



**EAAP**

European Federation  
of Animal Science

*flash eNews*

[www.eaap.org](http://www.eaap.org)

N° 282

September 2025



# Main Topics

- News from EAAP  
pagg. 1-2
- EAAP People Portrait  
pag. 2
- Science and Innovation  
pagg. 2-4
- News from EU  
pag. 5
- Job offers  
pag. 6
- Publications  
pag. 6
- Animal Science Podcast  
pag. 6
- Other News  
pagg. 6-7
- Conferences, Workshops  
pag. 8



## EDITORIAL

### EDITORIAL BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL

#### The Researcher in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

*Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionising the way science is produced, analysed, and disseminated. This is not a distant prospect but a present reality: the tools already exist and are increasingly integrated into the daily work of researchers. The real question, therefore, is what role humans will play in a context where AI is fully operational.*

*Every research project starts from existing knowledge, traditionally acquired through a long and complex literature review. AI, however, can scan millions of articles in just a few moments, extract the most relevant information, and build an updated overview of current knowledge, with a research capacity and memory that no human being could ever achieve. Yet AI does not stop at summarising what we already know: it can identify knowledge gaps and suggest the most relevant research objectives, highlighting which studies might have the greatest scientific, social, or environmental impact.*

*The next step is the experimental design, an area where AI is already widely applied. It can calculate sample sizes, optimise randomisation, anticipate confounding variables, and propose appropriate statistical approaches. It will then be up to the researcher to concretely implement the plan developed by AI, carrying out experiments in the field or in the laboratory.*

*Data collection brings further support: AI will analyse the data, detect patterns and correlations, and draw conclusions. Moreover, it can draft article manuscripts, enrich them with updated bibliographies, and even recommend the most suitable journal for publication, considering impact factor, review times, costs, and thematic relevance. In scientific dissemination too, AI will provide powerful tools: abstracts, posters, presentations, as well as outreach and multimedia materials, all produced quickly and effectively.*

*This raises a crucial question: what will remain for the researcher? If AI can search, select, design, analyse, write, and disseminate, what space is left for humans? The answer lies in the very essence of science: asking new questions, giving meaning and direction to data. AI may guide and support, but it will always be the researcher's task to give value to what AI produces. The future of science, therefore, will not belong exclusively either to machines or to humans, but will emerge from collaboration. The challenge is not to choose between artificial and human intelligence, but to learn how to make them work together.*

**Andrea Rosati**

## News from EAAP

### From the EAAP President

The 76<sup>th</sup> EAAP Annual Congress ended successfully few weeks ago, and with its conclusion, my **first year as president** has also come to an end.

It is therefore time for a brief review.

Thanks to the exceptional work of my colleagues at the **EAAP Secretariat**, the activities carried out this year have been truly impressive. I cannot list them all, but I would like to highlight a few:

- EAAP Workshop "[Insect Genetic IMProvement, IMPLementation, IMPact](#)" – Athens (Greece)
- EAAP Workshop on Companion Animals "[Companion animal science: where we are and where we go](#)" – Milan (Italy)
- EAAP Workshop on "[Artificial Intelligence for Animal Science \(AI4AS\)](#)" – Zurich (Switzerland)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> EAAP Regional Meeting 2025 "[Animal Production in the Changing World](#)" – Krakow (Poland)
- [Annual Congress](#) that has just concluded – Innsbruck (Austria)

Every month, [webinars](#) on current topics were organised with very high participation. In addition, every two weeks the **EAAP newsletter** (translated into 10 languages) was sent to more than 9,000 members, with an average open/download rate of around 30%.

All these activities were made possible thanks to the tireless work of our two **Vice-Presidents: Sam de Campeneere** and **Gunnfríður Elín Hreiðarsdóttir**, the Council Members, the EAAP study commission presidents and their teams and the secretary of the Scientific Committee **Hans Spolder**. [Read the full message here](#).



