

## Highlights of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Animal Welfare Activities 2006-2007

### Summary

- OIE supported in principle the “Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare” proposed by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). The Universal Declaration calls on countries to acknowledge the importance of animal welfare. The resolution, proposed by WSPA, was modified to add language which recognizes the OIE as the science-based organization with the mandate of establishing standards on animal welfare.
- OIE signed an agreement with WSPA stressing increased collaboration between WSPA and OIE
- WSPA has been a permanent member of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare
- OIE signed an agreement with the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) stressing increased collaboration between ICLAS and OIE
- Industry representatives were added to the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare. Three organizations will rotate as voting members of the Working Group. The organizations are the International Meat Secretariat, International Dairy Federation, and International Federation of Agricultural Producers. The two non-voting associations will attend the meetings as observers.
- The OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare:
  - Continues to expand the database of animal welfare experts. This is being developed by Ed Pajor who is on sabbatical to OIE from Purdue.
  - Continued to work to refine the four guidelines that were adopted in 2005
  - Continued its involvement in educational activities to introduce the concepts and principles of animal welfare in colleges of veterinary medicine and through the regional commissions of OIE
  - Engaged in new areas of activity, including:
    - Development of draft standards for the control of stray dogs (for rabies control)
    - Developed a scoping paper on harvesting and culling of wildlife
    - Developed a scoping paper on farm animal housing and production
  - Approved the proposal to organize a second Global Conference on Animal Welfare to be held in Cairo, Egypt in October 2008. The proposed title of the conference is: “Putting the OIE Standards to Work: Towards the Implementation of OIE Animal Welfare Standards”.
  - Continued with the monitoring of the EU Welfare Quality Project
  - Supported the work of the OIE Collaborating Centers on Animal Welfare;
    - The collaborating center in Terramo, Italy; and
    - The recently approved collaborating center on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis in Massey, New Zealand.

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## **Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (AKA Terrestrial Code Commission) Report from October 2006 meeting**

### **Animal welfare**

After considering many Member Countries' concerns about the definition of "animal handler", including the proposed requirement of certification of competency, the Terrestrial Code Commission modified the text in the general definitions. The Terrestrial Code Commission supported the principle that animal handlers should be experienced and knowledgeable and that Veterinary Services should have a role in ensuring that competent people work as animal handlers, but considered that it is the responsibility of Member Countries to determine how the competence of animal handlers should be demonstrated. Also, the Terrestrial Code Commission was of the view that formal certification systems for animal handlers may not be practical or feasible for many Member Countries at this time. Consequently, the recommendation by the Working Group on Animal Welfare for the certification of competence of animal handlers was not adopted. The modified definition adopted by the Terrestrial Code Commission appears in General Definitions (Chapter 1.1.1.) and, to facilitate consultation with Member Countries, in the relevant Guidelines. Once adopted the definition would be removed from the Guidelines.

#### **a) Guidelines for the transport of animals by sea and land (Appendices 3.7.2. and 3.7.3.)**

The Terrestrial Code Commission examined the comments of countries and the work done by the Animal Welfare Working Group to refine the draft guidelines for the transport of animals by sea and land including substantial modification to the presentation. The Terrestrial Code Commission noted a recommendation from a Member Country to develop more specific guidance on the transport of poultry and agreed that such work could be undertaken in future. However, this would depend on the priority afforded to other tasks currently before the OIE and the availability of resources to carry out the high priority work items.

The revised Appendices were circulated among Member Countries for comment.

#### **b) Report of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare**

The Terrestrial Code Commission noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Welfare, including some outstanding work in the guidelines on animal slaughter and killing for disease control purposes. The Terrestrial Code Commission endorsed the priorities identified by the Working Group including on the development of guidelines on the humane management of stray dogs, the use of laboratory animals in research and on animal production, housing and management. The report of the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Animal Welfare is presented at Appendix XXVII for information.

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## **Terrestrial Code Commission Report from March 2007 meeting**

### **Animal Welfare**

Dr S. Kahn and Dr L. Stuardo reported to the Terrestrial Code Commission on the OIE's work on animal welfare. The Terrestrial Code Commission examined comments from Member Countries (Australia, Argentina, EU, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and USA), and industry (Animal Agriculture Coalition and Animal Agriculture Alliance) and non-governmental organisations (PETA) on the four *Terrestrial Code* appendices on animal welfare. The Terrestrial Code Commission acknowledged the quality and relevance of these comments.

The Terrestrial Code Commission was informed about plans to hold a 2nd Global Conference on Animal Welfare, which is proposed to take place in Cairo (Egypt) in the second half of October 2008. The theme for the Conference will be 'Towards the Implementation of OIE International Animal Welfare Guidelines'.

#### **a) Guidelines for the transport of animals by sea and land (Appendices 3.7.2. and 3.7.3.)**

The Terrestrial Code Commission examined the comments of countries. The Terrestrial Code Commission noted a recommendation from a Member Country to develop more specific guidance on the transport of poultry and agreed that such work should be undertaken in future by the Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group (PAWWG).

The revised *Terrestrial Code* Appendices were presented to Member Countries for adoption.

#### **b) Guidelines for the slaughter of animals and for the killing of animals for disease control purposes (Appendices 3.7.5. and 3.7.6.)**

The Terrestrial Code Commission examined the comments made by the Expert Electronic Consultation Group convened to analyse Member Countries' comments submitted to the Commission meeting in October 2006. The Terrestrial Code Commission thanked the members of this Group for their valuable contribution.

The revised *Terrestrial Code* Appendices were presented to Member Countries for adoption.

#### **c) Development of new standards**

- **Dog Population Control**

The Terrestrial Code Commission noted the report of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Dog Population Control which is presented at Appendix LII in Part C of this report for Member Countries' information. The Terrestrial Code Commission considered that further work should be done and referred the report to the PAWWG with a request that the Working Group work to finalise the Guidelines as a matter of top priority. The Terrestrial Code Commission also received a copy of the Executive Summary of Member Country replies to the OIE Questionnaire on Dog Population Control. The Terrestrial Code Commission thanks the Member Countries who answered this questionnaire.

