



Third OIE Global Conference
on Animal Welfare

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 6-8 November 2012

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OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE OIE THIRD OIE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Bernard Vallat

OIE Director General

This 3rd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, which will take place on 6-8 November in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, follows two very successful OIE global conferences on animal welfare. Animal welfare continues to increase in importance and has an important bearing on trade in animals and their products. Recognising that animal health is a key input to animal welfare, the OIE *Codes* cover the veterinary domain holistically, including recommendations on animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.

In choosing the theme: 'Implementing the OIE standards – addressing regional expectations' the OIE underlined the priority of helping Members to implement the adopted animal welfare standards. The OIE, in collaboration with governments and donors, has made a strong commitment to supporting the global improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health.

At the 80th OIE General Session (2012), Member Countries adopted two new chapters on animal welfare, which brought the total number of adopted chapters of standards to twelve including transport and slaughter methods. This represents rapid progress, given that animal welfare was first mentioned in the OIE 3rd Strategic Plan (2001-2005). According to the mandate of Member Countries, OIE standards are science based and focus on the welfare outcomes for the animal, rather than the design of the system. This provides flexibility to adapt the standards to local conditions and facilitates implementation by Members.

The OIE has no mandate to police the implementation of its standards. Rather, it encourages and supports Members by providing technical advice and capacity building, including via the OIE PVS Pathway for Good Governance. The OIE advocates for national Veterinary Services (VS) and the veterinary profession to provide leadership in relation to animal health and welfare. Ongoing work on veterinary education and veterinary statutory bodies should lead to better veterinary governance and more efficient VS, with better capacity to implement legislation and programs for animal health and welfare. In parallel, the OIE communicates permanently with media with the goal of convincing them to advocate the use of its animal welfare standards.

With reference to regional expectations, the OIE supports the creation of mechanisms at the regional level, with full involvement of OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations. The nomination of national Animal Welfare Focal Points by National Delegates (of 178 Member Countries) helps to raise awareness and encourage collaboration at the regional level. Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (RAWS), as implemented in the Asia, Far East and Oceania region, provide a valuable framework, adapted to regional specificities, for leadership, practical support and encouragement.

This conference provides a global forum for discussion of the needs and priorities of OIE Members with respect to the development and implementation of animal welfare standards in the five OIE regions. Regional specificities, as well as the important contribution to be made by partner organisations, donors, non-governmental organisations and the livestock and food production sector, will be taken fully into account in planning and revising approaches and activities for the future. Through its global leadership in setting animal welfare standards and by providing a framework for support and implementation of these standards, the OIE aims to improve animal health and welfare globally.

CONSIDERATIONS AND APPROACHES TO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

Phillip Glyde

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Animal welfare is a complex and emotive public policy issue and a topic of growing importance internationally. It requires balancing complex ethical issues, particularly around definitions and perspectives about animal welfare and social responsibility. This requires the respectful engagement of all stakeholders, including the community.

For many years, Australia has engaged the broad range of stakeholders in the animal welfare debate, acknowledging their diversity of views, to sustain improvements in animal welfare. In 2005, this was formalised through endorsement of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. The strategy sets high level goals, reflecting the shared vision of all stakeholders. This approach is also followed within OIE through the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, The Far East and Oceania and is seen as a model for other regions.

In developing animal welfare policy, governments must consider a variety of issues, as stated in the recommendations from the OIE's 2nd Global Conference on Animal Welfare in 2008. Factors such as farmer welfare, consumer choice, biodiversity, socio-economic impacts of change, religious practices and community perceptions are crucial in defining sustainable improvements.

Australia has been actively supporting the implementation of OIE welfare standards and infrastructure in our trading partners through capacity building and the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, The Far East and Oceania.

The measure of success of animal welfare policy is improved delivery of animal welfare. Implementation of policy therefore requires shared responsibility and commitment. Laws are important to deal with animal cruelty, but attitude change and improved animal care will flow from improved education and training and the engagement of all points of view. This reinforces that animal welfare is not a 'stand alone' matter and that people should make ethical decisions about animal welfare supported by knowledge and skills.

Keywords: Animal welfare – OIE standards – Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS).