### EAAP–ASAS Joint Conference on Livestock Farming and the Environment

We are delighted to announce the first joint EAAP–ASAS Conference, *Livestock Farming and the Environment: Emissions and Solutions*, which will be held from Sunday evening, 19 April, to Tuesday, 21 April 2026, on the scenic Azores Islands (Portugal). Situated in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, between Europe and America, the Azores provide a symbolic and inspiring setting for this collaborative event. The conference will take place in Angra do Heroísmo, the capital of Terceira Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its unique landscapes and warm hospitality. The scientific programme will address some of the most pressing environmental challenges in livestock farming: enteric and manure methane emissions, nitrogen emissions, and animal production systems. The focus will be on constructive solutions, with leading international experts invited to share their insights and experiences. We are also pleased to announce that **registration and abstract submission are now open**. This is an excellent opportunity for researchers, industry representatives, and policymakers to present their work, exchange ideas, and strengthen collaborations. For more info [visit the website](#). Join us in the Azores for this special occasion and contribute to shaping the future of sustainable livestock production!

### MSD Joins the EAAP Industry Club!

We are pleased to announce that [MSD Animal Health](#) has joined the EAAP Industry Club! MSD Animal Health provides innovative products, services, and digital solutions to support veterinarians, farmers, and pet owners in improving animal health and disease management worldwide. Welcome, MSD!



**MSD**  
 Animal Health

## Innsbruck Certificates of attendance are now available!

The certificates of attendance for the Innsbruck event are now available! To obtain the certificate go on the [dedicated webpage](#), select the event and insert your email. The PDF will be sent by email.

## EAAP People Portrait

### Cassandra Maya



Cassandra Maya is a food and nutrition scientist from California, USA, whose work focuses on integrating edible insects into everyday diets. She is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Chapman University, where she teaches STEM undergraduates, mentors food science graduate students, and conducts research on emotional responses and consumer acceptance of insect-based foods using automated facial expression analysis. Cassandra earned her B.S. in Food Science and Technology from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and her M.S. in Nutritional Science from San Diego State University. During her master's studies, she discovered her interest in edible insects through a formative research trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, where she explored their cultural and nutritional importance. This experience inspired her to pursue doctoral research in the field. [Read the complete profile here.](#)

## Science and Innovation

### Global methane footprints growth and drivers 1990-2023

Methane, the second-largest contributor to climate change, drives around 30% of global warming. Despite international targets, global methane emissions show no sign of slowing. This study analyses production- and

consumption-based emissions across 120 sectors in 164 countries (1990–2023), exploring their relationship with economic growth. Strong decoupling—sustained economic growth with declining emissions—has been achieved only in a few developed countries. Global trade is responsible for roughly 30% of methane emissions, with patterns shifting from North-North and North-South exchanges towards South-South, highlighting developing countries' growing role in supply chains. From 1998 to 2023, reduced emission coefficients, driven by improved energy efficiency and cleaner technologies, partly offset rising demand. However, since 2008, structural changes in demand have significantly contributed to emission increases. These findings improve understanding of methane emission dynamics and can guide more effective climate mitigation strategies worldwide. [Read the full article on Nature.](#)

### External stressors impacting growth and development of livestock species

The latest Animal Frontiers special issue explores how external stressors influence livestock growth, a key determinant of productivity in meat, milk, fibre, and reproduction. Growth depends on both hypertrophy and hyperplasia, making tissue development critical for production efficiency. Several reviews examine global stressors such as heat, handling, transport, nutrition, and environmental challenges. Heat stress, especially in small ruminants, reduces productivity, immunity, and welfare, though these species show some resilience. Other contributions highlight the effects of temperament, handling, stocking density, and exercise on beef heifer development, as well as the understudied impacts of ocean transport on animal recovery and productivity. Breed differences, particularly between *Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus*, underscore the role of physiological adaptations in stress resilience. Finally, plant secondary compounds, notably condensed tannins, are discussed for their dual effects on growth efficiency and methane mitigation. Collectively, these insights inform strategies for resilient, sustainable livestock systems. [Read the full article on Animal Frontiers.](#)

### Improving imputation accuracy across tropically adapted beef cattle: an application for Brahman and Nellore using whole-genome sequencing data

Combining information from multiple breeds offers a cost-effective way to expand reference populations, increasing genetic diversity and improving imputation accuracy compared with single-breed approaches. This study assessed the impact of pooling whole-

BECAUSE IT'S ABOUT

# QUICKSTARTING

## Quick outgrowth of spores to active cells for enhanced gut health

Ecobiol®, a spore-forming probiotic Bacillus CECT 5940, quickly transforms from resistant spores to active vegetative cells, effectively reducing pathogenic bacteria like *Cl. perfringens* and lowering the risk of disorders such as dysbiosis and necrotic enteritis. By enhancing the digestive function of livestock, Ecobiol® supports better feed conversion and overall animal well-being.