The Executive Summary of Member Country replies to the OIE Questionnaire is attached to this Report (Appendix LIII in Part C of this report) for Member Countries' information, while the draft Guidelines on stray dog population control are attached (Note: These are not attached but were distributed separately to AVMA entities for comment) for Member Countries' comments.

- **Welfare of wild animals**

The Terrestrial Code Commission noted the discussion paper prepared by the PAWWG and asked that the PAWWG consider undertaking work on the issue of wildlife welfare.

- **Laboratory Animal Welfare**

The Terrestrial Code Commission noted a Discussion Paper on Laboratory Animal Welfare drafted by the PAWWG (Appendix LIV in Part C of this report) and agreed with the recommendations in the paper. The Terrestrial Code Commission recommended that the PAWWG start developing Guidelines relevant to laboratory animals.

- **Livestock production/housing systems**

The Terrestrial Code Commission noted a discussion paper on Welfare Guidelines for Livestock Production Systems (Note: These are not attached but were distributed separately to AVMA entities for comment) and agreed with the recommendations in the paper. The Terrestrial Code Commission recommended that the PAWWG start developing Guidelines relevant to livestock production systems.

**d) PAWWG strategic issues**

The Terrestrial Code Commission noted two other discussion papers prepared by the PAWWG. The Terrestrial Code Commission noted the Paper on the Implementation of OIE Animal Welfare Standards and agreed that more needs to be done to raise awareness of the animal welfare guidelines and to support Veterinary Services in adopting them within their countries. However, the Terrestrial Code Commission does not agree that the OIE should undertake an enforcement or policing role in regard to the status of implementation within individual Member Countries.

The Terrestrial Code Commission agreed with the proposed terms of reference for the PAWWG, as proposed in the second paper. These will be referred to the OIE Central Bureau for identification of an appropriate means to finalize these and make them available for information of Member Countries.

The Terrestrial Code Commission appreciated the work of the PAWWG in developing proposals for a strategic planning exercise (SWOT analysis; Member Country Questionnaire) but did not support these recommendations. Rather, the Terrestrial Code Commission recommended that the PAWWG undertake closer involvement in the work of *ad hoc* Groups. In particular, timely finalization of the outstanding work of the *ad hoc* Group on the Control of Stray Dog Populations is a top priority.

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## **REPORT OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE**

**Paris, 4-6 July 2006**

The OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare held its fifth meeting at the OIE Headquarters in Paris on 4-6 July 2006.

The members of the Working Group and other participants are listed in Appendix A. The Agenda adopted is given in Appendix B. Dr D. Bayvel chaired the meeting. On behalf of Dr B. Vallat, Director General of the OIE, Dr A. Thiermann welcomed the members of the Working Group and thanked them for agreeing to continue their work on this important mandate of the OIE.

Dr Thiermann advised that one expert from the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare in Teramo (Italy), as well as three industry experts (from the International Dairy Federation [IDF], the International Meat Secretariat [IMS] and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers [IFAP]) had been invited to participate in the meeting on the second day. He also informed the Working Group that Dr Sarah Kahn would assume the post of Head of the International Trade Department as of 1 August, and due to that status she was attending this meeting.

### **1. OIE General Session 2006**

#### **a) Resolution on Animal Welfare**

Dr Bayvel provided feedback to the Working Group on his presentation to the International Committee at the 74th General Session in May, and confirmed that a copy of the Power Point Presentation, the Working Group annual report and the draft Resolution had been circulated for information to Working Group members.

The Working Group agreed that recommendations 3, 4 and 5 of the Resolution, which was approved unamended by the International Committee, were of particular strategic significance.

#### **b) International Declaration on Animal Welfare**

Dr Bayvel reported on the discussions held just prior to the General Session regarding a draft Resolution on the International Declaration on Animal Welfare. This Resolution had been endorsed by the Working Group and Administrative Commission but in the lead up to the General Session, concerns had been raised by some member countries. These concerns were raised again at the Administrative Commission meeting held before the start of the General Session. As a consequence of these concerns, it was decided not to proceed with the Resolution.

Dr D. Wilkins then reported on other activities regarding the global promotion of the International Declaration on Animal Welfare. A Resolution supporting the principle of a universal Declaration had been put before the June meeting of EU Agriculture Ministers

by the Czech Minister of Agriculture. This Resolution had been agreed unanimously by all 25 Member States.

Following discussion, Dr. Wilkins suggested that an Animal Welfare Resolution which could be put before next year's General Session, might include reference to basic animal welfare principles including animal sentience. Dr Wilkins reported that planning was under way to hold a Ministerial Conference in New York during 2007. There was optimism that many countries would agree to participate.

### **c) Updating of four chapters on terrestrial animal welfare**

Dr Thiermann reported to the Working Group that revisions on four chapters on animal welfare for terrestrial animals, together with a list of new definitions related to animal welfare, were adopted by the International Committee unamended, except for the definition of "animal handler" of which the second sentence was indicated as "under study" for further consideration of the Working Group.

### **d) Other issues**

Dr Bayvel also updated the Working Group on the following specific issues:

- i) Dr Vallat's confirmation at the General Session of the Working Group membership, which would continue unchanged
- ii) An "opportunistic meeting" at which certain Working Group members (Drs A. Gavinelli, Wilkins and Bayvel) met with Drs D. Wilson and J. Pinto during the General Session, with subsequent circulation of meeting minutes to all Working Group members
- iii) Farewell and expression of appreciation to Drs Wilson and Pinto
- iv) CIWF/WSPA presentations on long distance transport and avian influenza.

## **2. Revision of adopted standards**

The Working Group examined comments received on, and changes proposed to, the four terrestrial animal welfare standards that had been adopted at the 2006 General Session. Dr T. Ishibashi explained that most of the comments from Member Countries and international organisations had been received in February, prior to the March meeting of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission (the Terrestrial Code Commission). Comments of an editorial nature had been addressed by the Terrestrial Code Commission and reflected in the texts proposed and adopted at the 74th General Session, while comments of a technical nature remained in the working document for consideration by the Working Group.

