REPORT OF THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE OIE ANIMAL WELFARE WORKING GROUP

Paris (France), 24–26 June 2014

On behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, OIE Director General, Dr Derek Belton, Head of the International Trade Department, welcomed members and participants to the meeting of the Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG).

The meeting was also attended by Dr Bernard Vallat who introduced Dr Brian Evans, recently appointed Deputy Director General of the OIE. Dr Etienne Bonbon, Vice-President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), attended the full meeting.

The list of participants and the adopted agenda are attached as Annex I and II.

1. AWWG 12th meeting report, agreed actions, informal meeting at the General Session & Teleconferences

The Working Group noted the report of the previous meeting, as well as the minutes of the teleconferences and the informal meeting, held at the General Session.

The approach taken to progress the agreed annual work programme, i.e. regular teleconferences; a side-meeting during the General Session; and electronic exchange and regular review of a list of agreed actions, was noted and considered to be very effective.

It was agreed that OIE Headquarters, through the AWWG Secretariat, would continue to be responsible for the programming of teleconferences and informal meetings, as well as ensuring updates of the work programme and agreed actions.

The minutes of the informal meeting are attached as Annex III.

2. OIE 82nd General Session 2014 outcomes

- General Session AWWG Report and Resolution on Animal Welfare

The AWWG acknowledged the adoption of the Report of the AWWG and Resolution N° 26, Animal Welfare, and that there were no questions or comments from Member Countries on either document.

The clarification of the expectation that Member Countries implement all standards in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code) including animal welfare was noted.

It was also noted that development of a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) for Africa was not included in the agenda for the OIE Regional Commission for Africa meeting.
• Preparation of OIE Strategic Plan 2016–2020

The Working Group noted that the draft sixth OIE Strategic Plan circulated for Member Countries comment includes animal welfare as a mainstream OIE activity. They noted with interest the intention to review terms of reference and the criteria for selection and maintenance of OIE Reference Centres, and see that as an opportunity to improve the contribution of the OIE Collaborating Centres for Animal Welfare to keeping the animal welfare standards up to date, and to enhance OIE’s animal welfare programme in general.


The AWWG noted the reports of the Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety and of the Working Group on Wildlife, and noted the change of the name of the latter.

After discussing the importance of animal welfare in wildlife the AWWG suggested the OIE establish an ad hoc Group to discuss the welfare implications of culling pest animals, but noted that this would probably not be possible for many years given other domestic animal welfare priorities.

4. Addressing Member comments

• Draft Chapter 7.X. on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production System

The AWWG noted the draft chapter and congratulated the ad hoc group on its work.

The AWWG discussed the general comments of several Member Countries, including the absence of parameters for the majority of many animal welfare outcome measurables listed in the draft standard. Although they share those concerns, they agreed that currently there is insufficient data to define globally applicable parameters for these measurables, and noted that even for those measurable for which parameters are provided (e.g. ammonia levels) there are major challenges to routinely measure them in the field production situation.

The AWWG proposed to develop some guiding principles for the use of outcome-based measurables. The AWWG agreed that Dr Luc Mirabito would draft a text to be proposed to the Code Commission and Member Countries after the next AWWG meeting.

The AWWG agreed that guidance and research evidence from the Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres should be sought to improve our knowledge on useful globally applicable parameters for the animal welfare measurable identified in the various animal welfare chapters.

The AWWG also noted their preference to avoid the use of wording in standards that can lead to confusion, or not give any meaningful guidance at all.

The AWWG agreed to provide further specific recommendations to the ad hoc group.

• Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals

In respect to comments on the mechanical stunning diagrams and pictures in Chapters 7.5. and 7.6., the AWWG recommended that OIE convene a “virtual” ad hoc group of experts led by Mr Mirabito to review the range of information available and recommend appropriate amendments to the relevant sections of both chapters. The AWWG considered this would also be a useful pilot study to evaluate this approach to keeping all of the animal welfare standards up to date.

Similarly in response to Member Countries comments on electrical stunning of animals (particularly poultry), the AWWG recommended that OIE convene an electronic ad hoc group of experts, led by Mr Mirabito, to review the current recommendation in Chapters 7.5. and 7.6. and recommend amendments as appropriate.
Dr Andrea Gavinelli offered to organise a meeting with these experts on electrical stunning to discuss the latest advances on this stunning method with the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which is also working on this subject. It was suggested that this meeting could be held back to back with the Better Training for Safer Food meeting scheduled to be held in Brazil in November this year.

- **Chapter 7.6. Killing of Animals for Disease Control Purposes**

In response to the request to add recommendations for horses in this chapter, the AWWG decided to request the New Zealand-Australia Collaborating Centre to develop new text on this subject for the AWWG to consider at their next meeting. Dr Peter Thornber agreed to contact the Collaborating Centre to initiate this request.

