

## ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH AND WELFARE

**The health and welfare of animals and humans** are closely linked. Living with animals has positive effects on human well-being and quality of life. The health aspect of exercising with animals is important in a society where the negative consequences of a sedentary lifestyle are gaining increased attention. Many people also find a meaningful recreation in dog, cat and horse ownership. Interacting with pets and sport animals has been shown to be beneficial because, among other things, it reduces pulse and blood pressure. Knowledge of the spontaneous diseases of animals is of course important for preventive measures and treatment, but also because comparative aspects increase our understanding of human diseases. For the common health of humans and animals, measures to prevent the spread of infections between humans and animals are also needed.

Farm animals are important to our food supply and laboratory animals play a major role in the development of new drugs. The situation for these animals and their welfare raises ethical issues that affect and engage many of us, as well as being important for food and drug safety. Wild animals are part of our precious natural heritage. In recent years, these animals have helped provide valuable information related to environmental impacts on health.

By investing in research on animal health and welfare, we can create a healthier society!

## A UNIFYING FORCE

Animal health and welfare are two key areas at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) where studies are carried out on the needs, behaviour and functioning of healthy and diseased animals.

Through the programme **Future Animal Health and Welfare**, SLU brings together and strengthens research within the area and thus supports society's sustainable relationship to animals. The programme lifts issues in the field of animal health and welfare in a wide perspective and serves as a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration. The programme's vision is:

### Good health and welfare of animals and humans

The activities include coordination of international contacts, major research applications and research projects, as well as interdisciplinary specialist seminars. The programme has a particular responsibility for cats, dogs and horses.





Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

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research on  
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## CONTACT

The steering committee for the programme consists of five senior researchers and a programme secretary, all working in different fields of animal health and welfare research:

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For more information about the program visit [www.slu.se/futureanimal](http://www.slu.se/futureanimal)  
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