The Working Group reviewed the outstanding comments and recommended that each one be addressed according to one of the following options:

- a) working to be reviewed and incorporated by the Central Bureau;

- b) Working Group to agree a consensus position;
- c) matter to be referred to relevant *ad hoc* Group.

The Working Group agreed that draft chapters reflecting comments classified under 1 or 2 above would be submitted to the Terrestrial Code Commission, while text containing comments classified in 3 above would be examined by the relevant *ad hoc* Group before being sent back to the Working Group for approval then forwarding to the Terrestrial Code Commission.

With respect to the “under study” status of the definition of “animal handler,” the Working Group reviewed comments from Member Countries as well as the discussion at the General Session, and considered that it might be necessary to define animal handlers according to two specific options, i.e. certified animal handler for high risk situations and animal handler for all other circumstances. The Working Group requested that the Central Bureau examine all references to “animal handler” in the chapters and advise on the appropriateness of adopting this risk-based distinction throughout.

The draft chapters with modifications recommended by the Working Group are at Appendices C-G. (Deleted)

The Working Group requested that the Central Bureau obtain material to update the figures in Article 3.7.5.7. to indicate the exact sites of stunning recommended in the Article.

For future distribution of documents among Working Group members, certain members confirmed their preference to receive the same in both hard and soft copy.

### **3. Development of the chapters on aquatic animal welfare**

Prof. T. Håstein briefed the Working Group on progress with the draft documents “Introduction to OIE guidelines for the welfare of aquatic animals,” “Guidelines for the transport of fish by boat,” “Guidelines for the land transport of fish,” “Guidelines on slaughter of farmed fish for human consumption,” and “Guidelines for the humane killing of fish for disease control purposes.”

The drafts had been slightly amended after the Working Group meeting in September 2005 and the updates were presented to the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission (the Aquatic Animal Commission) in March 2006. The Aquatic Animal Commission acknowledged the work and made a few amendments, and the drafts were sent to Member Countries for comments with a deadline of 10 September 2006.

Prof. Hastein noted that no final decision had been taken to establish an *ad hoc* group on Aquatic Production Standards as referred to in the 2006 Work Programme.

In addition to these drafts, species specific articles on land transport of *Channel Catfish* and *Cyprinids* and a species specific draft on *Salmonids* are being developed.

The Working Group discussed what further work is needed on the drafts in order to seek approval at the General Session 2007 and acknowledged the progress made to date.

It was also noted that a draft on air transport of ornamental fish was planned: discussions would be carried out with experts in that field.

#### **4. Comments from non-OIE Delegate sources**

The Working Group discussed the best way to address comments received from non-OIE Delegates, such as animal welfare NGOs and industry organisations. It was confirmed that the formal policy position is available on the OIE website ([http://www.oie.int/tahsc/eng/transparency%20\\_eng.pdf](http://www.oie.int/tahsc/eng/transparency%20_eng.pdf)).

It was noted that the OIE Central Bureau is receiving an ever-increasing volume of international correspondence on animal welfare issues. It was agreed that Working Group members would forward directly to the Central Bureau any such items they may receive. Working Group members also confirmed their availability to prepare responses on specific regional issues or on issues where they possess particular experience or expertise.

#### **5. 2006-2007 Animal Welfare Working Group Work Plan**

It was agreed that Dr Bayvel would prepare a first draft of the 2007 Work Plan by November 2006 for comment by Working Group members and Central Bureau staff. The OIE International Trade Department will prepare a complementary Central Bureau Work Plan by December 2006. The practice of using two monthly teleconferences to monitor Work Plan implementation will continue, involving Drs Kahn, Bayvel, Thiermann and Ishibashi.

#### **6. Actions on other issues raised at the meeting in September 2005**

It was agreed that Dr Wilkins will prepare a one-page position paper to support his proposal that OIE develop overarching ethical principles for specific animal welfare issues, e.g. whether, as a matter of principle, animals should be slaughtered as near as possible to the point of production. The position paper will be circulated to Working Group members for consideration and comment. If the Working Group reaches consensus, Dr Thiermann will raise the issue at the next meeting of the Administrative Commission. Otherwise, it will be discussed again at the next Working Group meeting.

Drs Wilkins and Gavinelli will prepare, by mid October, an “issues and options discussion paper” regarding the promulgation and implementation of OIE Guidelines. It was envisaged that Regional Commissions could play an important role in this regard.

#### **7. Working Group Terms of Reference and Strategy Development**

The paper entitled “Issues and Options Regarding Role Clarity and Strategic Direction” was discussed and it was agreed to develop recommendations for consideration by the Director General based on the experience gained by the Working Group. The following actions were agreed:

- a) All Working Group members to pass comments to Dr Bayvel by end August,
- b) Dr Bayvel to prepare a revised 'recommendations document' by end September,
- c) Drs Thiermann and Kahn to discuss an agreed version of this document with the Director General by end November.

### **8. Outcome-based versus prescriptive standards**

The Working Group considered country recommendations and discussed how to improve the incorporation of outcome-based recommendations rather than prescriptive standards wherever relevant. Difficulties in choosing between outcome based and prescriptive standards were discussed and it was agreed that outcome-based recommendations are not always the best approach. In cases where prescriptive standards are chosen, it was decided to include an explanation of how the standard could achieve the desired outcome, to provide for consideration of equivalent approaches.

### **9. Animal production/housing and management**

Prof. D. Fraser provided background on this issue and on the Discussion Paper entitled "Terrestrial animal welfare – housing/production systems" by Profs H. Aidaros and Fraser. He noted that this will be a challenging area because it includes economic, cultural and political dimensions and a large body of scientific literature.

The interpretation of scientific information has in some cases created difficulties because various standard-setting organizations have tended to emphasize different criteria for animal welfare. For example, criteria can relate to freedom from pain and distress, the maintenance of basic health, or the ability to live in a "natural" manner. Proponents of certain standards generally claim that their standards are science-based, but because the standards vary, critics may question the interpretation of the science or the involvement of non-scientific considerations. Moreover, there is as yet no basic agreement on whether animal welfare standards should be based on criteria relating to the animal (e.g. survival rate, disease status) or design of the production/management unit (e.g. size of pen).

