

Press release

Veterinarians call for demonstration against new EU regulation, which could force veterinarians to violate the Animal Welfare Act

Venue: Christiansborg Slotsplads Tuesday 8. February at 15 pm

The new EU legislation from the 28 January 2022 makes it difficult – and in many cases impossible – to relieve pains and treat animals professionally and correctly for quite common diseases. It will have serious consequences for the welfare of dogs, cats, rabbits, horses, farm animals and other animals. Pet rabbits are particularly affected.

Several times a day, veterinarians are forced to either be criminals or choose to euthanize animals that previously could have been treated, as it is often impossible to comply with the new legislation and the Animal Welfare Act at the same time.

Why this new legislation?

The legislation is apparently made for reducing antibiotic consumption in Southern Europe. But in Northern Europe, where antibiotic consumption is already low, the new rules will result in higher antibiotic consumption. This is because veterinarians in the Nordic countries always adjust the amount of medication based on the latest knowledge, i.e., that it is often given less and for a shorter time than stated in the summary of product characteristics (package leaflet). In future, veterinarians will be forced to use antibiotics for longer than usual. Everyone is treated equally, and the rules for using drugs do not consider whether it is antibiotics, painkillers, or anything else, and it causes major problems.

Based on new treatment principles and international expert guidelines, it is not permitted to adapt treatment to the individual patient. The professionalism is removed from the veterinarians. These are completely unreasonable conditions.

Veterinarians must be able to honor their veterinary promise to treat animals properly and protect them from unnecessary suffering without breaking the law.

Work limitation for veterinary nurses

Veterinary nurses play an important role in the Danish animal clinics. Until now, they could advise pet owners on the use of the medicine prescribed by the veterinarians, e.g., when an animal is discharged after surgery. They may no longer do that, which is completely incomprehensible.

Pet rabbits are severely affected

All rabbits are considered food-producing animals, although the vast majority are pets. Horses also have the status of food-producing animals, but they can be removed from consumption, and then the rules for medicine are more lenient. Rabbits cannot be removed from “intended for human consumption” like horses, and this makes it extremely difficult to treat them. If veterinarians must comply with the rules, rabbits must e.g., not be anesthetized at all as there are no approved anesthetics for them.

Examples of where the animals will suffer under the new legislation:

- Dogs, cats, and horses cannot be optimally covered for pain, e.g., after surgery
- Dogs, cats, and horses with prolonged pain cannot be treated, e.g., horses with laminitis
- Treatments of horses, dogs and cats against allergies are made more difficult
- Farm animals get too many antibiotics

We expect a huge number of veterinarians, veterinary nurses, animal owners, animals, and politicians to show up.

Please contact

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Suggestions for further reading, see next page.

Read more about the background to the demonstration here (In Danish):

<https://www.facebook.com/dyrskalbehandlesfagligtkorrekt>

Read more about the extra difficult situation for pet rabbits and rabbit owners here (In Danish):

<https://www.kaninvaernet.dk/kampagner/eu-forordning-2/>