Partnerships and Implementation
The International Coalition for Animal Welfare

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Abstract: The International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) represents animal protection non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from around the world at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Its work contributes to the OIE standard setting process, implementation of standards, and the development and support of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Platforms. The NGO community works every day, in the field, building partnerships to implement the OIE codes and bring about other animal welfare advancements. The member organizations of ICFAW have together hundreds of years of experience, work in over 150 countries worldwide, employ over 3,000 members of staff including over a hundred scientists and veterinarians and have over a million members and supporters. The coalition has extensive knowledge and experience working across cultures, sectors and issues and we are linked into, and indeed are leading, many global animal welfare efforts. ICFAW members work on all of the animal welfare areas for which the OIE produces guidance on including farmed animals, companion animals, animals used in research and education, working animals and wildlife, as well as disaster management and emergency preparedness. The coalition members work includes capacity building, training, educational programs, practical projects, “best practice” resources, legislation and enforcement support, awareness building, rescue, sheltering and direct care, and funding for advocacy and field projects. ICFAW members are deeply engaged in cooperative animal welfare projects with all levels of government in many regions of the world. ICFAW also values its wider partnerships with an array of animal welfare stakeholders including: international and regional organizations; development, environmental and consumer organizations; business and industry; scientific and research organizations; and other NGOs. ICFAW has an unequalled resource of competence and experience in animal welfare, and is eager to share with other stakeholders. Partnerships deepen member’s impact, and improve the welfare of animals and the people across the world who depend on them.

Key words: Animal Welfare, Partnerships, Projects, Non-Governmental Organizations, Implementation

Introduction: ICFAW aims to improve the welfare of animals globally. To this end, we have developed a range of programs across the world, with a wide array of collaborative partnerships. These contribute to the systematic development of animal welfare advances for the benefit of people and animals.

Activities:

- **Membership of Animal Welfare Working Group**
- **ICFAW contribution to drafts, position papers and issues briefings**
- **Implementation of animal welfare codes and general principles**

**Farmed animals**
- **ICFAW members carry out research and analysis, and provide advice and best practice resources**
- **Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Platforms**

- **ICFAW members take part in Platforms and RAWS working groups**

**Stray dogs**
- **ICFAW members collaborate in program partnerships**

**Wildlife**
- **ICFAW members carry out capacity building, training, and educational programs**

**Working animals**
- **Our Work: Policy and advocacy, education and awareness, best practice resources, training and practical projects.**

**Partnerships:** Business and industry; scientific and research organizations; educational establishments; other NGOs, development, environmental and consumer organizations; governments; international and regional organizations, OIE and FAO.

**Stray dog population control**
- **Our Work:** Dog population management programs, population surveys, sterilization and vaccination, education and awareness, training and capacity building, best practice resources.

**Partnerships:** OIE, WHO, GARC, governments (national and local), local NGOs, veterinarians, para-vets, local communities, and more.

**Working animals**
- **Our Work:** Policy and advocacy, education and awareness, best practice resources, assessment tools, training and practical projects.

**Partnerships:** Animal owners and local communities; scientific and research organizations; educational establishments; other NGOs, development organizations; governments; international and regional organizations, OIE and FAO.

**Disaster relief**
- **Our Work:** Emergency preparedness resources and education. Response team deployment following hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and other disasters to rescue animals and provide emergency sheltering and veterinary care.

**Partnerships:** FAO, UNISDR, governments (local and national), Red Cross, etc.

**General**
- **Our Work:** Capacity building, training, educational programs, legislation and enforcement support, awareness (including awareness days), advocacy, the provision of “best practice” resources, grant-aided funds.

**Partnerships:** Governments, international and regional organizations; development, environmental and consumer organizations; business and industry; scientific and research organizations; and other NGOs.

Conclusions: ICFAW recognizes collaborative partnerships as vital for the systematic improvement of animal welfare across the world. The way to ensure effective implementation of the OIE standards is through promotion of wider understanding of animal welfare. NGOs are at the heart of this, but our partnerships with other stakeholder groups are key links to instituting meaningful change for the benefit of animals and people alike. Our approach runs in parallel to the One Health initiative, supporting that idea that collaborative efforts of multiple disciplines-working locally, nationally, and globally is necessary to achieve the shared goals of good health and welfare for people, animals, and our environment.

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