

WOAH Collaborative Centre Reports Activities 2025

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CENTRE INFORMATION

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| *Title of WOA Collaborating Centre | Animal welfare |
| *Address of WOA Collaborating Centre | Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare |
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| Website: | https://www.slu.se/en/about-slu/organisation/collaborative-centres/swedish-centre-for-animal-welfare/ |
| *Name Director of Institute (Responsible Official): | Dr Ewa Wredle |
| *Name (including Title and Position) of Head of the Collaborating Centre (WOAH Contact Point): | Professor Director Lotta Berg |
| *Name of the writer: | Lotta Berg |

TOR 1 AND 2: SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Activities as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques within the remit of the mandate given by WOA

| Category | Title of activity | Scope |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Animal welfare (true) | OIE Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV) | An OIE (WOAH) Twinning project in the field of Animal Welfare has been designed, presented and approved in 2020. It was implemented between the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" (Parent Institute) and the École Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire (ENMV) in Sidi Thabet (Candidate institute). IZSAM provided support to the North African candidate institute to enhance capacity and improve scientific capabilities in relation to animal welfare. The twinning was concluded in June 2024 with a final assessment meeting and a North African meeting on animal welfare. SLU/SCAW also contributed to final assessment meeting and to the North African meeting on animal welfare. It was successful concluded in 2024. The final report was sent to WOA in July 2024 and a positive evaluation has been received. In 2025, after the end of the twinning, IZSAM continued to assist ENMV in the preparation of the application as new WOA CC for animal welfare. The application has been submitted to WOA BSC in August 2025 and will be evaluated at the first BSC meeting in February 2026. |
| Animal Welfare (true) | EURCAW Ruminants & Equines, and the Care4Dairy project | The two partners, SLU/SCAW and IZSAM, have together with other highly qualified centres of research and expertise applied for, and been granted, the position as an EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare with a focus on ruminants and equines. We have hereby been given the opportunity to systematically work for improving the knowledge and support to competent authorities on the animal welfare demands of these species, based on the well-functioning cooperation that we have developed as a WOA CC. This way, we will be able to convey knowledge and up-to-date research findings to the competent authorities in charge of animal welfare inspections, policy makers, and also to the dairy, beef and horse industry, as well as for other ruminants and equine species. Furthermore, we have |

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| | | <p>now carried out a EU funded project called Care4Dairy, with a focus on improving farmer knowledge of animal welfare requirements and needs for dairy calves, heifers and cows, for example by developing digital factsheets on relevant topics. Also in this case, the consortium is based on the collaboration between SLU/SCAW and IZSAM, and other European centres of excellence in this field. Even if the project has come to its end, EURCAW Ruminants and Equines is taking care of the maintenance and update of the Care4Dairy website and application.</p> |
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TOR 3: HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS

2. Proposal or development of any procedure that will facilitate harmonisation of international regulations applicable to the main focus area for which you were designated

| Proposal title | Scope/Content | Applicable Area |
|--|--|-------------------|
| FAO Good Emergency Management Practice manual (GEMP) | Technical Working Group for the revision of the Good Emergency Management Practice manual (GEMP) | Health Management |

3. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOA?H

No

4. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOA?H Collaborating Centres (CC), Reference Laboratories (RL), or organisations designated for the same specialty, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

No

TOR 4 AND 5: NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

5. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOA?H Collaborating Centres, Reference laboratories, or organisations in other disciplines, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

| Name of WOA?H CC/RL/other organisation(s) | Location | Region of networking Centre | Purpose |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare - Ruminants and Equines | Sweden, Austria, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy | Europe | The objective of EURCAW Ruminants & Equines is to provide the EU Commission and the Competent Authorities of the EU Member States with support to knowledge building, implementation and enforcement of relevant legislation and capacity building. |
| Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) | Brussels | Europe | To promote new initiatives in the framework of the WOA?H EMVETNET activities on animal welfare. |
| WOA?H CC on Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems | Latin America | Americas | To promote the establishment of a WOA?H Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centers. |
| Eurogroup for Animals | Brussels | Europe | Collaboration for capacity building on Animal Welfare. |
| Nordic Network for Communicating Animal Welfare, NORDCAW | Nordic and Baltic countries | Europe | Network for collaboration and communicating Animal Welfare. |

