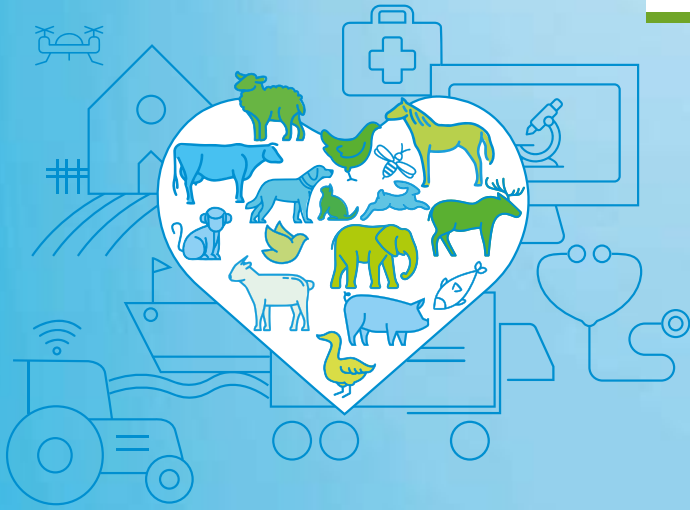




European
Commission



ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Animal Health Law

Did you know?

Measures to limit the spread of animal diseases in both humans and animals are harmonised in the European Union and go far beyond the control of outbreaks. Animal health should be respected when animals and their products are kept at farms or other establishments, when they are moved within the Union, or when they enter the Union from abroad. Prevention measures should always be in place, ready to act against diseases when they occur.

While EU animal health rules have existed since 1964, a single Animal Health Law (AHL) now replaces 39 past Directives and Regulations, aligning animal health legislation with the Lisbon Treaty. This legislation affects broad animal populations. There are around 12 million



livestock holdings in the EU. In 2019 there were around 77 million bovine, 143 million porcine animals, 74 million sheep and goats, and about 1.6 billion heads of poultry. In 2019 just over half of the EU-27's meat production was from pigs (22.8 million tonnes), while poultry meat production reached 13.3 million tonnes.





Those diseases will be listed under the AHL according to pre-set criteria.

This legislation sets out general provisions:

♥ **to prevent diseases happening or spreading,** including:

- Disease awareness and prevention through surveillance and early detection;
- Biosecurity and responsible keeping to be observed on farms;
- Traceability of movements of animals and products of animal origin;

Pets represent the second largest category of animals. There are around 120 million dogs and cats and approximately 35 million pet birds in the EU-27. The Animal Health Law also applies to EU aquaculture production, which amounted to 1.32 million tonnes in 2018.

What is covered by the EU rules on Animal Health?

The rules cover animal diseases that can be passed from animal to animal or humans. These include:

- ♥ Diseases present in the European Union;
- ♥ Diseases not present in the European Union for which we need to be prepared in case of incursion;
- ♥ Emerging diseases not yet known or unexpected.

The EU has prioritised its intervention on animal diseases. Some animal diseases are more serious and have a wider impact on animal health, human health or biodiversity.



- Measures that apply to the movement of animals and products of animal origin within the European Union or imported from outside the European Union. For example, testing and screening animals for certain animal diseases or model health certificates accompanying animals, germinal products and products of animal origin.





♥ **to control diseases once they happen**, including:

- disease preparedness by implementing contingency plans and vaccine banks.

Who is concerned?

- ♥ Competent authorities in the EU Member States;
- ♥ Animal health laboratories;
- ♥ Citizens keeping animals;
- ♥ Farmers and other operators keeping animals (zoos, pet shops, animal shelters);
- ♥ Farmers and other operators producing and processing germinal products and products of animal origin;
- ♥ Professionals dealing with animals, such as veterinarians, hunters, ornithologists and traders.

What are the key responsibilities of operators and other actors under this new legislation?

Operators, including farmers, must:

- ♥ Have basic knowledge of animal health;
- ♥ Have responsibility for the health of animals, preventive behaviour and biosecurity at facilities where animals are kept or products are handled;
- ♥ Conduct surveillance for the disease in animals;
- ♥ Cooperate with competent authorities;
- ♥ Report suspicion of transmissible animal diseases to the veterinary authorities and signal any abnormal mortalities to the veterinarians and cooperate with the competent authorities on various measures;
- ♥ Register or approve their establishments.

Veterinarians play an active role in raising awareness about animal health and the interaction between animal health, animal welfare and human health, as well as on resistance to treatments.

Member States are responsible for providing resources, personnel, and a network of official animal health laboratories. They are also responsible for informing the public whenever there are grounds to suspect that animals or products may represent a risk, including providing information to passengers entering the EU.





For more information on Animal Health Law

If you are interested in other factsheets, please visit:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law_en

#AnimalHealthLaw #AnimalHealth #OneHealth #DGSante