The Working Group agreed to recommend that the Director General begin by creating an *ad hoc* Group to develop a guidance document that would provide background on relevant issues (including those mentioned above) and suggest a framework for the development of animal production/management guidelines.

The *ad hoc* Group should include scientists experienced in developing animal welfare standards for various species and regulators experienced in the implementation of standards. Membership should be broadly representative of regions and should include representatives of less developed countries.

The *ad hoc* Group should report on the following:

- a) appropriate goals (generic standards) that should be followed in OIE production/management guidelines
- b) the advantages and disadvantages of animal-based and design-based criteria
- c) how to ensure that the process is relevant to all OIE Member Countries
- d) the relationship between animal welfare standards and animal health
- e) a strategy to follow in future, including whether to approach the development of guidelines on the basis of species (e.g. chickens) or production system (e.g. cage systems for laying hens)
- f) areas for priority attention (i.e. species and production system) and a process for undertaking this work.

As a general approach, the Working Group recommends that the development of guidelines and standards begin, in all cases, with a review of the scientific literature and a clear statement of the generic guiding principles.

Upon Dr Vallat joining the meeting, Prof. Fraser outlined the conceptual approach taken by himself and Prof. Aidaros in drafting the discussion paper considered by the group earlier in the meeting. Dr Vallat confirmed his support for the careful and considered approach being adopted and emphasized the following points :

- g) That OIE membership includes around 120 developing or transition countries
- h) That animal protection rather than animal welfare promotion is, at this juncture, the strategic priority in many of those countries
- i) That extensive farming, without housing, is the norm in many countries for the most economically important species
- j) That the linkage between health and welfare should be stressed in any future Working Group deliberations
- k) That the composition of any future *ad hoc* Group should include a balance of scientific expertise and the experience and perspective of regulators, including veterinary managers with field experience.

It was agreed that Profs Fraser and Aidaros would produce a revised version of the discussion paper, which was likely to recommend the establishment of an *ad hoc* Group to prepare an initial guidance document.

## **10. Wildlife and zoo animal welfare**

Dr Wilkins reported that the planned discussion paper on welfare in wildlife would be prepared by Dr S.A. Rahman, Dr W. Masiga and himself for consideration at the next meeting of the Working Group.

### **11. Laboratory Animal Welfare: OIE/ICLAS meeting**

Dr Bayvel summarised the sequence of events and dialogue with ICLAS and the Central Bureau leading up to the dispatch of the joint invitation letter on 1 July 2006. It was agreed that the OIE Central Bureau is also to be represented at this meeting by Dr Kahn and that the European Community would be represented by either Dr Gavinelli or a US-based representative.

### **12. Stray animal control**

Dr Rahman, the Chairman of the *ad hoc* Group on stray animal control, gave a brief report on the outcome of the *ad hoc* Group meeting held on 10-12 May 2006. Dr Rahman expressed some misgivings regarding input from some members and differences in the terms of reference between what was agreed at the Working Group meeting in September 2005 and what was presented to the *ad hoc* Group. Dr Rahman also mentioned that the *ad hoc* Group's expertise focused more on philosophical rather than on practical considerations and because of this the consideration of practical issues associated with stray dog control and zoonotic diseases, especially rabies, was compromised. He also noted that the absence of Dr A. Wandeler (WHO zoonosis expert) from the meeting and his subsequent lack of response to all electronic mails contributed to this imbalance.

The Working Group discussed the report of Dr Rahman and the following recommendations were made:

- a) Report of the *ad hoc* Group to be reviewed and modified by Dr Rahman, Prof. Aidaros and Dr Wilkins
- b) The terms of reference be modified to concentrate on dog population control programmes and not control of all stray animals
- c) The membership of the *ad hoc* Group be modified to include:
  - a) An expert in zoonotic diseases, in particular rabies, be identified and invited as a member
  - b) A public sector veterinarian from a country with experience in controlling a significant canine rabies problem be identified and invited as a member
  - c) Dr P. Dalla Villa be invited as a member
  - d) Dr Rahman to continue as Chairman
  - e) Dr E. Hiby to be retained as an animal welfare expert.

When Dr Vallat joined the meeting, Dr Wilkins reviewed a number of key issues which influenced the outcome of the May meeting of the *ad hoc* Group. It was agreed that Dr Wilkins, Dr Rahman and Prof. Aidaros would review and modify the *ad hoc* Group report and that the Central Bureau would reconstitute the *ad hoc* Group.

Dr Vallat supported this approach and recommended the inclusion of veterinarians with practical regulatory experience in the control of stray dogs and canine rabies. With around 50,000 people dying of rabies, world-wide each year from dog-transmitted rabies, he said that this work and associated liaison with, and input from, the WHO was of the highest priority.

### **13. Draft guidelines for crustaceans**

Prof. Håstein presented draft guidelines for slaughter of crustaceans for human consumption and for the humane killing of crustaceans for disease control purposes, both of which had been circulated to Working Group members prior to the meeting. He informed the Working Group that these drafts had been discussed with Prof. D. Lightner (USA) and would be discussed at a meeting with lobster scientists and lobster handlers/producers in Canada in July 2006.

The Working Group discussed these drafts briefly. The Working Group considered the pros and cons of establishing an *ad hoc* Group to review these drafts. In the first instance it was of the view that a physical meeting might not be necessary.

It was agreed that Drs Kahn and Bayvel would discuss further the establishment of such an *ad hoc* group along with the proposed *ad hoc* group for aquatic animal production standards (Refer agenda item 3) and advise by end September. The Working Group acknowledged and supported the quality of the work done so far. It was agreed that comments from Working Group members on these drafts should be provided to Prof. Håstein within approximately one month. It was also noted that a draft report on transport of crustaceans is in progress.

### **14. EU Five-Year Action Plan**

A short presentation was given on the European Community Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2006-2010 (AWAP).

The scope of the AWAP is to cover all fields of animal protection as specified in the European Union Treaty, from the protection of animals used in experiments to the protection of farm animals. The action plan contains five main elements and provides a comprehensive map of the Commission's planned animal welfare initiatives in coming years.