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| European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare Pigs | European countries | Europe | Collaboration with EURCAW Pigs. |
| European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare - Poultry and Small Farmed Animals | European countries | Europe | Collaboration with EURCAW Poultry and Small Farmed Animals. |
| European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare Aqua | European countries | Europe | Collaboration with EURCAW Aqua. |
| WOAH Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres | Global | Africa Americas Asia and Pacific Europe Middle East | WOAH Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres. During the Global Forum on Animal Welfare in Merida (Mexico) on 26-27 October 2024 a representative of the WOAH CC participated to an ad hoc group to amend the Terms of Reference (draft document) of the network. The ToRs were later approved by this and other WOAH CCs and finally transmitted to WOAH Headquarters. The network has been officially established in February 2025. The chair is held, for the first two years, by the WOAH CC for AW Europe. |
| National Centre Group for Animal Welfare (NCGAW) | National Animal Welfare Centres | Europe | Collaboration with other National Animal Welfare Centres in Europe. |
| WOAH Reduction of the Risk of Disasters in Animal Health (CENSA) | Cuba | Americas | In the framework of the WOAH network on veterinary emergencies (EMVETNET). |
| WOAH Biological Threat Reduction (IIAD) | USA | Americas | In the framework of the WOAH network on veterinary emergencies (EMVETNET). |
| WOAH WildNet | Global | Africa Americas Asia and Pacific Europe Middle East | Collaboration within the WOAH Network for Wildlife health management. |

TOR 6: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

6. Did your Collaborating Centre place expert consultants at the disposal of WOAH?

Yes

| Name of expert | Kind of consultancy | Subject |
|---|---------------------|---|
| Luigi Iannetti, Michele Podaliri Vulpiani, Silvia D'Albenzio and Francesca Pompei | Experts | Follow-up of WOAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV). Assistance in preparing application as new WOAH CC |

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| Silvia D'Albenzio | Expert | Follow-up of WOAHP Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV): Coordination of the working group for the establishment of a permanent capacity building system in animal welfare in Tunisia. |
| Luigi Iannetti | Expert | WOAHP Regional Workshop on AW during slaughter and WOAHP Regional workshop on developing national action plans for animal welfare (Tirana, Albania, 11-13 February 2025). |
| Lena Tuominen | Expert | WOAHP Workshop on Response Plan Development for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction, 8-10 July 2025, Bucharest Romania. |
| Luigi Iannetti | Expert | Chair of the Global Network of WOAHP CCs for Animal Welfare, period 2025-2027. |
| Lotta Berg and Lena Tuominen | Expert | 24th Meeting of the Steering Group (SG24) of the WOAHP Platform on animal welfare for Europe on the 5th of May 2025 (online). |
| Luigi Iannetti | Expert | 25th Meeting of the Steering Group (SG25) of the WOAHP Platform on animal welfare for Europe on the 22nd -23rd of October 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan. |
| Luigi Iannetti | Expert | WOAHP Biological Standards Commission meeting, to present the 5-year action plan of the global network of WOAHP CCs for Animal Welfare on the 10th of September 2025. |
| Luigi Iannetti | Expert | 7th WOAHP Animal Welfare Global Forum "Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Platforms (RAWSP); A key tool for the implementation of WOAHP animal welfare standards". Paris, France, 13-14 November 2025. |
| Luigi Possenti and Silvia D'Albenzio | Expert | 5th WOAHP Regional Workshop on Dog Population Management for the Caucasus and Central Asia. 2-4 December 2025 – presentation of the SAM TOOL 2.0 for Dog Population management. |
| Lena Tuominen | Expert | WOAHP Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWSP) Asia-Pacific animal welfare webinar – maintaining animal welfare when emergency and disaster strike, 4 December 2025 (online). |

TOR 7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

7. Did your Collaborating Centre provide advice/services to requests from Members in your main focus area?

No

8. Did your Collaborating Centre provide scientific and technical training, within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHP, to personnel from WOAHP Members?

