

# Update on EU animal welfare activities

*WOAH Workshop of National Focal Points on Animal Welfare for Europe  
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# Legislative proposals and communication

- **Regulation on the welfare and traceability of dogs and cats\*** – adopted by the co-legislators, to be published in Official Journal soon; Work on implementation strategy has started.
- **Revision of the regulation on the protection of animals during transport\*\*** – in co-decision process, progress is being made.
- **Fur animals** – new Communication with the Commission's response to the European Citizen's Initiative "Fur Free Europe" expected soon.

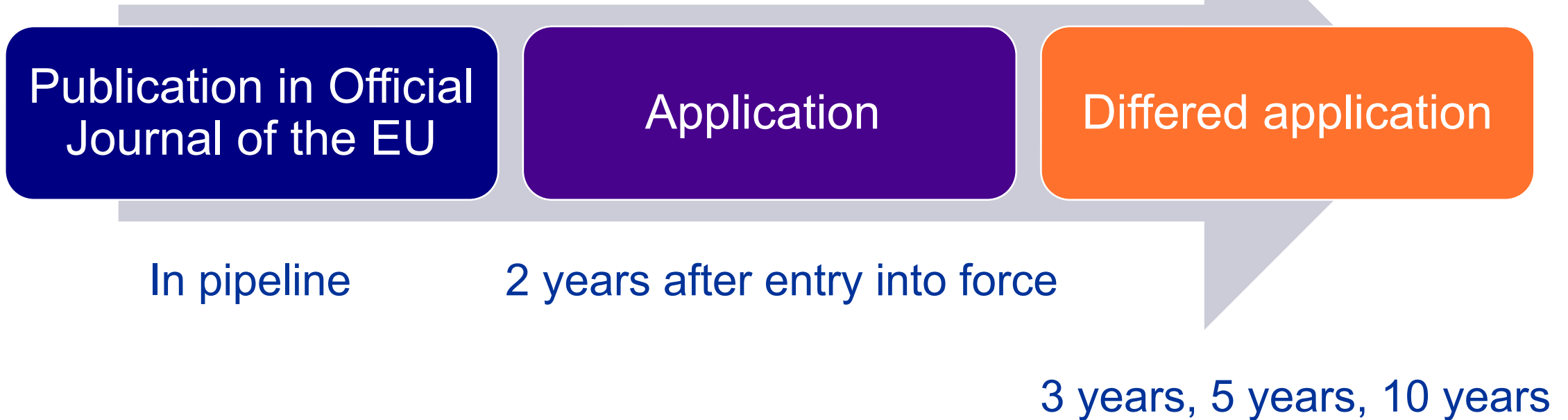
*\* External study on breeding + digitalisation (ongoing).*

*\*\*External study on digital modalities (published on 4 June 2026).*



# State of play

## 1<sup>st</sup> EU law on welfare of dogs and cats



EP voted on 28 April, Council adopted on 22 May, final act signed 17 June 2026

[https://oeil.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/en/procedure-file?reference=2023/0447\(COD\)](https://oeil.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/en/procedure-file?reference=2023/0447(COD))



## New rules to apply starting from 2028

### Common Welfare Standards

Establishments will have to comply with new standards for housing, health, nutrition, behavioural needs and painful practices.

### Verification of Online Ads

Interested buyers will be able to rely on a verification system to avoid advertisings from fraudsters.

### Competent Animal Caretakers

Animal caretakers in breeding establishments, selling establishments and shelters to be properly trained in the care and welfare of animals.

### Traceability

All dogs and cats to be microchipped and registered in inter-operable national databases, to trace animals and fight fraud.



### Responsible Ownership

Buyers must be made aware of proper pet care, nutrition and veterinary needs.

