

Political Priorities

Project 1882

For a more animal-friendly Sweden and EU

For the animals since 1882



Project 1882.

Project 1882 works globally to make a difference for the animals that are the most exploited and suffer the worst. We have been doing this since 1882. Through targeted campaigns, business collaborations and political advocacy. We are one of the world's leading animal rights and animal welfare organisations, with close to 50,000 members in Sweden.

We strive for a world where animals are respected as sentient individuals with the right to their own lives. Because animal suffering does not stop at national borders, we work both locally and globally to make the biggest possible difference for animals. Project 1882 collaborates with other organisations, researchers, companies, authorities and civil society.

We represent the chickens, hens, fish, cows, pigs and all other animals that need our help – we work to give them a voice and defend their rights.

For the Animals since 1882!





1. Ban Frankenchickens

Of all land animals, chickens are the most numerous and suffer the most. The breeding of fast-growing chickens – Frankenchickens (turbokyklingar in Swedish) – is not in accordance with Sweden's Animal Welfare Act. It is, in fact, a form of systematic animal cruelty. A statutory phase-out can be achieved and would align with the Act's formulations on breeding.

About 99 percent of all chickens in Sweden's factory farms are Frankenchickens. Forced to grow so rapidly that they live in pain and have difficulty moving, they are doomed to a life of suffering and disease, and their mortality rates are high. In their 35 days of life, they are expected to grow from 40 grams to 2 kilograms, and the space each chicken has to grow is smaller than an A4 sheet of paper. The Animal Welfare Act's wording regarding an animal's right to behave naturally needs clarification, with requirements for species-specific surroundings and reduced crowding for chickens.

The scandals in the chicken industry are frequent and concern everything from how chickens are raised, transported and slaughtered, to how infections spread on farms and how chickens used for breeding are starved to prevent them from growing too quickly. The breeding Frankenchickens is not in accordance with Sweden's Animal Welfare Act; it is also a form of systematic animal cruelty.

Sweden has much to learn from its neighbouring countries. Norway has a significantly higher proportion of healthy breeds, and Denmark has decided to phase out the state procurement of Frankenchickens, while work is underway to achieve an EU-wide ban.

2. Ban cages

Currently, there are no hens in cages in Sweden, but without a statutory ban, the risk remains that the practice will return. Cages greatly compromise animal welfare, and their use in Sweden has damaged its reputation. This is why we need to implement a national ban.

Over the years, hundreds of thousands of hens were kept in cages in Sweden. In cages, hens' natural behaviour is limited: they cannot stretch their wings, peck, dustbathe or find a quiet place to lay their eggs in peace. Since the 1980s, the proportion of caged hens has declined from 80 to 0 percent in 2025. This is primarily a result of Project 1882's work on consumer information, active consumer choices and pressure put on companies to phase out cage eggs. It is now time for politicians to take responsibility and ensure a legal ban on hens in cages.





3. Ban fur farming

The last remaining mink farms in Sweden have now been closed after years of advocacy, not least by Project 1882. The Swedish Animal Welfare Act is clear that animals have the right to natural behaviour, which was incompatible with how minks were kept in cramped cages on Swedish fur farms. Now the government must ensure that a national ban on fur farming is introduced.

The government set aside SEK 180 million for the voluntary phasing out of Swedish mink farming in 2024 and 2025. At the same time, it announced that it would investigate a ban on fur farming. The Swedish trade association Svensk Mink has welcomed the phasing-out subsidy, and all mink farms have registered to be part of it.

Fur Free Europe, the successful European citizens' initiative, aims to ban fur farming in the EU and the trade in fur within the EU internal market. Project 1882 is one of a handful of initiators, contributing almost 100,000 signatures to the 1.5 million signatures collected. The European Commission is expected to take a position by 2026, and more than 20 of the 27 member states have introduced or are nearing a ban. Sweden must not lag behind. It must introduce an immediate ban on fur farming. Sweden's position in the EU also needs to support the ban throughout the Union.

