

# 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](http://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 Ministry 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 competence of an animal keeper/owner

# New Animal Welfare Act in Iceland 2014

- Requirement for minimum grazing periods for herbivores
- Ban on intercourse with animals
- Painful interventions like castration only by a veterinarian using anesthesia and pain killers 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

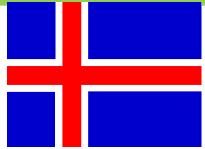
- In 1998, [Council Directive 98/58/EC](#) on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes
  - General rules for the protection of animals of all species kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes, including fish, reptiles or amphibians
  - Based on the [European 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

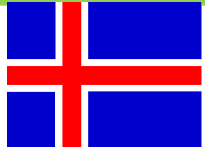
- Apply to all hens
- A goal to fulfill the minimum requirement in regulation of EU
  - Dimension of wire
  - Minimum size per bird
- Alternative system or enriched cages
- Non-enriched cages: no new allowed and all forbidden from 2021
- Alternative system
  - Max 9 birds/m<sup>2</sup> (<2.4 kg)
  - Max 7.5 birds pr/m<sup>2</sup> (>2.4kg)
  - 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
- Inspected 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 750cm<sup>2</sup> space in cage
- Alternative system max 9 birds/m<sup>2</sup>
- 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 1xday
- 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/m<sup>2</sup>
  - Derogation provided certain requirements but max 39kg
  - Mortality rate
  - Contact dermatitis



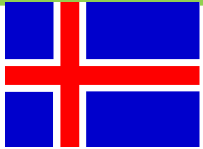
2007/43/EC

- Does not apply for
  - <500 birds
  - Breeding stock
  - Hatcheries
  - Extensive indoor or free range
  - Organically reared chickens
- Appropriate litter
- Stocking density max 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - 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

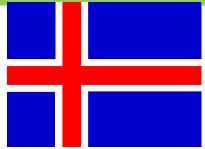
- Apply from 2014
  - Derogation possible if applied for before July 1st 2015 but not longer than to 2025
  - Derogation not possible after Jan 1st 2016 for individual stalls, except if the sow can lay down and stretch without problems. If >90 cm ok until 2025.
- Competance and training of the keeper
- 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 m<sup>2</sup>
- Sows min resting area 1.4 m<sup>2</sup>/sow



2001/88/EC

- Apply to all after Jan. 1st 2013
- Competance 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 m<sup>2</sup>
- Sows min resting area 1.3 m<sup>2</sup>/sow

# Comparison of Regulations- Pigs



## 1276/2014

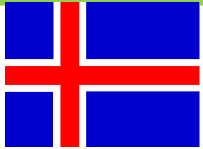
- Competance and training of the keeper
- Light requirements >75 lux min 8 h
- Noice less than 85dBA
- Allow permanent access to materials for rooting and playing
- Same requirements for floor area
- Minimum weaning age 4w
- Minimum body condition score 2
- Training methods based on positive enforcement
- Mutilation prohibited except
  - Castration only veterinarians using anesthetics and analgesia
  - Tail ducking 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
- Competance and training of the keeper
- Light requirements >40 lux min 8 h
- Noice less than 85dBA
- Allow permanent access to materials for rooting and playing
- Minimum weaning age 4w
- 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 anasthetic 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
- Competance 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

