New animal welfare legislation in Iceland
Where do we stand in relation to EU?

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The regulatory framework for Iceland regarding animal welfare

- Icelandic regulatory framework
- The European Economic Area (EEA) agreement
  - Agreement between EU and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) except Switzerland
- The World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreement
  - The Sanitary and phytosanitary measurements (SPS) agreement regarding food safety, animal and plant health
- The World organisation of animal health (OiE)
  - Recommend health measures to be used
  - Animal welfare identified as priority in strategic plan 2001-2005.
- The Council of Europe (CoE)
- Other International agreements
  - F.ex. International convention for the regulation of whaling, etc.
The EEA agreement and implementation of EU regulations regarding animal welfare

• The EEA agreement in 1994
  • Live animals and animal products excluded
  • Later regulations regarding fish were included
  • Norway but not Iceland included regulations regarding live animals
  • In 2010 Iceland implemented EU general food regulation 178/2002/EB but had exemption to 2011 for animal products
  • 2011 implemented requirements of labeling with origin of the product for fresh or frozen beef (www.upprunamerkingar.is)
  • Still regulation regarding live animals and animal welfare are excluded from the agreement for Iceland

With some exceptions
The EEA agreement and implementation of EU regulations regarding animal welfare

Included in the EEA agreement

- The regulation *Protection of Animals at the time of killing* (1099/2009/EB) was implemented and took force in 2013

- The directive *Protection of Animals used for scientific purposes* (2010/63/EB) implemented

- New draft to regulation for transport of animals **based on** EU Regulation 1/2005 *Protection of Animals during transport and related operations*
New Animal Welfare Act in Iceland 2014 (no. 55/2013)

- The act was approved by the parliament and is the legal basis for the regulations set by Minstry of Industries and Innovation (ANR)
- Applies to vertebrates, fetuses, but also animals like octopus and bees
- Animals are sentient beings and have own value
- Goal is to fulfill the 5 freedoms of animals
- Requirement to the competance of an animal keeper/owner
New Animal Welfare Act in Iceland 2014

- Requirement for minimum grazing period for herbivores
- Ban on intercourse with animals
- Painful interventions like castration only by a veterinarian using anesthesia and painkillers and only for medical purposes
- Increased responsibility to report animal abuse
- Forbidden to use and distribute instruments that can cause pain
- Forbidden to leave animals that are raised by humans in the nature
New Animal Welfare Act in Iceland 2014

• Prohibited to keep wild animals in captivity
• Forbidden to drown animals
  Exception with special permission to perform depopulation of the mink
• Individually identify and register cats, dogs and rabbits
• Defined responsibility to the municipality to palliate wild animals that are suffering
• Forced feeding is prohibited
• All animals should be stunned before slaughtering
• Products from animals manufactured by methods in opposition to the Icelandic welfare act can be required labeled or denied imported
Regulations in Iceland based on 55/2013

- Regulation for welfare of
  - Horses
  - Cattle
  - Sheep and goats
  - Swine
  - Chicken
  - Mink
  - Pet animals (and zoo animals)
  - (Rabbits kept for production)
The EU animal welfare legislation

  - General rules for the protection of animals of all species kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes, including fish, reptiles or amphibians
  - Based on the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes
  - They reflect the so-called 'Five Freedoms' as adopted by the Farm Animal Welfare Council:
    - Freedom from hunger and thirst - access to fresh water and a diet for full health and vigour,
    - Freedom from discomfort - an appropriate environment with shelter and comfortable rest area,
    - Freedom from pain, injury and disease - prevention or rapid treatment,
    - Freedom to express normal behaviour - adequate space and facilities, company of the animal's own kind,
    - Freedom from fear and distress - conditions and treatment which avoid mental sufferings.
The EU animal welfare legislation

- Community legislation concerning the welfare conditions of farm animals **lays down minimum standards**
- National governments **may adopt more stringent rules** provided they are compatible with the provisions of the Treaty
- Specific rules continue to apply to:
  - **Laying hens**
  - **Calves**
  - **Pigs**
  - **Broilers**
Comparison of Regulations- laying hens

**135/2015**
- Apply to all hens
- A goal to fulfill the minimum requirement in regulation of EU
  - Dimension of wire
  - Minimum size per bird
- Alternative system or enriched cages
- Non-enriched cages: no new allowed and all forbidden from 2021
- Alternative system
  - Max 9 birds/m² (<2.4 kg)
  - Max 7.5 birds pr/m² (>2.4 kg)
  - 7 birds pr laying area
- Adequate perches for laying hens and their parents at least 15 cm per bird
- Maximum 4 levels in alternative systems
- Claw shortening devices
- Light with dimmer
- Nest, perching space, litter to allow pecking and scratching and unrestricted access to a feed trough
- Inspection by owner 1x day
- The keeper shall have knowledge of birds
- Beaking is forbidden with some exceptions (beak touching = the tip) and control of beaked birds after 8 weeks

