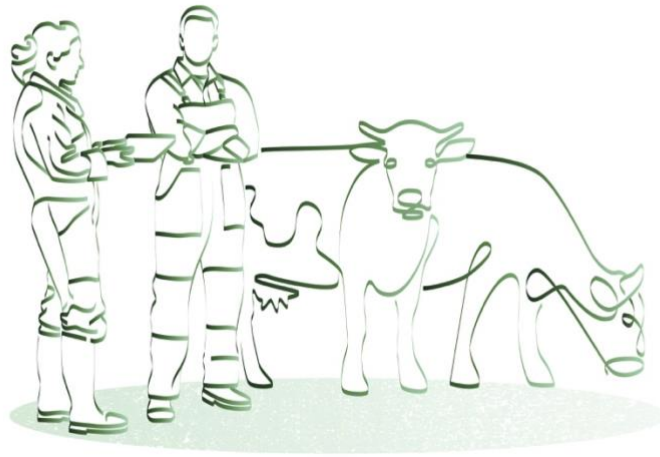


Inspector@work: Gothenburg, Sweden



I studied animal ethology and animal welfare which led me to this career. I have been working as an animal welfare inspector in the area of Gothenburg and its surroundings since 2018. My job consists mostly of routine farm inspections, as well as callouts in response to public concerns. I am also a team member for slaughter control, which means I do some inspections in slaughterhouses.

When it comes to ruminants and equines, we mainly do inspections for horses in the summer, while routine ruminant inspections are conducted over winter when herds are housed indoors. I'm a horse-girl myself so I particularly like helping with equine applications, licences for new riding schools, or livery stables. These are usually small, private businesses. It's nice to know when we've helped someone set something up that will help provide a service in the community.

Working with other departments means I can focus on the animals' welfare

I don't do truck or transportation controls as we work in a team and other colleagues do more of those types of inspections. So my job is primarily focused on farm visits and routine inspections on physical premises. The way our team is structured means we can all focus on our area of expertise to make sure animal welfare is a priority at each stage. For example, here in the office we also have a *Förprovning* department. These colleagues are responsible for approving any new farm buildings before and after they are constructed. This service is free to the farmers, and it means that I can go in and focus on animals' welfare directly knowing that space & utility requirements have already been reviewed and approved.

It's always nice to see the passion and improvements when we return for follow-up visits. Some of the innovations that farmers come up with really stand out. A few years back, in 2018 we had a drought and a lot of farmers found themselves stuck for feed. One farmer took the initiative to contact local food suppliers, like restaurants, for their organic produce that might normally be leftover and going to waste. He invested in a grinder and learned how to make his own groundmeal provisions. He was so proud of solving this problem for himself, and I love seeing and learning from farmers in this way.

Sweden is seeing a trend towards larger farms with loose-housing structures.

Swedish regulations are generally much stricter than EU, so we don't have to worry too much about fitting EU changes into our protocols - they're usually already there. One of the trends we're seeing here is a move towards open, loose housing in dairy. Smaller farms are being bought out or combined into bigger, new farm enterprises. All of these new

builds are now being set up for loose housing and *ad hoc* milking. This means we're moving away from tie-stalls, which is good.

In terms of things I'd like to see changing – I think sometimes we go too long between routine inspections of farms. Our system has high standards, and the routine inspections are usually all that's required. But sometimes it can be close to a decade from one routine inspection to the next - I'd like to see it closer to 5 years. It doesn't mean there's anything wrong with the farms in between, but it would just be good to be able to check in more frequently. We'd need to have a bigger team of inspectors I think, in order to do this.