This paper provides an example of advancing and strengthening capacities in teaching and research in the fields of animal health and welfare science in the veterinary education programs at the Veterinary Colleges of NAU, China and TiHo Hannover, Germany. The cooperation between these institutions began in 1987 when the first Chinese PhD students arrived in Hannover to begin their studies in clinical veterinary medicine, infectious diseases, pathology and Chinese traditional veterinary medicine. From 1997, the cooperation intensified and was extended to include animal husbandry, hygiene and, in particular, animal welfare. This has resulted in an enhanced teaching capacity in these disciplines at NAU. Also every year, teachers from Hannover give lectures on animal health, modern animal production and animal welfare (EU legislation, ECE recommendations, OIE standards) at NAU. In parallel, research ties and capacities have been developed as Chinese researchers and PhD-students spend longer periods (up to 3 years) in Hannover. As an example, heat shock proteins (HSP) were intensively investigated as stress markers in pigs and broiler chickens resulting in nearly 20 journal publications since 2008. Even if the number of teaching lessons in animal welfare (based on Prof. Lu’s book “Introduction to animal welfare” of 1999/2003) is still low (36 lessons NAU, 140 Hannover) the interest of the students is growing quickly. As a comparison, not all universities in China teach animal welfare regularly. Therefore, the principle used at present is ‘teaching the teachers’. In May 2013 NAU hosted, in co-operation with Chinese Veterinary Association (CAAV), the 16th Congress of the International Society for Animal Hygiene (ISAH) on “Animal Hygiene, Health and Welfare as Corner Stones of Sustainable Livestock Production” (www.ISAH-soc.org). The exchange of people and ideas continues. A new 5-year contract between Hannover and NAU was signed in 2012. The next teaching project is to initiate the development of a skills lab for training veterinary students on animal models.

Keywords: Animal Health and Welfare – Capacity Building – OIE Standards – Skills Lab.