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6 – Animal Health and Care

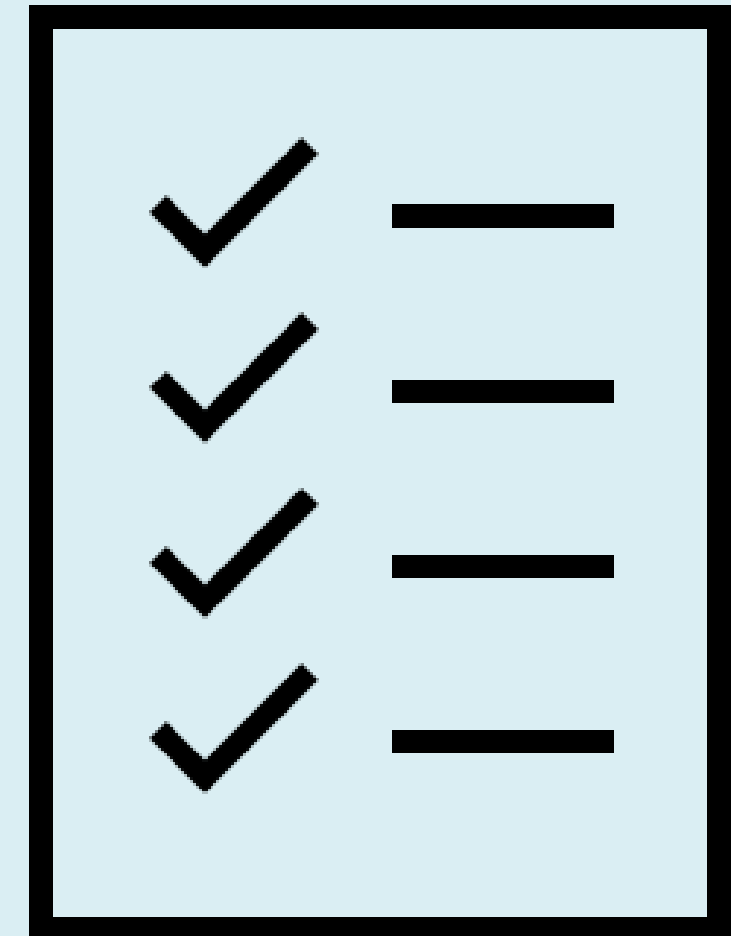
CONTENT 2 – EU Food Law

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Program

1. General considerations on animal health and care
2. World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)
3. General animal health and care regulations
4. Animal welfare
5. One Health



- Animal health is critical to human health, as scientists estimate that more than **six out of ten known infectious diseases** in people can be transmitted by animals, and approximately **75 percent** of newly emerging human infectious diseases have been **zoonotic**, with **72 percent** of them coming from wildlife.



- With the rapid increase in global population, where humans and animals live in **ever closer proximity**, the ability for infections to pass more frequently between species has increased. Closer **monitoring and vigilance of diseases** at the interface between humans, animals and their surrounding environment are essential for future control of emerging infectious diseases.



General considerations on animal health and care

- The OIE estimates that **20% of global food production** is lost due to disease in farm animals. In addition, research has found that **livestock diseases** can increase GHG emissions by up to 24% per unit of milk and 113% per bovine carcass;
- Nevertheless, thanks to the use of animal medicines, Europe has **managed to prevent and control animal diseases** such as bluetongue, bovine mastitis, circovirus, **and foot-and-mouth disease**, which a few years ago posed serious threats to animal health, food safety, and consequently public health;
- Advances in animal **husbandry and nutrition**, along with the increased responsible use of animal health products, including **antibiotics**, have helped transform livestock and food production to make it more **efficient and sustainable**;
- By improving animal health and care, **reducing mortality** rates and **reducing losses** due to disease, the products have contributed to efficiency in productivity while supporting sustainable agricultural practices.





- The **World Organization for Animal Health** (OIE) is the most important global authority on animal health;
- It was founded in 1924 as Office International des Epizooties (OIE), and restructured in May 2003, adopting the name World Organization for Animal Health;
- Is an **intergovernmental organization**, focused on the **transparent dissemination of information on animal diseases**, improving animal health globally and thus building a safer, healthier and more sustainable world.



At the European level, the **OIE Platform on animal welfare** has been established, whose main objective is to improve animal welfare in all 53 countries in Europe and to **empower Veterinary Services** to act on animal welfare in accordance with OIE standards.

More specifically, the Platform has the scope to:

- Raise awareness and achieve a high level of understanding of animal welfare in the European region;
- Progressively **advance the implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare;**
- Stimulate participation in the OIE standardization process.

