# ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS

## OVERVIEW REPORT SANTE MR-2021-7319

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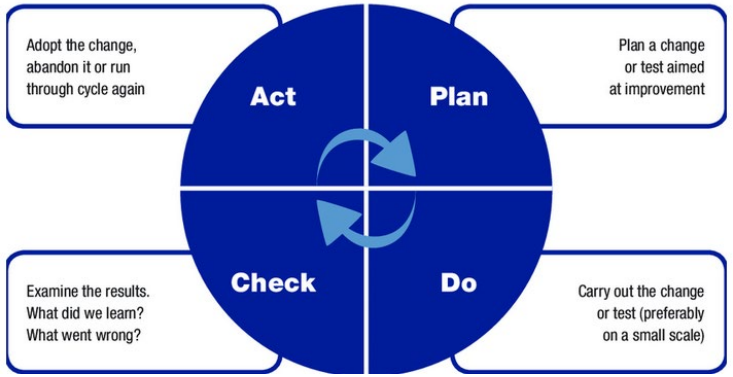
# PROJECT OBJECTIVE




**Quality management system for official controls?**

**Use of indicators:**

- **Extend and seriousness of problems**
- **To report outcomes**

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# REPORT METHODOLOGY

7 audits

Meetings (academia, quality schemes, industry)

Questionnaires to Member States
Questionnaires to private veterinarians

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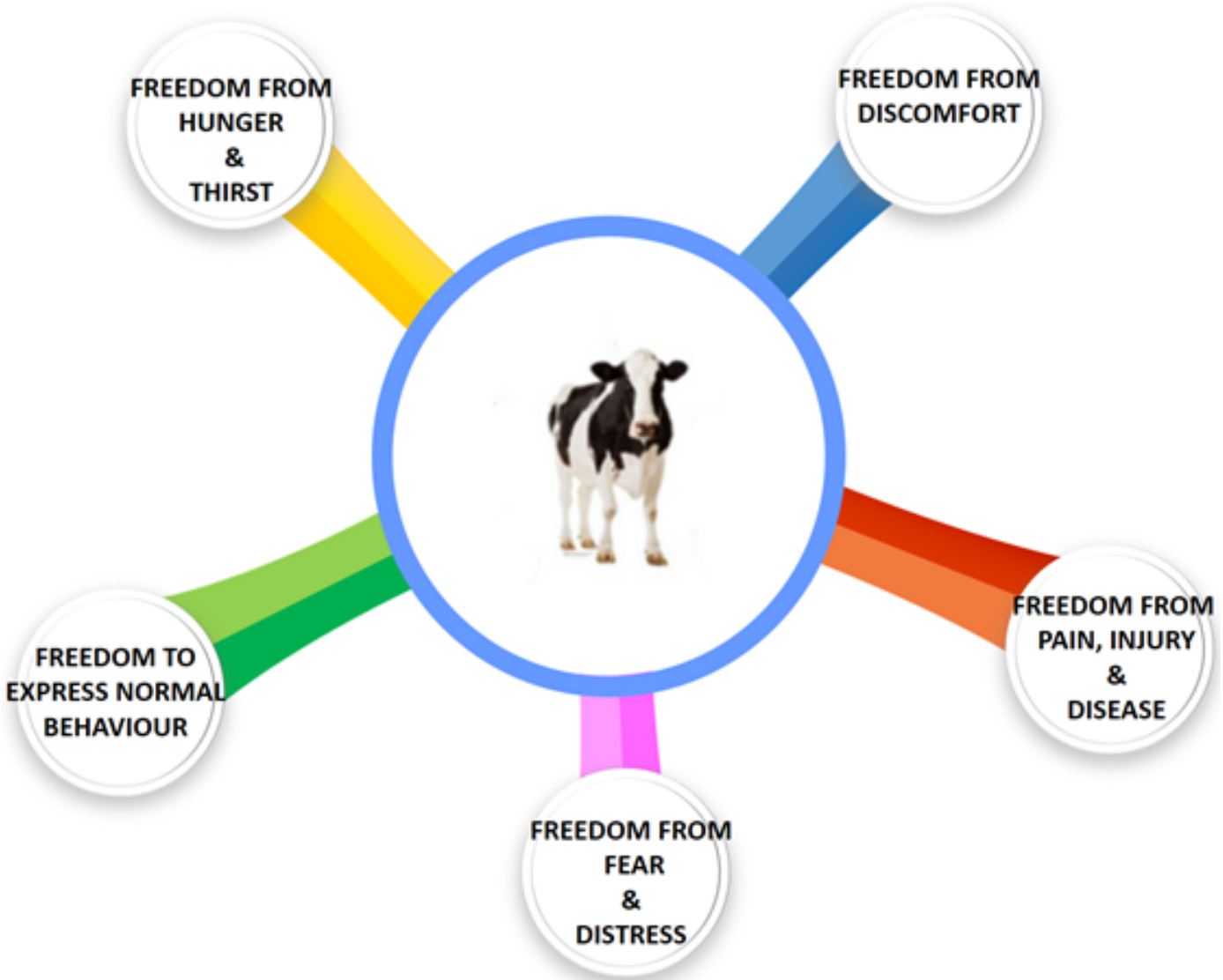
# ANIMAL WELFARE IS COMPLEX

