



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare

Implementing the OIE Standards – addressing regional expectations

Kuala–Lumpur (Malaysia), 6–8 November 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSIDERING THAT:

- Global improvements in animal health and welfare are components of economic and social development and that a progressive implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare, adapted to the economic situation and capacities of Member Countries must be promoted;
- animal health is a key component of animal welfare;
- one of the objectives of the OIE is to facilitate safe international trade in animals and animal products;
- the OIE is the global reference organisation for the elaboration of international standards for animal health and welfare;
- the OIE Strategic Plans have included animal welfare since 2001 and that the current Strategic Plan contains provisions for integrated actions, coordination and planning on terrestrial and aquatic animal welfare at the national, regional and global level;
- the OIE has described Veterinary Services' responsibilities for animal welfare in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* and included appropriate references in the *OIE PVS Tool (Performance of Veterinary Services)*;
- a large majority of OIE Member Countries have already nominated national focal points for animal welfare;
- some private sector specifications for animal welfare are not consistent with the OIE standards;
- OIE regional strategies, based on global animal welfare standards, represent a shared vision between government and the private sector, built upon collaboration between interested parties, including animal health, public health, industry (production, transport and processing), academic and research sectors;
- animal welfare standards should be democratically and transparently adopted and based on both science and practical experience, bearing in mind the production systems and uses of animals of each Member Country and the relevant environmental, regional, geographic, economic, cultural and religious aspects;



- science should be the basis for the preparation of international standards and these should be appropriately evaluated and validated taking into account the different characteristics and contexts relevant to the Member Countries;
- the need to promote scientific research, capacity building, education and communication in the animal welfare area;
- the ongoing work of the OIE in reinforcing the capacity of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services, using the OIE PVS Pathway, standards on veterinary legislation, the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code)* in general
- the global initiative of twinning programmes for OIE Collaborating Centres, Veterinary education establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies, based on the successful global initiative for twinning of veterinary laboratories;
- the OIE is working with global private sector organisations to harmonise public and private animal welfare standards;
- a number of important and relevant topics and issues were identified at the 3rd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare including the critical importance of communities and their leaders and religious leaders in raising awareness and support for implementation of OIE animal welfare standards.

OIE MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE REQUESTED TO:

1. take steps to comply with the OIE standards, particularly those for quality of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services. To this end, Members should consider requesting relevant missions under the PVS Pathway;
2. Members that have not already done so should quickly nominate national Focal Points for Animal Welfare (and other topics nominated by the OIE) under the authority of the National Delegate;
3. take into account the OIE standards for veterinary legislation in their veterinary legislation, create or update (as appropriate) a national legal framework that includes provision for national animal welfare programmes;
4. consider participation, if appropriate, in OIE twinning programmes for Collaborating Centres, Veterinary education establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies;
5. support the development of national programmes for raising awareness of animal welfare and educating key players, particularly veterinarians, livestock owners, animal handlers, religious and community leaders and other key groups, such as school children and women;



6. take steps to ensure that prescriptive animal welfare requirements do not create trade barriers non consistent with OIE standards, including by encouraging and supporting decisions on the equivalence and reciprocity of different animal welfare measures, while respecting the right of OIE Member Countries to determine the level of their national science-based measures;
7. encourage the private sector to respect OIE standards;
8. promote the adoption by the United Nations of a Declaration addressing animal welfare, including close compliance with OIE animal health and welfare standards; and
9. consult religious and community leaders, and local authorities (with appropriate use of OIE delegates and focal points) in determining their countries official positions on development and implementation of OIE standards.

THE OIE IS REQUESTED TO:

1. continue to develop global standards according to the priorities set by the World Assembly of Delegates. In the field of animal welfare, standards for livestock production systems (including broiler chickens, and dairy cattle) should be the first priority;
2. work closely with donors and international and regional organisations, and continue to provide appropriate technical support to Member Countries, especially developing countries, to meet the OIE standards for quality Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services through the OIE PVS Pathway;
3. develop its capacity building activities including through negotiation with donors, to help Delegates, supported by nominated Focal Points, to comply with the obligations and responsibilities of OIE membership, including participation in the standard-setting process;
4. promote the role and responsibility of the Veterinary Services (including public and private sector veterinarians) in animal welfare; promote coverage of animal welfare in veterinary education and contribute to the provision of information on animal health and welfare, particularly to animal owners and handlers;
5. collaborate and form partnerships with organisations representing all relevant sectors of the production and distribution chain for animals and animal products, to develop and promote the OIE animal welfare standards, as the key reference for national, regional and international trade;
6. continue to collaborate with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to promote the development of the proposed ISO Animal Welfare technical specifications consistent with OIE animal welfare standards;
7. influence those responsible for making decisions on scientific research to develop new programmes addressing research priorities in animal welfare;



8. in collaboration with donors and governments, continue to promote the use of twinning programmes for OIE Collaborating Centres, Veterinary education establishments and Veterinary Statutory Bodies, with a focus on improving good governance of Veterinary Services and Aquatic Animal Health Services;
9. support the development and implementation of OIE regional animal welfare strategies, and consider the development of a global animal welfare strategy; and
10. with active involvement of OIE Regional and sub-regional Representations, collaborate with regional organisations, as appropriate, in responding to the needs and priorities agreed by OIE Members at regional and sub-regional level.

In addition, the participants of the Conference

1. welcome the national initiative of Malaysia for the new animal welfare strategy including legislation;
2. congratulate and thank Malaysia for their generosity and hospitality; and
3. support the proposal of Chile to hold the Fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare.

