TEACHING ANIMAL WELFARE IN CHILE AND SOME SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN LATIN AMERICA

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FROM A DISTANT COUNTRY...
ASPECTS TO DISCUSS

- CURRENT SITUATION OF AW IN LATIN AMERICA
- CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN CHILE AND LATIN AMERICA
- ARE WE PREPARED TO INCLUDE THE AW TOPIC IN OUR CURRICULA?
- SHOULD WE INCLUDE THE AW TOPIC AS A COURSE?
- WHAT ASPECTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN AN AW COURSE?
1. Legislation related with AW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Animals</th>
<th>Yes exist</th>
<th>No exist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>– Production</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Companion</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Working purposes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Sports/entretención</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Laboratory</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Aquatics</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Zoo</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– Circus</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GALLO, C. 2006. OIE.
1. Summary of Legislation

- Most of the OIE Regional Commission LA countries DO NOT HAVE a legislation on AW, except for companion animals & livestock.

- The legislation, when present, is drawn up by the national or local Competent Authority, which generally is a Veterinary Service.

- The competent authority oversees compliance with AW regulations. There are sanctions for infringing the legislation. Fines, temporary suspension, etc.

- Just 4 countries claim to have a legislation based in the OIE standards (México, Paraguay, Uruguay y Colombia), Chile through the Ministry of Agriculture and his Animal Health Service has been introducing the OIE recommendations on AW and producing Guides of Good Practices for farmers and veterinarians.

Gallo, C. 2006. OIE
2. Degree of importance of AW in different American countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspects</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Not relevant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact on animal health</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humane management of animals</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading (requisites of importing countries)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production (losses for the industry)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumers Perception</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Summary of the AW issues of general concern for producers, industry & consumers.

- Husbandry conditions for poultry & pigs
- Control of stray animals
- Slaughtering of animals for control and eradication of disease outbreaks

Gallo, C. 2006. OIE.
3. Education, research and spreading of AW topics.

- In Schools of Veterinary Medicine and other educational institutions:
  - In most of the countries (15) the subject of AW is taught as part of different courses.
  - In 9 countries there are specific courses.
  - In 4 countries there are postgraduate programmes in AW.
  - In 7 countries would be financing support for scientific research in AW.

Gallo, C. 2006. OIE.
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN CHILE.

- RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON AW CARRIED OUT THIS YEAR (2008)

- TEACHING AT SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY SCIENCE IN CHILE: (32 schools, 5 traditional and 27 private)

  - UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR (ETHOLOGY, BIOETHICS)
  - UNIVERSIDAD AUSTRAL DE CHILE since 2006 (AW, farm animals)
  - UNIVERSIDAD DE CONCEPCIÓN, 2 SCHOOLS. (ETHOLOGY) designed but not implemented.
  - UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE (ETHOLOGY, ETHICS, SCIENCE)
  - UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE TEMUCO taught in different courses.
CURRENT STATE OF AQW TEACHING IN 22 SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN L.A

- QUESTIONNAIRES ANSWERED:
  - 6 SCHOOLS FROM CHILE
  - 4 SCHOOLS FROM ARGENTINA
  - 2 SCHOOLS FROM COLOMBIA
  - 2 SCHOOLS FROM ECUADOR
  - 1 FROM PERU, GUATEMALA, SALVADOR, BOLIVIA, MEXICO, BRAZIL, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA.
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN 22 SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN L.A


- 5 SCHOOLS HAVE OPTIONAL COURSES
- 11 SCHOOLS HAVE COMPULSORY COURSES
- 7 DO NOT HAVE COURSES ON AW.