The action plan focuses on specific actions to promote and maintain high animal welfare standards in the EU and raise awareness and implementation of animal welfare standards at the international level in particular, taking fully into account the OIE guidelines and their important role in relation to bilateral and multilateral veterinary and trade agreements.

Simplification and clarification of existing European legislation, incorporation of specific measurable farm indicators for animal welfare and the improvement of marketing and communication strategies are some of the main objectives of the Action Plan.

In order to better achieve these objectives the Commission will consider the outcomes of an EU wide research project, 'Welfare Quality'. Welfare Quality ([www.welfarequality.net](http://www.welfarequality.net)) is an EU funded project promoting the integration of animal welfare within the food quality chain. Research projects outside the EU may also be funded to reflect the importance of animal welfare internationally.

### **15. EU contribution to the OIE trust fund for the purpose of Animal Welfare training**

In March 2006 a letter was sent from Dr Jaana Husu Kallio, Deputy Director General of DG SANCO in the European Commission, to Dr Vallat, Director General of the OIE, announcing willingness to investigate the possibility of the European Community making a contribution of 200,000 Euros to the Animal Health and Welfare Fund. This contribution would facilitate the Fund's objectives of promoting training, especially with regard to the communication and application of the OIE's agreed Animal Welfare standards for animal slaughter.

The abovementioned letter highlights the importance of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare in Teramo playing an active role in developing training tools, in particular for countries that have experienced difficulties in implementing OIE Animal Welfare guidelines.

The Advisory Committee of the Fund consisting of the representatives of donors is scheduled in October. The Working Group will be kept informed of developments and consulted on the specifications related to the funding initiative in order to provide appropriate assistance to the Advisory Committee of the Fund.

### **16. Education resources in the area of Animal Welfare**

#### **a) Michigan State University E-Learning Course**

Dr Bayvel referred to a recent MSU request for assistance in promoting its OIE E-learning course, in which animal welfare is one of ten modules. It was agreed that Dr Bayvel would pass details of this request to Dr Kahn, who would in turn discuss it with the OIE Communications Dept and other Central Bureau colleagues.

#### **b) Letters regarding OIE support for animal welfare research and teaching.**

Dr Bayvel referred to letters drafted in 2003, but not yet finalized, to be dispatched over the signature of the Director General. It was agreed that Dr Bayvel would revise and update these draft letters for consideration and appropriate action by the Central Bureau.

#### **c) Sabbatical – Dr Ed Pajor, University of Purdue**

The proposal that Dr Pajor undertake a sabbatical in Paris, in early 2007, and assist with implementing Working Group proposals in relation to animal welfare and education was supported by the Working Group and, in principle, by the Director General. Prof. Fraser will liaise with Dr Kahn to firm up any outstanding administrative arrangements.

### **17. World Bank Group/International Finance Corporation and Animal Welfare**

Dr Gavinelli confirmed strong EC support for the work undertaken recently by the IFC and proposed that the OIE liaise further with the IFC to promote international awareness. Dr Vallat confirmed that a conference was planned for Washington in December 2006 at which it would be possible to include animal welfare and the IFC initiative on the agenda. It was agreed that Dr Gavinelli would liaise with Dr Kahn on this opportunity and that Dr Kahn would communicate with IFC to confirm possibilities for further World Bank/OIE collaboration.

### **18. International Training in Animal Welfare and Slaughter**

Dr Gavinelli provided an update on the purpose of this meeting, which will be held in Bristol on 26 – 29 September. It was agreed that Dr Gavinelli would liaise with Dr Kahn re appropriate Central Bureau staff involvement and proposed linkage with the OIE website.

### **19. 2004 Global Conference follow up**

Dr Gavinelli confirmed EC support for such a conference, which was also supported by the Director General. An indicative theme “Towards International Implementation of Animal Welfare Standards – Challenges and Opportunities” was discussed and it was agreed in principle to recommend that the conference be held outside Europe or North America to reflect the broad range of OIE Member Countries’ interests, experiences and needs in regard to animal welfare. 2008 was agreed to be a realistic time to hold the conference, to enable necessary planning activities to take place, and Cairo and Bangalore were suggested as two possible venues.

It was agreed that the planning modus operandi used for the successful 2004 conference would be repeated, with a steering committee comprising Profs Fraser and Aidaros and Drs Rahman, Wilkins, Gavinelli and Bayvel. Dr Bayvel will liaise with Dr Kahn, with a view to preparing a draft conference project plan by October 2006.

### **20. Regional Commission involvement**

Working Group members confirmed their interest in actively participating in Regional Commission meetings. This would generally assist with promoting awareness and adoption of guidelines and could specifically assist in promoting the update of educational activities such as the Bristol/WSPA “Concepts in Animal Welfare” programme. Such involvement was supported by the Director General and it was agreed that Dr Kahn would liaise with Central Bureau colleges and Working Group members, as appropriate.

### **21. SATRS 24(2) Promotion**

Dr Bayvel noted that initial sales of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Revue Series* publication “Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trend and Challenges” have been very good and he had been liaising with the OIE Publications Department regarding additional journal and conference promotional opportunities. It was agreed that the Publications Department (Ms. Annie Souyri) would liaise directly with Working Group members to identify additional regional marketing opportunities.

## **22. New OIE Collaborating Centres**

As per discussions at the 2005 Working Group meeting, and as per the 2006 work programme, it was agreed that Prof. Fraser, Dr Bayvel and the Central Bureau would review collaborating centre qualifying criteria to ensure that animal welfare is appropriately addressed and with a view to encouraging centres which meet the criteria to apply for OIE recognition. It was agreed that Prof. Fraser would prepare an initial review by end September.

## **23. Membership of Animal Welfare Working Group**

Dr Vallat confirmed the policies and process relating to Working Group membership. A number of options to address the most appropriate method of ongoing involvement of IFAP, IMS, IDF, Teramo and other international stakeholder groups (e.g. aquatic industry and laboratory animal science stakeholders) were discussed. It was agreed that Dr Vallat and Central Bureau staff would meet again with IFAP, IMS and IDF senior management and that the outcome of these discussions would be communicated to the Working Group by end 2006. This would ensure that a revised modus operandi was agreed for the next meeting of the Working Group in 2007.

