



Eyes *on*
Animals

Watching
out for their
welfare

ANNUAL REVIEW 2011



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Eyes *on* Animals

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ABOUT US



Our Mission;
To reduce the suffering of animals
on farms, during transport, sales and
slaughter.

Eyes on Animals is an animal-welfare inspection organization with its headquarters in the Netherlands. The work of the organization focuses on five main aims:

1. To witness if current European animal-protection legislation for transport, slaughter and at farms is being adhered to by the industry.
2. To oversee that the animal-protection legislation is being adequately enforced by the authorities.
3. To judge if sanctioning systems are dissuasive.
4. To identify loopholes in the legislation and rectify them.



Eyes on Animals

5. To spread information about improvements to animal-welfare through our International Taskforce so that more countries can reach a higher level of animal welfare faster.

We conduct **inspections** at farms, at livestock markets, of livestock trucks and slaughterhouses.

We **distribute our inspection reports**, backed by photos and video evidence, to the European Commission, EU Member State and Turkish authorities, to support them in their work.

We are **in constant dialogue with the livestock industry** to advise and encourage improvements.

We **train the Belgian highway police** on animal-protection legislation so that they can inspect livestock trucks effectively.

We give **welfare workshops to livestock chauffeurs** educating them on how to be respectful and law-abiding when transporting animals.

We **provide material to other animal-welfare organizations and political parties** that need evidence and facts from the field to support their lobby-work and campaigns.

Eyes on Animals has established an **international taskforce** made up of organizations and official veterinarians throughout Europe and North America. We regularly share information so that animal welfare standards can improve quickly and harmoniously across the continents.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT



“Farm” animals have been domesticated by us.

Thousands of years of breeding creatures with calm and friendly behaviours has resulted in us creating animals that trust us, depend on us for survival and even want to be with us. It is this that I find most sad when I observe the way many farm animals are treated. From years of selecting for a mutually-beneficial relationship, they so badly want to approach our human hands, hoping for water or food or a simple gesture of affection. But so often that human hand lashes out to hit them, prod them or push them to exhaustion.

Eyes on Animals is an optimistic, but not a naïve organization. I do not think Eyes on Animals will succeed in saving animals from being slaughtered.

Society in general is not yet ready to grant the same

rights-to-life to animals as to humans and sees this as being too far-fetched. I commend large campaign groups that promote this clear message for the future, but Eyes on Animals cannot afford this luxury as it would result in too many closed doors.

Working in the field, achieving concrete improvements for the billions of farm animals being consumed *now*, means one has to stay in effective dialogue directly with those handling and slaughtering animals. I do feel strongly that via our constant and respectful communication with the livestock industry and our regular presence in the field, both announced and unannounced, we will achieve a shift in mentality. And because these changes will be based on education and cooperation, the improvements will be for the long term. It will take a very long time, and the end result will not be a vegan world, but I do have faith that the industry will become a gentler one, with a better understanding and respect towards animals.

For animals to get the help they need now, we need to work together. One of the characteristics of Eyes on Animals that I am most proud of is our ability to successfully negotiate with the industry to get immediate improvements for the animals. Although our work is not glamorous or radical, I hope you will continue to support us so that we can continue alleviating as much suffering now as possible.

Lesley Moffat

As the manager of a large Dutch pig slaughterhouse acknowledged:

“Eyes on Animals is particularly known for drawing the attention of the authorities to serious cases of violations to the animal-welfare laws and for exposing the perpetrator to the media. What is less known about Eyes on Animals however, is their constructive way at working with industry to achieve improvements from within. With their knowledge and enthusiasm, they examine what changes a business can make to increase animal-welfare. I have had a very pleasant experience working with Eyes on Animals. We took their tips very seriously and some of their suggestions have already been put into place in our slaughterhouse.”



