Development of an OIE standard for the welfare of working equids

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The International Intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health and welfare worldwide

Created 1924, now 178 Members

Maintain permanent relations with 60 other international and regional organisations

Scientific network:

- 241 OIE Reference Laboratories (in 37 countries)
- 43 Collaborating Centres (in 24 countries)
OIE Objectives

- Transparency of the animal disease situation worldwide
- Scientific information
- International support to developing countries and the role played by Veterinary Services
- Safety of international trade of animals and animal products
- Food safety and animal welfare

To achieve these objectives OIE collects, analyses and publishes a lot of information
Animal welfare is a complex multifaceted public policy issue that includes important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions.

OIE Member Countries have widely varying perspectives and experience.

Working together we know that governments, the private sector, international organisations and donors really can successfully address societal expectations for animal welfare.
• Animal welfare and health are linked
• Five freedoms
• Three R’s (*reduction, refinement, replacement*)
• Scientific basis for standards
• Contribution to human wellbeing
• Use of animals carries with it an ethical responsibility to ensure their welfare
• Better animal welfare can improve productivity and deliver economic benefits
• Equivalent outcomes based on performance criteria are the basis for comparison of animal welfare standards
OIE Standards setting procedure

Adopted

World Assembly

Updated text
Codes/Manuals

Request

ad hoc Groups

AWWG

TAHSC or AAHSC

Report & texts

Text for adoption

Text for comment

OIE Members

Comments
2 rounds

Commissions, Delegates and Others
OIE Animal Welfare priorities

Standards Development
- Production systems
  - Dairy Cattle
- Working animals
- Disaster management

Implementation
- Improve participation by all OIE Members, and all interested parties, in the standard setting process.
- Improve implementation of OIE Animal Health and Welfare Standards
- Collaborate with private standard setting organisations (e.g. ISO) to improve and refine implementation of OIE standards.
Support to OIE Member Countries

- Regular training of OIE Delegates
- Seminars for OIE National Focal Points
- OIE Collaborating Centre training activities
- OIE Twinning initiatives
- Regional Animal Welfare Strategies
- The PVS Pathway
- OIE’s Improved Animal Welfare Programme
- OIE’s informal procedure for dispute mediation

*European investment in improving implementation of OIE animal welfare standards in livestock transport is both leading and driving international best practice.*
Animal Welfare in the OIE Scientific & Technical Review

• Vol. 13 (1994) Animal Welfare and Veterinary Services


OIE Global Conferences

Raise awareness, share experiences, improve understanding, and help build consensus across all interested parties.

2004 – Paris: *Global Conference on Animal Welfare: an OIE initiative*

2008 – Cairo: *Putting the OIE Standards to work*

2012 - Kuala Lumpur: *Implementing the OIE standards – addressing regional expectations*

2016 - Chile
Future certainties

• Animal welfare expectations and standards will continue to evolve.

• True learning always takes us out of the known and comfortable, and requires significant investment.
Future Challenges

• Public interest and concern about animal welfare is likely to continue to increase.
• Private sector specifications that provide competitive advantage will continue to evolve.
• Recognition of alternate systems in developing countries that produce equivalent animal welfare outcomes will probably need more attention.
Conclusions

• OIE science based standards developed through an inclusive and democratic process are a well established and powerful tool to establish globally acceptable animal welfare standards.

• For effective implementation of OIE standards many countries need:
  • Support to update legislation
  • Capacity building assistance and budget support for their veterinary services
Conclusions

• Your investments in improving animal welfare and taking those improvements to the rest of the world have OIE’s full support.

• Working together governments, the private sector, international organisations, and donors can successfully address societal expectations for animal welfare.
Thank you for your attention!