Sciencing the global food challenge™

evonik.click/ecobiol



**Ecobiol®**

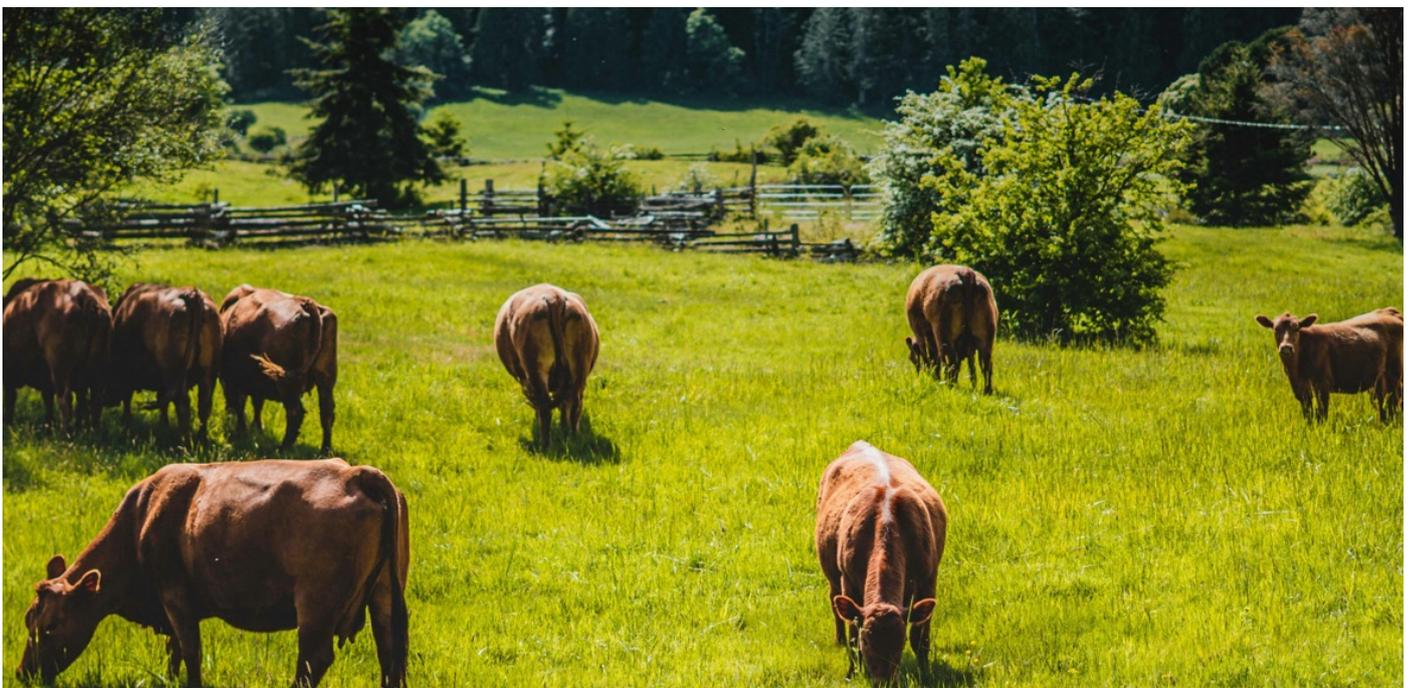


**46%  
faster  
outgrowth**



**EVONIK**  
Leading Beyond Chemistry

genome sequence data from two key tropically adapted beef cattle breeds, Brahman (n=128) and Nellore (n=151). Ten imputation scenarios, from high-density SNP panels (~777K) to sequence level, were tested using Flmpu3. Despite being genetically distinct, Brahman and Nellore showed similar linkage disequilibrium patterns. Multibreed imputation improved average per-animal accuracies from 0.89 to 0.91 in Brahman and from 0.94 to 0.96 in Nellore. SNP-wise accuracies also increased (0.78→0.82 and 0.86→0.92, respectively), with notable gains in difficult regions on chromosomes 5, 10, 12, 15, and 23. Results demonstrate that multibreed reference panels significantly enhance imputation to whole-genome sequence, offering practical benefits for genomic prediction in tropical beef cattle. [Read the full article on Animal.](#)