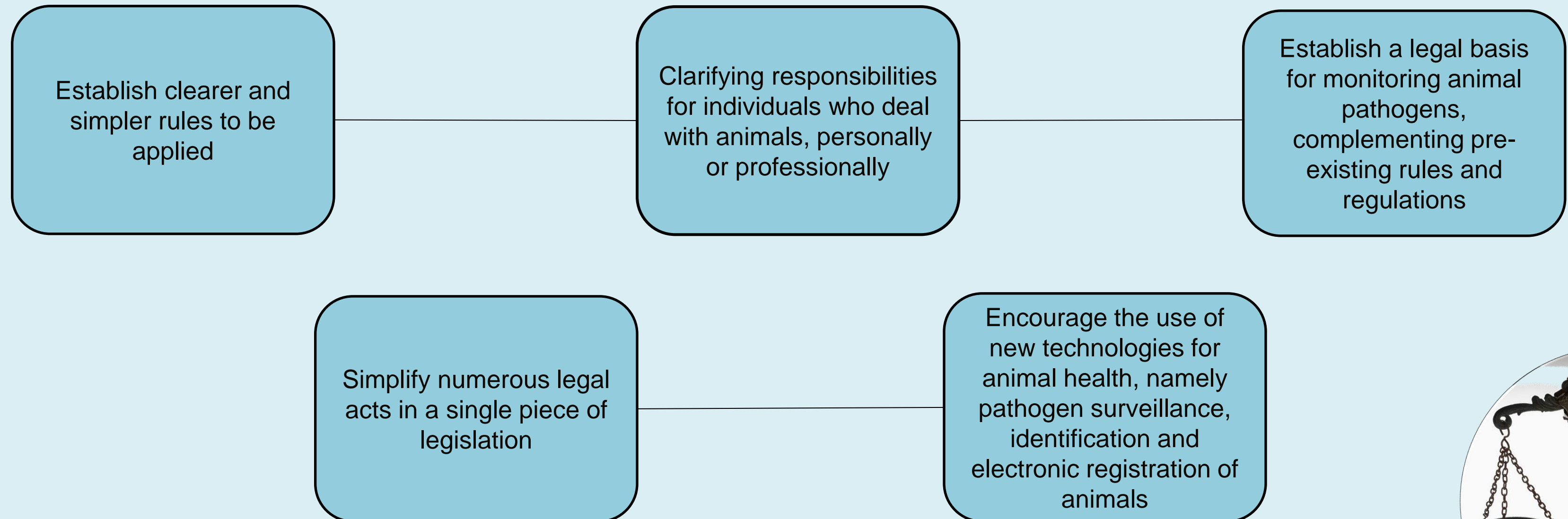
Animal health and care in the European Union is regulated by a variety of rules, including **regulations, codes, and international conventions**

- **Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC);**
- Aquatic Animal Health Code (AAHC);
- SPS Agreement;
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;
- **Regulation (EU) 2018/1882 (Categories of diseases);**
- **Regulation (EU) 2018/1629 (List of diseases);**
- Regulation (EU) 2017/625 (Official Controls Regulation);
- **Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law);**
- Regulation (EU) 2004/852;
- Regulation (EU) 2004/853;
- Regulation (EU) 2004/882;
- Commission Regulation (EC) 2009/152



Animal health is primarily regulated by the rules adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in **Regulation (EU) 2016/429**, also called the **Animal Health Law**, since March 2016.

In general terms, **the main objective** of this law is to support the EU livestock sector, fundamentally in its quest for competitiveness and a safe and smooth European market for animals and their products. In this sense, some of its **main objectives are:**



General animal health and care regulations: structure of the law

Part I

List of diseases

Categories of diseases

Part II

Surveillance, eradication & disease free

Disease notification/ reporting

Listing Union Surveillance Programmes & Compartments

Listing of existing disease free and eradication programmes

Part III

Prevention & control of Cat A, B & C diseases

Use of vet medicinal products for disease control

Management of vaccine banks

Rules for vaccine banks

Contingency plans

Part IV

Part IV.I

Registration & approval of establishments & traceability

Registration & identification of horses

Registration & identification

Movements within the EU

Movements within the EU

Part IV.II

Aquaculture animal establishments & transporters of aquatic animals

Movement of aquatic animal and products

Derogation from registration & for record keeping by certain transporters

Recognition of existing national measures

Part IV

Entry into the EU

List of Third Countries

- Another very relevant piece of legislation regarding animal health and care is the **Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE**, which has as its main objective to set **standards for the improvement of terrestrial animal health and welfare and veterinary public health** worldwide;

- Veterinary Authorities must use the standards of the Terrestrial Code to establish measures providing for the **early detection, internal notification, reporting, control or eradication of pathogens, including zoonotic agents, in terrestrial animals** (mammals, birds, reptiles and bees) and **prevent their spread** through international trade in animals and animal products, avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade.



