

**16<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**EFSA Online Event**

**Genetics, conformation  
and welfare in dogs and  
cats: an exchange with  
experts**

**WELCOME**

**Yves Van der Stede**



**16<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

**EFSA Online Event**

# **Genetics, conformation and welfare in dogs and cats: an exchange with experts**



## **INTRODUCTION**

**Denise Candiani**



# HOUSEKEEPING

## Device Etiquette

- Please mute all devices
- Use Teams Chat for QA



## Recording Notice

- Recording is in progress and is solely intended for minute taking



## Feedback Survey

- A feedback survey link will be sent after the event  
– your input is appreciated



## AI Etiquette



Attendees of EFSA events and meetings (whether held in person, online or in a hybrid format) are informed that the unauthorised **recording, transmission or transcription of the event/meeting, including through the use of Artificial Intelligence tools, is not permitted.**

Participants are also expected to **refrain from any conduct that may disrupt** the proper running of the event/meeting, including the use of AI-generated or other content in a manner that interferes with the proceedings.

Where such situations arise, the chair or organisers may take appropriate measures, such as **restricting access** to certain functionalities, or removing the participant from the event/meeting.



# CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVE OF THE MEETING

## Context

New Regulation on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats of June 2026, produced by the EC  
(**Risk management**)



Supplementary measures, including on excessive conformational traits based on EFSA's opinion (**Risk assessment**)  
-> **Mandate to EFSA will come soon**

## Objective

Build EFSA expertise on dog and cat welfare, with a focus on excessive conformational traits, and their health and welfare implications



**Create pools of potential experts and stakeholders**

## Approach

Expert presentations on recent developments, challenges, and risk assessment of excessive conformational traits in dogs and cats



Interaction with the audience via the **meeting chat**



# PROGRAMME

## Session 1

### Definition of “excessive”

- 1 Defining “excessive” conformational traits  
**Dan O’Neill**
- 2 Mutations and excessive traits  
**Marie Abitbol**
- 3 Excessive traits and the need for treatment  
**Vladimira Erjavec**

## Session 2

### Scientific evidence about health & welfare consequences

- 1 Animal welfare risk assessment of harmful external features in dogs and cats in the Netherlands  
**Lodi Laméris**
- 2 Prevalences and health testing for excessive conformation for dogs in Finland  
**Liisa Lilja-Maula**
- 3 Brachycephalic Cats: Current Knowledge, Evidence Gaps and the Italian Perspective  
**Simona Cannas**
- 4 Scientific assessment of the Austrian Extreme Breeding Commission  
**Christine Arhant**

## Session 3

### Indicators to assess the traits

- 1 The Innate Health Assessment Tool  
**Dan O’Neill**
- 2 Veterinary assessment of breeding animals  
**Hille Fieten**

# AGENDA

10.00 - 10.10

01

**Welcome &  
Introduction**

10.10 - 10.40

02

**Session 1:  
  
Definition of  
excessive  
conformational  
traits**

10.40 - 11.15

03

**Session 2:  
  
Scientific  
evidence  
on health and  
welfare  
consequences**

11.15 - 11.45

04

**Session 3:  
  
Indicators to  
assess  
excessive  
conformational  
traits**

11.45 - 12.00

05

**Coffee Break**

12.00 - 13.00

06

**Q&A**



# Q&A INSTRUCTIONS

## SUBMIT IN CHAT

Please submit questions through the webinar chat **before the coffee break**.

## KEEP IT SCIENTIFIC

Questions on the implementation of the legislation will not be addressed. Questions should relate to **scientific matters**. Only scientific part addressed in combined questions.

## ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS

- Q from registration form will be tackled first
- Q from the chat based on their **relevance** and the available time.

## QUESTION FOR THE AUDIENCE

Are you aware of any other source of scientific evidence about prevalence of excessive traits, their consequences, and possible indicators?