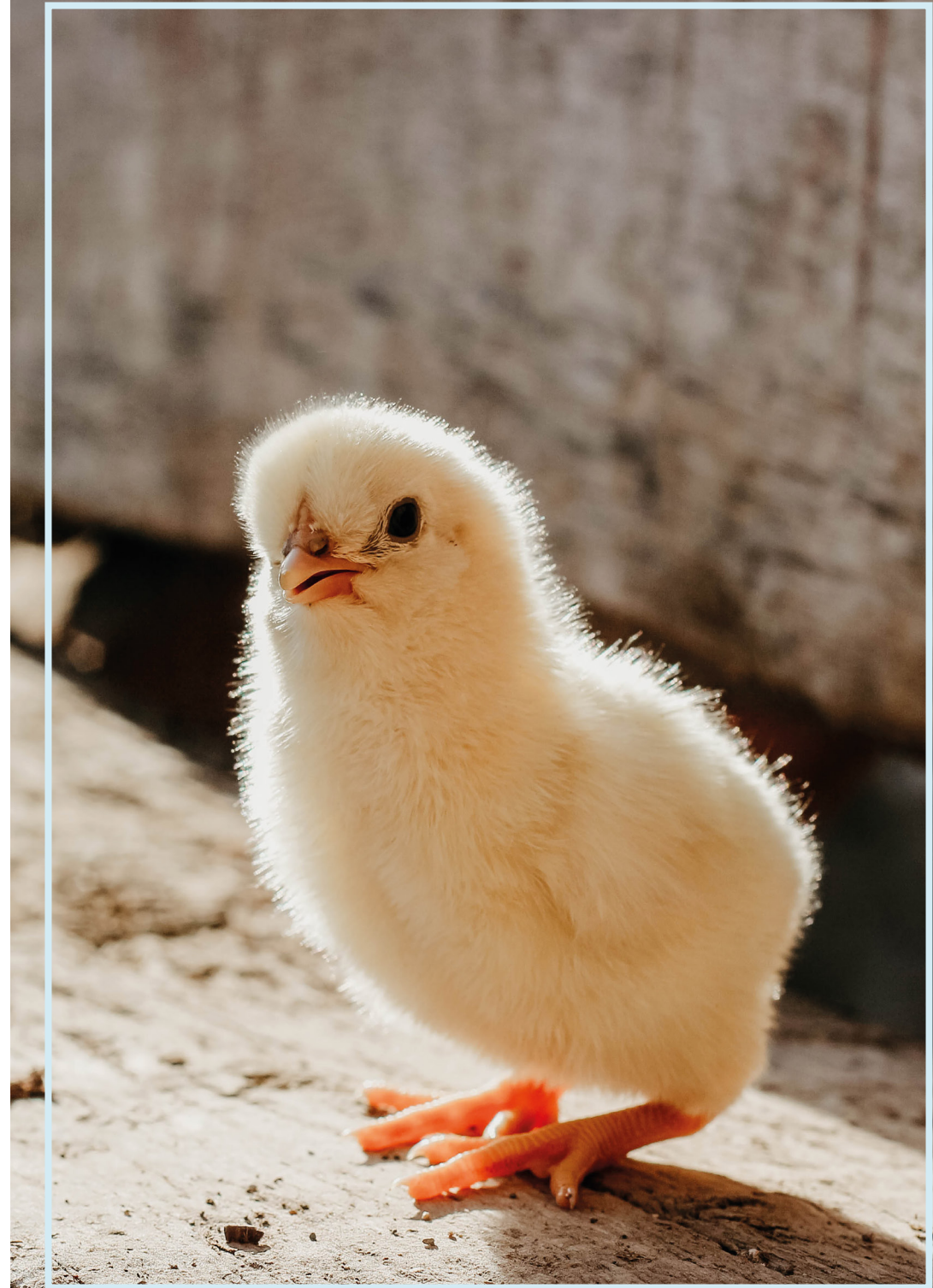
4. Appoint a minister for animal welfare

Animal welfare is constantly deprioritised when those responsible must also safeguard industry's economic interests. Sweden must therefore establish an animal welfare minister and an animal welfare authority that stand up for animal protection and welfare.