OIE ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND MULTILATERAL TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORK

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OIE International Trade Department

With the mandate granted by its Member Countries, the OIE has taken a leadership role in setting global animal welfare standards and has achieved an impressive number of achievements. In addressing the then 'new' theme of animal welfare, the OIE built upon its existing standard setting framework with the establishment of a permanent Animal Welfare Working Group (70th OIE General Session, 2002). This provided a forum for interested industry and NGO sectors to sit 'around the table' with representatives of the scientific community, academia and the veterinary services. Based on recommendations from the Working Group to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and with the consensual support of OIE Member Countries, the first recommendations on animal welfare were adopted in the OIE *Terrestrial Code* in 2004. The first guiding principle states that 'there is a critical relationship between animal health and animal welfare'. Clearly the *Terrestrial Code* has general relevance to animal welfare, including, for example, recommendations on the quality of Veterinary Services; disease prevention and control and on specific diseases.

The 21st edition of the *Terrestrial Code* (2012) contains eight chapters with specific recommendations on animal welfare covering key topics relevant to livestock, stray dogs and animals used in scientific research and education. The 15th edition (2012) of the *Aquatic Code* contains four chapters, including guiding principles and specific recommendations on the welfare of farmed fish. All OIE standards are regularly updated to take account of latest scientific findings.

Under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement), the imposition of measures 'necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health' is subject to certain disciplines. Most animal welfare measures are not covered by the SPS Agreement but would seem to be within the scope of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement).

This paper discusses the relevance and implications of the OIE animal welfare standards in the context of the WTO multilateral trade policy framework.

Keywords: OIE animal welfare standards – SPS Agreement – TBT Agreement.

OIE Standards and other initiatives to improve animal welfare globally

SESSION-1

ANIMAL WELFARE IN A BILATERAL TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORK: CASE STUDY ON THE EUROPEAN UNION-CANADA EQUIVALENCY AGREEMENT ON SLAUGHTER

Martin Appelt

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

For more than 10 years, animal welfare has been in the OIE mandate, with specific references included in the 3rd and successive OIE Strategic Plans. What had once been considered to be a technical field of interest only to academics has since become a major topic in international negotiations on animal health, food safety and trade policy.

In 1999 Canada and the European Union (EU) entered into a Veterinary Agreement. Under this Agreement, decision makers from the EU (DG SANCO) and Canada (the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, CFIA) meet in the Joint Management Committee (JMC) to discuss questions of mutual importance, such as disease control measures, import/export certification and technical matters. Although not explicitly mentioned in the Agreement, animal welfare has been a high profile technical matter for discussion.

In terms of the WTO SPS Agreement and the EU-Canada Agreement, measures do not need to be 'the same' in order to achieve equivalency. Decisions that different measures are equivalent must be based on understanding and acceptance of the context and rationale of both parties. Such decisions cannot be established on a simple 'line by line' comparison of regulatory requirements. Rather, Canada and the EU have made a commitment to share information on respective contexts and regulatory frameworks to maintain this trust.

European Union Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing will come into force on January 1, 2013. In preparation, the CFIA has taken steps to identify where measures are identical, similar or slightly different, with respect to key issues, such as: the use of written procedures to assure animal welfare; formal training of slaughtermen and other operators, and consistent use of appropriate stunning practices.

CFIA experts in humane handling and slaughter of livestock have developed guidance for federal inspectors and regulated operators on how to conduct operations that comply with current regulations and with OIE animal welfare standards on animal welfare.

This paper concludes that the EU-Canada Veterinary Agreement has been a driver for closer scrutiny and, in some cases, improved animal welfare in Canada.

Keywords: Animal welfare – Bilateral – OIE – Trade;

INTERNATIONAL NGOs SUPPORTING THE OIE TO IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE GLOBALLY

Mike Baker

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)

The paper will look at the progress that has been made since the Second OIE Global Conference in Cairo, in 2008, and the challenges, and impediments to progress, which remain to be addressed.

OIE members are responsible for implementing the OIE animal welfare standards and ensuring that these standards are followed by relevant stakeholders. There are a large number of such stakeholders so the challenge of implementation and enforcement is not to be underestimated. Animal welfare NGOs are periodically made aware of situations where these standards are breached. NGOs, like governments and the OIE itself, are keen to minimise such breaches through effective enforcement by appropriate actions of relevant authorities. NGOs can assist government and veterinary authorities in addressing issues arising in these situations and work with such authorities to ensure they are avoided in future.

WSPA and other NGOs have worked with governments to provide technical assistance and support for animal welfare training programmes which have been acknowledged to contribute significantly towards achievement of improved animal welfare standards. WSPA's slaughter training programmes in China and Brazil are good examples. NGOs can also provide practical support in identifying the key aspects of animal welfare which need to be addressed in order to implement and enforce OIE standards. It is noted that little progress has been made by OIE members to set up Regional Animal Welfare Strategies. The exception has been the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region. Animal welfare NGOs are keen to provide practical support to OIE regions in developing such strategies which would lead to more effective standards implementation.