## **24. Relationship with other organisations**

The relationships with other organisations worldwide has made possible the successful participation in relevant conferences and seminars, presenting the OIE modus operandi and raising awareness of OIE initiatives. Due to the increasing number of topics dealt by the Working Group and the foreseen increase in number of contacts related in particular to the new area of work on the protection of laboratory animals, the Working Group suggested that the OIE Central Bureau compile a list of the main organisations with world and regional importance that are already cooperating with the OIE, to be shared and updated by the members of the Working Group. This list for internal use could contribute to prioritizing the activities and the contribution to future initiatives where OIE participation will be demanded.

## **25. Animal Welfare Conference in Uruguay**

Dr Wilkins reported on negotiations for an animal welfare conference for MERCOSUR countries to be held in Uruguay in 2007. The European Commission and WSPA have agreed to support administratively and financially the Uruguayan initiative to hold an animal welfare conference. A meeting took place during the OIE General Session with the representatives of the Uruguay State Veterinary Service. Progress was made in ensuring that all interested parties in Uruguay were involved in the organisation. It was also decided that the programme should include presentations from other South American countries and the OIE.

## **26. Other business**

During her two months stay at the OIE Central Bureau, it was agreed that Ms Sonja Rosic-Banjanin, a stagiaire from Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, Canada, would support the Working Group in the following areas:

- a) Review of animal handler definition and certification requirements and necessary amendments to adopted guidelines based on the recommendations from the Working Group
- b) Letters regarding OIE support for animal welfare research and teaching
- c) *ad hoc* Group on Stray Animal Control
- d) Stakeholder database
- e) Support for the proposed 2008 conference steering committee is a further possible area of activity.

### **27. Next Meeting**

Working Group members confirmed that they would appreciate as early as possible advice on the date of the next meeting in 2007. Dr Thiermann suggested that an early September date was most likely. It was agreed that Dr Bayvel would liaise with Drs Thiermann and Kahn to ensure a date was agreed by end 2006. This timing would align with proposals on involvement of industry stakeholders in the Working Group. Working Group members also confirmed interest in receiving background documents at least two weeks prior to the meeting and that the agenda be structured to ensure that meeting effectiveness is not adversely influenced by the participation of multiple observers.

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## **REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON DOG POPULATION CONTROL**

**Paris, 29-30 November–1 December 2006**

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Dog Population Control (hereinafter referred to as the *ad hoc* Group) met at the OIE Headquarters from 29 November to 1 December 2006. The members of the *ad hoc* Group and other participants are listed at Appendix I. The Agenda adopted is given at Appendix II.

On behalf of the Director General, the Deputy Director General (Administration, Finances, Staff management) of the OIE, Dr. J.L. Angot, welcomed all members and thanked them for their interest in this important topic. He outlined how the OIE has carried out its mandate in animal welfare through its permanent Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG). Dr Angot also informed the *ad hoc* group on current animal welfare issues and the expectations of Member Countries. Dr. Angot noted that animal welfare issues associated with stray animal control are very complex and underlined the importance of this *ad hoc* Group producing guidelines on dog population control.

The Chair of the *ad hoc* Group, Dr Abdul Rahman, started the discussion with reconfirmation of the terms of reference that the AWWG endorsed. The terms of reference were adopted with some modification as presented in Appendix III. In further

discussion the group agreed that that Dr. A. Wandeler would produce a short report on the presentation made during the meeting to address the first point in the terms of reference (see Appendix IV).

The OIE Questionnaire on rabies and dog population control has been revised and sent to OIE Member Countries (see Appendix V). The deadline for response is 15 January 2007. Dr. Kahn informed the ad hoc group that it had been necessary to modify the Questionnaire to take account of work done by the Scientific Department in preparing for the OIE/WHO Conference for Rabies Control in Eurasia. The Questionnaire aims to collect information relevant to the second point of the terms of reference. Dr. P. Dalla Villa from the OIE Collaborating Center for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food Safety and Animal Welfare (Teramo) will analyse the replies and provide a report by 15 February based on the information obtained by the Questionnaire. Dr. Elly Hiby will circulate some references dealing with the assessment of existing stray dogs control programmes.

Dr. Wilkins requested that OIE consider sending the questionnaire to organizations other than the Veterinary Services. It was agreed that the official response would be that provided by the Veterinary Services. While it would be useful to obtain other contributions, Dr Kahn explained that the OIE would not normally circulate to other organisations directly but any of the ad hoc group members could bring additional material to the meeting and are encouraged to do this.

The *ad hoc* group has completed the work in the terms of reference i.e. the Identification of Animal Welfare issues , during its first meeting. Only one change was added by the *ad hoc* Group, this was a clarification that ‘clubbing’ is not generally considered an acceptable killing method. The finalised report on this issue is presented in Appendix VI. The definitions elaborated by the AHWG at the first meeting were revised and modified and included in the draft Guidelines (see Appendix VII).

The *ad hoc* Group drafted a document ‘Guidelines on Dog Population Control’ (see Appendix VII). This draft document needs additional work, which will be conducted electronically with the goal of circulating a revised draft among the Group members and sending a draft Guideline document to the AWWG and the Terrestrial Code Commission as early as possible in 2007.

Expanded text on certain topics covered in the Guidelines will be provided by members of *ad hoc* Group. Dr. E. Hiby will send a contribution on different tools for monitoring and evaluating dog population control programs.

Dr. E. Marcos will send a contribution regarding the influence of human behaviour and means of using education to support dog population control programs. Dr. D. Wilkins will prepare a contribution on how the veterinary services can work in partnership with Government Agencies and private organizations in the development, delivery and evaluation of dog population programmes.

The *ad hoc* Group elaborated a work programme for attention in the period following the meeting (see Appendix VIII).

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC GROUP ON DOG POPULATION CONTROL**

1. Identification of problems caused by stray dogs (zoonoses, environmental pollution, nuisance, behaviour, traffic accidents).
2. Assessment of existing substantial dog population control programmes.
3. Identification of Animal Welfare issues created by dog population control programmes.
4. Propose practical solutions to the animal welfare problems created by dog population control programme providing guidelines.