Yes

a) Technical visit : 0

b) Seminars : 338

c) Hands-on training courses: 378

d) Internships (>1 month) : 0

| Type of technical training provided (a, b, c or d) | Content | Country of origin of the expert(s) provided with training | No. participants from the corresponding country |
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| B | Webinar Series: Urban Health Webinar #3 + Climate Conversations. Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences (SLU), 24 January, 2025 | Sweden, Italy, Countries from different WOAHP Regions | 102 |
| B | EURCAW Ruminants & Equines meets Competent Authorities. Brescia 11-12 November 2025 | EU Countries | 16 |

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| C | EURCAW Ruminants & Equines Webinar on provision of colostrum to calves and hoof care to reduce leg and hoof disorders, 25 June 2025. | EU Member States | 55 |
| B | EURCAW Ruminants & Equines meets National Reference Centres and Supporting Bodies | 14 EU Member States | 41 |
| C | EURCAW Ruminants & Equines Webinar on confinement in domestic horses and welfare of working equids, 25 September 2025. | EU Member States | 80 |
| C | EURCAW Ruminants & Equines Roadshow Improving the welfare of calves on farm. Brescia 12-13 November 2025. | Italian competent authorities | 32 |
| C | EURCAW Ruminants & Equines Meeting with Italian Stakeholders. Brescia, Italy, 14 November 2025. | Italian Stakeholders | 23 |
| C | EURCAW Table Top Exercise on animal welfare during Transport (Online 30/10/2025) | EU countries | 25 |
| B | WOAH Regional Workshop on AW during slaughter and WOA Regional workshop on developing national action plans for animal welfare (Tirana, Albania, 11-13 February 2025) | 12 WOAH countries of European Region | 32 |
| B | 5th WOAH Regional Workshop on Dog Population Management for the Caucasus and Central Asia, 2-4 December 2025 | Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan | 29 |
| B | WOAH Workshop on Response Plan Development for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction, 8 -10 July 2025, Bucharest Romania. | 6 WOAH countries of European Region | 20 |
| C | Animal welfare during transport to abattoirs, 29 September 2025. | Sweden | 45 |
| B | Horizon Europe Project BIOSECURE and SCAW workshop: Ready to co-create solutions where biosecurity meets animal welfare? 11 December 2025 (digital). | EU countries | 38 |
| C | Workshop in disaster medicine for competent authorities, 6 November 2025, SLU, Uppsala, Sweden. | Sweden | 34 |
| B | Kan vi hantera våra djur vid höjd beredskap, kris och krig? (Can we take care of the animals in times of preparedness, crisis, and war?), 19 November 2025. The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, Stockholm, Sweden. | Sweden | 60 |
| C | Workshop in disaster medicine for supporting bodies and industry, 20 November 2025, The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, Stockholm, Sweden. | Sweden | 42 |
| C | Workshop on Animal welfare during disaster and war, 8 December 2025, Swedish Veterinary Agency, Uppsala, Sweden. | Sweden | 42 |

TOR 8: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

9. Did your Collaborating Centre organise or participate in the organisation of scientific meetings related to your main focus area on behalf of WOAHP?

No

TOR 9: DATA AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

10. Publication and dissemination of any information within the remit of the mandate given by WOAHP that may be useful to Members of WOAHP

