



**Ministry of Food, Agriculture  
and Fisheries of Denmark**

Danish Veterinary and  
Food Administration

# **Voluntary Initiative on pullets**

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# The voluntary initiative on pullets

## Status

- ❖ At the third meeting on the Platform in June 2018 I announced the intent to establish a voluntary initiative on pullets
- ❖ The voluntary initiative group was established and held its first meeting in October 2018
- ❖ The group based its work on a discussion paper on best management practice for the welfare of pullets, which was drawn up by Platform members from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, and Denmark
- ❖ The group has held four meetings, and has also had discussions on parts of the text via e-mail
- ❖ Today – 22 June 2021 - the Guide on best management practice for the welfare of pullets (meant for production of eggs for human consumption) is on the agenda for acknowledgement by the adoption of a conclusion



# The voluntary initiative on pullets

## The members

### Member States:

- ❖ Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden

### Business and professional organisations:

- ❖ Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU, Copa-Cogeca, European Rural Poultry Association, and ISAE

### Civil society organisations:

- ❖ Compassion in World Farming and RSPCA

### International Organisations:

- ❖ OIE



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## Background

Pullets are covered by Council Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes

- ✓ However, the provisions of the Directive are general and do not address the complex animal welfare challenges, which may arise during the rearing period of pullets, and which may affect their welfare not only during the rearing period but also later in the egg-laying period

This is the reason why a guide on pullets was regarded appropriate



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## The guide

The guide is structured so that it first has an introductory part:

- with a short description on applicable legislation, and
- with considerations as to why it would be appropriate to produce a guide:
  - ✓ there is a link between the conditions given to pullets in the rearing period and how they cope with the conditions given in the systems where they are kept in the subsequent laying period.
  - ✓ guidelines is therefore believed not only to help improve the welfare of the pullets, but also their welfare when they later in life become laying hens.



# The voluntary initiative on pullets

## The guide

After the introduction follows chapters with recommendations, which covers the following:

- ✓ Training of staff
- ✓ Inspection and stockmanship
- ✓ Choice of rearing system
- ✓ Feeding equipment and feeding
- ✓ Drinking equipment
- ✓ Environment
- ✓ Stocking density
- ✓ Air quality and thermal environment
- ✓ Beak trimming

At the end a glossary



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## The guide - consultation

After the guide was finalised by the voluntary initiative group, a **consultation period** was initiated

- ✓ This resulted in relevant and constructive comments
- ✓ All comments have been carefully scrutinised, and consequently a number of amendments, which have improved the text, have been made
- ✓ However, for different reasons not all comments could be taken into account, this could for instance be suggestions
  - to amend parts of the text, where the group after lengthy and often difficult discussions reached a compromise
  - to add new contents, which would need to be discussed further in the group
  - to add or change figures, which could initiate again a discussion on figures



# The voluntary initiative pullets

## The guide – closing remarks

- ❖ The aim of the guide is to support a good management practice for the keeping of pullets and thus improve their welfare
- ❖ To this end it is my hope that you – the Platform members – will be in a position to vote in favor of a conclusion, which acknowledges the ‘Guide on best management practice for the welfare of pullets (meant for the production of eggs for human consumption)’
- ❖ Finally
  - ✓ I really appreciate that documents, which have been acknowledged by Platform conclusions are uploaded to the part of the Commission website dealing with the EU Platform on Animal Welfare. This is valuable for their dissemination
  - ✓ the possible support from the Commission for the translation of the guide would be a great added value







Thank you – questions?