Keywords: Animal welfare – NGOs – Regional strategies – Training OIE.

OIE Standards and other initiatives to improve animal welfare globally

SESSION-1

OIE STANDARDS AS A PLATFORM FOR DEVELOPING EUROPEAN UNION LEGISLATION AND BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH TRADING PARTNERS

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European Commission, DG SANCO

In the EU animal welfare is a main issue. Therefore, in negotiations with third countries, the Commission promotes animal welfare by integrating it within an approach that also encompasses sustainability and environmental impact. Animal welfare and animal health are linked, inasmuch as by ensuring good welfare the animals are less stressed, not constantly under pressure to adapt to an environment or circumstances to which they are ill suited and thus more robust and less susceptible to disease. Against this backdrop, by including animal welfare in negotiations, bilateral agreements have the potential to improve the lives of both people and animals. Additionally, better knowledge of animal welfare facilitates market access opportunities.

The OIE standards form a technical platform where central specifications are outlined, for example on the transport of animals, and they provide a good framework for and facilitate discussions between the EU and major EU trade partners (e.g. Chile, New Zealand).

So far, the EU has little experience in using the OIE standards as a basis for developing new EU legislation. Be that as it may, the recently adopted Council Regulation (EC) no. 1099/2009 did build on some elements of the OIE standards and contains a specific reference to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. This EU Regulation only contains one general provision applicable to fish and no specific requirements. Consequently, the Commission is now preparing a study on the welfare of farmed fish at the time of killing. In this context, it will be natural to use the current OIE standards (see *Aquatic Animal Health Code* Section 7) on this topic as a key source for the assessment of the current situation and for the development of possible legislative or non-legislative measures.

Keywords: Animal welfare – Bilateral agreement – Legislation – OIE standards.

THE IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AND THEIR WELFARE

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Evidence exists of the use of animals in research and education for almost 2,000 years. On the basis of current scientific knowledge, animals are essential to support many aspects of scientific research for human and animal benefit. However the ethical framework to judge whether such use is justified has changed significantly over recent years. Animal rights campaigners have argued that animals should be considered to have equal rights to humans. Others, in both the welfare and science communities, support a utilitarian approach – weighing the cost in terms of harms which the animals will experience against the potential benefits of the work.

Such judgments must inevitably be made on a case by case basis and thus has emerged the practice of ethical review as a key principle. Ethical review may be performed at a local level, within the research institution, or alternatively at a regional or national level. In any event, it is important to ensure the impartiality and independence of those performing the review.

A second key principle involves implementing the '3Rs' (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement). First introduced in the 1950s, the 3Rs require:

- that animals should only be used where they cannot be replaced by non-animal alternatives; and
- that the smallest number of animals of the least neurophysiological sensitivity should be used; and
- that the procedures should be performed in the least painful or distressing way.

The third key principle is to deliver a balance between ensuring that justifiable scientific advances using animals can be achieved whilst also assuring that animals do not suffer unnecessarily. This 'Regulatory Balance' is the means by which public confidence is maintained.

The OIE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 7.8 'Use of Animals in Research and Education' provides guidance on developing and delivering a proportionate regulatory system which focuses on these three key principles and considers cultural, economic, religious and social factors. Veterinarians have a major role to play in this delivery.

Keywords: '3Rs' – Alternatives – OIE – Research animal welfare.

OIE Standards and other initiatives to improve animal welfare globally

SESSION-1

ANIMAL WELFARE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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Aims/Objectives:

Outline the scope and animal impacts of disasters including: natural (drought, flood, hurricane, fire, pandemic disease, transboundary disease, and others) and man-made (war, toxicological events, nuclear events, and others). Describe the roles of veterinarians and disaster management personnel. Discuss the responsibility and value of attention to animal welfare issues.

Discussion/Conclusions:

Disasters with wide spread impact across of spectrum of natural and man-made. Effective disaster management must account for animals, the human-animal bond, and animal welfare. These elements are critical to manage evacuation, recovery, maintain public trust, support behavioural health, restore economic stability, and other key elements of effective disaster management. OIE and AVMA animal welfare standards and guidelines provide valuable frameworks for planning for animals in disasters. Planning, training, exercising, risk management, and coordination are all required to ensure animal welfare issues are addressed in disaster response.

Keywords: Animal welfare – Disaster – OIE– Veterinary.

