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IFIF WG Nutritional Innovation to Promote Animal Health Working Document Glossary

I. Background

The consistent use of terms and wording is an important aspect of the IFIF activities to raise awareness on the role of nutritional strategies for supporting animal good health and well-being. It is also an important element for the networking with relevant authorities in this context.

To ensure consistency of terms and consistent understanding of these terms, it was proposed during the Workshop of the Regulatory Committee, organised on the 14th of July 2020 to develop a glossary of the terms we used. This was also supported by the Working Group on Nutritional Innovation.

Comments were received from the different IFIF WG members. From these comments, no consensus could be drawn on the need to have specific definition for nutritional strategies. It is therefore proposed to use existing definitions. However, some of these definitions focus on human health, or are very generic and therefore will need to be adapted to our context (food producing animals) For this purpose, the Section II of this document provides the proposals for the definitions of words to be used in our communication.

The proposed definitions have been kept simple, understandable, and meaningful within the WG and to the stakeholders, IFIF will talk to. They are not aimed to have any regulatory or legal purpose.

II. Definitions

Health: The state of a normally functioning animal, especially the state of being sound, and free from physical disease, pain, or (symptom of) stress.

Homeostasis: A state of equilibrium in a living system, maintained by self-regulating physical, chemical, and biological processes for optimal functioning.

Allostasis: The process by which a state of internal, physiological equilibrium is maintained by a living system in response to actual or perceived internal or external stressor.

Disease: An abnormal condition of a living system which affects the normal bodily functions usually associated with clinical symptoms.

- Resilience:** The ability of a living system to return to its original state after having been disturbed or to maintain its equilibrium in the presence of stressors.
- Endpoints:** The measurable impact of a nutritional strategy on the animal, its physiology, or its microbiome.
- (Nutritional) Function:** The action or purpose for which a nutritional strategy is suited or is used.
- Claim:** The description of the alleged purpose, effect, or function.
- Welfare:** The physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.
- Well-being:** The state of good welfare
- Microbiome** The population of microorganisms in the animal gastro-intestinal tract.