TEACHING ANIMAL WELFARE IN CHILE AND SOME SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN LATIN AMERICA

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FROM A DISTANT COUNTRY...
ASPECTS TO CONSIDER

- CURRENT SITUATION OF AW IN LATIN AMERICA
- CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN CHILE AND LATIN AMERICA
- ARE WE PREPARED TO INCLUDE THE AW TOPIC IN OUR CURRICULA?
- SHOULD WE INCLUDE THE AW TOPIC AS A COURSE?
- WHAT ASPECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN AN AW COURSE?
1. Legislation related with AW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Animals</th>
<th>existent</th>
<th>Non existent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>– Production</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Companion</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Working purposes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Sports/entertainment</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Laboratory</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Aquatics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Zoo</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Circus</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GALLO, C. 2006. OIE.
1. Summary of Legislation

- Most of the OIE Regional Commission LA countries DO NOT HAVE a legislation on AW, except for companion animals & livestock.

- The legislation, when present, is drawn up by the national or local Competent Authority, which generally is a Veterinary Service.

- The competent authority oversees compliance with AW regulations. There are sanctions for infringing the legislation. Fines, temporary suspension, etc.

- **Just 4 countries claim to have a legislation based in the OIE standards (México, Paraguay, Uruguay y Colombia), Chile through the Ministry of Agriculture and his Animal Health Service has been introducing the OIE recommendations on AW and producing Guides of Good Practices for farmers and veterinarians. Recently a new law on Animal Protection was passed in the Congress (10/3/2009)**

Gallo, C. 2006. OIE
## 2. Degree of importance of AW in different American countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Not relevant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact on animal health</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humane management of animals</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading (requisites of importing countries)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production (losses for the industry)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumers Perception</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Summary of the AW issues of general concern for producers, industry & consumers.

- Husbandry conditions for poultry & pigs
- Control of stray animals
- Slaughtering of animals for control and eradication of disease outbreaks

Gallo, C. 2006. OIE.
3. Education, research and spreading of AW topics.

- In Schools of Veterinary Medicine and other educational institutions:
  - In most of the countries (15) the subject of AW is taught as part of different courses.
  - In 9 countries there are specific courses.
  - In 4 countries there are postgraduate programmes in AW.
  - In 7 countries there would be financial support for scientific research in AW.

Gallo, C. 2006. OIE.
LEADERS IN TEACHING & RESEARCH AWARDS IN LATIN AMERICA

Dr. Leopoldo Estol
Argentina

Dr. Mateus Paranhos
Brasil

Dr. Stella Huertas & Dr. Carmen Gallo
Uruguay & Chile
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN CHILE.

- RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON AW CARRIED OUT BETWEEN YEARS (2008-2009)

- TEACHING AT SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY SCIENCE IN CHILE: (31 schools, 5 traditional and 26 private)

- UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR (ETHOLOGY, BIOETHICS)
- UNIVERSIDAD AUSTRAL DE CHILE since 2006 (AW, farm animals)
- UNIVERSIDAD DE CONCEPCIÓN, 2 SCHOOLS. (ETHOLOGY)
- UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE (ETHOLOGY, ETHICS, SCIENCE)
- UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE TEMUCO (taught in different courses)
- UNIVERSIDAD DE VIÑA DEL MAR (not included in de curricula)
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN 31 SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN LA

- **QUESTIONNAIRES ANSWERED:**
  - 7 SCHOOLS FROM CHILE
  - 7 SCHOOLS FROM ARGENTINA
  - 4 SCHOOLS FROM COLOMBIA
  - 2 SCHOOLS FROM ECUADOR, 2 FROM BOLIVIA & 2 FROM MEXICO
  - 1 FROM PERU, GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, BRAZIL, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA.
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN 31 SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN L.A


- 6 SCHOOLS HAVE OPTIONAL COURSES
- 12 SCHOOLS HAVE COMPULSORY COURSES
- 11 DO NOT HAVE COURSES ON AW.

2 HAVE BOTH (1 OPTIONAL AND 1 COMPULSORY)
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN 31 SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN L.A

- **6 SCHOOLS HAVE MORE THAN 1 COURSE**
- **12 SCHOOLS HAVE JUST 1 COURSE**
- **COURSES ARE DICTATED MAINLY IN THE SECOND, FOURTH AND FIFTH YEAR**
- **THEY EMPHASIZE:**
  - ETHICAL ASPECTS (20)
  - SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS (16)
  - LEGAL ASPECTS (13)
When teaching AW the emphasis on different topics is related to:

- **FARM ANIMALS** 14
- **COMPANION ANIMALS** 10
- **WORKING ANIMALS (HORSES, etc)** 8
- **ZOO ANIMALS** 7
- **LABORATORY** 6
- **WILD ANIMALS** 5

Some schools give the same emphasis to different topics.
27 SCHOOLS INDICATED THAT THE TOPIC OF AW IS ALSO TAUGHT IN OTHER COURSES.

