



Agreement on Research Services on Animal Behaviour, Health, and Welfare

The purpose of the Agreement on Research Services is to outline the professional framework for Research-based Government Advisory Services within Animal Behaviour, Health, and Welfare. This includes both the scientific focus areas in which a university will provide services to the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Fisheries (FVM) and the research infrastructure co-financed by FVM at the university as a foundation for Research-based Government Advisory Services.

Advisory Needs

- Assessment and study of production animal (animals for consumption, bi-products and feed production) behaviour, welfare and health under existing and future production and regulatory forms and best practice, during transport, during euthanasia and slaughter, and in wild nature.
- Assessment and study of companion animal behaviour, welfare and health under existing and future regulatory forms and best practice.
- Use of animal and resource-based welfare indicators for both positive and negative welfare.
- The link between competencies, education and possible self-monitoring on one side and good animal welfare and animal health on the other.
- Develop and evaluate measures that prevent resistance of antibiotics in animals, including alternatives to antibiotics and promoting increased robustness and disease resistance.
- Increase understanding of the link between animal health and welfare, when preventing and managing diseases and injuries.
- Importance of genetic/breeding factors for positive and negative impact on animal health and welfare.
- Assistance in national and international collaborations and regulatory development.
- Thorough knowledge and insight in Danish legislation and conditions.
- Advice and deliverables must be delivered and communicated in Danish.
- Advice and deliverables must deliver high scientific quality, including ensuring high validity and reliability, within both qualitative and quantitative methods.

Research and overall competence development

- Achieving competences to meet advisory and consultation needs.
- Research within the emotional state of animals with a special focus on positive mental states.
- Research into disease mechanisms for prevention of diseases and welfare issues.
- Methods for assessing animal welfare for animals kept outside, including in wild nature.
- Development and validation of methods to improve welfare assessment and develop tools that can contribute to early intervention in welfare and health problems.
- Management in production animal herds – including new concepts for herd advice and development of decision support systems for optimizing animal welfare and infection protection.
- Farmers, employees' and veterinarians understanding of and motivation for increasing animal welfare and for reducing the use of antibiotics.

- Materials and technologies to promote animal-friendly equipment in stables and during transport.
- Building knowledge about genetic/breeding causes of increased vulnerability to health and welfare problems and the possibility of improving health and welfare through targeted breeding programs.
- Development of methods to include animal welfare in existing sustainability analyses.