

DOSSIER

For an Ethical, Sustainable and Responsible Reform of Livestock Practices and the Management of Living Beings

Preamble

In the face of increasing excesses in certain livestock practices and the growing disconnection between human beings and natural balances, it has become imperative to propose a profound, realistic, and applicable reform.

This dossier does not constitute either a systematic opposition or a radical challenge to existing professions. It is part of a process of responsible evolution, based on simple principles: respect for life, ecological coherence, and moral responsibility.

The objective is clear: to reconcile production, ethics, and respect for living beings.

1. Restoring respect for natural life cycles

Current systems too often favor productivity-driven logic at the expense of fundamental biological cycles.

Observation:

- Widespread early slaughter
- Excessive optimization of production durations
- Disconnection between animal life and economic demands

Position:

It is proposed to:

- Allow animals to reach natural maturity
- Reserve slaughter primarily for end-of-life cycles
- Limit early culling to strictly necessary cases

Challenge: placing life back at the center of decision-making.

2. Cattle: establishing a model based on longevity

Certain existing practices already demonstrate the feasibility of a more respectful model.

Proposals:

- Set a target of a minimum of 7 lactations where possible
- Encourage farms that keep animals up to 10 years or more
- Reduce systematic herd renewal

Necessary adaptations:

- Develop supply chains that enhance the value of meat from older animals
 - Raise consumer awareness regarding these products
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3. Sheep and goats: slowing imposed rhythms

Observation:

- Short production cycles
- Strong economic pressure

Proposed measures:

- Lengthening of breeding cycles
 - Reduction of early slaughter
 - Support for extensive farming systems
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4. Poultry: putting an end to hyper-intensification

The current model has reached its limits.

Identified issues:

- Artificially accelerated growth
- High-density conditions
- Extremely reduced lifespan

Proposed reforms:

- Adoption of slow-growing breeds
 - Reduction of stocking densities
 - Less constrained and more natural feeding practices
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5. Equines: ensuring dignity throughout life

Equines must be considered beyond their utility.

Priority actions:

- Strict supervision of housing and living conditions
 - Limitation of excessive exploitation
 - Ethical management of end-of-life stages
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6. Animal reproduction: redirecting toward natural practices

Observation:

- Generalization of artificial techniques
- Industrialization of reproduction

Position:

- Promote natural reproduction
 - Gradually reduce semen collection practices
 - Respect biological behaviors
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7. Domestic animals: preventing abandonment and excesses

Identified issues:

- Overproduction
- Abandonment
- Excessive selective breeding

Solutions:

- Encourage supervised natural reproduction
 - Promote owner responsibility
 - Limit intensive breeding practices
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8. Ethical dimension and human responsibility

Current practices deeply question our relationship with living beings.

Fundamental principle:

The way animals are treated reflects the level of responsibility and awareness of a society.

Certain practices must be examined with clarity and reformed with courage.

9. Species reintroduction: concrete projects serving life

The restoration of animal populations constitutes a direct and measurable response to ecological imbalances.

Aquatic birds, particularly swans and ducks, illustrate concrete successes.

Recognized methods:

- Introduction of fertilized eggs
- Supervised relocation of pairs
- Ecological and feeding monitoring

Essential conditions:

- Use of native species
- Prior habitat assessment
- Rigorous scientific monitoring
- Progressive human intervention

Project organization:

These projects must rely on:

- Ornithologists
- Biologists
- Specialized veterinarians
- Associations and local authorities

Objective:

To achieve concrete, sustainable, and measurable results.

Conclusion: moving from intention to action

It is no longer sufficient to merely affirm a desire to protect nature.

It is necessary to:

- Act concretely
- Structure efforts
- Support responsible initiatives
- Anchor practices within a framework of lasting respect

The transition proposed in this dossier is neither utopian nor unattainable. It is based on already existing practices that must now be strengthened, structured, and generalized.

The future of professions related to living beings depends on our ability to evolve.

It is not only about producing. It is about respecting, preserving, and transmitting.

10. Training and knowledge transmission: prioritizing adherence over constraint

Any lasting transformation of practices cannot rely exclusively on mechanisms of constraint, such as the multiplication of laws or controls. While these tools have their usefulness, they do not constitute the primary lever for deep and genuine change.

On the contrary, it is essential to prioritize an approach based on training, information, and the transmission of knowledge.

By making visible, accessible, and understandable:

- good practices,
- proven methods,
- procedures that respect living beings,
- as well as models delivering the best results,

it becomes possible to establish a natural dynamic of behavioral evolution.

When field actors have adequate knowledge and relevant tools, improving practices is no longer a matter of obligation, but of evidence.

Within this framework, the correction of deviations occurs:

- progressively,
- systematically,
- and above all sustainably,

because it is driven by understanding and adherence rather than constraint.

Training, enlightening, and supporting with logic and simplicity thus constitutes a more effective, more respectful, and more sustainable path toward deeply transforming practices related to living beings.

11. Toward an ethical reassessment of reproductive practices

Beyond technical and economic considerations, animal reproduction practices now call for in-depth reflection, both ethically and in terms of meaning.

The widespread use of artificial reproduction and semen collection, while effective from a productivity standpoint, raises questions about the place given to living beings, their natural mechanisms, and their integrity.

In this perspective, it becomes necessary to consider a progressive evolution aimed at:

- significantly reducing these practices,
- restoring natural reproduction where conditions allow,
- better respecting species-specific biological behaviors.

Beyond the scientific approach, this reflection may also take on a deeper, philosophical or spiritual dimension.

For many, respect for living beings is not limited to rational management: it involves a broader responsibility toward creation as a whole. It calls for an attitude of humility, discernment, and respect.

In this spirit, it may be proposed to:

- restore a central place to natural balances,
- act with awareness rather than solely with a logic of control,
- cultivate an inner respect for life in all its forms.

This approach does not impose a belief, but opens a space for reflection: that of a more just relationship between humans, animals, and all living beings.

Final conclusion

The transition toward practices that are more respectful of living beings does not rely solely on technical adjustments. It requires an evolution in perspectives, intentions, and responsibilities.

Whether motivated by ethics, science, or a deeper conviction, this transformation calls for:

- greater awareness,
- greater respect,
- and greater commitment.

Ultimately, it invites recognition that human beings are not only managers of life, but also custodians of a responsibility toward it.