



**Interactive Discussion:
Challenges & opportunities regarding welfare of
fur producing animals**
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**EFSA'S TOPICS
OF INTEREST:
PROTECTION OF ANIMALS
KEPT FOR FUR PRODUCTION**



CALL FOR EVIDENCE (1)

Housing conditions

- What are the average sizes of the cages used in the EU?
- What are the flooring types used (wire mash, solid; ground, elevated)?
- Are other types of housing practices used (extensive, outdoor, etc.)? How common are they?
- Is there single, double or group housing (group composition)?
- Do you have data (which you would like to share) linking housing conditions (resources available) to animal welfare (Animal Welfare Measures (ABMs))?



CALL FOR EVIDENCE (2)

Housing conditions

- What are the light conditions provided (use of natural / artificial lightning)?
- Is any type of ventilation or heating/cooling used (ideal housing temperatures)?
- How is feeding provided? The frequency and type of feeding?
- What are the features and sizes of nest boxes (if provided)?
- How are the kits/cubs housed?



CALL FOR EVIDENCE (3)

Environmental enrichment

- What are the most commonly used types of environmental enrichment?
- How often is environmental enrichment provided?
- Is water for bathing available for mink?
- Are sand baths provided for chinchilla?
- Are platforms/shelves provided?
- Do you have evidence (described in a report or a publication) linking environmental enrichment or the lack of environmental enrichment to animal welfare using Animal Welfare Measures (ABMs)?



CALL FOR EVIDENCE (4)

Breeding and Reproduction

- Does the farmed species differ from wild relatives and to what extent? Is there specific information/data on this?
- Which are the specific breeding traits looked for in the industry (temperament, physical characteristics, litter size)?
- What type of reproduction methods are used (artificial or natural)?
- How is weaning performed and carried out?



CALL FOR EVIDENCE (5)

Handling

- What is the frequency of handling animals?
- How is handling and restrained done for routine practices? (Vaccination, breeding, cage transfer).
- Are there available guidelines/good practices & applied in the different countries?



GENERAL QUESTIONS (1)

- The data that EFSA is normally using & framework of risk assessment.
- What is the current average mortality rate on farm, and what are the main causes?
- Are the current certification schemes applied to all the farms?
Is there any follow up action for the farmer if they get good/bad evaluation? (e.g. in case of high prevalence of wounds or other sign of poor welfare)
- Who are the best people/key informants to approach to describe the husbandry systems and practices for the animals kept for fur production within the EU?



NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS & FURTHER ENGAGEMENT FOR AW

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.

