



Federation
of Veterinarians
of Europe



Animal Welfare FVE activities



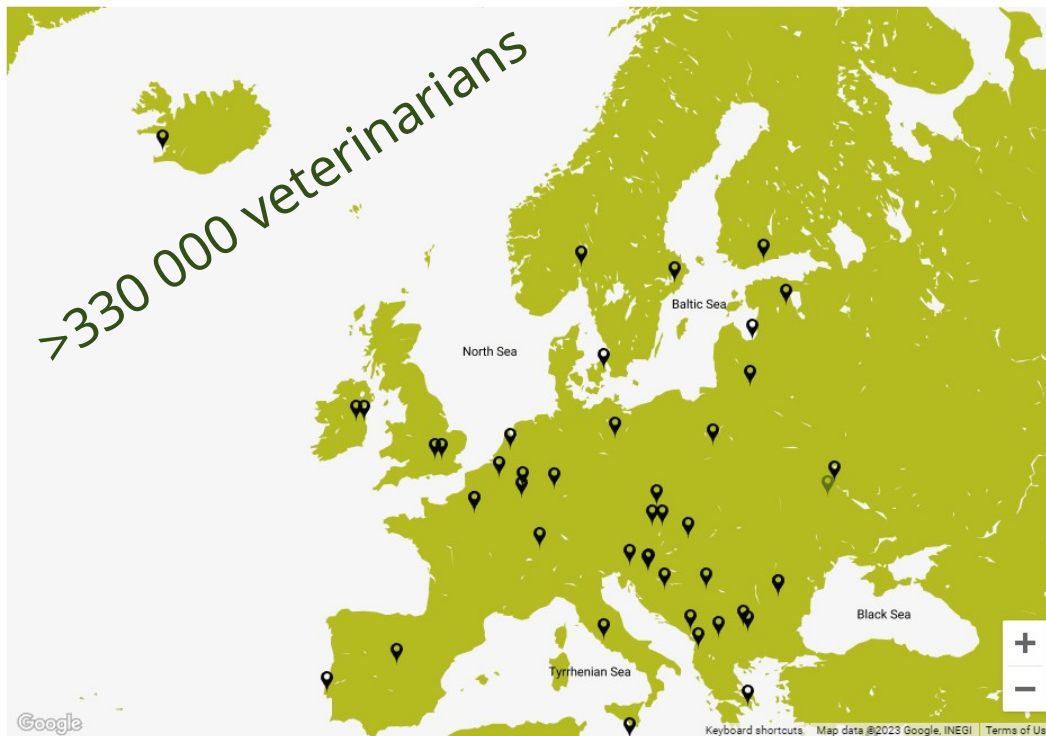
Dr Joe Collins, FEEVA President; July 2026



FEEVA
Every horse matters



THE FEDERATION OF VETERINARIANS OF EUROPE



46 national associations

38 European countries

4 Sections

- UEVP (*Practitioners*) incl. FEEVA
- UEVH (*Hygienists – Public Health Officers*)
- EASVO (*Veterinary State Officers*)
- EVERI (*Education, Research, Industry*)

FVE's mission

The European veterinary profession, represented by FVE, is a **science-led healthcare profession** of over 330,000 veterinarians. We champion animal health and welfare, public health, safe food, and sustainable livelihoods.

