

National Report, Danish Veterinary Association

1. Unification of Cat Registers

The Danish Veterinary Association (DVA) announced that the two existing cat registers—Dansk Katteregister and Det Danske Katteregister, would be merged into a single unified system named “Dansk Katteregister.” From early 2025, all new cat registrations will be managed via DVA’s platform. This consolidation aims to enhance the security and clarity of the registration process for veterinarians and animal shelters.

2. Animal Welfare in Nature Management Projects (Rewilding)

DVA expressed concern over the possible neglect of cattle on state-owned land used for conservation grazing. The association emphasized that animal welfare must be the foundation of all nature management projects, particularly as new national parks are being established, where “wild-living” horses and cattle will fall under the responsibility of the authorities.

3. Extreme Dog Breeding

In a significant step for canine welfare, the Danish government announced plans to introduce clear criteria for responsible dog breeding. This initiative aligns closely with DVA’s longstanding advocacy and marks a breakthrough for better welfare for brachycephalic breeds and other breeds with congenital disorders.

4. Guidelines on Zoonotic Influenza

DVA has called for updated national guidelines and better coordination between human and veterinary health systems to strengthen preparedness and protect both animals and humans against zoonotic influenza threats.

5. Guide for Treating Bite Injuries

DVA released new guidelines for the treatment of bite injuries from cats and dogs. These are intended to support communication between veterinarians and healthcare professionals and promote consistent treatment practices.

6. The Conditions and Management on the Farms Must Fit the Control—Not the Other Way Around

Following the broadcast of the documentary “Who Cares for the Pigs?”, DVA emphasized the challenging position of veterinarians in the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, who serve both as animal protectors and inspectors. The association advocates for better conditions i.e. more room for both sows and pigs for slaughter, as well as increased requirements for education of farmworkers. DVA also stressed the importance of a clear control framework that supports effective animal welfare oversight.

7. Forum for Horse Welfare

DVA provided an update from the Forum for Horse Welfare, highlighting ongoing efforts to improve equine welfare standards. The forum continues to serve as a platform for collaboration among stakeholders to address welfare concerns in the horse industry.

8. Blue Tongue Virus

In 2024, Denmark experienced a major outbreak of BTV-3, affecting over 1,000 ruminant herds, primarily in Southern and Western Jutland. Bulk tank milk samples showed widespread seroprevalence (70%),

indicating broader transmission than initially expected. The risk of resurgence in 2025 is considered significant.

Two vaccines are now available: BULTAVO-3 and Syvazul BTV3, both accessible via pharmacies. Vaccination is voluntary but especially recommended for animals on pasture.

There have been significant supply challenges, as no vaccines were approved in Denmark when the outbreak began, which delayed preventive efforts.

The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has adjusted its approach: suspected cases no longer automatically trigger official supervision or restrictions on moving animals, though notification when observing clinical signs remains mandatory.