The Role of Council of Europe in the development and implementation of welfare standards and legislation in Europe

David G Pritchard, Chairman
T-AP Standing Committee

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Overview

• What is Council of Europe?

• Why does CoE have Conventions on animals?
  – Ethical basis
  – Transport
  – Farmed animals
  – Pets,

• How does the COE develop welfare laws and standards?

• Impact of COE on EU and global animal welfare via OIE, FAO

www.coe.int/animalwelfare
10 Countries signed the Treaty of London, 5 May 1949, establishing the Council of Europe, Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

800 Million Europeans in 47 Member states in 2007

>200 Treaties

5 Conventions on animal protection

www.coe.int/animalwelfare
Did you know?

European languages
The number of indigenous languages in Europe is put at between 200 and 300, the exact figure probably being around 220 to 230. Basque is believed to be the oldest European language spoken...

For more information

Quiz
Have fun testing yourself on your knowledge of the Council of Europe!

Our member States
“The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”
(Member)
* Capital: Skopje
* Currency: Macedonian denar
The Council of Europe: an overview

• A statute built on human rights
  Any European state can become a member of the Council of Europe if it accepts the rule of law and guarantees human rights and fundamental freedoms to everyone under its jurisdiction.
Council of Europe: AIMS

- The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation which aims:
  - to protect human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law;
  - to promote awareness and encourage the development of Europe’s cultural identity and diversity;
  - to find common solutions to the challenges facing European society: discrimination against minorities, xenophobia, intolerance, bioethics and cloning, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, organised crime and corruption, cybercrime, violence against children, etc;
  - to consolidate democratic stability in Europe by backing political, legislative and constitutional reform.
Bioethics, xenotransplantation, biotechnology and food security

- The protection of human beings is fundamental in biomedical research.
- Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine prohibit Human cloning and cover organ transplantation and biomedical research.
- Other protocols regarding human genetics and the status of human embryos and foetuses are under discussion.

- In addition, the mistreatment of animals prompted the Council to adopt Conventions on the protection of animals, in particular during
  - transport,
  - at slaughter,
  - farming,
  - research
  - pets
Why have Conventions on animal protection?

COE recognises

- Animal welfare is as important

- Contributions animals make to human health and quality of life

1. respect for animals counts among the ideals and principles which are the common heritage of State members as one of the obligations upon which human dignity is based.

2. animal protection .... a topical subject on which governments have agreed to the necessity of concerted action

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Ethical principle of all Conventions for animal use and protection

-”for his own well-being, man may, and sometimes must, make use of animals, but that he has a moral obligation to ensure, within reasonable limits, that the animal’s health and welfare is in each case not unnecessarily put at risk.”

-Each Convention has addressed particular areas of ethical concerns
Convention for... International Transport (ETS 65 1976)

WHY?
1961-” Humane treatment is one the hallmarks of Western Civilisation”

BUT …even in . . . Member States of CoE the necessary standards are not observed

Animated by the desire to safeguard . . . animals in transport . . . from suffering

. . . Progress possible though adoption of common provisions for international Transport

Laid down essential principles for all species

Loading pigs by stock ramp
Revised Convention for...
International Transport (ETS 165 2003)

30 Years experience of implementation

WHY? Update .. New science and practical experience

Preparation for journey
Loading to unloading
Detailed standards for road sea air and rail
Cattle sheep, goats, pigs, poultry horses
Vehicle design fitness to travel handling, veterinary controls
COE
International
Transport
conventions
(ETS 65 1976)

European Community
Directives on transport 1980s & 1991

Recommendation
Cattle Horse pigs
sheep poultry
Codes
sea land rail
Technical
Protocols drafts

transport
conventions
ETS 165 2003

European Union
Regulation on transport 2005/1

OIE
Terrestrial
code
Guidelines
on
Transport
By air

Sea 2005
Land 2005
‘Have we the right to rob (animals) of all pleasure in life simply to make more money more quickly out of their carcasses?’

Astrid Lindgren

It might be possible to guarantee that young animals get a little summertime happiness, at least a temporary relief from the floors of barns, and crowded spaces where the poor animals are stored until they die.

Let them see the sun just once; get away from the murderous roar of the fans. Let them get to breathe fresh air for once.”
BRAMBELL COMMITTEE 1965

“more was needed to protect animal welfare more than just preventing wanton cruelty.”

Significantly they noted that animals were sentient stating

“Animals show unmistakable signs of suffering from pain, exhaustion, fright, frustration and can experience emotions... and pleasure”
Convention for protection of farmed animal (ETS 87 1976)

- **Principles**
  - to avoid any unnecessary suffering or injury and
  - to secure conditions that shall be in conformity with physiological and ethological needs of the individual animals and
  - in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge.

- **Scope**:
  - Applies to the keeping, care and housing of animals, in particular animals in automated modern housed intensive stock-farming systems
  - Animals kept for the production of food, wool, skin or fur or for other farming purposes.
Convention for protection of farmed animal (ETS 87 1976)

- Convention requires keepers of intensely kept farm animals to a ‘duty of care’ to their animals
- Bearing in mind that the environment and management have to meet animal needs rather than trying to adapt the animals by procedures such as mutilations

- Welfare criteria
  - Feed & Water
  - Freedom of movement
  - Staffing
  - Inspection
  - Disease treatment
  - Records
  - Housing
  - Environment
  - Equipment
  - Mutilations

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Protocol of amendments to Convention for protection of farmed animal (ETS 193 1992)

- CONCERNS
  - Biotechnology was developing rapidly and had both positive and negative aspects for the welfare of animals
  - Genetics and novel genetic combinations
  - Selection for fast growth or yield
  - Balance selection for production traits and welfare traits

- PRINCIPLES
  - that for both artificial and natural breeding should not result in suffering or injury to the animals involved and
  - a wide ranging obligation to ensure that animals kept for farming purposes could be kept without detrimental effects to their health or welfare

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Protocol of amendment to Convention for protection of farmed animal (ETS 193 1992)

- Extended scope to intensively kept animals not dependent on automation
- Biotechnology
- Breeding procedures
- Genetic selection

Welfare criteria
- Feed & Water
- Freedom of movement
- Staffing
- Inspection
- Disease treatment
- Records
- Housing
- Environment
- Equipment
- Mutilations
- Breeding procedures

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CoE Conventions are signed and ratified by member states.

Unlike most COE Conventions, the Recommendations of TAP have legal effect:
- shall
- should
- may

Committee of Ministers

Convention for protection of farmed animal (ETS 87 1976)) (ETS 193 1992)

Standing committee for the Treaty Animal protection T_AP

Member States appoint delegates

Observers
SAE COPA FVE WSPA EG

T_APBUREAU

T_AP
Working groups

Recommendations

Member States implement by laws and codes and guidelines research

Member States report implementation actions
T-AP- Definition of essential needs

• defines of essential needs to enable an individual to maintain its health and welfare

• by safeguarding its physiological and mental functions including performing satisfactorily species specific behaviour.

COE Conventions on farm animal welfare (2003)
Which welfare is best?

- Trout at 10 kg per cubic meter of water
- Trout at 40 or 80 kg per cubic meter of water
Plasma cortisol in rainbow trout reared at different stocking densities; mean ± SEM of 3 replicates per treatment (10 fish per replicate); different letters for each column denote significant differences (P<0.05)

Turnbull et al Stirling University and CEFAS Study

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• Trout at 10 kg per m2 of water had higher cortisol than trout at 40 or 80 due to formation of dominance hierarchies

• Water quality is as important as space in ensuring the welfare of trout

• Low stocking rates allow for natural behaviours but high stocking densities appear associated with less stress
Road map to recommendation

- T_AP Standing Committee
  - Decide on rabbit recommendation

- State Members appoint experts

- Observers Experts
  - ISAE COPA FVE WSPA EG etc

- CIVIL SOCIETY

- BUREAU
  - EFSA report
  - Draft
  - TAP Working group

- EU Commission
  - EU Council of ministers
  - Decide common position

- Adoption by T_AP Standing Committee
  - Legally binding Recommendation

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TAP Processes

1. National laws and codes
   - Biological characteristics
   - Science & Practical experience

2. Draft to meet requirements of Convention and
   - Essential needs defined by TAP

3. Industry & NGOS views on Impact
   - On the spot examination of systems
   - EFSA report

4. Consultation within MS
   - Review by plenary
Convention for protection of farmed animal (ETS 87 1976)) amended by (ETS 193 1992)

Recommendations
- Cattle 1988
- Calves 1993
- Pigs 1986 (2005)
- Sheep & goats 1992
- Hens 1986
- Domestic fowls 1995
- Geese 1999
- Ducks & Muscovies 1999
- Fur animals 1990, 1999
- Farmed fish 2005

European Community Directive on farmed animals 98/58

Directives
- Calves 91/629 (2008/119)
- Pigs 93/160 (2008/120)
- Hens 88/116
- Hens 1999/74
- Meat chickens 2007/43

OIE Terrestrial code
Developing Guidelines
- .beef cattle
- .Broilers
Convention for protection of PET animals (ETS 125 1987)

- ETHICS & CONCERNS
- Respect all living creatures
- Pet animals have a special relationship with man
- Pet animals in contribute to the quality of life and so valued
- Risks - overpopulation for hygiene, health, safety of man and other animals
- Wild animals as pets should not be encouraged
- Some types of keeping pets posed a risk to their health and welfare.
- Common standards of attitude and practice
- Responsible pet ownership
Convention for protection of PET animals (ETS 125 1987)

- **PRINCIPLES**
- Nobody shall cause a pet animal unnecessary pain, suffering or distress
- Nobody shall abandon a pet animal

- **SCOPE**
- covers all household pets for private enjoyment and companionship;
- animals intended or bred for such purpose as well as
- sanctuaries and stray animals
Convention for protection of PET animals (ETS 125 1987)

- PROVISIONS
  - breeding,
  - boarding,
  - keeping,
  - age limits on acquisition, training,
  - trading,
  - commercial breeding and boarding,
  - animal sanctuaries, advertising, entertainment,
  - exhibitions, competitions and similar events,
  - surgical operations,
  - killing,
  - supplementary measures for stray animals
COE
Convention for protection of PET animals (ETS 125 1987)

Treaty of Amsterdam
European Union
PET travel
Directive
Action plan on welfare

State Members
Laws and codes

Resolutions

OIE
Terrestrial code
Guidelines on Stray dogs control
Benefits of COE work on animal welfare

• Provided political and ethical lead in animal welfare in Europe
• Legaling binding - Conventions and Recommendations
• Basis of most of EU welfare laws .....part of the EU Aquis for Accession countries
• Political and technical value of the legal instruments is based on a close collaboration with non-governmental organisations representing the different sectors concerned
  – veterinarians,
  – animal behaviour specialists, scientists,
  – animal protection associations,
  – farmers, etc.
• Implemented by Member states and used by civil society
• Template for global standards
Handling conflict between science, technical advice and practice

- Convention Committees have frequently recognised the conflict, sometimes real and sometimes perceived, between the use of animals by man for economic, social, cultural and religious reasons and practices which are not ideal for their protection.
- Recommendations firmly based on science and practical experience to determine animal needs.
FUTURE

• Conventions - revise in the light of new scientific knowledge, biotechnology, systems of husbandry & species
• Emphasis on improved monitoring of implementation of the Conventions.
• Continued close cooperation with the European Union
• look forward to cooperation with OIE and FAO
• Parties have continued to ratify the Conventions.
• Increasing awareness of welfare should result yet further Parties considering using the Conventions to provide a firm foundation for their legal measures to improve the welfare of animals

www.coe.int/animalwelfare
CoE Conventions

Pets

Farmed livestock

Transport

Laboratory Animals

Slaughter

Thank You

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