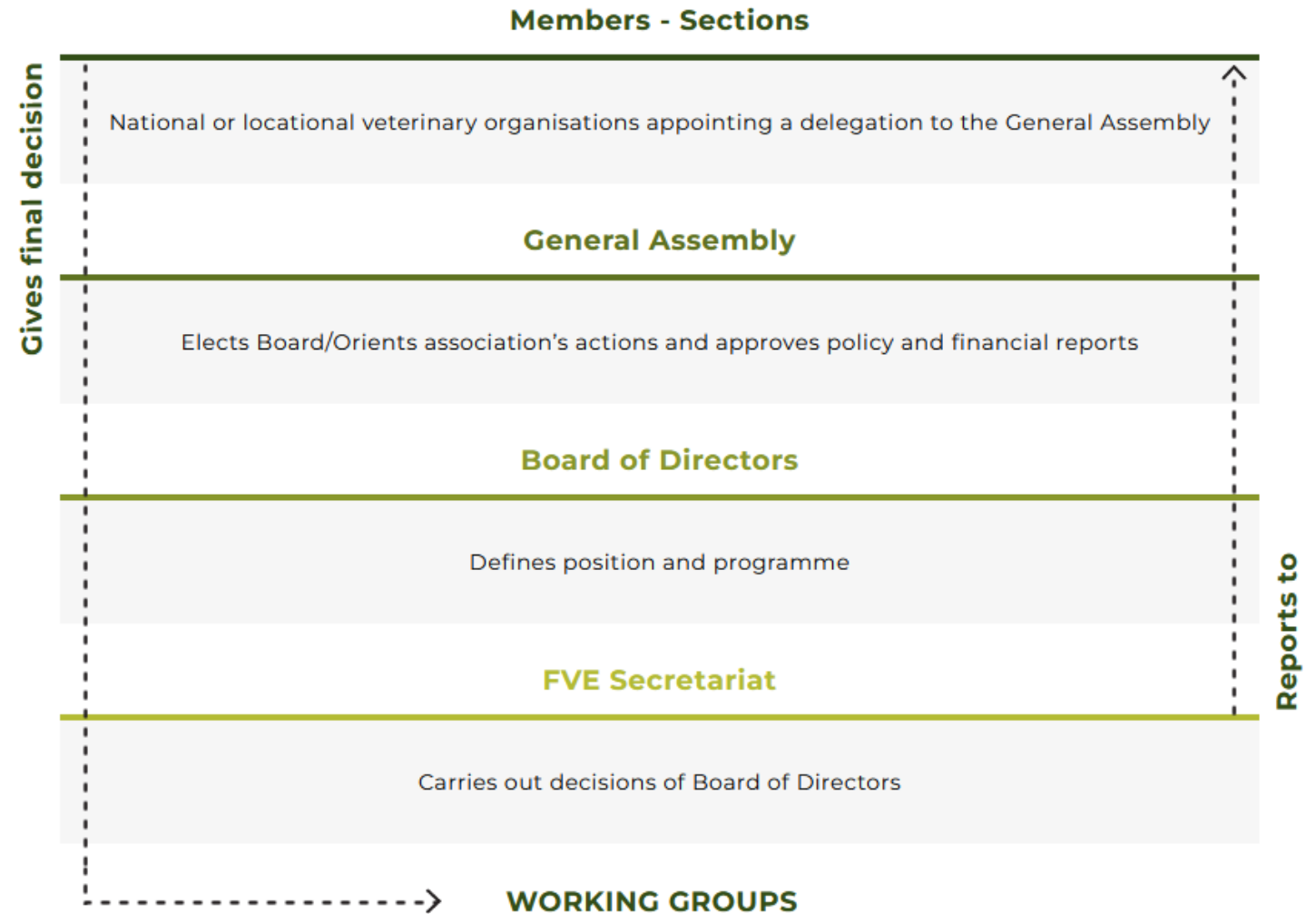
As One Health–One Welfare leaders, veterinarians protect animals, people, and the environment for a healthier tomorrow.



FVE structure

FVE Working Groups 2026

- Medicines WG
- **Animal Welfare WG**
- Veterinary Public Health & Sustainability WG
- Statutory Bodies WG
- Mental Well-Being and DEI WG
- Animal Health Working group (new)



Term 2023-2026



Final meeting was held in April 2026

- Vibe Pedersen Lund – DK (Chair)
- Stefan Gunnarsson – SE (Co-Chair)
- Mark McCarthy – IE
- Luc Mounier – FR
- Thomas Neudecker – AT
- Tatjana Zajec – HR
- Johanna Moritz – DE
- Ann Criel – BE – FECAVA
- Giovanni Guadagnini – IT – UEVP
- Kenelm Lewis – UK – UEVP
- Mette Uldahl – FEEVA – FVE Board
- Heather Bacon – UK – Observer
- Andrei-Sebastian Csiplo – RO – Observer
- Matteo Carnevale – IVSA observer