OUR SUCCESSES



Eyes on Animals worked hard in 2011 at reducing the suffering of farm animals. The following is a list of what we are most proud of having helped achieve:

Training the highway police

Eyes on Animals gave 3 trainings for the Belgian police in Gent on the EU 1/2005 legal requirements concerning Protection of Animals During Transport this year. Official Belgian veterinarian inspectors also participated and, together with the police, were very enthusiastic. In total 30 police officers participated in the training and in total 20 livestock trucks were stopped and inspected. Many were fined and forced to unload some of the animals into a second truck.

Decreasing suffering at livestock markets

In 2010, Eyes on Animals detected non-compliance at an annual horse market in The Netherlands. In 2011 we worked together with the managers of the market and official government authorities to attain improvements. The market is not perfect, but some serious improvements were achieved this year:

- Water, hay and straw is now being offered to the horses and ponies.

- The length of many of the ropes used to tie the animals to the railing has been increased, so most of the animals can now lie down and reach the hay on the pavement.
- Government inspectors, not present last year during the nighttime, are now present during the entire market, from opening to closing.
- Veterinarians are present to check on the condition of the animals.
- Fines were handed out to transporters arriving in non-compliance.
- Hitting and rough-handling of the animals, observed frequently in 2010, was not observed this year thanks to the heavy presence of uniformed officials.
- Loading conditions of the animals are monitored, one truck without dividers was not accepted for loading.

“A positive example of collaboration between the nVWA (government) inspectors and Eyes on Animals concerns the Hedel horse market. Via holding evaluation meetings with the Horse Market Organizers as well as inspecting the conditions at the horse market, we together achieved significant improvements for the animals at this market this year”.

nVWA (Dutch government) inspector

Getting more headspace for transported cattle

Via our reports from our inspections of cattle loaded on double-deck vehicles in countries where a maximum vehicle height of 4m is in force, we drew the attention of the authorities to the fact that these animals often suffer from bruising on the backs and have limited ability to stand in a natural and comfortable manner. The Dutch government decided to pass a National law that adult cattle heading for slaughter be loaded only on one deck, so that they be given at least 20cm of headspace now above the crown of their head.

Putting the welfare problems of EU animal-transport to Turkey on the map

Our investigations and lobby work regarding the horrible animal-welfare problems at the EU/Turkey border have resulted in intensive TV, newspaper and radio coverage throughout the EU and Turkey. In addition, meetings amongst the Member States and EU Commission and Turkish authorities have been held, fines handed out and industry players themselves are taking action, such as firing bad chauffeurs and investing in proper resting places.

“I cannot give any formal feedback to the work you and your colleagues carry out; but I hope you realize that we are all impressed by what you do and what you achieve (regarding EU trade to Turkey).”

Anonymous compliment from official at the European Commission

Stricter requirements in the Netherlands regarding water systems on trucks used for long-distance transport

For a long time water nipples were accepted as being an adequate watering system for adult cattle during long-distance transport. As a result of our footage we finally managed to convince the Dutch authorities that adult cattle cannot get enough water this way. As of November 1st 2011, the Dutch authorities no longer certify livestock trucks with only water nipple systems for the long-distance transport of adult cattle. These animals may now only be loaded on trucks that have big water troughs inside the vehicle.



Making people aware of suffering of animals during ritual slaughter (without stunning).

We helped conduct research on the suffering of animals during ritual slaughter to assist the scientific research office, "The Nicolaas G. Pierson Foundation", of the Dutch Political Party for Animals in their campaign to ban this type of slaughter. Unfortunately the ban did not go through during the last vote in parliament, but the Dutch Minister of Agriculture is at least proposing stricter measures and surveillance of this type of slaughter. Importantly, now millions of Dutch people are aware of what Halal and Kosher labels represent.

Thanks to Eyes on Animals help with research, we were able to contribute to a strong political campaign against the slaughter of farm animals without prior-stunning. Now millions of Dutch people are aware of the suffering animals endure during this type of slaughter."