Dr Leopoldo Stuardo noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Working Equids proposed to include in its standard a specific article on euthanasia methods, which should be take into account in the development of this new text for Chapter 7.6.

Finally, in response to comments concerning the use of gas filled foam to kill poultry, the AWWG decided to wait for further results from scientific studies currently underway before making further recommendations on this subject.

The AWWG also recommended that OIE ask the electronic *ad hoc* Group of experts convened to deal with Chapter 7.5. to recommend amendments as appropriate on Chapter 7.6.

- **Chapter 7.10. Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production Systems**

In response to comments from Member Countries, an NGO and a member of the Working Group, the AWWG proposed revised wording for Article 7.10.4, point 2 b) as highlighted in *Annex IV* for consideration by the Code Commission at their September meetings.

They rejected requests to reduce the threshold of acceptable ammonia concentrations in Article 7.10.4, point 2 c) in the absence of sufficient supporting evidence.

The proposed modifications to this chapter are presented in *Annex IV*.

- **Chapter 3.1. Veterinary Services**

The AWWG noted the modification adopted at the 82nd OIE General Session, in order to specifically include animal welfare in this chapter.

- **Chapter 3.2. Evaluation of Veterinary Services**

In response to Member Countries comments, the AWWG proposed new text to explicitly include animal welfare in relevant clauses throughout this chapter for consideration by the Code Commission at its September meeting.

The proposed modifications to this chapter are presented in *Annex V*.

- **Chapter 3.3. Communication**

As in the previous chapter the AWWG noted the modification adopted at the 82nd OIE General Session in order to specifically include animal welfare in this chapter.

5. **RAWS and the AW Platform for Europe: update from the regions**

Dr Gavinelli updated the AWWG on the activities of the AW Platform for Europe, informing them about the 2nd meeting of the group held in Moscow. The main issues discussed were the membership of the Steering Group, progress on the already identified priorities, particularly the seminar on national strategies for stray dog population control in the Balkan countries, to be held in Bucharest (Romania).
On the Americas Region, Dr Stuardo advised that an electronic consultation is planned to review the adopted strategy and also develop an implementation plan. This work will be discussed at the next meeting of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas in Guadalajara (Mexico). The AWWG propose that the Headquarters asked the Regional Representation of the Americas, to keep Professor Fraser informed on the developments and activities in the framework of the RAWS.

Dr Hassan Aidaros advised that the Middle East Region RAWS document has been sent to Member Countries for a final review, and, in the absence of any significant new comments, will be considered adopted within two weeks.

Dr Thornber and Dr David Bayvel advised that the Secretariat function for the AFEO RAWS has now been picked up by the OIE Regional Representation in Tokyo. Planning is underway for next animal welfare focal points seminar in Canberra (Australia) in November along with the eighth meeting of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group.

The AWWG again expressed its concern about the lack of progress in developing a RAWS for Africa. However the group were encouraged to hear informal advice from Dr Belton that funding for the Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance (PAAWA) proposal to develop a RAWS for East Africa has recently been approved under the Interanfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) VETGOV grants programme.


The AWWG discussed an environmental scan, a SWOT analysis and the draft OIE global animal welfare strategic plan developed out of session. They also reviewed the draft 6th OIE strategic plan, and agreed the global animal welfare strategic plan should follow the format of the 6th OIE strategic plan. Having agreed the key points to be included they agreed to finalise the draft Global Strategy for consideration by the Code Commission at its February 2015 meeting. Professor David Fraser will lead this work and other AWWG members will provide contributions to specific sections.

7. OIE Collaborating Centres (CC)

Joint meeting with the Collaborating Centres

- **CC New-Zealand/Australia** Dr Mark Fisher, Chair of the New Zealand Australia OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis, joined the meeting and outlined key activities, drawing on the annual report to OIE. He mentioned the progress in the following activities.
  - *Scientific & Technical Review* Series publication “Animal Welfare: Focusing on the Future” now published. Efforts of Professor David Mellor & Dr Bayvel in coordinated and editing acknowledged. Also valuable was the number of younger centre staff also exposed as co-editors.
  - Major focus is the Cooperative Project between the universities of Queensland and Putra Malaysia supporting the RAWS strategy. Aim is to enhance stakeholder knowledge of OIE standards, especially transport and slaughter, and train key personnel in transport and slaughter practices to improve animal welfare in Malaysia, China, Thailand and Vietnam and is supported by the New Zealand, Australian, Malaysian and EU governments, the University of Putra Malaysia, and World Animal Protection. The project involves workshops for livestock producers, managers of livestock operations and trainers workshops and local stakeholder meetings through veterinary services. Currently, speakers, from both within the region and elsewhere, are being identified and contacted, workshops are being arranged, the importance of translating OIE material into local languages has been noted and is being explored and measures of effectiveness and aligned research initiatives are being considered.
  - The Centre has postponed holding a residential training programme until the Cooperative Project is completed. This is due to the proposed content being found to overlap with the above Project and the need to collate and understand the number of similar regional initiatives to enhance animal welfare also being undertaken by various groups.
The OIE Collaborating Centre for Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, and Animal Welfare was represented by Barbara Alessandrini, who attended the meeting connected through Skype. She gave an overview of the current activities being carried out in Teramo under the animal welfare/training/knowledge management domain.