**Built by  
Bis-Chelation.**

**ONLY MINTREX® BIS-CHELATED  
TRACE MINERALS DELIVER THE  
PROACTIVE ABSORPTION YOU  
NEED TO MAXIMIZE NUTRITION.**

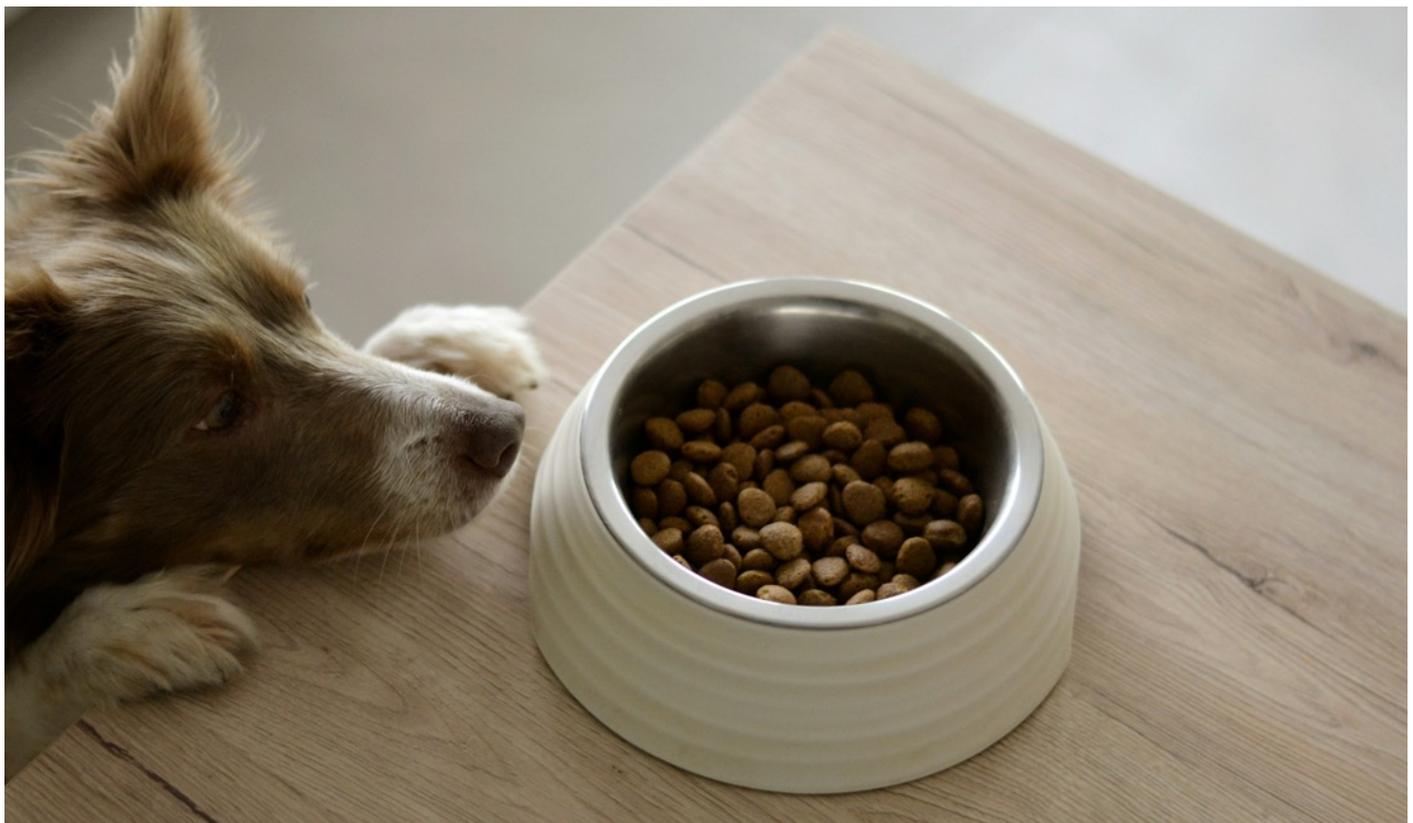
**Bis-Chelated Trace Minerals**  
**MINTREX®**  
a **NOVUS** product

**novusint.com/dairyminerals**

© **NOVUS** and MINTREX are trademarks of Novus International, Inc., and are registered in the United States and other countries.  
©2025 Novus International, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Different carbohydrate sources in dog foods supported overall health and cardiac function: an 18-month prospective study in healthy adult dogs