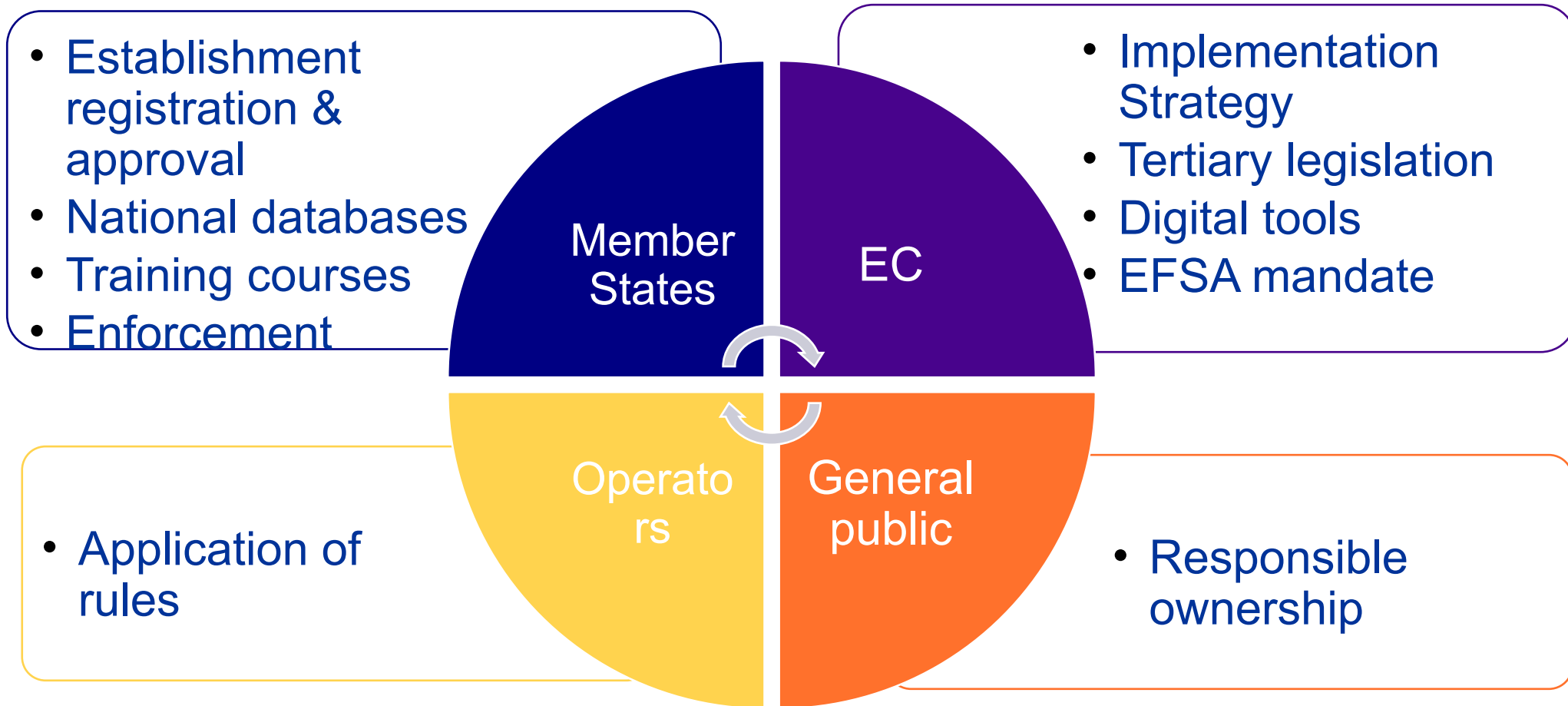
### Imports in the EU

Imported dogs and cats to meet the same welfare standards as those bred and raised within the EU.

### Non-commercial entry into the EU

Travellers to pre-notify planned entry into the EU with dogs and cats.

# Implementation phase – who is doing what?



# Public consultation on modernizing the EU farming legislation

- More than 190 000 replies (of which 99% from citizens), from 159 countries.
- Factual summary report (published 27/02/2026), broad support e.g. for:
  - **Phasing out cages** for certain animals (*54% of companies, businesses and associations considered this to be important or very important*).
  - **Equivalent animal welfare standards for imports** (*97 % of companies, businesses and associations fully or partly agreed to the need for this*).
  - **Banning the systematic killing of day-old male chicks** (*53% of companies, businesses and associations found the practice to be ethically problematic*).
  - **Animal welfare indicators** (*considered by 53% of companies, businesses and associations, to a large or very large extent, to help to e monitoring and enforcement*).



# Impact assessment

- **External study** (surveys, targeted interviews) and modelling (JRC).
- **Assessment of animal welfare, economic, environmental and social impacts of certain policy options.**
- **In support of a legislative proposal**, for the first sector(s), currently expected to be adopted in December 2026.

No policy  
decisions  
taken yet!



# Study on animal welfare indicators

- **Scope:**
  - On farm/breeding establishment, transport and at slaughter/killing.
  - CAP impact indicators.
- **Objective:**
  - To identify, fully operationalise, and build consensus on animal welfare indicators.
- **Started in March 2025:**
  - planned duration of 18 months.



# EU international activities on Animal Welfare

- **Coordination of EU position on WOAH animal welfare standards:**
  - Chapter 7.5 on welfare at slaughter - adopted this May;
  - Chapters on killing and on transport of animals - under revision and circulated for comments;
  - Future of the fish welfare chapters – ongoing consultation.
- **EU enlargement process is ongoing** with candidate countries from Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine at different level of progress on animal welfare.
- **Bilateral cooperation on animal welfare in the frame of Free Trade Agreements** with New Zealand, Canada, Switzerland, Chile and other



# Other animal welfare activities

- **EU Reference Centres for Animal Welfare** (pigs; poultry and other small farmed animals; ruminants and equines; aquatic animals):
  - [https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-reference-centres-animal-welfare\\_en](https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-reference-centres-animal-welfare_en)
- **“Better Training for Safer Food” programme (BTSF Academy):**
  - <https://better-training-for-safer-food.ec.europa.eu/training/?lang=en>
- **Audits of Member States’ control systems** (2026: transport + poultry).



# Digital solutions for transport of animals

- A new study of the Commission shows how digital tools can simplify and optimise the work of operators and competent authorities when implementing and enforcing EU animal transport rules.
- The study explores the technical operationalisation of practical solutions such as:
  - digital journey logs emitted via TRACES
  - geolocation tools for better monitoring of journeys
  - mobile applications for operators and authorities
  - more automated and harmonised compliance checks
- Read the study here: [Study on modalities for the use of new technologies and digitalisation to facilitate the implementation and enforcement of rules on animal welfare during transport - Publications Office of the EU](#)



# Thank you !!!

