

How can the OIE Code be used to improve animal welfare globally?



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Topics for discussion

- ✓ OIE objectives
- ✓ standard setting process
- ✓ participation by parties
- ✓ shortfalls on participation
- ✓ proposed solutions

OIE objectives

ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION:

- to ensure transparency in the global animal disease and zoonosis situation
- to collect, analyse and disseminate scientific veterinary information

OIE objectives (cont.)

ACTIVITIES OF VETERINARY SERVICES

- to provide expertise and encourage international collaboration in the control of animal diseases
- to improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services

OIE objectives (cont.)

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- within WTO mandate, to safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products
- to provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin, *and*
- to promote animal welfare, through a science-based approach

OIE International Standards

Terrestrial Animal Health Code – mammals,
birds and bees

Aquatic Animal Health Code – fish, molluscs
and crustaceans

Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for
Terrestrial Animals

Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic
Animals

**available on the
OIE Website**



Why are OIE standards necessary?

- Enhance safety of international trade in animals/products
- Improve the welfare of animals globally and fairly
- Encourage harmonization of national legislations
- Narrow the gap between rich and poor countries
- Veterinary Governance = International Public Good (IPG)
 - IPG is a duty of governments
 - International community, international organizations, donors and NGO influence and support
- Promote fairer trade (fewer unjustified restrictions on trade)
- Improve Public – Private partnerships

developing
or updating
international
standards



Influences on standard setting

- From EXPORTING countries for less restrictions
- From IMPORTING countries for maximum protection
- From producers / Consumers / NGOs
- The only basis acceptable to all is good science and a transparent and inclusive process of evaluation.
- It must meet the consensus by all OIE Delegates

Current Standards on AW

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Section 7: Animal Welfare

(http://www.oie.int/esp/normes/en_mcode.htm)

Standards on:

- 7.1. Introduction, guiding principles
- 7.2. Transport of animals by sea
- 7.3. Transport of animals by land
- 7.4. Transport of animals by air
- 7.5. Slaughter of animals
- 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes

Animal welfare:

means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

Future work on AW

- ✓ Stray dog population control
- ✓ Animals used in research, testing & teaching
- ✓ Livestock production systems
 - ✓ broiler chickens
 - ✓ dairy

Where is the problem?

- ✓ Lack of active participation by Members in the OIE standard setting process
- ✓ Failure of Member countries to fully implement OIE recommendation in their legislation
- ✓ Failure to recognise that standards must be applicable in all countries
- ✓ Misuse of 'private standards' by private sector

Where do we go from here?

- ✓ Improve participation by all OIE Members, and all parties, in the standard setting process.
- ✓ Raise the awareness at national levels of the significance of implementing OIE standards, in particular animal welfare standards
- ✓ Limit AW activities to those regulated by international standards, don't allow selfish private standards to disadvantage developing countries and individual farmers

Thank you for your attention

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