### **IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES**

The following were identified as major issues arising out of stray dog control programmes.

1. Inhumane methods of killing in the field (e.g. shooting and poisoning)
2. Improper dog handling and care
3. Inhumane methods of catching -
4. Unsuitable transport such as poorly designed vehicles and improper use
5. Improper loading and unloading
6. Poor holding facilities (shelter/re-homing centre/pound) -
7. Lack of euthanasia in the case of incurable animal suffering
8. Inhumane killing of captured dogs (e.g. clubbing/electrocution/gassing/drowning etc.)
9. Poor surgical techniques, pre-operative and post-operative -
10. Inappropriate Adoption/re-homing/reuniting to irresponsible owner or inappropriate home.
11. Release into inappropriate environment

### **OIE questionnaire on DOG POPULATION CONTROL**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

##### Background and objectives of findings

The questionnaire main objectives were to collect information relevant to the assessment of existing substantial dog population control programs within the OIE member countries and to suggest an OIE role in contributing to the activities related to dog population control, taking into account the different possible features of the problem. It also tried to identify topics for further studies and strategic plans that require attention and funding by national governments and donors.

It was needed to modify the original dog population control questionnaire considering the work done by the Scientific Department in preparing the OIE/WHO Conference on Rabies Control in Eurasia. The re-draft questionnaire was included to the rabies questionnaire as Annex and sent to all OIE Member Countries; official responses were provided by the State Veterinary Services.

The countries which returned a correctly filled questionnaire were 44:

*Albania Canada Italy Saudi Arabia Algeria Chile Lithuania Slovak Rep. Armenia  
Colombia Luxembourg Slovenia Australia Costa Rica Morocco Sri Lanka Austria Cyprus  
Mozambique Swaziland Azerbaijan Rep. Czech Rep. Nepal Switzerland Barbados  
Denmark Netherlands Taiwan Belarus France Norway Togo Belize Germany N.  
Caledonia United Kingdom Botswana Greece Philippines U.S.A. Brunei Israel Poland  
Zimbabwe*

*General  
information on the dog population*

*Stray dog control measures*

- 51% respondents declared that free roaming dogs are a problem, 29% that is a problem only in some areas and 20% that it is not a problem.
- Dog attacks/bites are reported in 66% of the responding countries and in some areas of the respondent countries, in 18% of the countries they are not reported, 5% of the responding countries answered don't know.
- Dog registration is compulsory in 22 of the responding countries, in 6 it is so only in some areas, in 17 it is not required at all. Data on compulsory dog identification are much consistent with the previous one.
- Dog population control measures are in place in 18 (33%) responding countries, in 11 (26%) they are used only in some areas, in 14 (33%) they are not in place.
- Dog population control program are mostly managed by municipalities (50%), and to a lesser extent at national or regional/district level.
- Fourteen countries declared some form of budget (actual or/and estimates figures) used in dog population control programs, 30 countries did not answered to the question (see table 2).
- Fifteen (34%) of respondents declared that it is official policy to kill/euthanize free-roaming dogs, 9 (20%) that it is official only in some areas, 20 (46%) that is not official. Injectable barbiturate and other injectable substances (phormol/air, T61, Ketamine overdose, Embutramidum, Potassium Chloride/anaesthesia) are the most widely used methods to kill/euthanize free roaming dogs. Gassing, electrocution, poisoned baits and other methods (shooting, penetrating captive bolt, inhalation anaesthesia) are also used.
- 69% of respondents declared that other control measures than killing/euthanasia are used: in particular, 30 respondents declared that surgical sterilization is in place and 9 respondents declared that pharmacological contraception is used as a control measure.
- Twenty-six countries provided some information regarding the number and capacity of dog shelters/pounds, 18 countries did not provide any data (see table 3).
- Twenty countries declared provided some information regarding dog adoption rate, 24 countries did not provide any data(see graph 27).

*Key conclusions and recommendations*

- The presence of owned and unowned free roaming dogs is a major problem in medium and small urban areas. The attitude of individual and public could contribute to the companion animal overpopulation problem.
- Dog bites and nuisance seem to be major problems related to the presence of free roaming animals, rabies and other diseases seems to be important to a lesser extent. Some

countries are concerned about the potential negative effects of inappropriate stray dog control strategy, seeking for advice, technical assistance and funding.

- The OIE could offer technical assistance through information, training and mentoring in order to promote the humane reduction of dogs' surplus and to prevent further overpopulation. This assistance should include sharing of knowledge, technology and management skills to help member countries working with local communities and scientists to develop and validate systems that are appropriate to local/national needs.
- These programs should be supported by reliable information, using statistical models based on: a) census data to determine the real size of dog population, b) the implementation of socioecological surveys, c) dog population dynamics studies. The OIE could also help to promote animal welfare standards and alternative approaches to the systematic killing of stray dogs (spay/neuter techniques, pharmacological contraception), supporting research on advanced methods of birth prevention (immune-contraception), and providing expertise in the development of sustainable and humane dog population control programmes with significant benefits to public health.
- Finally it will be essential to rise public awareness of the consequences of human attitudes towards animals and their quality of life. All relevant stakeholders (AW agencies, municipalities, Veterinary Services, non-governmental animal welfare organisations) should be engaged in the discussion. Systematic promotion of responsible ownership should be emphasized at individual, group, and societal level.

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**Laboratory Animal Welfare - Issues and Options**  
**Discussion Paper -OIE Permanent Animal Working Group Meeting No 4**  
**Teramo, Italy, 7 – 9 September 2005**

**Introduction:**

The use of animals in research, testing and teaching was discussed at the February, 2004 Global Conference on Animal Welfare as a possible future element of the OIE's strategic initiative on animal welfare. This led to a formal offer of international stakeholder support from Dr. Marilyn Brown and an invitation to speak at both the AALAS annual conference and the ICLAS International Committee meeting in October 2004. Laboratory animal welfare, was one of four priority strategic items identified on the December, 2004 meeting of the Permanent Animal Welfare Working Group. The Director-General emphasized the importance of the OIE's international network of reference laboratories and diagnostic centres and the role that laboratory animals play both in these centres and in the regulatory testing of veterinary medicinal and biological products conducted by OIE member countries.