A potential link between dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in dogs and grain-free diets has raised concern. This 18-month, randomised, double-blind study evaluated four diets with varying ingredient profiles in 60 healthy dogs: grain-free with potatoes and peas (GF+PPo), grain-inclusive with peas and pea fibre (G+PPF), grain-inclusive without peas or potatoes (G), and grain-free with potatoes (GF+Po). Echocardiography, cardiac biomarkers (troponin-I, NT-BNP), and taurine levels were measured at 6, 12, and 18 months. No clinically significant differences emerged between diet groups, and taurine concentrations remained within normal ranges. Sometime by diet interactions in cardiac parameters were noted, but all dogs remained clinically normal for DCM. Mild endocarditis in 24 dogs likely contributed to observed echocardiographic variation. Overall, results indicate that balanced, high-quality diets, regardless of ingredient profile, supported cardiac health in adult dogs, underscoring the importance of nutritional adequacy over specific ingredients. [Read the full article on Journal of Animal Science.](#)



# Genomic Innovations for Animals and Plants

What's next for research and breeding?

Live Illumina webinar + Q&A  
 Oct 1 | 14:00 CEST

Register now



illumina®



## News From EU

### 4<sup>th</sup> HoloRuminant annual meeting!



The HoloRuminant consortium gathered from 2–4 September 2025 at *Queen's University Belfast (QUB)*, UK, for its 4th and final Annual Meeting—an important moment as the project enters its concluding year. This year's General Assembly was hosted by the School of Biological Sciences at QUB and included a visit to the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) in Hillsborough. With three days of scientific exchange, strategic planning, and community building, the meeting gave the green light to the project's final phase, consolidating progress and setting the course for impactful outcomes in 2026. Throughout the three days, each Work Package (WP)

presented results and refined action plans for the coming year. Interactive sessions allowed deeper dives into key research areas and open discussions among partners. [Read the full article here.](#)

### CoCo Press Release: Return of large carnivores in France – Voices from Pastoralists in the Field

CoCo project continues its commitment to understanding and supporting those at the frontline. This summer, researchers from the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE) have embarked on pivotal fieldwork in two contrasting French regions –Couserans in Ariège and Mont Lozère in the Cévennes– where bears and wolves are reclaiming their historic territories. [Read the full press release here.](#)



**CoCo** 

*"Involving local farmers and shepherds is essential if we are to develop solutions that are both practical and sustainable."*

**ALICE OUVRIER**  
 FRENCH NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT (INRAE)



Funded by the European Union



# Trusted research, driving change.


**animal family of journals**

## ARETI research project

ARETI is a multidisciplinary research project funded by the A.G. Leventis Foundation and hosted at The Cyprus Institute. Running from September 2022 to July 2025, the project set out to decipher the economic, cultural, and genetic history of the endangered Indigenous Cattle Breed of Cyprus. Through close collaboration between The Cyprus Institute, the Agricultural Research Institute, and the Smurfit Institute of Genetics (Trinity College Dublin), ARETI brought together researchers from different fields, as well as cattle breeders, public authorities, policy-makers and local artists to reflect on the past, present, and future of the breed.

As part of this project, we are happy to announce the release of the trailer of the documentary "[The World Shrinks.](#)" Beyond raising awareness, the film creates a non-physical "space" for preserving the breed and the collective memory surrounding it, helping to ensure that the many stories, oral traditions and customs associated with it are safeguarded for generations to come.

The production of the documentary would not have been possible without the creative work of Juno12 and the generous support, both financial and institutional, of the following organizations:

A.G. Leventis Foundation  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and the Environment  
 Cyprus Environment Foundation  
 Pagkyrios Syndesmos Ageladotrofon  
 Syndesmos Ntopias Fylis Booeidon

Screening dates to be announced soon! Stay tuned!

## Job Offers

### Full Professor and Chair of the Human and Animal Physiology Group at Wageningen University, The Netherlands

[Wageningen University & Research \(WUR\)](#) is recruiting a full professor to lead the Human and Animal Physiology (HAP) chair group, part of the Animal Science Group of Wageningen University & Research (WUR). A PhD degree and an internationally recognized scientific track record in the field of molecular human and animal physiology, in particular related to regulation of energy metabolism and mitochondrial functioning are required. **Deadline: 20 October 2025.** For more information [read the job vacancy](#).

