



How the Danish  
Veterinary  
Organisation (DDD)  
works with re-wilding  
and cattle kept in  
natural parks in  
Denmark.

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# DDD work with animals and animal welfare in Nature parks

- Policy paper about animals in Nature projects.
- Influence the political agenda so that good animal welfare is a central part of the National Nature Parks
- Contact to politicians and posts in various media about animal welfare in nature projects
- Be an active player in the preparation of detailed project plans regarding NNP in Denmark

# DDD work with animals and animal welfare in Nature parks

- Group assembled to gather the experience about large grazers in Nature projects
  - Practicing vets
  - Vets from the universities
  - Vets from the Zoo
  - Politicians in DDD
- Internal discussion about how to work with Nature care animals.
- Learn from practical experience from various Danish ongoing projects
- How to react specially SoME
- Prepare material for the supervising veterinarian based on evidence and practical experience





# DDD's position about NNP

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- Biodiversity and animal welfare can be united
- Animals in an area without fences are wild
- Animals in an area with fences are farmed  
ex. NNP
- Animal Welfare Law applies for all farmed animals.
- DDD are against dispensation from the law.





# DDD policypaper

- Inspection of the animals
  - Inspection daily - trained staff
  - Veterinarian – inspection several times a year, especially in winter
- Basic rights are maintained:
  - Feeding must be possible
  - Supplementation of minerals must be possible
  - Access to water both in dry periods and frost
  - Must be able to seek shelter
  - Shelter and lie dry in both summer and winter.

Dyrevelfærdsloven skal overholdes. Så simpelt kan det siges.



- The concept of "Stock inspection"
  - Possibility of exemption §20a for animals in NNP.
  - Exemption for "Stock inspection" not yet defined nor granted, but Naturstyrelsen will apply.

§20a allows dispensation to Animal Welfare Law:

- § 3. Anyone who keeps animals must ensure that they are treated with care, including that they are **housed, fed**, watered and cared for taking into account their physiological, behavioral and health needs in accordance with recognized practical and scientific experience.
- § 9. Anyone who keeps animals must ensure that the animal is looked after at least once a day.
- Pcs 2: Pcs. 1 does not apply to free-ranging animals on grass etc. However, such animals must be inspected regularly.

# Welfare and illness, when to intervene?

- Vets are challenged, because classic clinical examination is rarely possible. We cannot get close to the animals.
- Inspection staff are challenged e.g. finding animals in large areas, large and/or dispersed herds, distant observation etc.
- However; animals, that are challenged in terms of animal welfare, must be found.
- We need to use behavior and clinical observations that can be seen from a distance to assess and decide on action.
- It will be necessary in some cases to have access to a holding pen.
- Naturstyrelsen will euthanize all those who are ill.




## The great welfare challenge in NNP

### HUNGER:

- Is a potential risk especially in the winter months
- Grass does not grow in winter.
- We know too little about the feed value of old grass, blackberries, broom, herbs etc.
- We have very little evidence about feed in NNP and not enough experience
- Body Condition Score is a late indicator for hunger.

### SICK AND INJURED ANIMALS

- Supervision at stock level challenge surveillance of the individual animal
  - How long sick and injured animals will lie down before they are found – given stock inspection?
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The great  
welfare  
challenge  
in NNP

## REPRODUCTIVE ANIMALS

- Dystocia
- Births at inappropriate times, e.g. frost or autumn
- Young animals risk of disease
- Juvenile pregnancies
- Relatively small stocks – Inbreeding
- Fluctuations in the number of animals – need for regulation
- Dynamics and fighting
- The animals learn to search and find food in nature



The great  
welfare  
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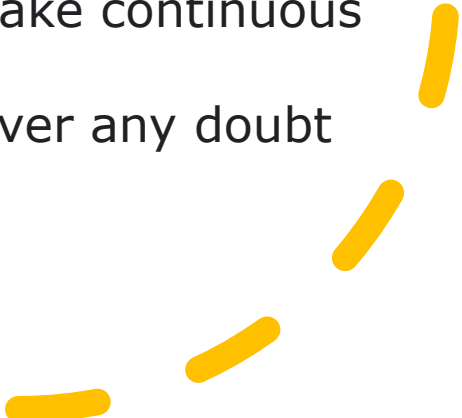
**Parasites:**

- Horses – normally not a problem
- Cattle – lungworms and fluke could be a problem

**Minerals:**

- A problem in nutrient poor soils

**STAFF TRAINING**

- Need for very specific training in supervision – (maybe trained in cow signals/horse signals)
  - Need them to work systematically and make continuous notes
  - Need for action plans, so that there is never any doubt about when to intervene
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# Tool to help the Veterinarian (under development)

## Individual observations

- Symptoms to be observed are divided into green, yellow and red.

Individobservationer			
	Normal	Opmærksomhed	Alarm
<b>ADFÆRD</b>	Er med i flokken. Opmærksom på observator. Står med lige ryg. Hoved ligefrem	Nedsat aktivitet Evt. krum ryg Ser på observatør Hoved sænket under ryglinje	Isolerer sig fra flokken Nedsat aktivitet Krum ryg Uopmærksom observatør Hoved sænket under skulder
<b>FLOKDYNAMIK</b>	Samlet flok med god dynamik		

- Other observations: BCS, eyes, nose, resp. frekvens, movement etc.
- Observation of yellow and red means – you need a action plan (including increased observation frequency) for the specific animal(s).



# Tool to help the Veterinarian (under development)

## Group and environmental observations:

### Flokobservationer

Parameter	Beskrivelse		
<b>Sammensætning</b>	Antal dyr observeret:		
	Voksne: Han Hun  Ungdyr (Kvier indtil kælvning, tyre under ca. 18 mdr.):		
<b>Social adfærd</b>	Positiv interaktion mellem dyr	Nogle udstødt af hovedgruppe – naturligt eller svage dyr	Negative interaktioner, slås om føden og afviser andre, flokstruktur i opløsning

### Miljøobservationer

Mulighed for tørt leje/læ/skygge	Tørt leje til stede: Ja [ ] Nej [ ] Beskriv forhold:  Læ/skygge Ja [ ] Nej [ ] Beskriv forhold:
Adgang til rent drikkevand	Ja [ ] Nej [ ] Beskriv forhold:
Påvirkning fra mennesker/frihed til bevægelse	Kan dyrene bevæge sig frit rundt på arealet: Ja [ ] Nej [ ] Beskriv forhold:  Kan passende områder til fødeindtag/ophold/hvile benyttes uden påvirkning: Ja [ ] Nej [ ] Beskriv forhold:  Benyttes alle dele af området af dyrene til ophold/græsning/hvile etc.: Ja [ ] Nej [ ]

# QUESTIONS?