HAS THE MANAGEMENT OF STRAY DOG POPULATIONS AND RABIES CONTROL IMPROVED SINCE 2008?

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Global Alliance for Rabies Control Asia

Stray and feral dogs pose serious risks to public health and safety. The prevention of zoonotic diseases, notably rabies, depends, *inter alia*, on effective control of stray dog populations, which should be considered as a priority. Dog culling alone has never had a significant impact on dog population densities and has never been effective in controlling or eliminating canine rabies. It is therefore not recommended as a rabies control strategy on its own.

At the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare (Cairo, 2008), the OIE was asked to develop standards on effective and humane methods for control of stray dog populations. *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 7.7., adopted by the OIE in 2009, covers this topic. The control of dog populations and movements is integral to the implementation of effective canine rabies control and eventual elimination. The removal of unmanageable and unwanted stray dogs, linked with effective dog vaccination campaigns, can enhance the effectiveness of disease control.

Rabies elimination programs often resort to inhumane methods of dog population control. Removal of dogs must be carried out humanely and any campaigns that include removal or euthanasia of dogs should ensure that animal welfare principles are consistently adhered to throughout these programs. It is imperative that the measures employed are compliant with international guidelines and standards set by OIE, WHO and the Partners for Rabies Prevention.

The animal welfare community has a strong impetus for supporting rabies control programs that are effective and humane. Removal of unmanageable and unwanted stray dogs linked with dog vaccination campaigns can enhance the effectiveness of such programs.

This paper presents information showing that the management of stray dog populations and rabies control has improved incrementally since 2008. However, much remains to be done. The challenge remains to find the most humane approach to dog population management. The institutionalisation of responsible pet ownership (RPO) programs could include mandatory registration of dogs to establish dog ownership and facilitate traceability of biting incidents, strict imposition of penalties for negligent dog owners, integration of rabies and RPO education in the elementary school curriculum, continuous general public information and updating of local and national legislation pertaining to canine rabies elimination program.

Keywords: Dog population management – OIE animal welfare standards – Rabies elimination.

Progress in implementing the OIE Standards
– Stakeholder perspectives and experiences
SESSION-2

FACILITATING THE USE OF THE OIE STANDARDS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF ANIMALS BY SEA AND BY LAND

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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia

The OIE standards provide an international benchmark to improve animal welfare outcomes for its Member Countries. These standards promote low stress livestock handling and highlight the importance of understanding innate animal behaviours and using experienced and competent people to handle and move farm animals. The importance of well-designed and maintained yards and facilities are stressed and the responsibilities of everyone involved in land and sea transport are highlighted.

Land transport and sea transport of animals requires a comprehensive 'whole chain' risk management approach from the farm of origin through to the point of slaughter in the country of origin or of destination. The selection of healthy animals that are fit to load in view of the transport journey is a critical consideration.

Consistent with the recommendations of the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare (2008) Member Countries should develop national legislation and standards that are harmonised as far as possible with the relevant OIE standards.

These standards need to define requirements for people and infrastructure. For example, standards should be introduced for ships transporting livestock and these ships accredited by the relevant maritime authority. Livestock vehicles and loading ramps and other infrastructure also need to be included in country standards. In Australia, the export of livestock by sea or air can only be done by entities holding a current licence for this activity. Exporters must comply with Australian export standards as a condition of holding an export licence. The maintenance of an export licence requires that exporters make commercial arrangements in importing countries to ensure the welfare of exported Australian livestock during all phases of transport to slaughter, consistent with the OIE standards. Exported Australian livestock must be identified and results reported for each export consignment, with provisions for independent audit of outcomes.

Australia has implemented an exporter supply chain assurance scheme (ESCAS) that compels exporters and importers to deliver outcomes consistent with the OIE welfare standards.

Keywords: Animal welfare standards – Assurance scheme – Australian Exporter Supply Chain – OIE – Transport.

WORK OF INDUSTRY ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIE ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

Vincent Guyonnet¹, Vivien Kite², Luc Mirabito³ and Hsin Huang⁴

- 1- International Egg Commission
- 2- International Poultry Council
- 3- International Dairy Federation
- 4- International Meat Secretariat

There are currently 5 published Animal Welfare chapters of relevance to the livestock sector: transportation of animals by sea (7.2), by land (7.3), by air (7.4), slaughter of animals (7.5) and killing of animals for disease control purposes (7.6). Ever since the publication of the OIE guiding principles on Animal Welfare in 2004, industry organizations have played an important role in the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards. The work conducted by industry organizations may be divided into 4 broad categories:

1. Capacity building
2. Setting of industry codes of practices
3. Development of internal (on-site/farm) evaluation and third-party verification systems and
4. Validation and feedback on currently approved standards.