## Publications

• **Animal consortium (EAAP, INRAE, BSAS) – Elsevier**

[Animal: Volume 19 - Issue 9 – September 2025](#)

Article of the month: "[Health and performance of fattening pigs reared in grassland and agroforestry systems in a temperate maritime climate.](#)"

## Animal Science Podcasts

The Swine it Podcast Show: "[Gut biomarkers in swine](#)", speaker Virginie Blanvillain

## Other News

### FAO - Call for Proposal

FAO is inviting proposals from qualified service providers to design and deliver a comprehensive package to strengthen smallholder dairy development across Asia and the Pacific.

Scope of Work:

- Develop **practical planning guidelines** for national dairy development strategies
- Prepare **training materials** tailored for smallholder production systems
- Organize **hands-on learning events** (study tours or technical trainings)
- Facilitate **regional collaboration** through knowledge exchange platforms

This initiative supports low-carbon, climate-resilient, and sustainable dairy development, while promoting South-South cooperation and the sharing of innovative solutions. For all the details [visit the webpage](#). Deadline for Proposals: **3 October 2025, 23:00 (Bangkok time)**.

### EU livestock populations continue to decrease according to Eurostat

Eurostat recently released an important update on the state of livestock populations in Europe: the number of farm animals continues to decline across the European Union. But what do these figures mean? And what are the implications for our food systems, the environment, and the agricultural economy? Let's take a closer look. [Read the full article here](#).



## Conferences & Workshops

EAAP invites you to check the validity of the dates for every single event **published below and in the Calendar of the website.**

### EAAP Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
EAAP-ASAS Conference on Livestock farming and the environment: emissions and solutions	19 – 21 April 2026	Azores Islands, Portugal	<a href="#">Website</a>
Mountain Grassland and Livestock Joint Conference	15 – 17 June 2026	Plantahof, Landquart Switzerland	<a href="#">Website</a>

### Other Conferences and Webinars

Event	Date	Location	Information
SAADC2025	1 – 4 October 2025	Can Tho, Vietnam	<a href="#">Website</a>
Vietstock 2025 – Expo & Forum	8 – 10 October 2025	Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam	<a href="#">Website</a>
Animal AgTech Innovation Summit	16 – 17 October 2025	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	<a href="#">Website</a>
ZOOTEC'25 – XXV Congresso Nacional de Zootecnia	23 – 25 October 2025	Lisboa, Portugal	<a href="#">Website</a>
BSAS Equine Conference 2025	21 – 22 November 2025	Birmingham, United Kingdom	<a href="#">Website</a>
4 <sup>th</sup> International Precision Dairy Farming Conference	3 – 5 December 2025	Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand	<a href="#">Website</a>

More conferences and workshops [are available on EAAP website.](#)



*“A man can be himself only so long as he is alone; and if he does not love solitude, he will not love freedom; for it is only when he is alone that he is really free”*

*(Arthur Schopenhauer)*

### **Become EAAP Members is easy!**

Become EAAP individual member to receive the EAAP newsletter and discover the many other benefits!  
Please also remember that individual membership is for free for residents in EAAP countries.

[Click here to check and register!](#)

### **Opportunities to advertise your company through the EAAP Newsletter in 2025!**

Presently, the English version of the Newsletter reaches nearly 6700 animal scientists, boasting an average of certified readers ranging from 2200 to 2500 per issue. EAAP gives to industries a great opportunity to increase visibility and create a wider network!

[Learn more about the special opportunities here.](#)

The **Flash-e-News** is the Official EAAP Newsletter. This interesting update about activities of the European animal science community, presents information on leading research institutions in Europe and also informs on developments in the industry sector related to animal science and production. The Newsletter is sent to all EAAP Members and supporters. You are all invited to submit information for the newsletter. Please send information, news, text, photos and logo to: [marlene@eaap.org](mailto:marlene@eaap.org).

**EAAP Secretariat is located at the following address:** Via G. Tomassetti 3, A/1 - Rome (Italy). Tel.: +39-06-44 20 26 39;  
E-mail: [eaap@eaap.org](mailto:eaap@eaap.org)

**Production staff:** Marlène Sciarretta, Federica Motterle, Andrea Rosati, Eleonora Azzaro.

**Graphics design and layout:** Gianfilippo Ercolani, Danilo Domenici.

**Address Corrections:** If your email address is going to be changed please send us the new one, so that we can continue to deliver the Newsletter to you.