- The inclusion of the Teramo OIE CC in the OIE Regional Platform for Animal Welfare for Europe;
- VII Framework Programme project “CALLISTO” (Companion Animals Multisectorial Interprofessional Interdisciplinary Strategic Think-Tank on Zoonoses);
- Study of the effectiveness of stray dog population control strategies;
- Technological systems for dog population control and management;
- European Commission Study on the welfare of dogs and cats involved in commercial practices;
- Modules for e-learning training courses under the EC programme "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative;
- Training activities on animal welfare under the EC “Better Training for Safer Food” initiative.

Mrs Alessandrini also informed that six scientific publications have been published in 2014 until now.

Apologies were received from the CC from Chile-Mexico-Uruguay and ILAR, who already had previous commitments for that day.


8. **Ad hoc Group on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction in relation to Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Public Health**

Dr Stuardo informed that the *ad hoc* Group had its first meeting from 15–17 April 2014. The meeting was chaired by Dr Gary Vroegindewey, the Group discussed extensively the problems of dealing with disasters within the framework of the paper prepared by Dr Sarah Kahn, and agreed with the approach of developing a set of guidelines for OIE Member Countries for publication on the OIE website. Dr Stuardo also advised that the group agreed that the guidelines will focus on strategic, organisational and operational issues rather than technical issues, and cover animal health, welfare and veterinary public health. A second meeting of the *ad hoc* Group is proposed for the fourth quarter of 2014.

9. **OIE *ad hoc* Group on the Welfare of Working Equids**

Dr Bayvel updated on the *ad hoc* Group on Working Equids held from 17–19 June 2014. He noted that the *ad hoc* Group on Working Equids had decided to develop its standard using animal based criteria, which address outcomes at the animal level, rather than prescribe measures to be applied. The standard is also envisaged to be a model for other working animal standards.

Finally, Dr Bayvel commented that the *ad hoc* Group agreed to structure their standard according to the pattern established by the existing production animal standards, and advised that the draft text under development is expected to be sent for consideration by the Code Commission at its September 2014 meeting. If required, a second meeting of the *ad hoc* Group will be held in June 2015.
10. Animal welfare and trade

- OIE Regional Conference on Animal Welfare and International Trade, Montevideo (Uruguay) October 2013

This conference focused on the implementation of OIE standards in production, transport and slaughter, focusing on beef cattle, and taking into account the vision of the OIE, the Veterinary Services and the private sector partners.

Animal Welfare bilateral trade requirements were also examined including technical specifications developed by the private sector, including ISO, Eurep-GAP, RSPCA (Freedom Food) among others, and their relationship with the OIE standards and national regulations of the Veterinary Services.

The Conference also considered the costs and benefits of the implementation of animal welfare covering the stages of production, transport and slaughter, including the point of view of traders and consumers.

This Conference was held back to back with the OIE animal welfare focal point seminar, which, with the support of the European Commission, enabled participation of the OIE animal welfare focal points from Europe.

The Recommendation and other information on this Conference can be found in the following web link: http://www.oie.int/eng/A_MONTE/objectifs.htm

- Update and discussions on the WTO Panel Report on the “EU Measures prohibiting the importation and marketing of seal products”

The AWWG discussed many aspects of this case, and it was agreed that OIE should gather more information and share the key points and implications of the ruling on this case with OIE Member Countries.

Dr Gavinelli commented that we have yet to fully appreciate the implications of the report of the Appellate Body on the issue of human rights. More information on the WTO Panel "EU Measures prohibiting the importation and marketing of seal products can be found at http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news13_e/400_401r_e.htm and the Appellate Body report can be found at: http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/400_401abr_e.pdf.

NB: The Director General of the OIE decided to prepare an in-depth analysis of this Panel report.

11. ISO/TC 34/WG 16 on Animal Welfare

Dr Stuardo summarised the fourth meeting of the ISO/TC 34/WG on animal welfare held in the OIE Headquarters on the 23rd of May immediately prior to the 82nd OIE General Session. Dr Stuardo advised that the main topics discussed during the meeting were the conclusions and achievements of the New Work Item Proposal ballot, the results of the impact study, the membership of the drafting group and the proposed calendar of work which aims to finalise a draft technical specification by the end of 2014.

