

med-translations

...because your texts deserve us

Newsletter 2026



With prize draw!

Veterinary medicine

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Dear customers,

We are very pleased to present our annual newsletter to you once again! We continued to expand our services in 2025, and in this issue we offer you an in-depth look at translation proofreading and our new ISO certification. You will also find an article on specialised translations in the field of veterinary medicine.

Our article on idioms will make you smile – get ready for a funny movie in your head.

As usual, we have once again prepared an exciting puzzle for you in 2025. We look forward to many participants and will again reward five participants with great prizes.

We hope you enjoy reading our latest issue and look forward to your feedback.

Best wishes from Freiburg,

Your

Tanja Mukovic
Management



BEASTLY GOOD TRANSLATIONS -

our work in the field of veterinary medicine

For our children, our partner or our parents, we want the best medical care, the best nutrition, and the best possible support – everything that contributes to or restores their physical and mental well-being. But depending on personal preference, our loved ones may also include guinea pigs, cats, parakeets, dogs, rabbits, and other pets.

With 34 million pets, almost half of all German households own at least one pet. The situation is similar in Europe as a whole. The pet population amounts to 340 million for the year 2022, which corresponds to 46 per cent of all households. Both in Germany and in Europe in general, cats take first place, followed by dogs, pet birds, small animals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

Just as in human medicine, veterinary medicine also covers all areas of health and medical care. The difference, however, is that veterinary medicine deals with a large number of species. Of course, it is not only our four-legged friends who share our everyday lives, but

also farm animals, horses, wild animals, laboratory animals and zoo animals. The fields of veterinary medicine range from diagnostics and animal disease control to pharmacology, reproductive medicine, surgery, and radiology.

The concerns and demands in the respective specialist areas are logically reflected in veterinary medical terminology. This is where language experts come in! Precision, expertise, and sensitivity are the core competencies for translating texts in this broad field. The craft of specialised translators involves various aspects: The function of the text and the target audience must be clear, the terminology must be flawless, the language level must be

appropriate, and stylistic fine-tuning rounds off the whole. When error-free texts are available, high-quality medical care or medical products can be provided. It's as simple as that.

However, the task of specialised translators in the field of veterinary medicine is not so simple. It also involves consulting specialist literature, researching terminology, fully understanding and accurately reproducing all contexts, and in some cases dealing





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with legal provisions, such as those of the EU or Switzerland. For language experts, working with the EU's standard terms and QRD templates in the area of authorisation of veterinary medicinal products is a matter of course.

The types of texts in veterinary medicine and related fields of activity are just as diverse as the field itself: press

releases, SmPCs, IFUs, product descriptions, customer communication, operating theatre technology, laboratory reports, training content, catalogues, and brochures. When it comes to veterinary medicine, as already mentioned, precision and expertise are a must – in any language. Texts in other languages are therefore never a simple composition of

words. The translation of such important content should not be left to chance (or an algorithm). Language experts therefore play a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of animal patients. And that's exactly what med-translations is there for!

From 15 to 17 January 2026, we were exhibitors at VetExpo Europe in Leipzig for the first time. At our stand, we were able to welcome and advise many of our customers as well as some interested parties and co-exhibitors.

The atmosphere was "beastly good", and the trade fair appearance was a complete success.

Our special thanks go to our colleagues Claudia Schnier and Vanessa Le Caignec for their commitment on site and the weeks of preparation for the trade fair.

Date: 15-17 January, VetExpo Leipzig, Hall 2, Stand I04



LEIPZIGER TIERÄRZTE KONGRESS

mit **vetEXPO europe**

15. bis 17. Januar 2026



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THE CORRECTION STAGE OR: THE DISSECTION OF TRANSLATIONS

Subtle details determine the quality of texts

This article gets down to the nitty-gritty! If you are not really interested in languages and translating, you should simply skip this text. Otherwise, language enthusiasts, interested customers, language-savvy medical professionals and project managers can gain some insight into the world of proofreading here. Sounds boring? Never! The correction stage is like dissecting a corpse – except that the text should not be a corpse, in the figurative sense, because then it would no longer be salvageable. Unfortunately, this also happens with texts. More on this later. So, the proofreader is more of a surgeon (hopefully not a forensic pathologist), and the text is the patient. The aim, of course, is to recognise and correct errors in the translation – similar to how a surgeon or doctor treats the injuries or illnesses of their patients. But what exactly does a proofreader do, and why is the correction stage so important?