Concrete examples illustrating each of the 4 types of activities conducted by the livestock sector will be reviewed. Capacity building activities are numerous around the world with industry organizations taking often the lead into developing training programmes for its constituency as well as for public veterinary services. In several countries, industry standards or codes of practice have been the direct and only links between the OIE animal welfare standards and their local implementation. Similarly, industry organizations have developed various internal evaluations and auditing schemes to ensure proper compliance with the OIE animal welfare standards. The livestock sector is also playing a key role in the validation under field conditions of the applicability of the OIE animal welfare standards. Industry organizations also contribute to the continuous improvement of published chapters by providing continuous feedback through their local veterinary services and industry representatives at the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group. Finally, industry organizations have a role extending beyond the implementation of currently approved OIE animal welfare standards with a proactive participation in the design of new OIE animal welfare chapters.

Keywords: Animal welfare – Industry organizations – Implementation – OIE .

Progress in implementing the OIE Standards
– Stakeholder perspectives and experiences
SESSION-2



ROLE OF VETERINARY SERVICES AND ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES IN IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE AT SLAUGHTER

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Islam provides considerable support for the importance of animal welfare. There is a rich tradition of the Prophet Mohammad's (pbuh) concern for animals to be found in the Hadith and Sunna. In particular, the Qur'an is explicit, with regard to the use of animals by humans. A closer look at the Qur'an and tradition reveals teachings of kindness and concern for animals. Islamic Law calls for the protection of animals against cruel practices and makes specific provisions for humane slaughter. These provisions are compatible with OIE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 7.5 on the Slaughter of animals.

Many current practices in abattoirs are not in accordance with the teachings of the Qur'an, nor with the OIE animal welfare standards, and may result in great cruelty to animals. Needless suffering is inflicted on animals that are transported in overcrowded, ill-ventilated, trucks, especially in hot, humid weather. Harsh conditions also occur at slaughter plants. Animals are held in primitive facilities without shade, and are restrained on short leathers. At the point of slaughter, animals are often struck and beaten to make them enter the slaughter facilities.

Abattoirs should be equipped with the facilities required for the correct application of animal welfare standards, including unloading facilities, slaughtering boxes, and well-trained personnel to correctly implement correct Halal slaughter.

Many Muslims and Islamic religious leaders are not aware of the cruelty that is routinely inflicted on animals at pre-slaughter and slaughter in many Islamic countries. There is an urgent need to sensitise all Muslims to the teachings on animal welfare in the Qur'an and the Hadiths. This needs to be done by intervention at the highest level by Religious bodies and organisations, which could be most effective in giving rulings (fatwas) on this issue. As recommended by the OIE, National Veterinary Services and Religious Authorities should enter into dialogue with the objective of raising awareness of the importance of animal welfare and the need to reduce animal suffering globally.

Keywords: Animal welfare – Islam – OIE – Slaughter.



KILLING FOR DISEASE CONTROL

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Aims/Objectives:

Killing for disease control has had a prominent impact on farmed animal welfare over the past few years. This talk aims to provide an overview of the key elements relevant for humane and effective killing whilst meeting the disease control and biosecurity needs, latest advances and potential gaps.

Discussion/Conclusions:

The objective of killing for disease control is to rapidly remove infected animals and animals at a high risk of infection to prevent disease spread within the susceptible animal population. This generally involves the need to kill humanely very large numbers of animals in a very short time scale, especially for highly infectious diseases like FMD. Animal welfare is an integral part of killing for disease control and this is reflected in both the OIE *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 7.6, 'Killing for disease control' and the new European Regulation 1099/2009. The latter requires all EU Member States to report for depopulation operations the number and species killed, methods used, description of difficulties encountered and solutions to alleviate or minimise animal suffering as well as derogations from the routine welfare at killing requirements.

To achieve rapid and humane killing a contingency plan is required. This should cover not only practical elements such as the behaviour of the animals, equipment, methods or logistics but also engagement with stakeholders and training of involved personnel to ensure that those culling animals and supervising the cull have the right competencies.

For some species new methods of killing have been developed whilst for others efficient use of traditional methods remains key. Although considerable progress has been done in livestock and birds, there is still room for improvement in other species such as fish.

In summary welfare at killing should be an integral part of contingency plans for disease control in every country, ensuring that all infected animals and those at high risk of infection are culled in the most humane available way, taking into account timeliness, logistics and available resources.

