

National report spring 2025 – Norway

Reorganization of the Norwegian Food Safety Authority

During 2024–2025, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority has undergone a reorganization from five geographical regions to four national inspection divisions and a central office with directorate functions.

The purpose of the reorganization is to enable employees and managers to work more focused and efficiently on the supervision of businesses within the inspection area, in collaboration with colleagues across the country.

The goal is also to become more effective and to utilize knowledge of and proximity to users in the development of regulations and services.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority is also an emergency preparedness actor in society, with key roles in total defense and the crisis committee for nuclear preparedness. In addition, the Authority participates in all county emergency preparedness councils. Good contact at the local and regional level—especially to ensure effective handling of incidents and emergency situations—will be maintained in the new national inspection divisions.

Bluetongue situation in Norway

During the summer 2024, up to 60 % of dairy cattle herds in the very Southern part of Norway acquired blue tongue virus infections (anti bodies in bulk milk).

Due to climatic and topographic conditions, the livestock sector and Norwegian Food Safety Authorities aim to reduce the risk for spreading the disease further North. They are cooperating closely and for the upcoming season in 2025 has a strategy of voluntary vaccinations and restricted movement of live animals out of affected areas. There have been established both a restriction zone and a larger vaccination zone. This implies that animals are relocated out of the zone only after negative PCR-test.

Rabies Detected in Svalbard

Norwegian veterinary authorities detected rabies in an Arctic fox in Svalbard in May 2025.

Rabies has not been detected in animals on mainland Norway in recent times, but it is occasionally found in Svalbard, most recently in 2018. At that time, the disease was detected in four Arctic foxes and one reindeer on the archipelago.

Rabies was also detected in wildlife in Svalbard in 1980 and 2011, with four Arctic foxes and ten Svalbard reindeer testing positive for the disease in 2011.

Parliamentary Report on Animal Welfare

The Norwegian government has just presented a parliamentary report on animal welfare. The Norwegian Animal Welfare Act has remained unchanged since 2010, and there were high expectations for this report to update and improve animal welfare for all animals in Norway.

The report contained many ideas for improvements and proposals for investigations, but few concrete suggestions for changes. Several good intentions (among other a goal of maximum 5% mortality in the salmon production), but the description for implementation of most intentions were lacking and needs to be the focus forward.

E-prescription Solution for Veterinary Medicines

The Norwegian Veterinary Association, together with DyrID, the Norwegian Pharmacy Association, and Animalia, has been working to implement an e-prescription solution for veterinary medicines in Norway. The solution has been presented to and approved by the involved Norwegian authorities and is now in its final phase, aiming to have a functioning system in place by 2026.