Every translator knows this situation: translating a large presentation or a manual – let's say 90 pages. The specialised medical translator is a professional, has mastered their craft and has many years of experience. If the specialist translator is so good, perhaps a straight translation without proofreading will suffice? Hmm... unfortunately not. The correction stage is particularly useful

for larger volumes (but not only) and also for experienced translators. Let's take a closer look.

The proofreader proceeds step by step like a surgeon and examines the translation on several levels. First, the source text is reviewed: headline, topic, aim of the text, length, and structure. Then the process begins. The proofreader reads the translation sentence by sentence (or segment by segment in a CAT tool such as Trados). They check linguistic correctness, i.e. grammar, syntax, punctuation, and spelling. Even the best translators

make a typo here and there.

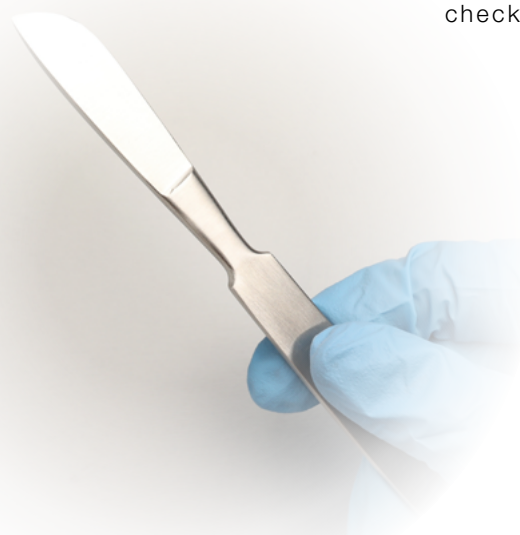
They then check

may also be omissions, i.e. the translator has overlooked something and forgotten a word or a group of words. The choice of words is also scrutinised. Sometimes several variants of a word are possible. The translator selects one, and the proofreader checks whether it is the best possible choice. An incorrect or unsuitable choice of words can distort the meaning or be inappropriate. The context is always decisive.

The proofreader has now reached the next level: terminology! It is of crucial importance for specialised texts. The following points are checked: has the translator carried out appropriate research (keyword: specialised literature) and used the correct terms? Was a glossary and/or terminology database provided that had to be observed? Did the client communicate any special requirements that had to be met (e.g. wording from reference material)? Are there any references to legal texts (e.g. EU directives) in the text? The question of consistency also arises for the proofreader in connection with clean terminology. Is it ensured throughout the text? For example, only one variant of a term should be used in the target language. If a word is translated differently throughout the text, this can be very confusing and even misleading for the reader.

And last but not least: style. This is the fine work that turns a good translation into a very good one. The client may also have provided a style guide. As a rule, a style guide contains information on date and time formats, units of measurement, number formats, and currencies, for example, and ensures that the overall writing style is consistent. The proofreader therefore checks whether the text

the content: the most important question here is whether the meaning has been transferred correctly. The proofreader checks both the meaning of the words used and the correctness of the context. Errors of meaning are, of course, serious errors and should not occur. However, there



reads well and is “well-rounded”. Some wording may be improved to enhance readability. In the end, the reader should have a pleasant reading experience. This also helps ensure that the target readership takes the client seriously. Yes, language also enhances image.

The proofreader's task is therefore both multifaceted and essential, as the processes described above take place simultaneously in their mind, and their holistic view of the text has a decisive influence on its quality. In this respect, the proofreader resembles a surgeon after a successful operation, whose work has contributed to the health and recovery of the patient.

A brief digression on the subject of proofreading: The use of AI in the translation industry has given the proofreading stage a new meaning. We are, of course, talking about post-editing. The process is similar

to that of a normal translation, but the workload for the proofreader is considerably higher, as the output from LLMs is often modest. It goes without saying that the use of such technologies in the fields of human medicine, veterinary medicine, and pharmacy carries many risks. In this context, the post-editor or “language surgeon” really can become a forensic doctor. The quality of machine-generated translations is so poor in certain texts that the proofreader can only determine the “death of the text”. In other words, the translation can no longer be salvaged by the work of the proofreader or post-editor. In such a case, a new translation by a specialised human translator is recommended.