-Karen Soeters, Director of Nicolaas G. Pierson Foundation (Scientific research office of the Political Party for Animals).

Decreasing suffering of "suspect" pigs at slaughterhouses

Managers of several pig slaughterhouses have responded very openly to some of our suggestions regarding improving conditions for "suspect" pigs. "Suspect pigs" are animals that are fit enough to be legally transported, but are lightly sick or injured. They are kept in separate pens at slaughterhouses and only slaughtered at the end of the day to avoid any risk of contaminating the slaughter line. At most plants these pens are close to the entrance where the trucks come to unload and thus there is a constant draft of cold air. The cement floor of the pens is also cold and bare. These pigs, already in a compromised state, are therefore left in an undesirable environment and suffer more. We have been active convincing plants to install floor heating or provide straw so these animals can stay warm and find some comfort. At one plant we worked with, they offer these pigs now straw and at another they installed floor heating and environmental enrichment toys.

Increased surveillance by government authorities of chicken transports

After documenting several trucks transporting spent laying hens in very poor condition in the Netherlands and sending our reports of these cases to the Dutch authorities, government inspectors responded that they were going to focus their upcoming inspections on the companies we identified.

Successfully working with other NGO's to be cost effective and more powerful

There is no need to re-invent the wheel each time, nor fight a battle with only a few soldiers when together we can be stronger and more cost-effective. We regularly work with other animal-welfare organizations, either directly together in the field, or by dividing up work tasks of a common big project. In 2011 we collaborated efforts in Turkey with the Animal Welfare Foundation and CIWF. We have also worked on projects with WSPA and the Dutch Political Party for Animals. Via our International Taskforce, international member organizations keep each other up to date of the latest information so that the pressure on government and industry remains strong on a global scale.



“I have been on many intense animal-transport investigations with Eyes on Animals, the most recent one being in Turkey, where conditions are difficult. The suffering of the animals and the risky and sometimes dangerous work environment means that people can get tired, frustrated and lose their calm. This is always a threat to the effectiveness of a team. Eyes on Animals inspectors are professional, spontaneous, unconventional, creative, courageous and have a very good team spirit. They are the type of people one wants to work with in the field.”

Iris Baumgaertner, Animal Welfare Foundation/Tierschutzbund Zurich

Visual evidence

Eyes on Animals have produced countless reports about violations of the animal transport and slaughter legislation. In addition our work has been highlighted by the Dutch, European-wide and Turkish media. Please visit our website, www.eyesonanimals.com.

Putting the flaws of sanctioning systems on the map

Since the publication of the Eyes on Animals/WSPA report “Weaknesses in the Animal Transport Monetary Sanctions”, the European Commission drew attention to the flaws we reported on. Since then, The Netherlands has opened a bureau to collect open fines from foreign animal-transport companies that did not respect the welfare legislation. France is now updating its sanction system so that all violations to rules, set out in the EU requirements, can be penalized. Hungary has increased the amount of its fines.

Relieving some suffering of chickens at Polish market

Eyes on Animals has managed to convince some people selling chickens at a Polish market to switch to using cardboard boxes instead of net-bags to sell and transport them in. The chickens legs and beaks got caught up in the netting and they trampled one another when carried.

Getting more skills

This year two of our regular inspectors were invited to participate in a course on Pig Behaviour, given by a Dutch pig veterinarian and free-range farmer, also known as the “Pig Whisperer”. Here our inspectors gained further knowledge in reading the behavioural signs pigs give to show how they are feeling. In this course we also learned how to take the proper action should pigs show signs of distress. This course will improve our impact in the field, when meeting with farmers and advising industry.

Eyes on Animals had two enthusiastic people, Lesley and Margreet, participating in our Pig Signals course, to be able to better watch out for the welfare of pigs. We experienced them as being 'inborn bridge-builders', connecting people from different areas with an always positive attitude towards efforts people in the pig industry take to make things work but also never forgetting the focus on pigs, sentient beings, known to have a spectrum of emotions similar to humans.

