

Interactive Discussion: Challenges & opportunities regarding welfare of fur producing animals Yves Van der Stede (EFSA)



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)

<u>Handling</u>

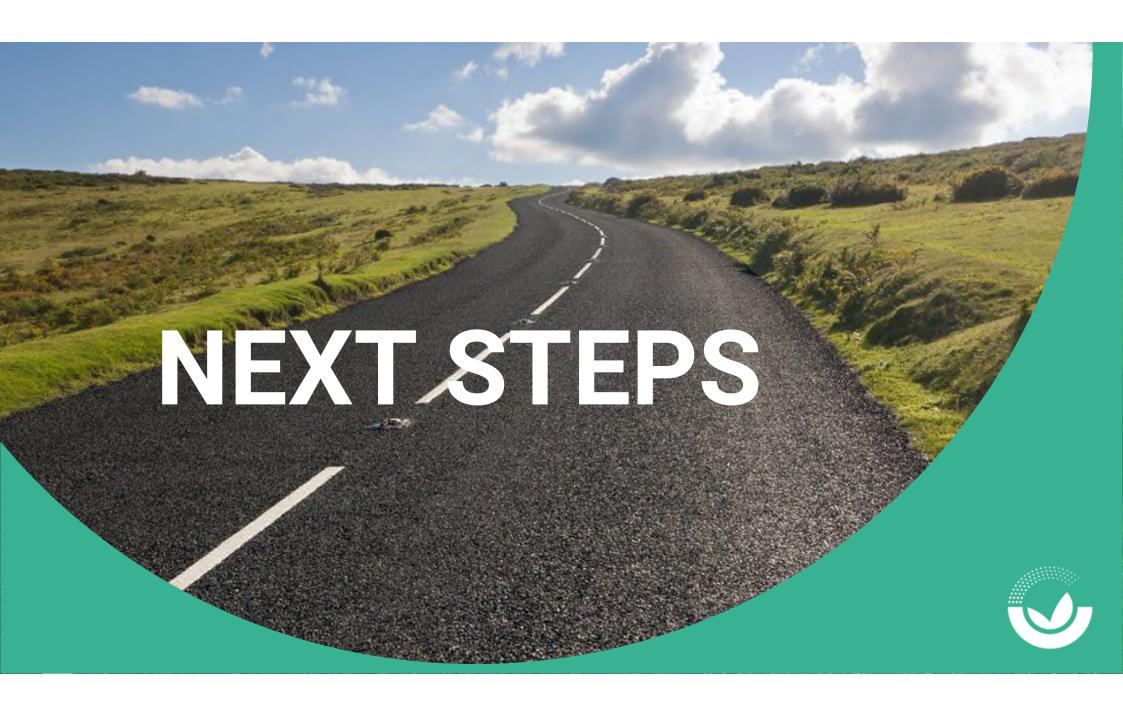
- What is the frequency of handling animals?
- How is handling and restrained done for routine practices? (Vaccination, breeding, cage transfer).
- Are there available guidelines/good practices & applied in the different countries?



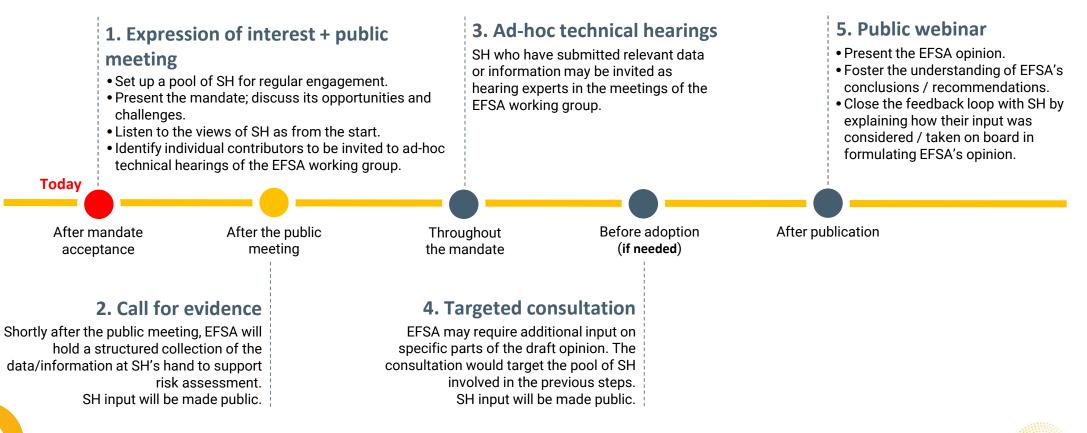
GENERAL QUESTIONS (1)

- 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 & FURTHER ENGAGEMENT FOR AW





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