



Breeding and animal welfare

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Dutch Society for the Protection of Animals

- **Founded in 1864**
- **200.000 members**
- **48 local branches**
- **50 animal shelters (dogs and cats)**
- **30.000 volunteers**



- **Emergency aid for animals and protecting their interests and welfare:**
 - **Companion animals**
 - **Farm animals**
 - **Laboratory animals**
 - **Wildlife**



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Role in society

Actors

- Discussion with industry – all parts of chain
- Appeal to consumers and civilians
- Appeal to government and politicians

Instruments

- Information
- Dialogue
- Campaigns

Place




- Local, national and
- International



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Vision on animal welfare




- **Ethical basis: intrinsic value of animals**
- **In case of animal use, weighing different interests:**
 - animal welfare
 - animal health
 - integrity of animals
- **Natural behaviour and needs of animals**
- **Animals shall not be adapted to housing systems, but housing systems shall be adapted to the animals**

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Breeding


- **Breeding of farm animals can have a negative impact on animal welfare, when there is too much emphasis on selection on high productivity:**
 - broilers: fast growth and high weight
 - laying hens: feather pecking
 - pigs: large litters
 - cows: high milk yield
 - **Belgian White Blue beef cattle: caesareans are standard procedure**






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Broilers


- **Mean growth 50 – 57 grams a day (up to 61 grams a day)**
- **In 40 days: weight 2 kg**
- **broilers grow 4 times faster than layers**
- **Every year end weight of 2 kg reached 1 day earlier**
- **Within 30 years: weight at 42 days 3 times higher**
- **Welfare problems:**
 - Leg disorders
 - Health problems (use of antibiotics)
 - High mortality
 - Breeders suffer from chronic hunger



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Points of interest related to breeding

- **Pigs**
 - Large litters
 - Mutilations:
 - tail docking
 - castration (boar taint)
 - Social behaviour: group housing systems and groups with non castrated boars
 - Robustness (resistance against disease, environmental enrichment, outdoor runs)
- **Laying hens**
 - Mutilations:
 - beak trimming
 - combs of layer breeders
 - Social behaviour: large groups
 - Robustness (resistance against disease, environmental enrichment, outdoor runs)



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Animal breeding

- **Breeding shall include:**
 - normal behaviour
 - physiological balance
 - welfare and health
 - robustness
- **Consequences:**
don't breed when animals:
 - have defects,
 - cannot function normally,
 - cannot reproduce naturally,
 - cannot be kept without mutilations.





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Breeding goals

- **Breeding must go 'back in time':**
 - **robust animals (resistance against diseases, life span)**
 - **no mutilations needed**
 - **animals suitable for extensive housing systems (free range, organic)**
 - **animals suitable to live in social groups (group selection)**
- **Breeding must be integral part in improving animal welfare**



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Improving animal welfare in the supermarket

- **For years the Dutch SPA supported more animal friendly products in wording and writing.**
- **Now we go further by introducing the Better Life hallmark**
- **Between regular and organic**
- **Economically achievable, not more than 15 to 25% more expensive**



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Starting points Better Life hallmark




- **Standards above legal requirements**
- **Important welfare improvements**
- **Gradual improvement of standards**
- **15 to 25% more expensive acceptable to many farmers and consumers**
- **No cannibalism on organic products**
- **Partnerships: partner with supermarkets and industry**
- **Competition between supermarkets on Corporate Social Responsibility**
- **Increasing consumer awareness**
- **Role government: subsidies and education**



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Better Life hallmark


 <p>WWW.DIERENBESCHERMING.NL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- chicken of slower growing breed- pork of pigs with more space and enrichment, non-castration- veal with higher Hb, more roughage,
 <p>WWW.DIERENBESCHERMING.NL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- free range laying hens, shelter in outdoor run- free range chicken- outdoor bred/indoor reared pigs
 <p>WWW.DIERENBESCHERMING.NL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- organic- comparable animal welfare (Rondeel) <p>Already 75 products in 15 supermarkets</p>




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Effect Better Life hallmark

Are the animals better of?

- **Number of animals with Better Life:**
 - 2007: ½ million broilers (Volwaard)
 - 2008: 1 million
 - 2009: 2,5 million
 - 2010: 3,5 - 4 million
 - 2011: > 6 million
- **A lot of interest of supermarkets and industry**
- **Stimulating by government (subsidies)**



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Thanks for your attention