New Working Group will have first meeting 3rd of July



SMART Actions of the AW WG for 2023-2026

- **Input into draft proposals for new EU AW legislation**
- **Explore connection of animal health, welfare, food safety & AMU**
- **Communicating positions to policymakers (in)directly**
- **Define horizontal welfare indicators**
- **Joint position training & behaviour**
- **Reflection on the use of animals in entertainment**
- **FVE position on fur farming**

**THE NEW AWWG WILL SET THE SMART
ACTIONS FOR 2026-2029**

1. EU Animal Welfare Framework Law

Originally: EU Commission
announced release of four
animal welfare proposals in
2021:

Transport

Slaughter

Labelling

Dogs & cats





1. EU Legislation on welfare and I&R of cats & dogs

- ❖ FVE actively engaged with the Council and the European Parliament
- ❖ Most FVE/FECAVA points were taken onboard in the final Regulation
- ❖ FVE welcomed the adopted text and awaits publication in the Official Journal
- ❖ FVE started preparing for implementation by raising awareness



European law on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability

The EU has adopted new legislation on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats, applicable in all Member States from 2028. It represents the first EU-wide framework introducing minimum harmonised standards for their protection.

Importance: The legislation addresses key challenges in the EU market, including:

- Illegal trade (incl. cross-border)
- Inconsistent animal welfare conditions
- Limited traceability
- Misleading online sales
- Divergent national rules



What will change in veterinary practice?



Responsibilities on Identification and Registration

All dogs and cats shall be identified by a veterinarian (exceptions) with a microchip and registered in a national database **within two working days**.

Operators and pet owners shall ensure identification within **three months of birth** and **before placing animals on the market**, and animals entering pet shops, shelters, or foster homes shall be identified within 30 days.

The owner shall ensure that **deaths are recorded and unreadable microchips are replaced and updated**.

Changes of ownership have to be recorded within two weeks.

Identification and registration obligations shall apply:

- for operators (breeders, sellers...): **2030**
- for pet owners/other non operators:
 - **dogs: 2036**
 - **cats: 2041**



Delegated Acts
Implementing Acts

Art.20



Databases

EU countries must set up **national databases** by 2030. These databases must work together. By 2031, the EU will create an **EU-wide index** so authorities can check and compare identification and registration data. The EU will define the minimum data required and ensure all databases are compatible.

Art.23



Online selling and Responsible Ownership

All online ads shall display a warning on **responsible ownership**. Buyers must receive identification, registration, and ownership information, which can be checked through an **online verification system**.

Art.21

Breeders/sellers shall provide the buyer with written information on responsible ownership, the dog's or cat's care and welfare needs, and health status, including vaccinations, known medical conditions or test results, using existing animal health documents where applicable.

