



Integrating innovative TECHnologies along the value Chain  
to improve small ruminant welfARE management



## Welfare assessment measures for goats



We made a description of animal-based measures and their definition as used in the *dairy goat studies* by TechCare. These are NOT intended to be a comprehensive protocol for assessing overall welfare. The most important welfare indicators for goats identified by TechCare stakeholders were: **Mastitis, Nutritional issues, like insufficient food and water, Housing and environment issues, including bedding\*** and **Health in general**. Several other welfare issues were also identified, and issues marked with an asterix can only be measured by resource-based or management measures and are thus not animal-based indicators. The TechCare welfare assessment protocol defines and describes each welfare issue, and suggests indicators to be used for monitoring and scoring these welfare issues – both for extensive (unhandled/field) and housed (handled) management practices. As far as possible, these are validated indicators drawn from prior studies (particularly the AWIN project). Some welfare indicators are scored as yes/no or present/absent and others are described with a scale for scoring. In many cases the different scores are accompanied with example pictures. The TechCare welfare assessment protocol for **goats** is freely available for

anyone to download and use at this website: <https://techcare-project.eu/outputs/welfare/>.



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