl Stahl, Arvo Viltrop,  
Christoph Winckler, Charlotte Berg, Sandra Edwards, Ute Knierim, Anja Riber, Attila Salamon,  
Inga Tiemann, Chiara Fabris, Aikaterini Manakidou, Olaf Mosbach-Schulz, Yves Van der Stede,  
Marika Vitali and Antonio Velarde



# Engagement strategy for AW mandates: fur animals



## 1. Expression of interest + public meeting

- Set up a pool of SH for regular engagement.
- Present the mandate; discuss its opportunities and challenges.
- Listen to the views of SH as from the start.
- Identify individual contributors to be invited to ad-hoc technical hearings of the EFSA working group.

## 3. Ad-hoc technical hearings

SH who have submitted relevant data or information may be invited as hearing experts in the meetings of the EFSA working group.

## 5. Public webinar

- Present the EFSA opinion.
- Foster the understanding of EFSA's conclusions/recommendations.
- Close the feedback loop with SH by explaining how their input was considered/taken on board in formulating EFSA's opinion.

Today

After mandate acceptance

After the public meeting

Throughout the mandate

Before adoption (if needed)

After publication

## 2. Call for evidence

Shortly after the public meeting, EFSA will hold a structured collection of the data/information at SH's hand to support risk assessment. SH input will be made public.

## 4. Targeted consultation

EFSA may require additional input on specific parts of the draft opinion. The consultation would target the pool of SH involved in the previous steps. SH input will be made public.



Consultation of EFSA Networks



Thank you for your attention!

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