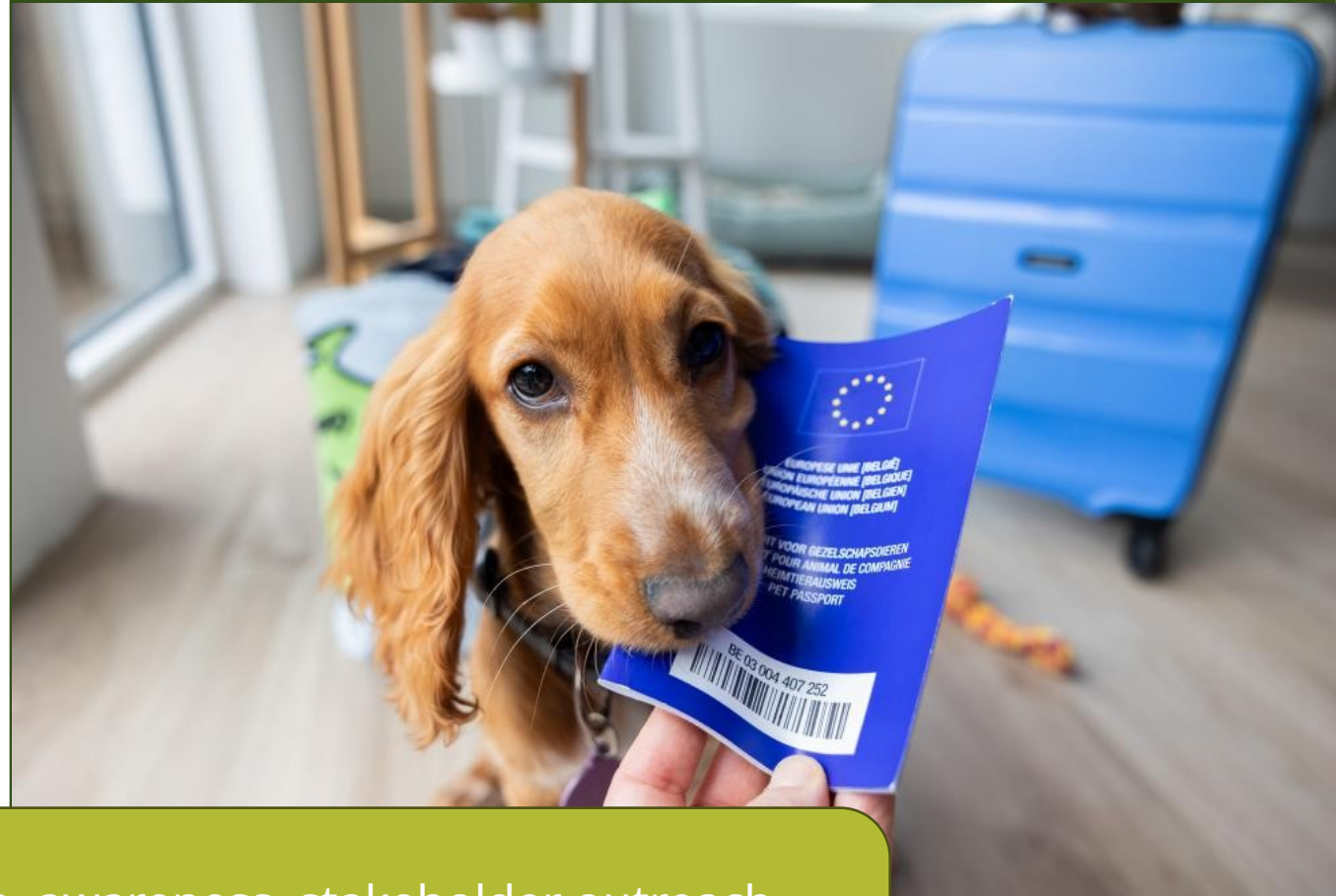
Art.11



FVE BROCHURE

VI subgroup on health & welfare of pets in trade under EC Animal welfare Platform

- The mandate has been extended until 30 June 2030.
- Secretariat: FVE together with Eurogroup for Animals
- Member Ann Criel (FVE, FECAVA)



- **Implement EU Regulation:** communication, awareness, stakeholder outreach
- **Promote welfare standards:** update guidance on breeding, shelters, online sales
- **Fight illegal pet trade:** cooperation, data exchange, reporting to EU bodies



REPORT

- In November 2025, FVE together with WOAAH, RSPCA Europe and Purina organised an event related to the Regulation for the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats





2. New rules on transport

- Further meetings took place at Council working group level, while the proposal **remains stalled in the European Parliament.**
- S2 Council meetings under Irish Presidency



JOINT FVE-EASVO STATEMENT ON VETERINARY SUPERVISION OF ANIMAL LOADING



FVE Priority Voting Topics and Recommendations for EP vote on the revision of EU Animal Transport Regulation

November 2025

Intro: Over the past decades, FVE has been actively engaged in shaping and improving EU rules on the transport of animals. Veterinarians play a central role in ensuring animal welfare during transport from assessing animals' fitness for travel, to authorising journey logs, to oversee loading and unloading, to monitoring conditions and compliance throughout the journey. Their expertise is vital for safeguarding both animal health and public trust.

FVE strongly welcomes the European Commission's (EC) proposal to revise Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005. The revision addresses long-standing gaps and aligns provisions more closely with current scientific knowledge and technological progress. An update was urgently needed because:

- Many annexes (e.g. journey times, space allowances) remained unchanged for over 30 years.
- Several provisions lack clarity, and in consequence, create legal uncertainty, an uneven

Priority Voting Recommendations for EP vote on the revision of EU Animal Transport Regulation



3. Joint position training & behaviour

- Finalised position paper
- Adopted in June GA 2024, Press Release, FECAVA, FEEVA and WSAVA did joint launch webinar in December 2024.