Volume I

Animal disease diagnosis,
surveillance and notification

General recommendations:
disease prevention and
control

Risk analysis

Trade measures,
import/export procedures and
veterinary certification

Quality of veterinary services

Veterinary public health

Animal welfare

Volume II

Multiple species

Suidae

Apidae

Aves

Bovidae

Equidae

Leporidae

Caprinae

- The concept of animal welfare is closely related to an **emotional aspect**, and can have different meanings when viewed from different perspectives;
- **There is no universal and unanimously accepted concept of animal welfare**, mainly due to its subjectivity;
- From the perspective of Broom (1986), welfare consists of an **adequate physical, psychological, social, and environmental state of the animals.**



Brom (1986) also defines what he considers the **five fundamental Animal Welfare needs** that provide a useful foundation for ensuring that human caretakers are providing basic welfare needs for animals:

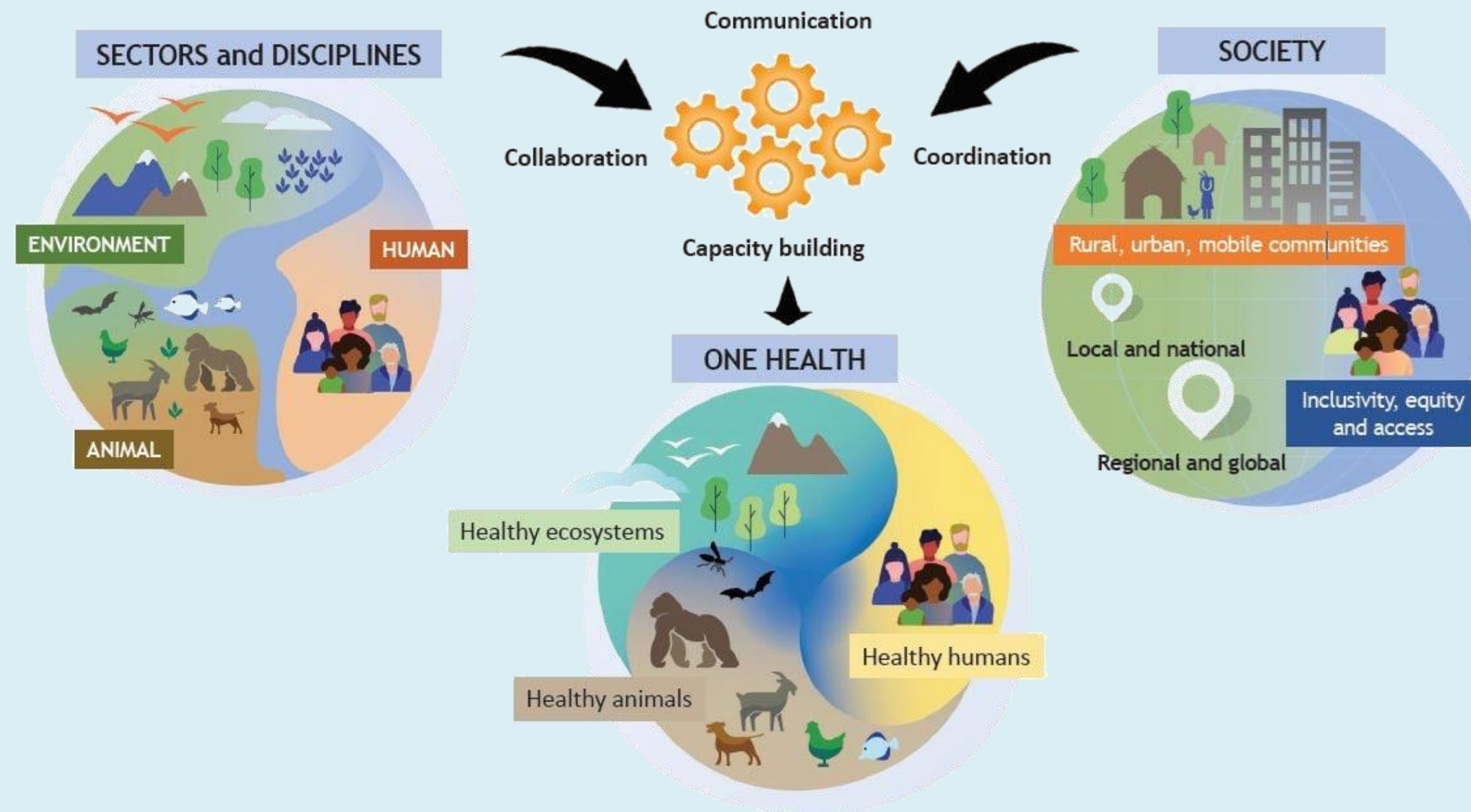
- Need for suitable environment
- Need for adequate diet
- Need to be able to manifest normal behaviour patterns
- Need to be housed with, or away from, other animals Need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury, or illness.



- With the support and cooperation of the EU countries, the European Commission has been promoting animal welfare for more **than 40 years**, improving the lives of farm animals;
- An important step in 1998 was Council **Directive 98/58/EC** on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes, which established **general rules for the protection of animals of all species kept for food production**, wool, fur or other agricultural activities. purposes, including fish, reptiles or amphibians;
- These rules are based on the European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes, which states that animals should be kept **free from hunger and thirst, freedom from pain, injury, and disease, free to express normal behavior, and free from fear and distress.**



- One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals, and ecosystems. From this perspective, the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the environment are intricately linked and interdependent.



In summary:

1. Animal health and care is fundamental to human health;
2. Animals are considered sentient beings, and therefore deserve and need to be treated as such;
3. In legislative matters, the European union has shown interest in encouraging the use of increasingly modern and innovative animal health and care strategies;
4. We live in an ecosystem in which everything is connected, so taking care of health to the animals means also taking care of the health of the planet, and consequently our own.



Thank you for your attention

Any question? Doubts?

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