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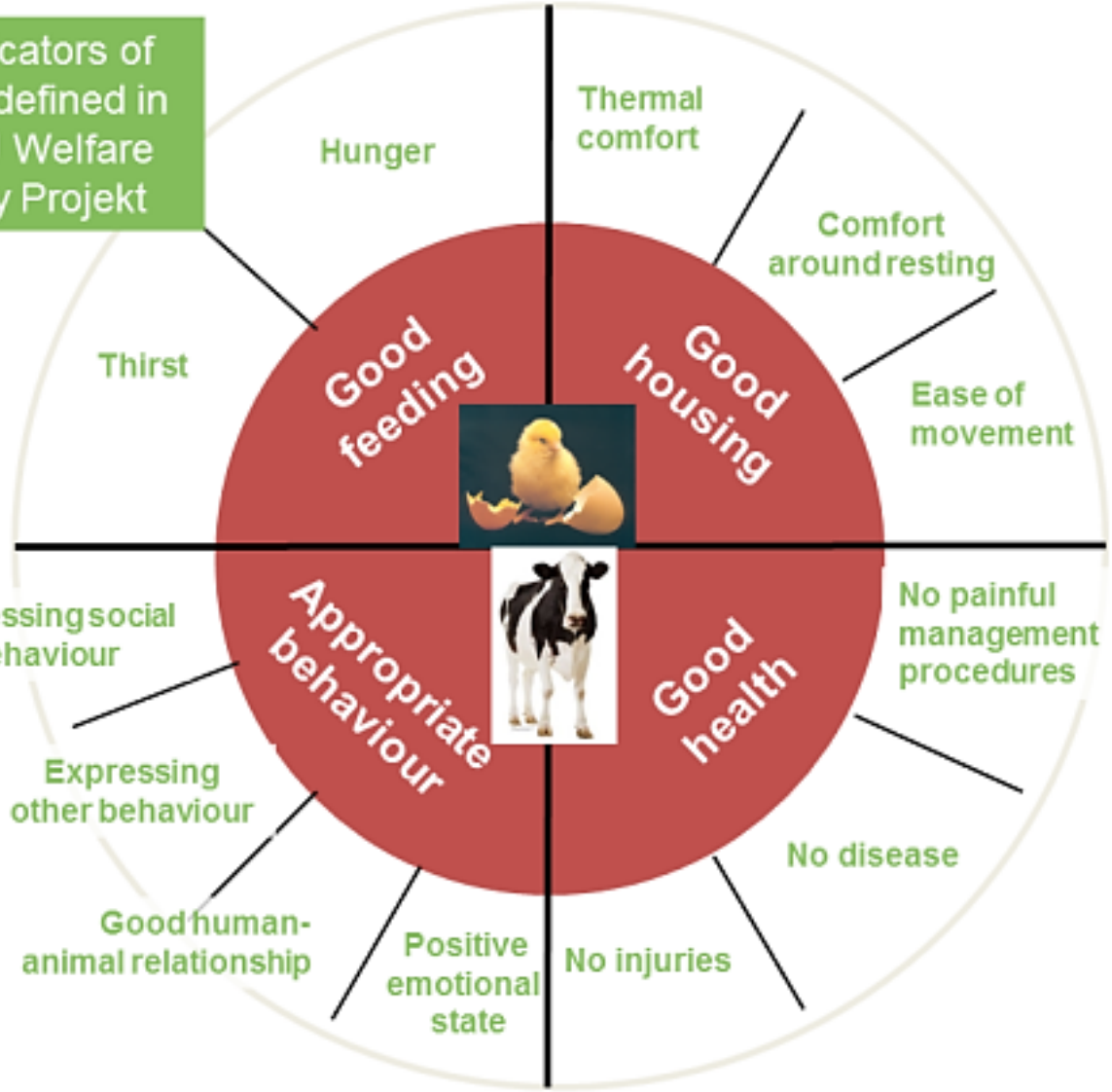
# The indicator concept: example of Welfare

12 indicators of AW as defined in the EU Welfare Quality Projekt




(after Keeling 2011)

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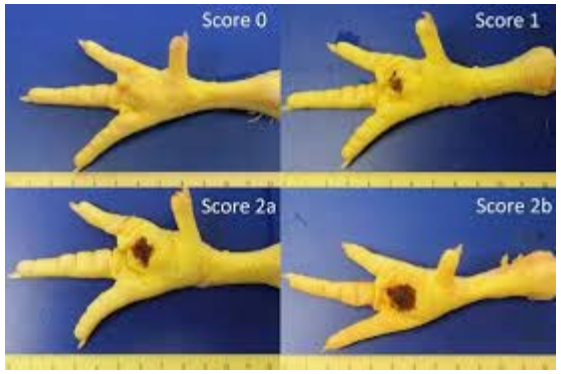
# ANIMAL WELFARE INDICATORS

- **Animal-based**



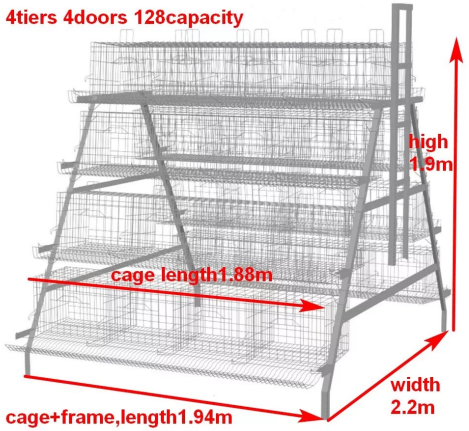
0 **Normal**
Stands and walks normally. Hind feet land almost exactly in same spot as fore feet.

1 **Mildly Lame**
Shortened stride, head dropped slightly. No limp when walking.

2 **Moderately Lame**
Slight head bob when walking. Head is dropped and back arched when standing.

3 **Severely Lame**
Constant arched back and head bob while walking. Great difficulty moving.

**Resource-based**




**Management-based**

Productivity??

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## Risk factors

INPUT

Resources available (resource- based measures)

Management practices (management - based measures)

## Consequences

OUTCOME

Response of animal (Animal-based measures)

Indicate the animal's welfare (welfare indicator)

*EFSA, 2012*

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# VIEWS OF STAKEHOLDERS

- Private veterinarians
- Member States
- Quality schemes

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# LEGAL COMPLIANCE

# ≠

# ANIMAL WELFARE

| NON-COMPLIANCE ≠ ANIMAL DISTRESS | COMPLIANCE ≠ IDEAL WELLBEING |
| --- | --- |

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# Quality management of official controls

Establish a multiannual plan (and annual plan) covering animal welfare

Implement the controls

Monitor and measure against policy, objectives, legal requirements, etc.

Take actions to improve continuously animal welfare

# MEASURING COMPLIANCE

- **Objective/target**: what is the outcome we want
- **Baseline:** where are we now for certain parameter
- **Measure: What, How, When, Who**

**Risk-based inspections**: efficient use of resources, but not useful to measure compliance. The better they are, the more non-compliances they find

- MANCPs : no specific objectives AW outcomes
- Generally no baselines
- Some MS→ generic targets (e.g. achieve >85 % of compliant farms )
- Reports: no analysis of non-compliances

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# USE OF INDICATORS BY MS

- Mainly legal requirements (foot pad dermatitis, density…)
- Pigs: FI, SE monitor length tails
- Movement towards indicators

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# PROJECTS FOR CAP FUNDS

ABSENCE OF

- AW situation before the project
- Parameters they will use to demonstrate improvement (CAP indicators)
- How to monitor those parameters
- Target to achieve

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# QUALITY SCHEMES

- Resource- based
- Animal- based
- Continuous improvement

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# CHALLENGES

- Comparability
- Lack of consensus between stakeholders
- Many indicators for determine real welfare
- Need of data analysis
- Drivers
- Many quality schemes
- Stakeholder’s engagement

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# CONCLUSION

- Promising developments to find indicators
- Reporting from MS does not give clear picture
- Challenges to assess compliance
- Projects for CAP: absence of necessary elements to see impact
- AW IS COMPLEX- use of legal requirements
- Mainly focus on provision of resources

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