



Update on Animal welfare activities

**Animal Health Advisory Committee
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This presentation does not necessarily represent the views of the European Commission



EU Animal Welfare Strategy

- All outstanding actions completed
- 3 reports adopted since November 2017:
 1. killing of farmed fish COM/2018/087 final
 2. application of broilers' directive COM/2018/0181 final
 3. impact of EU international activities on animal welfare COM/2018/42 final





The first EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare

- Designated in March 2018
- Will provides scientific and technical support for official controls
- Work programme 2018: mapping out current structures and activities
- Will focus on welfare of *pigs*





EU Platform on Animal Welfare

- **21 June 2018**

Enforcement

- outcomes of the subgroup on transport (May 2018)
- establishment of the subgroup on pig welfare (tail docking)

Voluntary initiatives

- Welfare of farmed fish





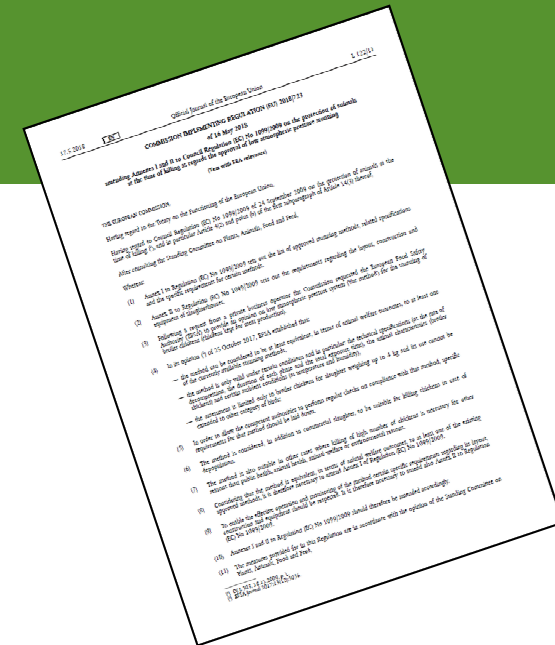
EU Platform on Animal Welfare (2)

Information & knowledge sharing

- the Report on the impact of animal welfare international activities
- The EU Coordinated Control Plan on online sales of dogs cats (CCP)
- The Digital Tool for Platform Members

Own initiatives:

- Responsible ownership and care of equidae (led DK)
- Health and welfare of pets in trade (led NL)



Legislation on killing

- In 2017 EFSA published [an opinion on low atmospheric pressure system for the stunning of broiler chickens](#)
- [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2018/723 of 16 May 2018 amending Annexes I and II to Council Regulation \(EC\) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing as regards the approval of low atmospheric pressure stunning](#)

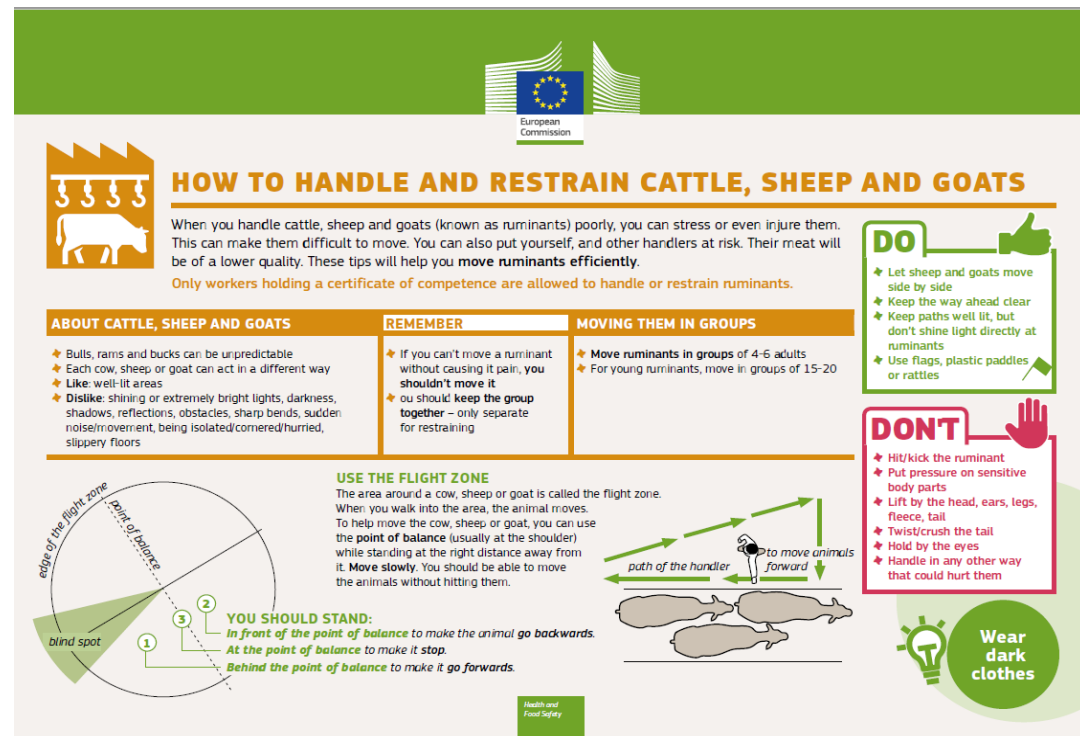
Educational materials on killing

- *Targeted users*
 - *Slaughterhouse workers*
 - *Farmers*
- *Key deliverables in 22 EU languages*
 - *11 Factsheets on specific topics*
 - *One video*
 - *A3 format sent to all Member States*
 - *On SANTE website*
https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/practice/slaughter_en



Factsheets - slaughter

Subject matter	Animal species
Handling and restraining operations in small slaughterhouses	Cattle, sheep and goats
	Pigs
	Poultry (chickens and turkeys)
Stunning, monitoring and standard operating procedures in small slaughterhouses	Cattle
	Sheep
	Pigs
	Poultry (chickens and turkeys)



HOW TO HANDLE AND RESTRAIN CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOATS

When you handle cattle, sheep and goats (known as ruminants) poorly, you can stress or even injure them. This can make them difficult to move. You can also put yourself, and other handlers at risk. Their meat will be of a lower quality. These tips will help you **move ruminants efficiently**.
Only workers holding a certificate of competence are allowed to handle or restrain ruminants.

ABOUT CATTLE, SHEEP AND GOATS

- ♣ Bulls, rams and bucks can be unpredictable
- ♣ Each cow, sheep, or goat can act in a different way
- ♣ Like well-lit areas
- ♣ Dislike shining or extremely bright lights, darkness, shadows, reflectors, obstacles, sharp bends, sudden noise/movement, being isolated/cornered/hurried, slippery floors

REMEMBER

- ♣ If you can't move a ruminant without causing it pain, you shouldn't move it
- ♣ You should keep the group together – only separate for restraining

MOVING THEM IN GROUPS

- ♣ Move ruminants in groups of 4-6 adults
- ♣ For young ruminants, move in groups of 15-20

USE THE FLIGHT ZONE

The area around a cow, sheep or goat is called the flight zone. When you walk into the area, the animal moves. To help move the cow, sheep, or goat, you can use the **point of balance** (usually at the shoulder) while standing at the right distance away from it. **Move slowly**. You should be able to move the animals without hitting them.

YOU SHOULD STAND:
In front of the point of balance to make the animal go backwards.
At the point of balance to make it stop.
Behind the point of balance to make it go forwards.

DO

- ♣ Let sheep and goats move side by side
- ♣ Keep the way ahead clear
- ♣ Keep paths well lit, but don't shine light directly at ruminants
- ♣ Use flags, plastic paddles or rattles

DON'T


- ♣ Hit/kick the ruminant
- ♣ Put pressure on sensitive body parts
- ♣ Lift by the head, ears, legs, fleece, tail
- ♣ Twist/crush the tail
- ♣ Hold by the eyes
- ♣ Handle in any other way that could hurt them

Wear dark clothes


Health and Food Safety

Factsheets - on farm killing

Subject matter	Animal species
Culling or slaughter for direct supply	Pigs/piglets
	Sheep and goats
	Poultry (chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese)
	Rabbits



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HOW TO STUN PIGS/KILL PIGS ON-FARM


Pigs unable to be transported must be killed on-farm. They may also be killed on-farm for other reasons, such as illness or slow growth. Prior stunning is compulsory in all cases. Stun them to make them unconscious and **kill within 15 seconds** so that death is painless. Good handling and restraining are vital for effective stunning.

This information does not override **national rules** that may forbid or restrict any of these practices. **Stunning and killing must be carried out by workers with an appropriate level of competence.**

WHEN PIGS ARE AGITATED

DO 

- Keep calm
- Reassure with gentle movements and a soft voice

DON'T 

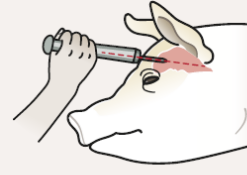
- Shout or use violence – this makes the situation worse

ABOUT PIGS

- Pigs are social, sensitive and expressive animals
- They **don't have good eyesight**, but can hear very well
- Sows and boars can be aggressive
- Like: well-lit areas
- Dislike:** darkness and shadows, reflections, moving objects, strong drafts, loud noises, sudden movement, being on their own and in a corner, slippery floors, being hurried
- Each pig can respond in a different way

STUNNING/KILLING

Once you have restrained the pig, you can consider the following methods.