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

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- Torricella L, Iannetti L, Rossi E, D'Albenzio S & Podaliri Vulpiani M (2025). *The Contribution of IZS Teramo to the Study of Animal Welfare within the European Partnership for Animal Health and Welfare (EUP AH&W). Italian Journal of Food Safety (in press)*
- Schirone M, Luciani M & Iannetti L (2025). *Zoonotic Pathogens in Food: New Advances and Editorial Insights. Foods 14: 2847. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods14162847>*
- Caporale V, Dalla Villa P, Di Nardo A, Di Francesco C, Ferri N, Migliaccio P, Migliorati G, Morelli D, Ricchiuti L, Russo MR, Salucci S & Squarcione S (2025). *Veterinary response to non-epidemic disasters: the experience of the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale" after the 2009 earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy. New Zealand Veterinary Journal, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00480169.2025.2566100>*
- Matteucci G, Dos Santos Lima M, Rossi E, Iannetti L, Podaliri Vulpiani M, Tittarelli M, De Massis F, Saluti G, Di Febo T, Maggetti M, Ripà P, Natale A & Sacchini F (2025). *Long term biocontainment and welfare in water buffaloes enrolled for experimental research. Laboratory Animals 59 (S1): 165. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00236772251334337>*
- Lindahl C, Sindhøj E, Gerritzen MA, Reimert HGM, Berg C, Blad M & Wallenbeck A (2025). *Pigs exposed to nitrogen, argon or carbon dioxide filled high-expansion foam: behavioural responses, stun process and blood lactate concentration, Animal 19:7, 101573, ISSN 1751-7311, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.animal.2025.101573>*
- Jerlström J, Lind AK, Lindahl C, Berg C & Wallenbeck A (2025). *Traumatic injuries detected at slaughter in cattle: impact of production system and season on animal welfare and meat condemnation in Sweden. Acta Vet Scand 67:18. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13028-025-00804-x>*
- Brijs J, Hjelmsstedt P, Sundell E, Berg C, Sandblom E, Gräns A (2025). *Effects of electrical and percussive stunning on neural, ventilatory and cardiac responses of rainbow trout. Aquaculture, 594:741387, ISSN 0044-8486, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2024.741387>*
- Parra Cerezo M, Brusin V, Esteves Trindade PH, Hernández A, Jung J, Berg C & Paranhos da Costa MJR (2025). *Limited Short-Term Effects of Tactile Stimulation on the Welfare of Newborn Nellore Calves. Veterinary Sciences, 12(4): 393. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vetsci12040393>*
- Lundmark Hedman F, Ewerlöf IR, Frössling J & Berg C (2025). *Official and private animal welfare inspectors' perception of their own on-site inspections. Front. Vet. Sci. 12:1575471. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2025.1575471>*
- Lindahl C, Sindhøj E, Gerritzen MA, Reimert HGM, Berg C, Blad, M & Wallenbeck A (2025). *Pigs exposed to nitrogen, argon or carbon dioxide filled high-expansion foam: Behavioural responses, stun process and blood lactate concentration. Animal (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.animal.2025.101573>*
- Jerlström J, Berg C & Wallenbeck A (2025). *Unnecessary suffering during the slaughter of cattle and pigs: mapping stun quality and associations to stun-to-stick intervals. Frontiers in Animal Science, 6:1633616. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fanim.2025.1633616>*

b) International conferences:

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- Velarde A, Zemzmi J, Caro E, Ashe S, Van Der Stede Y, Iannetti L, Marchitelli C, Michel V, Girardie Ó, Martin-Valls G, Llonch P, Johansen F, Boyle L & Reverte C (2025). *Animal Welfare Knowledge Platform: Benefits and Challenges. 76th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science. Innsbruck, Austria 25-29 August 2025.*
- Milazzo M, Falconi A, Baldacchini L, Marchitelli C, Velarde A, Zemzmi J, Girardie O, G. Valls GEM, Llonch P, Johansen F, D'Albenzio S, Ashe S, Caro E, Reverte C & Iannetti L (2025). *Building a Data-Driven Future for Animal Welfare: Stakeholder Insights for the EU Knowledge Platform. 76th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science. Innsbruck, Austria 25-29 August 2025.*
- Baldacchini L, Marchitelli C, Velarde A, Zemzmi, J, Boyle L, Caro E, Ashe S, Van Der Stede YPD, Martin Valls G, Llonch P, Michel V, Milazzo M, Podaliri Vulpiani M & Iannetti L (2025). *Advancing Animal Welfare in Europe: Survey to check stakeholder engagement in a knowledge platform for data collection. 76th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science. Innsbruck, Austria 25-29 August 2025.*
- Iannetti L, Milazzo M, Matteucci G, Termatzidou S, Berg C, Rota Nodari S, Fruci P, Podaliri Vulpiani M, Gerritzen M, Maters J & Soussidou E (2025). *Enhancing Animal Welfare: Assessing Unconsciousness and Death in Cattle and Small Ruminants through Objective Measures and Protocols. 76th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science. Innsbruck, Austria 25-29 August 2025.*
- Dos Santos Lima M, Podaliri Vulpiani M, Iannetti L, Bailly-Caumette E, Fàbrega E & Matteucci G (2025). *Best practices for animal welfare in dairy cows: compilation of current knowledge in the framework of a EUPAH&W project evaluating impact of animal welfare on sustainability. 76th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science. Innsbruck, Austria 25-29 August 2025.*
- Aubin-Houzelstein G, Boissy A, Perard M, Fabrega E, Dippel S, O'Driscoll K, Wallenbeck A, Pedersen LJ, Podaliri M, Vaccari G, Fusi F & Collin A (2025). *Integrating Animal Welfare into Sustainability Assessments: Insights from the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW) Network. Innsbruck, Austria 25-29 August 2025.*
- Iannetti L (2025). *"The role of IZS Teramo in the non-epidemic emergencies in the Abruzzo Region (Central Italy)": Webinar Series: Urban Health Webinar #3 + Climate Conversations. Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences (SLU). 24 January, 2025*
- Iannetti L (2025). *"Panel 4: Animal health and climate adaptation: towards sustainable livestock farming": TANIT KT PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING. Tunis, Tunisia, 1 October 2025.*
- Matteucci G, Dos Santos Lima M, Rossi EE, Iannetti L, Podaliri Vulpiani M, Tittarelli M, De Massis F, Saluti G, Di Febo T, Maggetti M, Ripà P, Natale A & Sacchini F. (2025). *Long term biocontainment and welfare in water buffaloes enrolled for experimental research. 16th European FELASA Conference. 25 June 2025, Athens, Greece.*