In short: Pigs were smiling when they saw Lesley and Margreet in their vicinity!

Dr. Kees Scheepens, Dutch “pig whisperer” and ethical farmer



Eyes on Animals

Looking Ahead



Our strategic projects for 2012 encompass the five-core aims of Eyes on Animals.

Aim: Ensure that legislation is adhered to by the industry

- Continue being present at the Bulgarian/Turkish border
- Continue inspecting annual horse market in Hedel.
- Continue offering Welfare Workshops to livestock drivers, particularly from eastern European countries where the Official Training Courses in animal-transport requirements are poor or non-existent.

Aim: Increase the enforcement of animal-welfare legislation

- Expansion of the Animal Transport Training Programme for Highway Police in Belgium.
- Get an article published in the National magazine for Belgian police, about animal transport problems, our trainings and the importance of police getting involved in the application of animal-welfare legislation.
- Continue presenting our reports to law enforcers, official veterinarian inspectors, industry-regulation bodies such as QLL, and players in the industry directly involved.



- Adapt our Belgian Police Training brochure for the Hungarian authorities. Offer trainings to Hungarian police and official veterinarian inspectors.

Aim: Make sanctioning systems dissuasive

- Continue to put pressure on the authorities at the Bulgarian/Turkish border, so that EU animal trucks arriving in violation are penalized using sanctions that are effective, dissuasive and proportionate.
- Continue to put pressure on the EU Commission and Turkish authorities to use their powers to oversee that local authorities, along the trade route from the EU to Turkey, are carrying out their duties and punish or fire ones that do not.

Aim: Rectify loopholes in the legislation

- We hope to succeed in convincing the EU Commission and Member State authorities to put a ban on the use of chicken transport crates that do not have side-openings. Often chicken's wings, legs or even heads are crushed in the doors. Because these crates do not allow for access to the animals during transport there is nothing one can do to release the trapped animals.

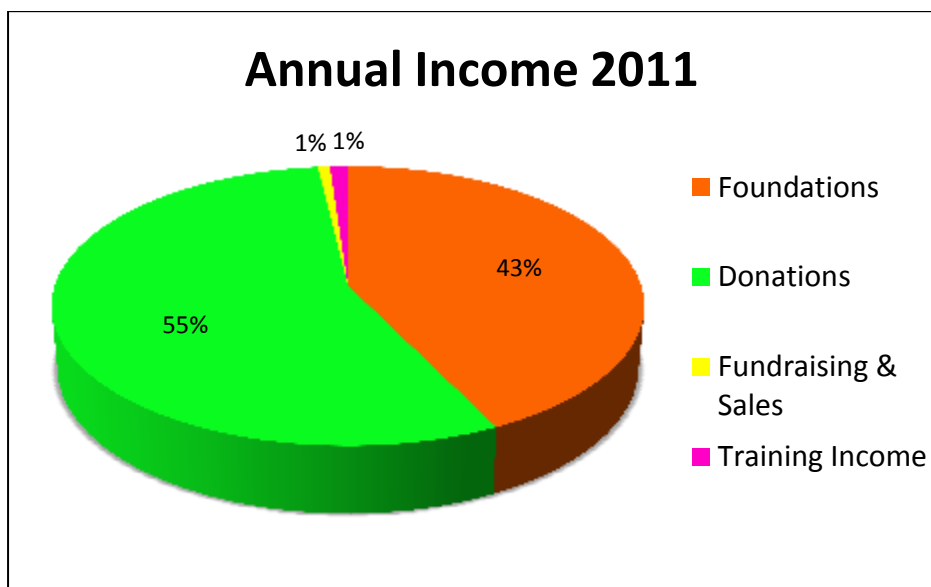
Aim: Spread animal-welfare improvements to other countries

- Continue providing information about the phasing out of castration in The Netherlands to our Canadian members who are working on this issue in Canada.
- Publish a "Tips for Truckers" manual, with practical suggestions for reducing animal suffering during transport. Distribute this manual via our Taskforce Members to international truckers.