Support for OIE involvement in laboratory animal welfare was received from the floor at the May, 2005 OIE General Session and a written offer of support has subsequently been received from the CVO of Norway. The opportunity was also taken to briefly discuss potential OIE involvement in this area, with staff from the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare in Teramo, at meetings in London and Paris in March and May, 2005 respectively.

Relevant review papers by Drs Clement Gauthier and Vera Baumanns will be published in the October 2005, OIE Scientific and Technical Review Series (SATRS) issue “Animal Welfare: Global Issues Trends and Challenges”. A number of key current international issues and trends are also addressed in the concluding paper of the SATRS publication.

This discussion paper provides some selected background information, identifies some key issues and roles and makes some recommendations for initial OIE involvement in this specialised and often controversial area of animal use.

### **Discussion**

The use of animals for scientific purposes is the subject of an extensive international literature, with a number of well established international organisations playing key roles in promoting humane science and good laboratory animal practice, in encouraging ethical debate, in countering the misinformation promulgated by “antivivisection” groups and in fostering the ethical principles of the three Rs of Russell and Burch.

Key organisations include:

- International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)
- American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)
- Canadian Council for Animal Care (CCAC)
- Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)
- Australian and New Zealand council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART)
- American College for Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM)
- European College for Laboratory Animal Medicine (ECLAM)
- European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM)
- US Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)
- Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experimentation (FRAME)
- Interniche
- Council of Europe ETS 123 Review
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Working Group on Experimental Animal Welfare
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Association (FELASA)
- Zentralstelle zur Erfassung und Bewertung von Ersatz- und Ergänzungsmethoden zum Tierversuch (ZEBET)

The Three Rs of Russell & Burch have provided an important ethical underpinning for the use of animals in science and research groups are established in Baltimore, Davis, Berlin, Utrecht and London to specifically promote the Three Rs and encourage relevant research.

The Five World Congresses on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, held from 1993 to 2005, have made a major contribution to international dialogue on this subject. These congresses are excellent examples of a forum where a range of viewpoints can be heard, within a framework of problem solving and trust. Regular updates are provided on the reduction, refinement and replacement of animal use in regulatory testing of veterinary biological products, in particular.

The issue of international harmonisation of the use of animals in regulatory testing is now being addressed by the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicine Products (VICH) programme. The VICH is an international forum to provide guidance on technical requirements for the registration of new veterinary medicinal products in order to protect public health and animal health and welfare, as well as the environment. VICH is a programme of collaboration primarily between the regulatory authorities and the animal health industry of the EU, Japan and the USA. Australia, New Zealand and Canada participate as active observer members, while the OIE participates as an associate member in supporting and disseminating outcomes worldwide.

VICH was officially launched in 1996 and the factors which influenced its establishment specifically included:

- ~ The drive to reduce the number of animals used in regulatory testing by eliminating the need for duplication of tests in each VICH region
- ~ The international drive to harmonize regulatory standards and minimize their impact on trade

The objectives of VICH also specifically refer to establishing and monitoring harmonized regulatory requirements for veterinary medicinal products in the VICH Regions, which meet high quality safety and efficacy standards and minimize the use of test animals and costs of product development.

Replacement of animal use in veterinary undergraduate teaching is another area where major advances have been made in recent years. Considerable expertise has been developed in, for example, the veterinary schools in Norway and New Zealand and there would be scope for the OIE to facilitate uptake and adoption of such teaching techniques.

### **Recommendations:**

In recognition of the complexity and specialised nature of this topic, it is recommended that the OIE initially adopt a very focussed strategy and establish an Ad Hoc Group of experts to address the following priority areas:

1. The development of principles and guidelines for the use of animals in regulatory testing of veterinary medicinal and biological products.
2. The development of principles and guidelines for the use of animals in veterinary undergraduate teaching.
3. Review and recommend options for OIE involvement in the use of animals in research.
4. Liaison with VICH to facilitate the regulatory acceptance and adoption of international validated non-animal test methods.

5. Identification of key international stakeholders and availability of relevant resource material.

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**18th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas  
Florianopolis (Brazil), 28 November - 2 December 2006**

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Recommendation No. 1

**Animal Welfare in the Americas**  
CONSIDERING THAT

The Member Countries of the Regional Commission of the OIE for the Americas (hereinafter referred to as Countries) attach importance to the issue of animal welfare,

Legislations on animal welfare exist in only some countries but they are not always based on OIE standards,

There are different animal production systems among the Countries,

Research on animal welfare has been conducted in areas such as production, transport and slaughter,

Few Countries have institutions that include in their curricula, undergraduate and graduate programmes on animal welfare and existing training programmes on animal welfare are generally restricted to the personnel of the Veterinary Services,

In the Region, there is little animal welfare educational material such as web-based courses, text books, pamphlets, etc.

**THE REGIONAL COMMISSION OF THE OIE FOR THE AMERICAS**  
RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Countries not currently having regulations or official guidelines on animal welfare take appropriate steps to develop these, and ensure that they be harmonised under the authority of the Veterinary Services with the established OIE standards and guidelines.
2. The OIE Regional Representation establish a list of regional experts on animal welfare giving priority to production systems, transport and slaughter.
3. Countries, supported by the Regional Representation, promote the exchange of experiences, joint research and cooperation on terrestrial and aquatic animal welfare in areas such as intensive production, stray animals, transport, slaughter methods and the

depopulation of animals for disease control, in veterinary schools as well as research institutions.

4. Animal welfare issues be promoted at all levels using available means including the training of the veterinary personnel and other stakeholders, such as animal handlers, producers, transporters and those involved with the slaughter of animals for human consumption and animal disease control.

5. Veterinary schools be encouraged to develop undergraduate and graduate courses on animal welfare to improve the knowledge of students and professionals on the subject. Such courses should include knowledge of the OIE standards.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 2 December 2006)