c) National conferences:

3

- Torricella L, Iannetti L, Rossi E, D'Albenzio S, Podaliri Vulpiani M (2025). *The Contribution of IZS Teramo to the Study of Animal Welfare within the European Partnership for Animal Health and Welfare (EUP AH&W). XXIII Congresso Nazionale SIDI/LV. 15-17 Ottobre 2025. Isola delle Femmine, Palermo.*
- Podaliri Vulpiani M (2025). *Confinamento e limitazione di movimento e socializzazione nei cavalli domestici: fondamenti scientifici, impatto e raccomandazioni (Confinement and movement and socialization restriction in domestic horses: science fundamentals, impact and recommendations). Webinar Il ruolo del veterinario nella promozione della salute e del benessere del cavallo non-DPA. IZS Teramo 27 Novembre 2025.*
- Rossi E (2025). *Biosicurezza e Benessere Animale negli Stabulari: Pratiche Integrate per una Gestione Responsabile (Biosafety and Animal Welfare in Laboratory Animals Establishments: Integrated practices for responsible management). Istituto Nazionale Malattie Infettive Lazzaro Spallanzani, Corso di formazione ed aggiornamento per gli operatori dei laboratori BSL3 e BSL4, 24 novembre 2025.*

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

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- Berg C (2025). *Expertyttranden i djurskyddsfall – hur kan de underlätta kontroll-myndigheternas arbete med vanligt förekommande djurskyddsproblem? – analys. (Expert opinions in animal welfare cases*

– how can they facilitate the work of supervisory authorities dealing with common animal welfare problems? – analysis.) JP Djurnet 2025-04-10.

https://www.jpinfo.net.se/JP-DjurNet/dokumenttyp/analyser-och-referat/process-och-handlaggning/handlaggning/analyser/d_5677929-expertyttranden-i-djurskyddsfall--hur-kan-de-underlatta-kontrollmyndigheternas-arbete-med-vanligt_3_pp.

• Berg C & Lundmark Hedman F (2025). Hur har EU- inträdet påverkat djurskydd och djurvälstånd i Sverige? (How has EU membership affected animal protection and welfare in Sweden?), SLU Future Food, 2025-05-23.

<https://www.slu.se/centrumbildningar-och-projekt/futurefood/food-facts/sverige-i-eu/djurskydd-och-djurvalfard/>

11. What have you done in the past year to advance your area of focus, e.g. updated technology?

The SAM TOOL 2.0 was developed at IZSAM and put at disposal of WOAHA member countries that can use it for self-assessment, as a web-based self-assessment and monitoring e-platform to assist countries in making progress on the agreed vision of full implementation of the WOAHA TAHC Chapter 7.7 on dog population management with a rabies component. An update has been done in 2005 to ensure the availability also for Central Asia and Caucasus WOAHA countries.

12. Additional comments regarding your report: