



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare – *Animal welfare for a better world*

Guadalajara (Mexico), 6–8 December 2016

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSIDERING THAT:

- 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;
- animal welfare should be an integral part of the broader goal of sustainable development, given its capacity to contribute to socio-economic development ;
- the OIE is the global reference organisation for the establishment 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*, the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* and references are included in the *OIE PVS Tool* (Performance of Veterinary Services);
- the continued and gradual implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare could support the capacities of Member Countries to achieve sustainable development goals;
- efforts have been made to work with global private sector organisations, to ensure alignment between their specifications for animal welfare and 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), civil society, academic and research sectors;
- animal welfare standards have been developed based on both science and practical experience, bearing in mind relevant ethical considerations and the production systems and uses of animals of each Member Country and the relevant environmental, regional, geographic, economic, cultural and religious aspects;
- there is a need to promote scientific research, capacity building, education and communication in the animal welfare area;
- a number of important and relevant topics and issues were discussed and identified at the 4th OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare including the importance of developing partnerships to encourage the effective implementation of OIE animal welfare standards, the concept of one welfare, the use of new technologies to support animal welfare and the preparedness to address natural and man-made disasters;



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- the United Nations has adopted the Sendai Declaration, and the OIE has issued Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.

OIE MEMBER COUNTRIES ARE REQUESTED TO:

1. take steps to implement and comply with the OIE standards;
2. embrace the PVS Pathway process to improve animal welfare;
3. continue to participate effectively in the development process of the OIE animal welfare standards;
4. take into account the OIE standards for veterinary legislation, to create or update (as appropriate) a national legal framework that includes provision for national animal welfare programmes;
5. provide national leadership and coordination of animal welfare activities within their countries including promoting the inclusion of animal welfare in national strategic plans and dedicated budgets and resources;
6. consider how implementation of animal welfare standards can be transparently monitored and evaluated at the national level;
7. engage in discussion and implementation processes under their Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Platforms to identify the challenges to implementation of OIE standards for animal welfare and the support required to do so;
8. support the development of national programmes for raising awareness of animal welfare and educating key players, particularly veterinarians and veterinary para-professional, livestock owners, transporters, traders, animal handlers, religious and community leaders and other key groups, such as school students;
9. take steps to encourage and support 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 on the basis of OIE standards;
10. strengthen their capacity for disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health;
11. encourage and support the private sector to meet at least OIE standards;
12. take action to support animal welfare measures that can contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
13. continue to support the adoption of the Universal Declaration for Animal Welfare (UDAW), and
14. develop national plans for animal welfare in disasters, aligned with the OIE Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health.

THE OIE IS REQUESTED TO:

1. continue to develop and update the international standards on animal welfare, according to the priorities set by the World Assembly of Delegates, in the field of animal welfare;
2. promote the role and responsibility of the Veterinary Services (including public and private sector veterinarians) in animal welfare; promote good welfare practices and coverage of animal welfare in veterinary and veterinary para-professional education and contribute to the provision of information on animal health and welfare, particularly to animal owners and handlers;
3. collaborate and form partnerships with organisations representing all relevant sectors of the value 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;
4. continue to collaborate closely with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to promote and monitor the use of the newly adopted ISO Technical Specification 34700; Animal welfare management - General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain, consistent with OIE animal welfare standards;
5. influence those responsible for making decisions on scientific research to develop new research programmes, addressing OIE priorities in animal welfare, including the development of the use of new technologies to support animal welfare;
6. support the development and implementation of OIE regional animal welfare strategies with their correspondent action plans with active involvement of OIE Regional and sub-regional Representations, and in collaboration with international and regional organisations, as appropriate, in responding to the needs and priorities agreed by OIE Member Countries at regional and sub-regional level;
7. encourage and support communication and collaboration amongst OIE animal welfare networks of Focal Points, Collaborating Centres and Regional Animal Welfare Strategy committees and donors, both within and between regions;
8. establish a framework for ongoing dialogue between animal industry representatives, non-government organisations for animal welfare, scientific experts, OIE Member Countries and their experts to ensure ongoing support and commitment for implementation of OIE animal welfare standards, and strategic guidance to OIE on standards development and implementation; and
9. submit to the World Assembly of Delegates for adoption at the 2017 General Session the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy and to encourage its implementation.

In addition, the participants of the Conference:

1. congratulate and thank the Government of Mexico, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), and the Government of the State of Jalisco for their generosity and hospitality; and Special thanks to the National Service of Animal and Plant Health, Quality and Food Safety (SENASICA) for its contribution, support and collaboration towards the organisation of the conference, and
2. thank the members of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and the members of the *ad hoc* groups on animal welfare, for their continuous support for the development of the OIE animal welfare standards.