OUR FINANCES

The Annual Income/Expenditure Charts are based on Eyes on Animals' financial statements for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2011. The charts show expenditure and income as a percentage of the total.



Source of Income	Amount in Euros
Donations	19,599
Foundations	15,137
Fundraising & Sales	265
Training Income	400
TOTAL	35,401

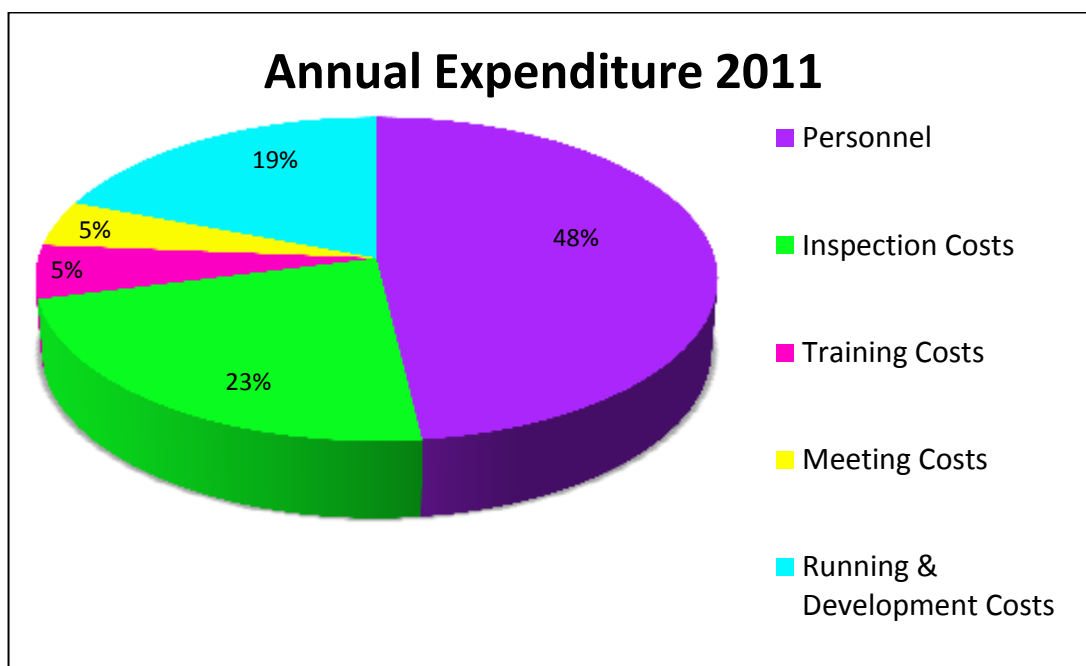
Eyes on Animals is funded primarily by loyal private donors.

In 2011 Eyes on Animals launched an initiative to build a secure financial future by creating a Fundraising Committee. This resulted in positive input from various international *Foundations* such as; Stichting Hans van Eck, Compassion in World Farming, Stichting Bouwstenen voor Dierenbescherming, Dinamofonds and The Marchig Trust.

Fundraising and Sales were minimal in 2011 with the last of the cookbooks being sold. *Training Income* resulted from training of the Belgian Highway Police.

In 2011 our total annual income was 35,401, which is a fall of 4.5% compared to 2010. Despite this slight fall in income in 2011, a year plagued by global recession, Eyes on Animals was able to increase the number of inspections and exceeded 2010's results.





Expenditure	Amount in Euros
Personnel	17,580
Inspection Costs	8,354
Training Costs	1,950
Meeting Costs	1,667
Running and Development Costs	6,981
TOTAL	36,532

Personnel costs include freelance fees and volunteer remuneration.