**CD 1999/74/EC**
- Does not apply to < 350 hens and rearing breeding laying hens
- Alternative system or enriched cages
- Non-enriched cage for laying hens forbidden from 2012
- Each bird at least 750 cm² space in cage
- Alternative system max 9 birds/m²
- Adequate perches at least 15 cm per bird
- No more than 4 levels
- Claw shortening devices
- Light with dimmer
- Nest, perching space, litter to allow pecking and scratching and unrestricted access to a feed trough
- Inspection by owner 1x day
- All mutilation prohibited - Beak trimming (1/3) may be authorized provided it is carried out by qualified staff on chicken < 10 d old
Comparison of Regulations - broilers

135/2015
- All birds
- The keeper shall have sufficient knowledge and training of birds
- Appropriate litter
- Stocking density max 33 kg/m²
  - Derogation provided certain requirements but max 39kg
  - Mortality rate
  - Contact dermatitis

2007/43/EC
- Does not apply for
  - <500 birds
  - Breeding stock
  - Hatcheries
  - Extensive indoor or free range
  - Organically reared chickens
- Appropriate litter
- Stocking density max 33 kg/m²
  - Derogation provided certain requirements but max 39kg
  - Mortality rate
  - Contact dermatitis
- The keeper shall have sufficient training
- MS shall encourage the development of guides to good management practice
Comparison of Regulations - Sow and gilt

**1276/2014**
- Apply from 2014
  - Derogation possible if applied for before July 1st 2015 but not longer than to 2025
  - Derogation not possible after Jan 1st 2016 for individual stalls, except if the sow can lay down and stretch without problems. If >90 cm ok until 2025.
- Competence and training of the keeper
- Ban on use of individual stalls or tying for sows from 1 w before and 4 w after service
- Allow permanent access to materials for rooting and nesting for sows
- Min floor area in a group for gilt 1.8 and sow 2.5 m²
- Sows min resting area 1.4 m²/sow

**2001/88/EC**
- Apply to all after Jan. 1st 2013
- Competence and training of the keeper
- Ban on use of individual stalls for sows from 1 w before and 4 w after service
- Allow permanent access to materials for rooting and nesting for sows
- Min floor area in a group for gilt 1.64 and sow 2.25 m²
- Sows min resting area 1.3 m²/sow
Comparison of Regulations - Pigs

**1276/2014**

- Competence and training of the keeper
- Light requirements $>75$ lux min $8$ h
- Noise less than $85$ dBA
- Allow permanent access to materials for rooting and playing
- Same requirements for floor area
- Minimum weaning age $4$w
- Minimum body condition score $2$
- Training methods based on positive enforcement
- Mutilation prohibited except
  - Castration only veterinarians using anesthetics and analgesia
  - Tail docking only when using analgesia and by qualified staff with permission of Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority
  - Clipping of teeth prohibited, grinding if needed
  - Nose ring prohibited

**2001/93/EC**

- Apply to all after $2003$
- Competence and training of the keeper
- Light requirements $>40$ lux min $8$ h
- Noise less than $85$ dBA
- Allow permanent access to materials for rooting and playing
- Minimum weaning age $4$w
- Mutilation prohibited except
  - Castration no tearing of tissue
  - Tail docking after other measures
  - Clipping or grinding corner teeth
  - Only if needed and carried out by a vet or trained staff
  - **After 7 days of age** shall only be performed under anesthetic and prolonged analgesia
  - Nose ring only when kept outdoor and in compliance with national legislation
Comparison of Regulations - Calves

1065/2014
- Apply for all cattle
- Competence and training for keepers
- Should be fed by physiological needs
  - Sufficient iron
  - Minimum daily ration and fibre food should be provided
- No tethering, except for medical treatment or <3 m before delivery
  - Derogations until 2034
- Specific farrowing stall from 2024
- Only veterinarian can perform painful procedures using anesthetics and analgesia
- New farms - free walking and no confined individual stalls

CD 2008/119/EC
- Apply for calves confined for rearing and fattening up to 6 months
  - Do not apply for <6 calves
  - Calves kept with their mothers
- Prohibits use of confined individual pens after 8w
- Calves should not be tethered
  - Only 1 hour at the time of feeding if needed
- Should be fed at least 2x a day by physiological needs
  - Get colostrum
  - Get sufficient iron
  - Minimum daily ration and fibre food should be provided
  - From 2 w sufficient fresh water
Welfare legislation in relation to EU
Summary

• Similar requirements for swine and chicken but Iceland is slightly behind when the regulations enter to force
• Regulation for cattle more extensive in Iceland
• Welfare extensive regulation set for more species
  • Sheep and goats
  • Horses
  • Mink
  • Pet animals