

## **Interview guide**

### **Section A**

1. Could you describe the type of practice you work in, in terms of the number of employees, location, and the species that are treated in the practice?

### **Role**

2. Could you tell me what kind of role end-of-life situations and euthanasia of animals plays in your daily work?
3. Could you elaborate on when end-of-life situations and euthanasia are topics of discussion within the practice?
  - a. With whom, when, and how do you discuss these topics?
  - b. How do you feel about the current way of discussing these topics? Would you prefer any changes regarding the way you currently discuss the topics?
4. What role do you, as a veterinarian, play regarding end-of-life situations and the euthanasia of animals?
  - a. How do you feel about your role?
  - b. Could you elaborate on how important this role is to you?
5. Is there a potential difference between the role you currently fulfill and the role you would ideally fulfill?
  - a. If yes, could you elaborate on the background of the difference
    - i. What could support you in that perspective, to fulfill the role you would ideally fulfill?
  - b. If no, could you elaborate on the absence of this potential difference
6. Regarding your work environment in practice, could you think of things you may have missed to fulfill your role?

### **Responsibilities**

7. Could you elaborate on the responsibilities you see for yourselves as a veterinarian regarding end-of-life situations and the euthanasia of animals?
8. To what level are you able to fulfill the responsibilities you see for yourselves in practice?
9. We have now discussed the questions concerning your role and responsibilities regarding euthanasia of animals, are there things you would like to add before we continue the interview?

## Section B

### Vignettes

1. Could you elaborate on how the different considerations affect your level of agreement with euthanasia of the animal in the different scenarios of each vignette?

#### Vignette 'beef calf with a fracture'

- a. One of your beef cattle farmers calls you about a calf. The four-week-old calf is trampled by its mother. Consequently, the calf has a **closed fracture of the tibia shaft**. The fracture has an optimistic prognosis when treated with a plaster cast. The cast needs to be replaced once every 2-3 weeks in a timeframe of 6 up to 8 weeks. **The farmer asks you to euthanise the calf, as treatment is more expensive than the monetary value of the calf.**
- b. As case a, but now it concerns an **open fracture of the tibia shaft**.
- c. As case a, however now **the farmer indicates that he lacks the financial means and the time to provide the required care for the calf.**
- d. As case a, but now it concerns an **open fracture of the tibia shaft** and **the farmer indicates that he lacks the financial means and the time to provide the required care for the calf.**

#### Vignette 'a lame pig'

- a. You visit a pig at the local petting zoo. The pig is lame and suffers from chronic claw lesions. **So far the pig is treated for two weeks, however, no improvement is noticed.** The pig is seen as 'the icon' of the zoo and attracts a lot of visitors. **The petting zoo owner, employees and visitors are very attached to the pig and therefore euthanasia is not an option from their perspective.** They ask you to save the animal no matter what.
- b. As case a, but now **the pig is treated for four weeks and no improvement is noticed.**
- c. As case a, but now **the zoo owner asks you to save the animal to ensure that the number of visitors won't decline.**

## **Section C**

### **Bottlenecks**

1. Could you please share any potential bottlenecks you experience as a veterinarian regarding the decision-making process towards euthanasia?
  - a. (if the participant shares bottlenecks) How do you approach these bottlenecks?
2. Could you please share any potential bottlenecks you experience as a veterinarian regarding the performance of euthanasia?
3. Could you please share any potential bottlenecks you experience as a veterinarian regarding the support of owners
  - a. during the decision-making process toward euthanasia?
  - b. During the performance of euthanasia?
4. Could you elaborate on examples of situations in which
  - a. The owner refused to agree on euthanasia
  - b. An owner's request to euthanize their animal that you refused
  - c. An owner's request that you wanted to refuse but that you eventually agreed upon

Please share 1) the characteristics of the situation, 2) the way you approached this situation, 3) the effect this experience had on you, and 4) the effect this experience had on you afterward

5. Are there any other bottlenecks you may experience that we have not discussed yet?
6. We have now discussed the questions concerning the bottlenecks you may experience, are there things you would like to add to what we have discussed?
7. Would you like to add any other information to the entire interview, before we finish?