**JOINT POSITION PAPER ON THE ANIMAL WELFARE IMPLICATIONS
OF ANIMAL BEHAVIOURAL MODIFICATION, TRAINING METHODS,
AND ABILITY TO EXPRESS SPECIES-SPECIFIC BEHAVIOURS**

Adopted unanimously by the FVE General Assembly on June 14th 2024

Table of contents

Executive Summary.....	1
Background and scope.....	2
Veterinary responsibilities to animal behaviour and training	3
Preventative behavioural medicine	4
Animal origins and acquisition.....	4
Recommendation 1.....	4



4. Animals in entertainment

- The experts welcomed comments and feedback on the joint FVE-FECAVA draft position on the use of animals in entertainment
- Revised in 2026, and planned for second consultation and **possible adoption in Nov 2026**



5. FVE, FECAVA AND WSAVA POSITION PAPER ON FUR FARMING

- A legally enacted phase-out of fur farming in the next decade
- A phase-out of the placement of farmed animal fur and products containing such fur on the market
- A ban on importing farmed animal fur and products containing such fur from third countries who have not phased out.

FVE, FECAVA and WSAVA position statement: Support for a phase-out of fur farming

Adopted at the FVE General Assembly in Limassol, Cyprus

14/11/2025

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), the Federation of Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA) and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) call for the phasing out of fur farming globally. As veterinarians committed to animal health and welfare, public health and the protection of the environment, FVE, FECAVA and WSAVA believe that fur farming is no longer sustainable. Fur farming raises serious concerns regarding animal welfare and can have strong implications on public and environmental health. Therefore, when viewed through the One Health-One Welfare lens, it is disproportionate and unjustifiable.

FVE, FECAVA and WSAVA call policy makers for:

- A legally enacted phase-out of fur farming globally in the next decade
- A phase-out of the placement of farmed animal fur and products containing such fur on the market
- A ban on importing farmed animal fur and products containing such fur from third countries who have not phased out.

One Welfare: animal welfare and societal concerns

Animals bred for fur, primarily mink (*Neogale vison*), foxes (*Vulpes lagopus* and *Vulpes vulpes*), raccoon dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), and chinchillas (*Chinchilla lanigera*), are wild or semi-wild species whose complex behavioural and physiological needs cannot be met satisfactorily under farming conditions within the confines of conventional fur farms.

Most animals commercially raised for fur production are typically housed in barren wire mesh cages without environmental enrichment¹. The European Food Safety Authority's recent Scientific Opinion confirmed that this harbours an increased risk for skin lesions and injuries and severely restricts severely restrict natural behaviors, including resting, hunting, swimming, foraging, and social interaction. It was shown that this leads to frustration, stress, and abnormal behaviors such as self-mutilation, cannibalism, and stereotypies^{1,2}. These conditions have prevailed for decades and fail to meet the basic welfare standards as defined by the Five Freedoms³ and Five Domains model⁴.

When it comes to killing for harvest or depopulation, mink are usually restrained manually or in traps



Work in progress

- Support for developing **policy indicators** to measure improvements in **animal welfare**

Meetings:

- Beef cattle at farm
- Dairy cows and calves at farm
- Fish at farm, transport, and killing
- Lying hens at farm
- Meat chickens at farm
- Transport and slaughter of ruminants and pigs
- Pigs at farm
- Transport and slaughter of poultry



FEDERATION OF VETERINARIANS OF EUROPE

FVE/015/doc/063
Adopted at the FVE General Assembly of 3 June 2016

Relationship between animal welfare and the use of antibiotics in food animals

Antibiotic resistance is a very serious threat to human and animal health. It can only be tackled by an international coordination of all efforts as in the One Health Concept. Promoting responsible use and reducing the amount of antibiotics used in people, and animals worldwide is vital for maintaining the efficacy of the antibiotics to fight bacterial diseases in animals and humans. Animals that are well cared for and appropriately housed, will experience a better welfare, be less prone to infections and will need fewer antibiotics. The European veterinary profession, having a key role in animal health, welfare, food safety, environmental protection and sustainable keeping of animals is committed to take leadership in fighting antimicrobial resistance.