Inspection Costs cover all expenditure for inspections within Europe and Turkey. Costs were kept down by often collaborating with other welfare organizations, sharing resources and splitting costs with them.

Training Costs include professional development of volunteers within Eyes on Animals.

Meeting Costs include meetings at government offices in Brussels and the Hague, as well as Eyes on Animals Board Meetings.

Running and Development Costs encompass all administration costs, all communication costs both in the office and during inspections, in addition to investment in fixed assets and all website and IT (computer etc.) maintenance costs.

The total annual expenditure for 2011 was €36,532.

INSPECTOR'S TESTIMONIAL



My name is Roland Zegers. For the past 11 months I have been volunteering for Eyes on Animals. There are, fortunately, many organizations that are trying to achieve better protection for animals around the world. What I find special about Eyes on Animals is the way they work: not against, but together with the industry to make long-lasting changes from within. I think concrete improvements to animal-welfare can be achieved this way quickly, and that is what counts most. Eyes on Animals is even successful in getting industry to think up solutions to animal-welfare problems on their own and implementing changes themselves. This way you get the most out of your resources.

Before I met Eyes on Animals I knew there was a lot to improve in the livestock industry. But when you get the chance to work in the field and see things with your own eyes, like I did during an Eyes on Animals investigation at the EU/Turkey border, it became immediately clear why the animals need an organization like Eyes on Animals.



Eyes on Animals

The government does not supervise all treatment of farm animals and many livestock trucks go unchecked. Some government inspections are also ineffective. The animals are therefore left in the hands of the industry itself, which is trying to make a profit and survive the tough economic times. This situation is, for obvious reasons, very risky for the animals if someone from outside is not keeping their eyes on them.

Eyes on Animals received a lot of international media attention for their work in Turkey and that is a step forward in making the public and authorities more aware of how animals are treated. Also the training they offer to the highway police in Belgium, and in the near future also to police and truck drivers in Hungary, makes a significant difference. By educating these people, the animals have a better chance of protection even when the financial market sways too much in favour of profit and not on animal-welfare.

I will definitely keep volunteering for Eyes on Animals in 2012, because they are really making a difference in achieving a better life for animals now and in the future.



Eyes on Animals

OUR PEOPLE



Eyes on Animals is managed by a board of five members, a book-keeper and a director (photo). In addition, 5 inspectors, a legal advisor, a computer-technician and many dedicated volunteers help run the organization.

Board:

Chairwoman: Ingrid Ramaan (journalist)

Secretary: Annette Zeelenberg (author)

Treasurer: Leon Varitimos (communications manager)

General member: Patricia Beekelaar (journalist)

General member: Margreet Steendijk (therapist)

Volunteer and freelance staff:

Director/inspector: Lesley Moffat (ethologist)

Core regular inspectors: Lesley Moffat, Margreet Steendijk

Trained volunteer inspectors: Roland Zeelenberg (computer-technician), Dorien Hansen (Health services), Lydia Kliphuis (Health services)

Legal advisor: Lenny Reesink (lawyer)



Eyes on Animals

Book-keeper: Tina Macaree (teacher)

Technical assistant: Hajo Heusinkveld (computer-technician)

Fundraising committee: Carola Schambach (teacher), Annette Zeelenberg (author), Simon Stubbings (ex-British Rally Champion), Lesley Moffat

Volunteer translators and office-work assistants: Heide and Vera Rupp, Sanja Offenhuber, Tom and Willy Sinoo, Marcia Seago, Didier Cote

Website assistant: Roland Zegers



Eyes on Animals

PLEASE DONATE



We could not do any of this work without the support of people who care. Donations are greatly appreciated and are used to finance the costs of our work in the field. Please, do consider making a donation and telling your friends about us. The animals need more eyes on them, watching over their welfare.

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Eyes on Animals is a registered non-profit charity. Our ANBI (Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling) number is 8203 40406. Donations made by EU residents are tax-deductible.



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