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Investing in Animal Welfare: from Standards to Implementation

93rd General Session

Tuesday, 19th May 2026, (13.00 – 14.30), CNIT Forest, Paris

SIDE EVENT

The panel discussion explored

- Why investing in animal welfare should be seen not solely as a cost but as a strategic decision that can yield direct and indirect benefits.
- How implementing WOAHA animal welfare standards contributes to animal health and welfare, public health, resilient veterinary services, environmental improvements, citizens' expectations, market opportunities and sustainable food systems.
- How WOAHA's international standards provide a common framework for prioritising investments, mobilising public and private resources, and ensuring measurable, accountable results.

Investing in Animal Welfare: from Standards to Implementation



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Conclusions

- Animal welfare should be viewed as a strategic investment, not merely a compliance cost.
- Investments in welfare generate benefits for animal health, productivity, resilience, and public trust.
- WOAHA standards provide a science-based framework for implementation and accountability.
- Effective progress requires collaboration between governments, industry, financial institutions, academia, and civil society.
- Innovation, digital tools, data systems, and capacity building are key enablers of welfare improvements.
- Strong Veterinary Services and supportive policies are essential to translate commitments into measurable outcomes.