

## ECCVT Statement

### ***Animal Welfare Officer in slaughterhouses: A post for the graduate veterinarians***

Veterinarians receive extensive training on animal welfare matters, such as ethology, welfare assessment and legislation. Animal welfare is an integral part of the training incorporated in the different subjects of the undergraduate veterinary curriculum, as well as, in lifelong learning courses or programs.

The veterinarians at the time of their graduation are capable of efficiently completing the tasks for the animal welfare officer role as required by the European legislation.

Regulation 1099/2009, Recital 46, 47, Article 17, Annex III<sup>1</sup> requests “*the appointment of a specifically qualified person as an animal welfare officer to coordinate and follow up the implementation of animal welfare operating procedures in slaughterhouses*”.

In 2013, EAEVE and FVE worked together on the development of a report on European Veterinary Education in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law<sup>2</sup>. Part of the project involved the launch of a survey to map the status of animal welfare education in Europe. It was found that courses, including farm animal welfare, are provided mainly at the Bachelor and Masters levels and are usually compulsory. The main focus of the education was ethology, followed by welfare assessment and legislation.

In 2015, FVE has taken a complementary survey among the veterinary statutory bodies and FVE members in countries of the European Union and the European Free Trade Association (EU and EFTA) with a view to identify the legal aspects in the different countries related to the license of veterinarians as animal welfare officers. The outcome of this survey confirmed that more than 70% of the EU countries, consider graduate veterinarians eligible for starting a career as Animal Welfare Officer in a slaughterhouse. Only in few countries, graduate veterinarians should first complete a complementary training before they start as Animal Welfare Officer.

The European Coordinating Committee on Veterinary Training (ECCVT)<sup>3</sup> considering the above results, have formed the opinion that veterinarians at the time of their graduation are capable of efficiently completing the tasks for the animal welfare officer role as required by the European legislation.

<sup>1</sup> [ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/slaughter/regulation\\_1099\\_2009\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/slaughter/regulation_1099_2009_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/full\\_report\\_aw\\_curriculum\\_adopted.pdf](http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/full_report_aw_curriculum_adopted.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> A joint committee of EAEVE (European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education), EBVS (European Board for Veterinary Specialisation) and FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe)