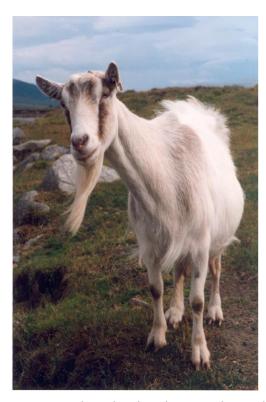




Welfare assessment measures for goats



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/.