

**Stakeholder meeting on the protection of animals kept for fur production: farming practices and data (Brussels, 22 January 2024)**

# WelFur as a scientific process

*Jaakko Mononen*

PhD, Principal Scientist, Group Manager

Welfare of Farmed Animals group

Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)





# Welfare as a scientific process

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## Who am I?

- **MSc 1989** (University of Kuopio)
- **PhD 1996** (University of Kuopio)
- **Professor in Animal Behaviour and Welfare 2003-2015** (University of Kuopio/Eastern Finland)
- **Principal Scientist 2016-** (Luke)
  
- **75 peer-reviewed papers and >300 other scientific papers on animal behaviour and welfare: mainly fur animals and cattle**
  
- **Fur animal welfare research since 1986**
- **Welfare R&D since 2009** (co-funded & customer projects)

# WelFur as a scientific process

Year(s)	Selected 'milestones'
1980?-2009	Fur animal welfare research before WelFur
2004-2009	Welfare Quality®: cattle, pigs & poultry
2009	Initiation of WelFur R&D: Fur Europe
2010	Literature reviews (unpublished 'mini-reviews')
2012	e.g. Mononen et al (2012), Boutreau et al (2012)
2012-14	e.g. Fur Farm 2020 project (in Finland)
2015	On-farm pilot in 10 countries
2015	Mink and fox protocols
2017-	Full scale implementation of WelFur
2022	Finnraccoon protocol
2022	e.g. Henriksen et al (2022),
2023	e.g. Koistinen & Mononen (2023)
2024-	Update of the protocols




**INITIATIVE: Help needed!**



**AIM: On-farm welfare assessment systems for mink, foxes and Finnrraccoons ("WelFur 1.0")**

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- ➔ **Hundreds of scientific papers**
- ➔ **Welfare Quality® as a model**
- ➔ **Seven European universities/research institutes**
- ➔ **Identifying potential welfare measures**
- ➔ **Scientific documentation**
- ➔ **Field data and practical experiences**
- ➔ **Field data and practical experiences**
- ➔ **Certification and advisory tool**
- ➔ **Training of the assessors and advisors**
- ➔ **Certification and advisory tool**
- ➔ **Scientific documentation**
- ➔ **Scientific documentation**
- ➔ **Scientific work continues**

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- **Welfare Quality® as a model for WelFur**
  - ✓ Same welfare principles (4) and criteria (12)
  - ✓ Output measures preferred over input measures
  - ✓ Reliability, validity and feasibility of measures
  - ✓ Similar approach in developing the scoring system
  - ✓ Partially similar system for calculating the criterion and principle scores and determining the final welfare category
  - ✓ Major difference: assessments in three periods (production phases)

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- **Welfare Quality® as a model for WelFur**



- **Consultation help from many WQ scientists: Harry Blokhuis, Isabelle Veissier, Raphaele Boutreau, Andy Butterworth, Antoni Dalmau**

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doi: 10.7120/09627286.21.3.363

## The development of on-farm welfare assessment protocols for foxes and mink: the WelFur project

J Mononen<sup>\*†</sup>, SH Møller<sup>‡</sup>, SW Hansen<sup>‡</sup>, AL Hovland<sup>§</sup>, T Koistinen<sup>†</sup>, L Lidfors<sup>#</sup>, J Malmkvist<sup>†</sup>,  
CM Vinke<sup>¹</sup> and L Ahola<sup>†</sup>

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<sup>¹</sup> Department of Animals in Science and Society, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, PO Box 80166, 3508 TD Utrecht, The Netherlands

## ➔ Scientific documentation

Scientifur 2012, 36: 460-468

### Applying Welfare Quality® strategy to design a welfare assessment tool for fox and mink farms

R. Bouteau<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Gaborit<sup>1,2</sup> and I. Veissier<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>INRA, UMR1213 Herbivores, 63122 Saint-Genès-Champanelle, France; <sup>2</sup>Clermont Université, VetAgro Sup, UMR Herbivores, BP 10448, 63000, Clermont-Ferrand, France; raphaelle.bouteau@clermont.inra.fr

## ➔ Scientific documentation

Scientifur 2022, 47: 43-60

Development and structure of the WelFur on-farm welfare protocol for the Finnraccoon

Tarja Koistinen, Jaakko Mononen

Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Production Systems, Halolantie 31 A, 71750 Kuopio, Finland



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**External Reviewer Committee:** Harry Blokhuis, David Morton, Georgia Mason



**External Reviewer Committee:** Andy Butterworth, Jens Malmkvist, Anne Lene Hovland



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## Animal welfare measured at mink farms in Europe

Britt I.F. Henriksen, Steen H. Møller, Jens Malmkvist\*

Department of Animal Science, Aarhus University, Denmark

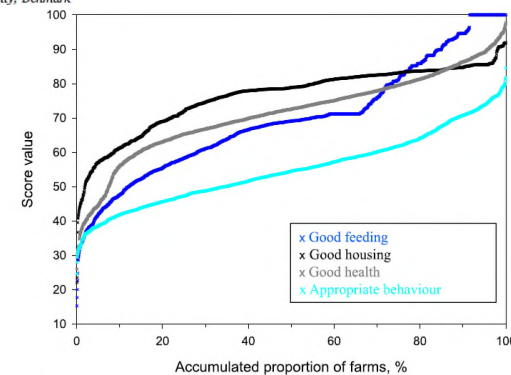
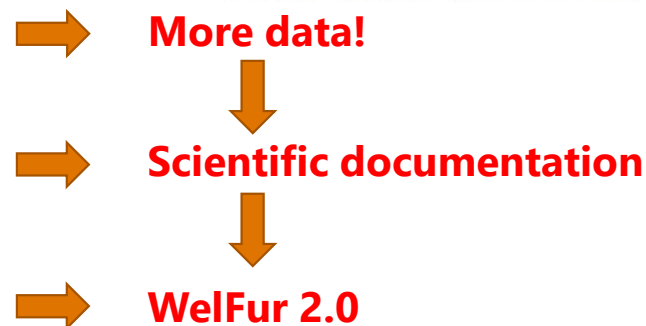


Fig. 1. Score value for the four welfare principles v accumulated proportion, percentage, of all (N = 2104) WelFur-assessed European farms 2017–19. The median [25%; 75%] score value was 69 [58; 81] for Good feeding, 79 [72; 83] for Good housing, 73 [65; 80] for Good health and 55 [47; 62] for Appropriate Behaviour.



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 ISSN 0962-7286  
 doi: 10.7120/09627286.24.3.241

**Extending the 'Five Domains' model for animal welfare assessment to incorporate positive welfare states**

DJ Mellor\* and NJ Beausoleil

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## Qualitative Behaviour Assessment

**But...**

Application of the Five Domains model to food chain management of animal welfare: opportunities and constraints

 **frontiers** | Frontiers in Animal Science

TYPE Policy and Practice Reviews  
 PUBLISHED 09 June 2023  
 DOI 10.3389/fanim.2023.1042733

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<sup>1</sup>Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre, School of Veterinary Science, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand; <sup>2</sup>Department of Animal Science and Large Animal Clinical Science, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, United States; <sup>3</sup>School of Bioscience, One Health and Veterinary Medicine, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom; <sup>4</sup>Center for Animal Welfare Science, Department of Comparative Pathobiology and Animal Science, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, United States

➔ **More focus on indicators of positive welfare**

# Thank you!