Keywords: Contingency plan – Culling – Killing for disease control – OIE animal welfare standards.

Progress in implementing the OIE Standards
– Stakeholder perspectives and experiences
SESSION-2

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP AS A MEANS TO ENHANCE ANIMAL WELFARE GLOBALLY

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Jean Vignal⁴, Ann Wilkinson⁵

1- Cargill, Minneapolis, MN, USA

2- McDonalds, Oak Brook, IL, USA

3- Keystone Foods, Paris, France

4- Nestle, Vevey, Switzerland

5- Pfizer Animal Health, West Ryde, Australia

Managing complex food systems is a responsibility shared amongst relevant stakeholders, governments, and intergovernmental organizations to ensure consumer confidence, affordability and food security.

Food safety, animal health, animal welfare and plant protection are critical aspects of food production. Animal welfare stands alone in that it is not formally recognized under the WTO SPS agreement, although it is within the scope of the WTO Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade.

In 2004, the first standards were included in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, i.e. the Guiding Principles on Animal Welfare. Private certification schemes were already in existence at this time.

Three years later, the OIE signed an official Agreement with SSAFE (Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere), a not-for-profit organization whose vision is the integration of food safety, animal health, and plant health across the supply chain in order to improve public health and well-being. This Agreement provides a formal framework for dialogue and collaboration between OIE and the private sector, represented primarily by entities in the food and animal feed supply chain. One area of common interest between SSAFE and OIE is the alignment of the private certification schemes with public (official) standards, to leverage the scientific evidence-based nature of the official public standards, the transparent process of their development and consensus based mechanism for adoption.

In the field of animal welfare, specifically, in addition to the harmonization of standards and certification schemes, SSAFE is aligned with OIE in two critical areas, i.e.: the focus on outcome based standards to allow for flexibility; and the development of scientifically derived standards for global implementation. Therefore, SSAFE supports the development of ISO Technical Specifications on Animal Welfare as this will promote the OIE standards on Animal Welfare globally by providing farmers, manufacturers, and retailers with a single set of specifications and drive implementation in a consistent manner.

Keywords: Animal welfare – OIE – SSAFE – Standards.

SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

David Fraser

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The approach to animal welfare taken by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) builds on a half-century of scientific research designed to promote the welfare, health and productivity of animals. The research has led to ten principles for the welfare of animals in production systems:

1. Genetic selection should take account of the health and welfare of animals, and breeds should be introduced only into environments to which they are suited.
2. The physical environment and substrate should be suited to the species and minimise risk of injury or transmission of diseases or parasites.
3. The physical environment should allow comfortable resting, safe and comfortable movement including normal postural changes, and the opportunity to perform types of natural behaviour that animals are motivated to perform.
4. Social groupings should be managed to allow positive social behaviour and minimise injury, distress and chronic fear.
5. Air quality, temperature and humidity in confined spaces should support good animal health and not be aversive to animals, and animals in extreme conditions should not be prevented from using their natural methods of thermo-regulation.
6. Animals should have sufficient suitable feed and water to maintain normal health and productivity and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration.
7. Diseases and parasites should be prevented and controlled through good management practices, and animals with serious health problems should be isolated and treated promptly or killed humanely.
8. Where painful procedures cannot be avoided, the resulting pain should be managed to the extent that available methods allow.
9. The handling of animals should foster a positive relationship between humans and animals and not cause injury, panic, lasting fear or avoidable stress.
10. Owners and handlers should have sufficient skill and knowledge to ensure that animals are treated in accordance with these principles.

The presentation will briefly review the science behind the principles.

Keywords: Animal welfare – OIE – Production systems – Science.

Progress in implementing the OIE Standards
– Stakeholder perspectives and experiences

SESSION-2

ANIMAL WELFARE – THE IMPORTANCE OF VETERINARY LEGISLATION AND THE ROLE OF THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

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Animal welfare as an issue to be addressed by the OIE was formally introduced into the OIE third strategic plan (2001–05). To date (2012), several standards have been adopted in the OIE *Terrestrial* and *Aquatic Codes* and the OIE has published guidance documents on animal welfare related topics. Notwithstanding this progress, the fact that OIE Member Countries need more support in implementing the OIE's animal welfare standards has been recognised and is one of the themes of this conference.

