Actions for the Implementation of the Welfare of Working Equids OIE Strategy in Chile

Tamara Tadich\textsuperscript{ab}, Daniela Luna\textsuperscript{ac}, Rodrigo Lanas\textsuperscript{a}, Igor González\textsuperscript{a}

\textsuperscript{a} Departamento de Fomento de la Producción Animal, Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias y Pecuarias, Universidad de Chile. Santa Rosa 11735, La Pintana-Santiago, Chile, tamaratadich@u.uchile.cl
\textsuperscript{b} Centro Colaborador de la OIE en Bienestar Animal y Sistemas de Producción Pecuarios.
\textsuperscript{c} Becaria CONICYT, Programa DCSAV, Universidad de Chile. Santa Rosa 11735, La Pintana-Santiago, Chile

Introduction

In 2011 working animals became the focus of an FAO meeting in Rome. The main outcomes were that knowledge is required on:

1. Current state of the contribution of working animals to livelihoods (food security, poverty alleviation, income generation, access to services, gender equity and other aspects) worldwide.
2. Existing standards and guidelines, case studies and best practices addressing working animal health and welfare.
3. Policies and legislation and further actions at national and international levels.

Recently (2016) the OIE Welfare of Working Equids Strategy was approved. The chapter applies to equids that are used for traction, transport and income generation. It presents outcome-based measures that can be useful indicators of animal welfare, such as behaviour, health, and fitness to work.

Still more work at local level needs to be done in order to understand the contribution of working equids in each country and develop local legislation.

Activities

Baseline levels of glucocorticoids, sympathetic response, inflammatory and oxidative stress markers will be established for working horses.

The predominant coping style (reactive or proactive) in working horses will be established.

A welfare protocol based on coping style, that considers behavioural and physiological characteristics will be designed.

Coping styles in horses: should we consider them when choosing welfare indicators
FONDECYT 1161136 (2016-2019)

Most owners (44.4\%) are between 40 and 59 years of age.

Only 33.3\% of owners completed primary school.

When using a multidimensional Poverty Index, 91.4\% are considered in vulnerability.

Vulnerability of owners did not correlate with the welfare state of their horses (r=0.06; \(p=0.48\)).

On the other hand empathy explained over 60\% of the horses welfare state (\(Radj=0.63; p<0.001; B=0.11\)).

Haematological reference intervals for working equids in Chile were developed.

The intricate link between livelihood and animal welfare: identification of risk factors affecting the welfare of urban draught horses
FONDECYT 1121467 (2012-2015)

Conclusions

Reliable welfare indicators based in physiological and behavioural characteristics of the equids locally used, such as local blood reference intervals, should facilitate the assessment of working horses. On the other hand understanding the characteristics of owners, that affect welfare of horses, can allow implementation of effective and practical strategies.