27 INDICATED THAT AW IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THEIR COUNTRIES. (this is an academic opinion)

JUST 11 INDICATED THE EXISTANCE OF POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES IN AW IN THEIR FACULTIES (MSc and few Ph.D).

18 POINTED OUT THAT THEY DO RESEARCH IN THE SUBJECT OF AW.
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN 31 SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN L.A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS OF RESEARCH</th>
<th>N</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUMANE SLAUGHTER</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILD ANIMALS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORT</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUSBANDRY OF ANIMALS (PIGS, POULTRY, COWS)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRAY ANIMALS (DOGS)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABORATORY ANIMALS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORKING ANIMALS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLAUGHTER DURING OUTBREAKS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANIMALS USED FOR TRADITIONAL FESTIVITIES &amp; SPORTS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE TEACHING OF ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE FACULTIES OF VETERINARY SCIENCE IN LATIN AMERICA.
Constraints or Limitations (university)

- Lack of staff trained in AW concepts. Improving 😊

- Overloaded Curricula (in LA, vets deal with animal production, public health, as well as medical aspects).

- Lack of financial support for research in AW (it is still considered as a “fashion” with no practical application).

- Lack of research and postgraduate programmes related to AW. Improving 😊
Constraints or Limitations (society)

Cultural (traditions where animals are used, rodeo, bull fighting, rooster fights, traditional ceremonies).
Constraints or Limitations (society)
Constraints or Limitations (society)

- Country economy (high percentage of people living in marginal conditions “human well-being”).
Constraints or Limitations (society)

- Lack of appropriate legislation to support the application of AW recommendations (transport, humane slaughter, stray dogs, working animals).
Need to improve conditions during long distance transports ...
Need to improve humane slaughter at the abattoirs
Constraints or Limitations (society)

- Consumers are not fully aware of the meaning of AW and they are NOT willing to pay more for a product produced under AW standards.
Constraints or Limitations (society)

- Distrust towards the people who encourage the observance of AW standards at farm or industry levels, confusion with radical animal rights groups.
ARE WE QUALIFIED FOR TEACHING AW TO OUR STUDENTS?

- Do we have the human resources trained in the different aspects of AW?
- Do we have an adequate knowledge about which aspects should be included in the teaching of AW?
- Do we have research experience related with AW?
- Does adequate legislation exist to sustain what we are teaching to the students?
ASPECTS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE TEACHING OF ANIMAL WELFARE.

- ETHICS
- SCIENCE
- LEGISLATION
SHOULD ANIMAL WELFARE BE INCLUDED AS AN INDEPENDENT COURSE?

- **YES !!!** VETERINARIANS SHOULD BE THE MAIN PROMOTERS OF AW.

- WE SUGGEST A COMPULSORY COURSE IN SECOND YEAR AND AN OPTIONAL ADVANCED (APPLIED) COURSE IN THE FIFTH YEAR

- BUT WE NEED TO CONSIDER THE NEXT PREMISES:
  - TO STANDARDIZE WHAT WE ARE TEACHING
  - TO TRAIN OUR STAFF ON THE SUBJECT
  - NOT TO TEACH MORE THAN NECESSARY
  - TO PROMOTE RESEARCH IN THE SUBJECT
  - TO PROMOTE A LEGISLATION IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF EACH COUNTRY.
FIRST REGIONAL MEETING OF RESEARCHERS IN ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE AMERICAS

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

2.- To collaborate in the production of information based on scientific studies supporting the application of the OIE standards in AW and to offer support to the region in order to bring into practice those standards.

4.- To create capacities, to promote research, training, education and transfer of good practices to improve AW, through coordinated actions in the region with special emphasis in its impact on human health, zoonoses, animal health and the environment.

-5.- To stimulate the introduction of AW into the curriculum of the schools of veterinary medicine in the region.
A BRIGTH FUTURE !!!!

Primer Encuentro Regional de Investigadores en Bienestar Animal para las Américas - Universidad Austral De Chile - Valdivia Noviembre 2009.
REFERENCES

- Tadich, N. Teaching Animal Welfare at the University Austral of Chile. 2008. Universidad de San Marcos Lima, Perú