Foreseen: revision of FVE 2016 position paper on **“Relationship between animal welfare and the use of antibiotics in food animals”** by the AWWG, MWG, and VPH&S WG to broaden the scope to explore the interconnections between animal welfare, animal health, food safety, and antimicrobial resistance.



Parliamentary event on new EU Rules on Animal Transport: Challenges and Perspectives



RAWC workshop, January 2026



Responsible Pet Ownership event, November 2025



DG SANTE meeting on Dog and Cats Regulation 2026



FVE's 4th

VET SURVEY

Every 2-3 years, FVE does a large scale survey of the veterinary profession to look at demographics, veterinary practices, role of veterinarians and future of veterinary medicine

2015



13,001

Veterinary
professionals



25

European countries

2018



14,559

Veterinary
professionals



30

European countries

2023



12,397

Veterinary
professionals



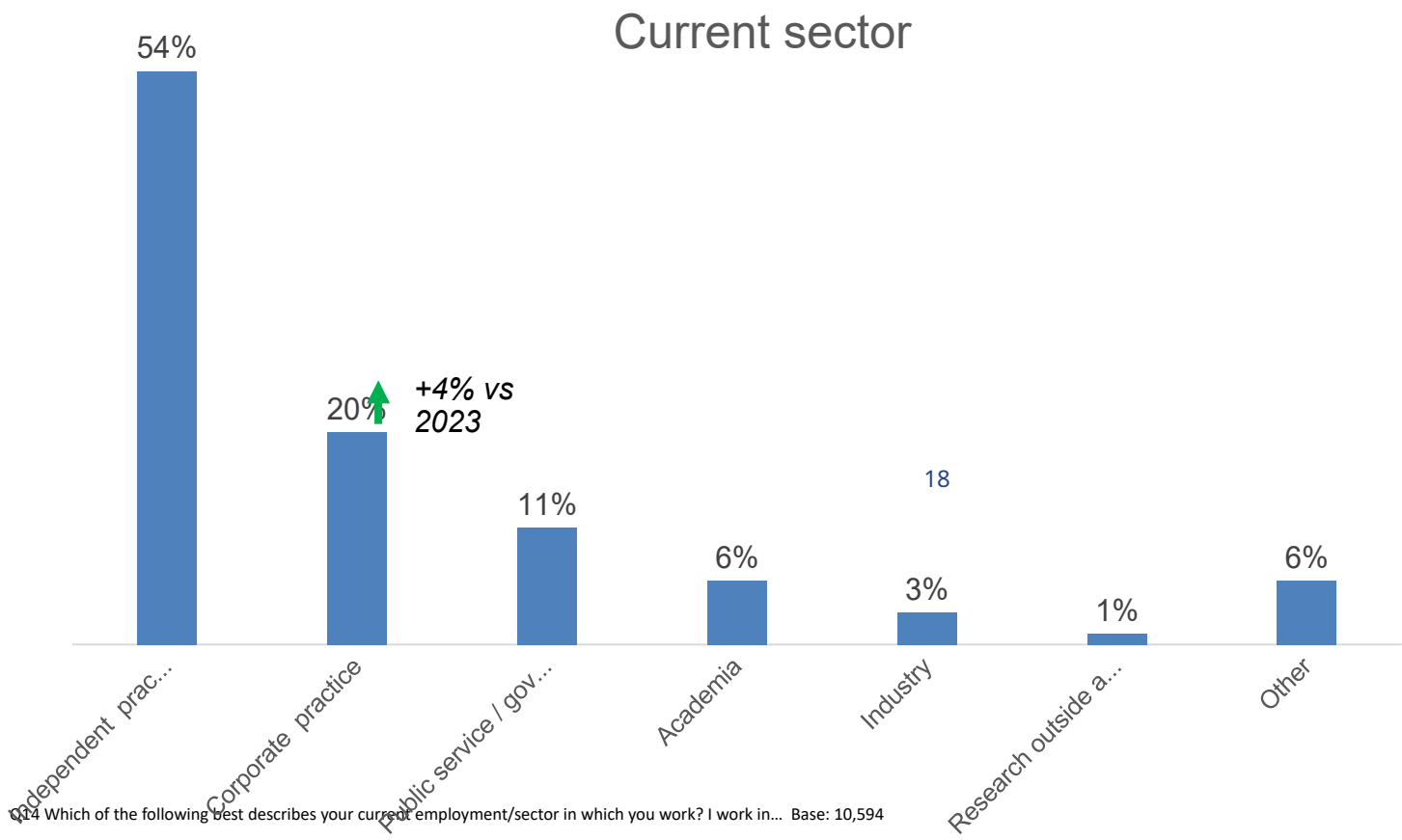
37

European countries

2026

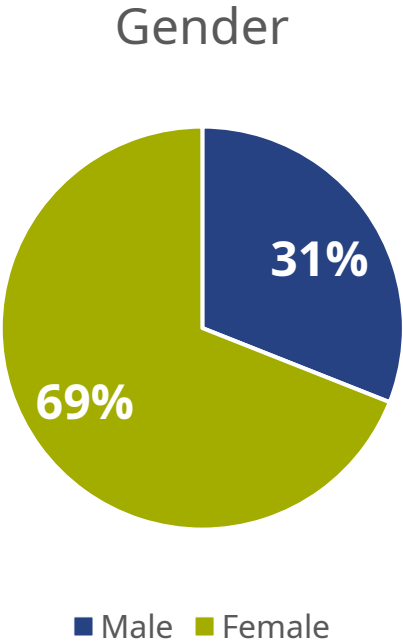
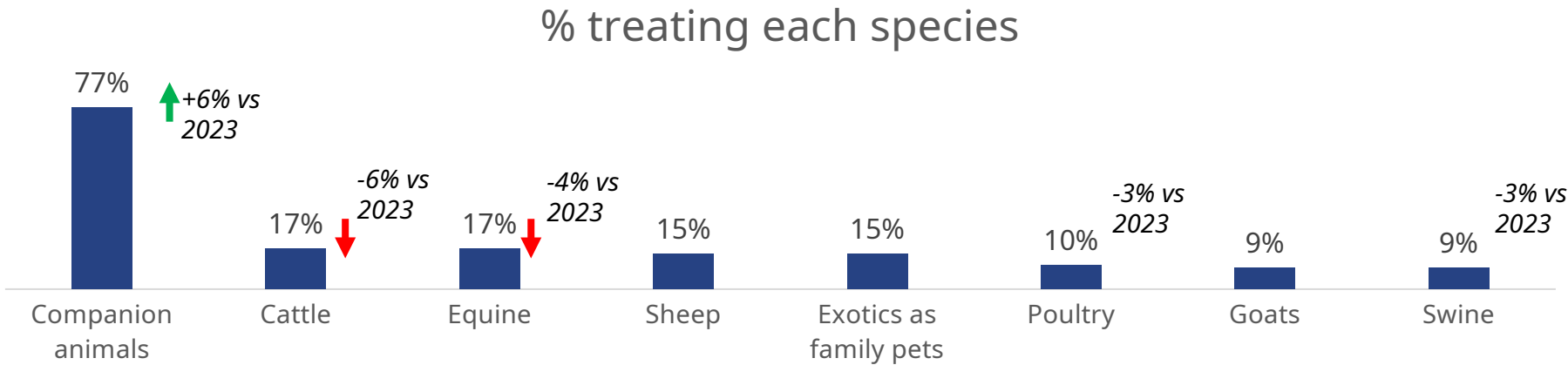
Report will be
publicly available in
autumn

More than half of respondents were based in independent practices, with a growing fifth in corporates



77% (and growing) of respondents take care of companion animals, versus only 17% for cattle, 10% for poultry and 9% for sheep

Worrying trend





Thank you for your attention!



CONTACT US

Tel.: +32 2 533 70 20

E-mail: info@fve.org

Website: <https://fve.org/>

WHERE WE ARE

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)

Rue Victor Oudart 7 B-1030 Brussels