The use of AI in translations in the fields of medicine and pharmacy should therefore be treated with caution. Whether a text is suitable for machine translation depends on many criteria. Specialist translators

and/or project managers are best placed to make this assessment. A thorough analysis is necessary for this.

med-translations received ISO 18587 certification for machine translations in May 2025. This standard specifies the process requirements for the post-editing of machine translations (MT). For MT, post-editing is the equivalent of the correction stage for human translations. However, the effort for post-editors is much greater, as the texts – at least in full-post editing – must be “comparable to the result of a human translation” according to ISO. We would be happy to check with you whether your texts are suitable for MT. Otherwise, anyone who thinks highly of themselves and their texts can rely on the skills of the “language surgeon” and use the tried-and-tested “Human Intelligence” with the standard correction level.



IDIOMATIC EXPRES- SIONS RELATED TO ANATOMY:

A funny movie in your head



“To have a frog in your throat”, “to have a lot around the ears”, “to take someone onto the arm” or “out of the eyes, out of the mind”. In German, there are many idiomatic expressions that refer to body parts. These are, of course, highly figurative and not to be understood literally. If they are, they can sound quite funny. Such expressions are of particular linguistic interest to translators. Some expressions have a clear equivalent in the target language, while others are not immediately understandable and cannot simply be translated. If translated literally, they can sometimes sound very strange. Every language professional immediately gets an “allergic reaction” when literal translations are mentioned, but in this case they can also guarantee a laugh.

Today we look at idiomatic expressions in English, French and German, as well as their meanings and equivalents or translations. We will focus on four body parts – at least in German. Smiles and laughter are welcome! Let’s begin!

EYES

“Out of the eyes, out of the mind”. English uses exactly the same image here: “Out of sight, out of mind”. The French,

on the other hand, seem to be more romantic. In French, someone moves away not only from the eyes, but also from the heart: “Loin des yeux, loin du cœur”. The emotional effect is immediately different.

Moreover, when the French (of course referring to the entire French-speaking world) are on the wrong track, they stick their fingers in their eyes (“se mettre le doigt dans l’œil”). Ouch, pretty dangerous!

NOSE

When you’ve had enough of something, you might say: “I have the nose full!” In English, on the other hand, you’re more likely to have a full belly in such cases: “Have a bellyful of something/somebody”, similar to “be fed up with something”. In French, by contrast, the back is used to express that someone has reached their limit: “en avoir plein le dos”. The body always tells the truth, doesn’t it?

If a person is conceited, in German one says that they “carry their nose high,” i.e., that they are snobbish. French and English use a similar image, although the focus is more on the head. In English, someone is described as “big-headed”. In French, “avoir la grosse tête”. So apparently the head circumference increases when someone becomes arrogant!

HEART

We associate a whole host of positive experiences and feelings with the heart. The language of love (yes, that’s right, French) has a whole host of expressions centred around the heart. For example, one finds the expression “avoir le cœur sur la main”. This expression even includes two body parts: “to have your heart in your hand”. This means that a person is particularly

generous and helpful. A variant is “avoir un cœur en or”, i.e. having a heart of gold. Similar metaphors are used in English. You are “big-hearted”, i.e. you have a big heart, or you have “a heart of gold”. A truly beautiful image.

When it comes to love, French has a culinary expression for people who fall in love quickly and give their hearts away easily: “avoir un cœur d’artichaut”. Literally translated: to have an artichoke heart! The artichoke does indeed have leaves that can be easily detached to reach the tender centre of the vegetable.

HAND

Enthusiastic gardeners in German-speaking regions are known to have a green thumb. Americans feel the same way when they look at their hand. The British even have several fingers affected – they have “green fingers”. French speakers are the craziest: their whole hand is green! They say: “avoir la main verte”. The effect of plants is truly incredible!

We continue with the hand in English-speaking countries. If something is very expensive there, it will cost you a hand and a leg. A scary idea, isn't it? As they say: “It costs an arm and a leg.” In French, at least you get to keep your leg, but an expensive affair also costs you an arm! The French say: “coûter un bras”. In that case, it would probably be advisable to refrain from shopping.