1. PENETRATIVE CAPTIVE BOLT GUN


Since this method may not irreversibly kill the pig, you must always confirm killing by pithing the pig within 15 seconds.

Check the variable settings

- Bolt diameter/length and gun charge/air pressure
- These settings vary by type of pig
- Make sure you read the maker's instructions to ensure you use right settings
- Use highest recommended charge for adult sows and boars

Position the gun

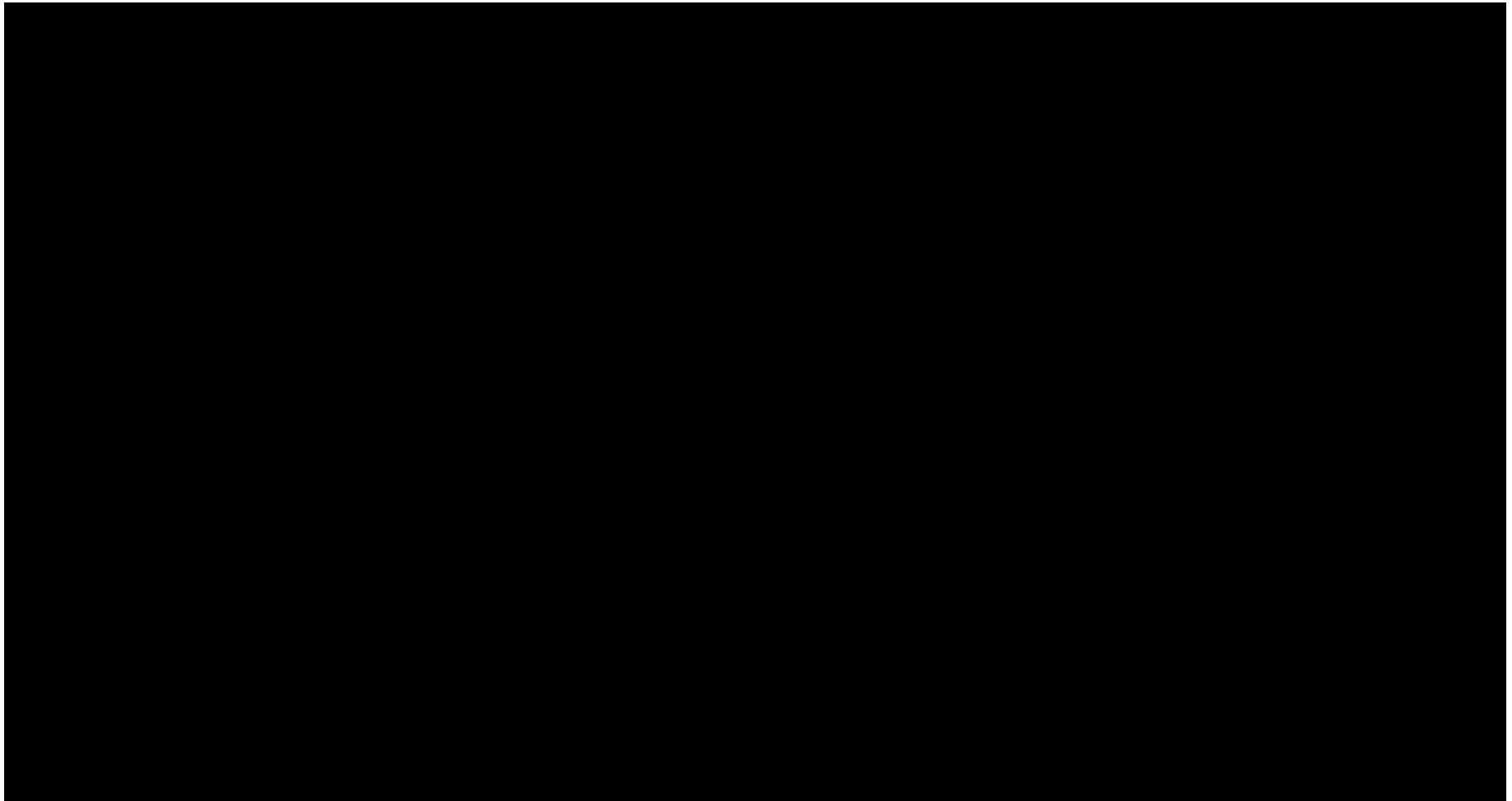
- Position the barrel 2 cm above where the 2 lines cross.
- Aim towards the tail**
- Ensure the stunner is in contact with the head, prior to firing





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Video



Thank you for your attention!