As part of the OIE PVS Pathway for Good Governance, and noting that veterinary legislation is a key element of the national veterinary infrastructure, the OIE implemented a global initiative for strengthening veterinary legislation: the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP). Under this programme, and at the request of OIE Member Countries that wish to follow the PVS Pathway, OIE trained experts conduct missions to identify gaps and needs relating to the national veterinary legislation.

The OIE Guidelines on Veterinary Legislation were developed in 2009 to provide Members with a framework for drafting legislation of acceptable quality, which would give the Veterinary Services of Member Countries a clear legal framework for their activities. In May of 2012, the World Assembly of OIE Delegates approved a new Chapter 3.4, Veterinary Legislation, for the *Terrestrial Code* which now replaces the OIE Guidelines as the framework for drafting legislation. When drafting veterinary legislation on the topic of animal welfare, Members have the opportunity to address the OIE standards in the context of their own particular social, economic, legal and cultural norms. Legislation on animal welfare must accommodate the uses of animals by society while at the same time ensuring that animals are treated humanely.

Society recognises the important role of veterinarians, based on their training and professional activities, in relation to both animal health and welfare. Additionally, the OIE continues to highlight the responsibility of the veterinary profession for improving animal health and welfare globally. At the national level, the veterinary profession must be actively involved both in the implementation and enforcement of laws on animal welfare and also in drafting these laws. Veterinary involvement is required to ensure that provisions relating to animal welfare are founded on scientific principles, not on emotional considerations.

Part one of this presentation briefly reviews the VLSP approach and presents some general observations on findings relevant to animal welfare. Comments on the legislative framework for the veterinary profession, with reference to activities relating to animal welfare, are presented in part two.

Keywords: OIE animal welfare standards – Veterinary legislation.

ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE VETERINARY CURRICULUM

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Veterinarians are expected to be leaders in animal welfare but have not achieved this goal because of various conflicts, including the need to balance patient and client needs, the realities of managing financially sustainable veterinary practices, and the need for efficiency in operating national veterinary services. There is increasing societal interest globally in how animals are used by humans and the OIE has, in recent years, emphasized the importance of veterinarians as leading advocates of animal welfare. With this responsibility comes the need for competency in disciplines relevant to animal welfare, which must be adequately addressed in the veterinary curriculum. While the discipline of animal welfare is not absent from veterinary curricula, historically, it has not been emphasized. It is apparent that animal welfare instruction at veterinary colleges is currently insufficient, unsystematic, and disconnected in its delivery. Recent surveys conducted by the FVE in Europe and by the AAVMC and AVMA in North America have indicated great variability in the amount and type of animal welfare content within curricula, which may include instruction on topics such as ethics, legislation, professional responsibilities, behaviour, welfare assessment, recognition and management of pain and distress, and euthanasia. Presentation of information varies significantly as well, with varied delivery methods and timing ranging from basic review of legislation in junior years of the program to more interactive, applied, and integrated approaches used throughout the curriculum. It is increasingly clear that for animal welfare to become firmly ingrained in the minds of young veterinary professionals it must be based on science, presented in an integrated context and in a manner that promotes situational cognition. To address this deficit, model animal welfare curriculum projects have recently been undertaken by the AAVMC and AVMA in North America and the FVE in Europe. The harmonised goal of these projects is to enhance veterinary competency, skills, and leadership in animal welfare. The development by the OIE of recommendations on the minimum competencies required of graduating veterinarians ('Day 1 graduates') in order to contribute to efficient veterinary services (both public and private sector) is welcomed. The OIE's initiatives in the field of veterinary education can provide valuable support to Member Countries and, hopefully, a basis for harmonisation of approaches to veterinary education globally.

Keywords: Model curriculum – OIE animal welfare standards – Veterinary education.

CONTINUING TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF GRADUATE VETERINARIANS IN ANIMAL WELFARE

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Training, through updating skills as well as gaining new knowledge and skills, allows scientists and technicians to be more efficient in their daily work and contributes to improving the health and welfare of animals and the quality of their products. Since 2004, Uruguay has been conducting training for various actors in the meat production chain, including veterinarians, through Continued Education Programs of the Veterinary Faculty (PECFV) and as a 'deliverable' of the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare of the Americas.

National and international experts participate in the courses. Topics addressed include good livestock management practices at the farm and during transport and slaughter, including an appreciation for the animal's natural behaviour and welfare, and the OIE animal standards. The objective of the present study was to collect feedback from those who had received such training, including comments on their willingness to continue receiving information and training.