We have now reached the end of our anatomy session, although the list of such expressions is really very long. We very much hope that none of our readers has an artichoke heart, loses a leg, has a painful back, green fingers or a voluminous head. After this sentence at the latest, your head must be spinning, doesn't it?

Thanks for reading!



PRIZE DRAW

We accompany you during your lunch break.
Join in the puzzle and look forward to some great prizes!

In every issue, we come up with a new puzzle and look forward to your participation.

In addition, we donate €1.00 for each participant to the Support Association for Children with Cancer in Freiburg (www.helfen-hilft.de).

Prizes:

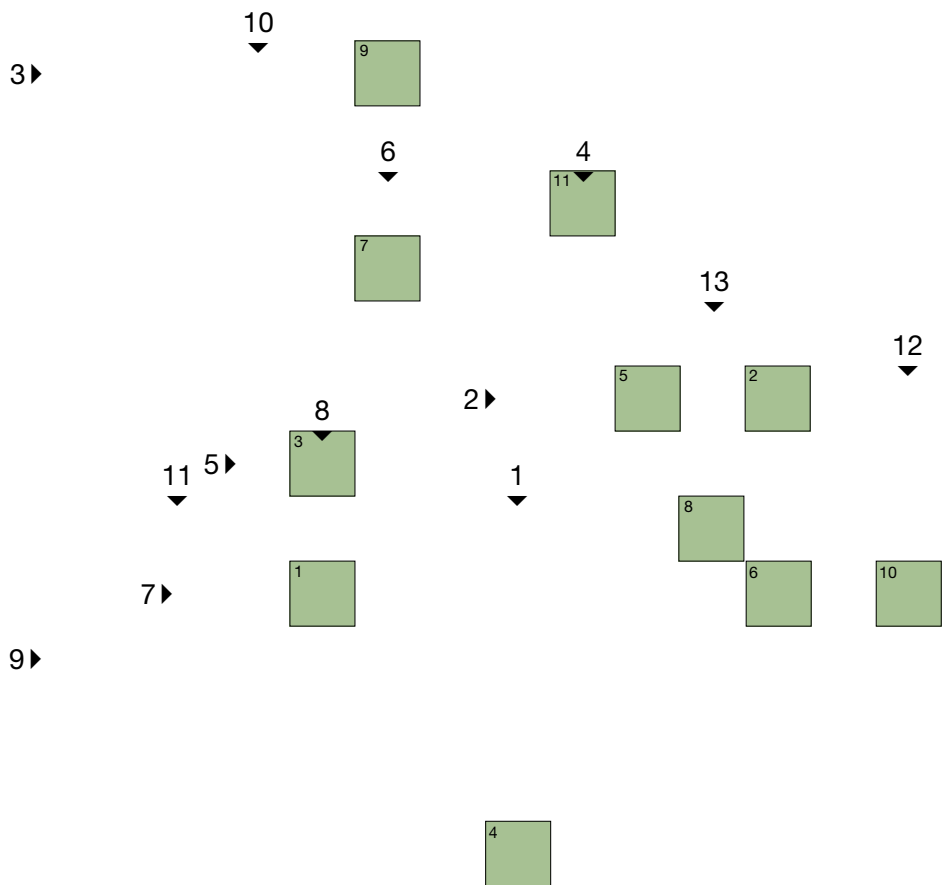
We are giving away the following prizes:

- 1 x Fleurop bouquet
- 3 x surprise package
- 1 x Amazon voucher

Winners will be notified in writing. The closing date for entries is 15 April 2026.

The winners will NOT be announced publicly. If you do not enter a name, you will not be included in the prize draw, but we will make a donation to the Support Association for sending in the completed crossword puzzle.

All med-translations customers who receive this newsletter by e-mail can take part.



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Please send the completed page by

e-mail to:

service@med-translations.de

Surname, first name:

Company:

1. What's the capital of Portugal?
2. Complete the med-translations slogan "because your texts ...us"
3. UK is short for United ...
4. The opposite of dangerous
5. The smallest human bone is located in the ...
6. H₂O
7. AI is short for ... Intelligence
8. Insect's feeler
9. Currency in Japan
10. The tallest current existing animal
11. Bamboo eating "bear"
12. Biggest mountain in the world
13. A shape with 5 sides