Ahead of the 2022 election, Project 1882 collected more than 35,000 signatures calling for the appointment of an animal welfare minister. The need for a stronger political voice for animals was made evident by a 2024 inquiry (SOU 2024:56) on animal welfare and competitive animal production, which presented several proposals to increase profitability in the animal industry at the expense of animal welfare.

The underlying problem today is that those politically responsible for animal welfare must also promote agriculture's economic interests. Therefore, the establishment of an animal welfare minister and an expert authority for animal welfare would reflect a fundamental value in society: the ethical consideration for animals. This would ensure that the perspectives of animals are taken into consideration in political decisions, that existing legislation is enforced and updated, and that society at large has greater knowledge of animal welfare and animal agriculture.

Including animal welfare in a minister's title would align with the fact that, as of the current mandate, the EU has a commissioner whose title explicitly includes animal welfare. Beyond its symbolic value, this would mean higher status and greater resources for animal welfare issues.





5. Stop the mass killing of male chicks

Half of all hatched chicks in egg factories are male. Because they neither lay eggs nor grow fast enough for meat production, they are considered a waste product and are killed immediately after hatching. In Sweden, the figure is about six million male chicks each year. However, through using in-ovo sexing technology early on, the eggs could be used or discarded instead. Sweden needs to ban the killing of male chicks and support a transition to early-stage in-ovo sexing.

Since the newly hatched male chicks have no economic value for the industry. Therefore, maceration (grinding up), asphyxiation (gassing) or cervical dislocation (neck breaking) is used to kill them on their first day of life.

Germany, France, Austria and Italy have introduced legislation that protects male chicks from being killed immediately after hatching, and in Norway, in-ovo sexing companies have begun to establish themselves.

To stop such enormous animal suffering, Sweden should ban the killing of male chicks in favour of early in-ovo sorting of eggs. It should also promote the introduction of early in-ovo sexing methods, and work for comprehensive legislation at the EU level for both breeding and slaughter.

6. Promoting animal-free research

To move away from outdated and painful animal experiments, Sweden needs to invest in completely animal-free research and testing methods and become a leader in Life Science. An action plan is also required for a phase-out. To increase and spread the knowledge, the financing of the Swedish 3Rs Center must be restored.

New technology can halt the use of painful experiments that subject animals to pain and other forms of suffering. In addition, animal-free research and testing methods have the potential to be more efficient and reliable than animal testing. Animal-free methods are often cheaper than animal experiments, but developing new methods requires significant investment. For Sweden to be a research nation, we want the SEK 15 million currently earmarked to develop animal-free research methods to be at least tenfold, i.e., SEK 150 million.

An action plan is also needed to coordinate ongoing research initiatives and accelerate the transition to animal-free research methods. As a complement to a national action plan, action plans should also be developed for each research field that currently uses animals in its experiments.

Since 2017, the Swedish 3Rs Center has functioned as a centre of excellence to replace, reduce and refine animal experimentation. It has been funded through earmarked annual funding of SEK 15 million, which was removed from the government's 2024 budget, resulting in the layoff of nine of its twelve employees. Project 1882 is working to ensure that funding for the Swedish 3Rs Center returns to at least the previous level.





7. Improve animal welfare at slaughter

Project 1882 proposes that an end date for the use of painful stunning methods in slaughter be set as soon as possible. More resources are also needed for research into alternatives to the painful carbon dioxide stunning of pigs and fish, as well as a requirement for camera surveillance in slaughterhouses.

Pigs are stunned using carbon dioxide, even though this method is known to cause anxiety, pain and a sense of suffocation. Carbon dioxide stunning of fish is still permitted and commonly used in Sweden, despite the fact that it causes significant discomfort and stress. Stunning by a blow to the head or electrical stunning are better alternatives when performed correctly and adapted to the species. With the growth of the aquaculture industry and the increasing number of fish factories in Sweden, the introduction of improved animal welfare legislation for fish is urgent. Carbon dioxide stunning of both pigs and fish must be phased out, and investments are needed to continue research to develop better methods.