A short questionnaire was sent by email to 250 veterinarians listed on the PECFV database as having done at least one animal welfare-related activity. The questionnaire sought information on the number of courses taken, the field of work, the relevance of the information provided and the importance given to the subject. Of the 250 veterinarians surveyed, 112 (45%) answered the questionnaire. The results of the survey are presented in this paper.

These results highlight the importance afforded by Uruguay to improving knowledge on animal welfare and the need for the veterinary profession to receive continuing education.

Keywords: Animal welfare – Continuing education – OIE.

THE OIE PVS PATHWAY

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Aims/Objectives:

The OIE capacity building activities aim to support the Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services (AAHS) in their efforts to implement the OIE international standards as set out in the OIE *Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes* (the *Codes*) respectively. These activities include conferences and workshops conducted at global, regional and sometimes national levels. The most important global capacity building initiative of the OIE is the PVS Pathway for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, and AAHS, for compliance with the quality standards set out in the *Codes*. The PVS Pathway comprises the following steps:

- The 'diagnosis step'. The initial country PVS evaluation is a qualitative assessment of the compliance of Veterinary Services (or AAHS) with the standards in the *Codes*, using the OIE PVS Tool. The PVS Tool contains specific critical competencies relating to the capacity of these services to develop and implement relevant OIE standards.

- The 'prescription step'. A PVS Gap Analysis mission is a quantitative evaluation of a country's needs and priorities based on the outcome of the independent external evaluation of the country's Veterinary Services using the OIE PVS Tool. It facilitates the definition of a country's Veterinary Services' objectives in terms of compliance with OIE quality standards, suitably adapted to national constraints and priorities; defines the activities to be carried out; and determine the human, physical and financial resources needed to achieve the expected results within 5 years.

- The 'treatment step'. Based on the results of the PVS Evaluation missions conducted to date, the OIE has identified transversal capacities that would need to be strengthened in Member Countries to improve their compliance with OIE standards. In order to address this and, at the request of Members, the OIE is developing specific programmes for veterinary legislation, public/private partnership, veterinary education, veterinary statutory bodies and laboratories.

- Regular country PVS Pathway Follow-up missions (every 2 to 5 years) are useful to assess, monitor and accompany progress made (change in legislation, structure, impact of national and international investments, technical capacities improved, etc.) in sustainably improving their compliance with the OIE quality standards.

Considering the growing importance of aquaculture to provide high quality protein and help combat poverty, in 2012 the OIE will convene an expert *ad hoc* Group with the objective of refining the PVS Tool to better reflect the specificities of national Aquatic Animal Health Services, including their capacity to deliver effective health programs for aquatic animals.

Since the inception of the OIE PVS Pathway in 2006, the OIE has completed more than 110 PVS evaluations and more than 50 PVS Gap Analysis missions. The OIE continues to review the international standards of quality for Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, with appropriate updating of the *Codes* and the PVS Tool.

Keywords: OIE – PVS Pathway – Standards.

WORK OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIONS SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OIE STANDARDS ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Luis Barcos

OIE Regional Representative for the Americas

The OIE maintains five Regional Representations which aim to provide regionally adapted services to OIE Members. Capacity building activities to support member country Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services implement OIE standards are a key part of the service provided by the Regional Representations.

To achieve these goals, the OIE Regional Representations host conferences, and training activities with OIE Collaborating Centers; and support PVS missions. Seminars for National Focal Points are also conducted every two years in each region to update progress with the OIE work program on animal welfare. Ongoing communication and networking within the regions is also facilitated by the Regional Representations.

Since the OIE started to develop standards on Animal Welfare, the American countries have been actively involved in the process. Our regional engagement in standard development is essential to ensure our societal, cultural and economic values along with local production systems are taken into account.

Under the coordination of the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas, the American Regional Committee for Animal Welfare, developed an Animal Welfare Strategy, based on the successful model of the Asia Far East and Oceania Region.

This Strategy aims to provide OIE Members with general guidance to sustainably improve animal welfare through implementation of OIE animal welfare standards. Education, training, research, coordination, and communication are critical to successful implementation of our regional animal welfare strategy.

The five goals of the strategy are:

1. Ensure, through a coordinated regional approach, the implementation of the OIE Standards on Animal welfare.
2. Disseminate and promote the concept of animal welfare in the region through effective coordination, communication, education and capacity building.
3. Sustainable improvements in animal welfare, based on the development of regional and international research.
4. Develop sustainable mechanisms to coordinate and promote programs for animal welfare according to regional priorities.
5. Develop partnerships with stakeholders so as to facilitate the implementation of OIE standards.

Keywords: Animal welfare – OIE – Regional representations – Standards – Strategy.