

SCIENTIFIC NETWORK ON RISK ASSESSMENT IN ANIMAL WELFARE

1st meeting of the Animal Welfare (AW) Network



03-04 March 2026

09:30h-18:00h (03 March) / 09:00h-10:40h (04 March)

AGENDA

Location: EFSA - Parma (Meeting room MTG SEAT 00/M07 and 00/M08) and Online (Teams Platform)

Chairs: Denise Candiani and Chiara Fabris

Day 1 - 03/03/2026 - Joint session AW Network + Scientific NCPs Network			
Chair: Denise Candiani			
Time	No.	Item	Presenter
09:30	1	Welcome and Apologies for absence	Chair
09:35	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda, • Agreement of the minutes: 23rd meeting of the AHAW Network and 10th meeting of the scientific NCPs 	Chair
09:40	3	Newly created AW Network and its subgroup	Chair
09:45	4	New EU Regulation on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability (20 min) Q&A (10 min)	Kornilia Zafeiropoulou/ Pablo Gomez de Mayora Garcia, G.3 Unit, DG Sante
	5	Recently published EFSA scientific opinions:	
10:15	5.1	Welfare of animals kept for fur production (link)(10 min) Q&A (5 min)	Marika Vitali - EFSA
10:30	5.2	Welfare of beef cattle (link) (10 min) Q&A (5 min)	Eliana Lima - EFSA
10:45	5.3	Welfare of turkeys on farm (link) (10 min) Q&A (5 min)	Cristina Rojo Gimeno - EFSA
11:00		<i>Coffee break</i>	
03/03/2026 - Joint session AW Network + Scientific NCPs Network			
Chair: Chiara Fabris			
11:20	6	Update on the activities and plans of DG Sante F2 Unit related to animal welfare on farm and at slaughter (20 min) Q&A (10 min)	Vasco Antunes, F.2 Unit, DG Sante
11:50	7	Update on EFSA's grants and procurements: follow-up of 'More welfare' (10 min) Q&A (5 min)	Yves Van der Stede - AW team leader EFSA



12:05	8	EFSA's involvement in the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (10 min) Q&A (5 min)	Eleonora Caro - EFSA
12:20	9	Ongoing mandate on the Welfare of Equidae – update on the progress (link) (15 min) Q&A (5 min)	Aitana Lopez - EFSA
12:40		<i>Lunch break (buffet lunch at EFSA premises)</i>	
03/03/2026 - Joint session AW Network + Scientific NCPs Network Chair: Denise Candiani			
	10	Exchange of information - Presentations by Networks representatives	
13:40	10.1	Welfare of free-roaming hens (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Estonia
14:00	10.2	Curative tail amputation in calves (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	The Netherlands
14:20	10.3	Welfare of invertebrates kept for farming purposes (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Italy
14:40	10.4	Official inspections on the welfare of animals kept in zoos (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Italy
15:00	10.5	Animal shelters: can operating procedures be standardized? (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Belgium (Wallonia)
15:20		<i>Coffee break</i>	
03/03/2026 - Joint session AW Network + Scientific NCPs Network Chair: Chiara Fabris			
15:40	10.6	Trend on slaughterhouse distribution (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Czechia
16:00	10.7	Electrical stunning of adult cattle (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Czechia
16:20	10.8	Emergency killing of pigs (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Estonia



16:40	10.9	Protecting animal welfare: the role of communication in outbreak response (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Croatia
17:00	10.10	Update on the Italian system for categorizing risks on farms "Classyfarm" (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Italy
17:20	10.11	Welfare of <i>Equidae</i> – feedback from the request for information on national guidelines (5 min) Plenary discussion (15 min)	Aitana Lopez - /Beatrice Benedetti EFSA
17:40	10.12	EFSA's Scientific Opinion on the use of Diathermic Syncope (DTS) for stunning cattle (link) – published on 26 February 2026 (15 min) Q&A (5 min)	Aikaterini Manakidou - EFSA
18:00		<i>Introduction to the next day and end of the joint session</i>	
19:30		Dinner at Ristorante Pilotta, Via Giambattista Bodoni, 3, 43121 Parma PR	

Day 2 - 04/03/2026 - AW Network			
Chair: Denise Candiani			
Time	No.	Item	Presenter
09:00	11	Welcome, Adoption of the agenda of Day 2	Chair
	12	Exchange of information on Risk Assessment in AW	
09:05	12.1	Preliminary work of a scientific opinion: "Risk assessment of animal welfare in exotic birds kept as companion and hobby animals" from the Norwegian Scientific Committee (5 min) Plenary discussion (10 min)	Norway
09:20	12.2	Animal Welfare Risk Assessment of commercially kept horses in the Netherlands (excluding transport and slaughter) (5 min) Plenary discussion (10 min)	The Netherlands
09:35	12.3	Animal Welfare Risk assessment of harmful external features in dogs and cats in the Netherlands (5 min) Plenary discussion (10 min)	The Netherlands
09:50	13	In-depth discussion on risk assessment activities on welfare of cats and dogs Feedback - request for information on risk assessment activities from Network members	Chair and AW Network



		Plenary discussion		
10:35	<i>AoB and closure of AW Network meeting</i>			