Many chickens are hung up by their legs and dipped in electrified water baths before slaughter. Due to the fast tempo, they are frequently electrocuted in their wings or scalded alive. Anaesthesia with electric baths can be prohibited with a short phase-out period considering that alternatives, in fact, already exist.

Following a government inquiry in 2023, the introduction of camera surveillance in slaughterhouses was proposed. Mandatory camera surveillance with audio recording is important to improving animal welfare at slaughter, and the requirement should be introduced without delay. Yet, camera surveillance is not – and should not be – a substitute for on-site physical animal welfare control, but an important complement. It can help detect shortcomings, improve staff training and reinforce self-regulation in slaughterhouses.

8. Promote the production and consumption of plant-based food

Sweden needs to set targets for a greatly increased production and processing of plant-based food. The targets must encompass the entire food chain and relate to concrete implementation measures.

A transition to more plant-based foods is central to meeting the global goals and can, at the same time, contribute to a more differentiated and competitive food chain. Despite this, Sweden continues to provide extensive financial support for animal production, including large-scale production. Food production subsidies need to support the shift towards more plant-based production, rather than almost exclusively benefiting animal agriculture and animal feed production, as is currently the case. Sweden should also work within the EU cooperation framework to ensure equal competitive conditions for the production of plant-based food.

More needs to be done to encourage the development of plant-based products, including plant-based proteins. In Sweden, many innovative entrepreneurs are ready to expand to meet the rising global demand for plant-based food and beverages. This is a very positive development for the climate, environment, human health and animal welfare. It also means new business opportunities for Swedish food production while contributing to a vibrant rural economy.

Large parts of Swedish animal production are currently vulnerable to disruptions, which may have far-reaching consequences for both food production and animal welfare in the event of a crisis or war. Plant-based foods, on the other hand, have better potential to strengthen Sweden's food security since what is grown can feed humans rather than animals. This would result in more efficient use of arable land and reduce the need to use land less suitable for food production.

9. Reduce meat consumption significantly by 2030

Sweden needs to adopt targets for significantly less meat consumption by 2030, with political entities, not least municipalities, at the forefront. Project 1882 wants to see a reduction in the number of individuals in factory farms by 70 percent by 2030. When a greater proportion of food is plant-based, economic room is created to impose higher animal welfare requirements on animal-derived food products. Higher animal welfare requirements in procurement enable better animal welfare both in Sweden and abroad.

There is widespread agreement that the current high rate of meat consumption needs to be reduced. This would improve the conditions for high-welfare animal farming, where every individual animal can receive care. Beyond the obvious ethical benefits for animals, reduced meat consumption and improved animal welfare can also help achieve several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Reduced meat consumption is a powerful tool to combat climate change and decrease the risk of future pandemics. The use of antibiotics in the global animal industry greatly increases the likelihood of antibiotic resistance, one of the most serious threats to global public health. Reduced animal-derived food consumption also means that large areas of land can be freed up from animal feed production to grow food for more people. Several research studies conclude that the current high consumption of meat contributes to ill health and diseases such as obesity, cardiovascular disease and cancer.



10. Make the EU's new animal welfare legislation ambitious

There is a wide disconnect between research and the current EU animal welfare law. Therefore, the ongoing review of EU animal welfare legislation must result in ambitious and comprehensive legislation that puts animals first.

In 2020, the European Commission launched a review of EU animal welfare legislation as part of the Farm to Fork Strategy. Four legislative packages covering the entire life span of animals were to be presented: they addressed how animals are kept, transported and slaughtered, and also animal-welfare labelling of animal-derived food. The legislation was supposed to be presented in the autumn of 2023, but the European Commission backed down and only proceeded with a proposal on animal transport. The commission has announced that the others will be presented in 2026. There is, therefore, a great deal at stake for billions of animals in Europe. Sweden must act to ensure that legislative work moves forward in the EU and also set an example by introducing stronger animal welfare legislation at the national level.



Thanks to your support, we can together make a difference for all the animals that suffer and are exploited in animal experiments, on fur farms and in factory farms. Support our work for animals by becoming a monthly donor or giving a gift.



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