1 HAS BOTH (1 OPTIONAL AND 1 COMPULSARY)
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN 22 SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN L.A

- 5 SCHOOLS HAVE MORE THAN 1 COURSE
- 10 SCHOOLS HAVE JUST 1 COURSE
- COURSES ARE DICTATED IN SECOND, FOURTH AND FIFTH YEAR
- THEY EMPHASIZE:
  - ETHICAL ASPECTS (15)
  - SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS (11)
  - LEGAL ASPECTS (9)
When teaching AW the emphasis in different topics is related to:

- FARM ANIMALS 10
- COMPANION ANIMALS 8
- WILD ANIMALS 5
- WORKING ANIMALS (HORSES, etc) 4
- ZOO ANIMALS 4
- LABORATORY 3
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN 22 SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN L.A

- 18 SCHOOLS INDICATED THAT THE TOPIC OF AW IS ALSO TAUGHT IN OTHER COURSES.

- 19 INDICATED THAT AW IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN THEIR COUNTRIES.

- JUST 7 INDICATED THE EXISTANCE OF POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES IN AW IN THEIR FACULTIES (MSc).

- 12 POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAVE RESEARCH IN THE SUBJECT OF AW.
CURRENT STATE OF AW TEACHING IN 22 SCHOOLS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN L.A

- THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS OF RESEARCH ARE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUSBANDRY OF ANIMALS (PIGS, POULTRY, COWS)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMANE SLAUGHTER</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILD ANIMALS</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORT</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRAY ANIMALS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABORATORY ANIMALS</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORKING ANIMALS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLAUGHTER DURING OUTBREAKS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANIMALS USED FOR TRADITIONAL FESTIVITIES &amp; SPORTS</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of Schools of Veterinary Medicine (Brazil)

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE TEACHING OF ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE FACULTIES OF VETERINARY SCIENCE IN LATIN AMERICA.
Constraints or Limitations (university)

- Lack of staff trained in AW concepts.
- Overloaded Curricula (In L.A vets deal with animal production as well as medical aspects).
- Lack of financial support for research in AW (it is still considered as a “fashion” with no practical application).
- Lack of research and postgraduate programmes related to AW.
Constraints or Limitations (society)

- Cultural (traditions where animals are used, rodeo, bull fighting, rooster fights, traditional ceremonies).

- Country economy (high percentage of people living in marginal conditions “human well-being”).

- Lack of appropriate legislation to support the application of AW recommendations (transport, humane slaughter, stray dogs, working animals).
Constraints or Limitations (society)

- Consumers are not fully aware of the meaning of AW and they are NOT willing to pay more for a product produced under AW standards.

- Distrust towards the people who encourage the observance of AW standards at farm or industry levels, confusion with radical animal rights groups.
ARE WE QUALIFIED FOR TEACHING AW TO OUR STUDENTS?

- DO WE HAVE THE HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINED IN THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF AW?
- DO WE HAVE AN ADEQUATE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WHICH ASPECTS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE TEACHING OF AW?
- DO WE HAVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE RELATED WITH AW?
- DOES ADEQUATE LEGISLATION EXIST TO SUSTAIN WHAT WE ARE TEACHING TO THE STUDENTS?
ASPECTS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE TEACHING OF ANIMAL WELFARE.

- ETHICS
- SCIENCE
- LEGISLATION
SHOULD ANIMAL WELFARE BE INCLUDED AS AN INDEPENDENT COURSE?

- YES !!!! VETERINARIANS SHOULD BE THE MAIN PROMOTERS OF AW.
- WE SUGGEST A COMPULSORY COURSE IN SECOND YEAR AND AN OPTIONAL ADVANCED (APPLIED) COURSE IN THE FIFTH YEAR
- BUT WE NEED TO CONSIDER THE NEXT PREMISES:
  - TO STANDARDIZE WHAT WE ARE TEACHING
  - TO TRAIN OUR STAFF ON THE SUBJECT
  - NOT TO TEACH MORE THAN NECESSARY
  - TO PROMOTE RESEARCH IN THE SUBJECT
  - TO PROMOTE A LEGISLATION IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF EACH COUNTRY.
REFERENCES

- Tadich, N. Teaching Animal Welfare at the University Austral of Chile. 2008. Universidad de San Marcos Lima, Perú