12. Implementing OIE AW standards

- Progress on the toolbox for implementing the OIE slaughter standard

Dr Thornber updated the AWWG on progress with developing the toolbox to assist implementation of OIE standards for slaughter including the draft document he had circulated to members for comment.

The Group discussed the need for Member Countries to have easy access to operational and scientific references that support all OIE animal welfare standards.
Dr Gavinelli suggested the possibility of reaching an agreement between the European Commission, the Animal Welfare Science Hub, the AWIN (Animal Welfare Indicators) project and OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres to develop a web based repository of validated scientific information. The Group supported this proposal and also foresaw the possibility of the Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres acting as key reviewers of the information included in this repository. OIE Headquarters will follow up this proposal with further discussion and exploration of what may be possible with the various interested parties.

- **Improved Animal Welfare Programme**

Dr Tomasz Grudnik updated the AWWG on this programme which started in 2012, based around “trains the trainers” to improve implementation of OIE standards on transport and slaughter. Trainings have been conducted in Indonesia (including one follow-up), Philippines (two rounds), Turkey, Vietnam, Jordan and Thailand. The Jordan programme included Egyptian participants, and a participant from Bangladesh participated in the Thailand programme. There is also a programme in progress in Oman which includes representatives from Kuwait, Lebanon and Yemen. Further trainings in 2014 are planned for Iran, Korea and Israel. Although this training programme has been very well received in all countries in which it has been held, funding for the continuation of this programme beyond mid 2015 is uncertain. The AWWG encouraged OIE to explore all funding options to enable continuation of this programme.

- **AWIN meeting feedback**

Prof. Fraser reported back to the group on the third AWIN Conference held in Prague (Czech Republic) last April. This project financed by the EU VII Framework Programme follows the Welfare Quality® project and covers species that were not covered by the WQ (sheep, goats, horses, donkeys and turkeys). It aims to develop, integrate and disseminate animal-based welfare indicators with an emphasis on pain assessment and pain recognition. It uses new indicators and hosts an Animal Welfare Science Hub to gather and share available information at http://www.animal-welfare-indicators.net/site/. As it was discussed and agreed in a previous point, the Animal Welfare Science Hub will be part of a discussion to foresee their inclusion in a repository of scientific information based at the OIE website.

Dr Stuardo commented that the project had some interesting developments, in particular on the use of new technologies for the animal welfare assessments.

13. **Other business**

- **Feedback from IATA**

Dr Belton updated the AWWG on changes the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Boards introduced to the 40th edition of the Live Animals Regulations (LAR) to avoid situations where pregnant dogs give birth in flight. Unfortunately an unintended consequence of the changes introduced resulted in some concern that airlines would refuse to transport pregnant mares up to 300 days gestation, which would impact on the normal international transport of high value thoroughbred breeding mares. As a result of the OIE participation at the last meeting of the IATA Live Animals and Perishables Board in April a proposed addendum was agreed which effectively re-aligns the LAR with Article 7.4.2. of the Terrestrial Code, and introduces new maximum limits to the days since service for air transport of pregnant cats and dogs.

- **OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, Chile 2016**

Dr Stuardo advised that the Director General has written to the Chilean Ministry of Agriculture confirming that the OIE is pleased to accept the Chilean proposal to host the fourth OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Chile in 2016, and advised that OIE will be in contact with the Chilenese in the second semester of 2015 to initiate arrangements. Financial participation of the Country will be requested.
The AWWG noted its strong support for the next OIE Global Animal Welfare Conference, and its keenness to contribute to the preparation of the Conference Concept Note and Scientific Programme.

- **Scientific and Technical Review, Vol. 33 (1)**

  Dr Bayvel updated the AWWG on the recent publication of the issue of the OIE *Scientific and Technical Review*, “Animal welfare: focusing on the future”. He noted that the original idea of this publication was suggested by the New Zealand – Australia OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis. The Review outlines contemporary thinking about factors that promote or jeopardise the productivity, health and welfare of the wide range of animals used for human purposes. It also considers likely future developments in animal welfare thinking and management and, where possible, references influences of the diverse practical, economic, political, socio-cultural and religious factors that may be encountered globally in various cultural contexts.


- **Animal Welfare Focal Point Seminars and agenda for OIE meetings**

  Dr Stuardo reported that two seminars for the OIE focal points for animal welfare were scheduled for the year 2014. The first was held in Amman (Jordan) in April. This Seminar was held immediately before the final session of the IAWP Training Programme. The second seminar is scheduled for November for the Asia, Far East and Oceania region, and will be held in Canberra, Australia in conjunction with the eighth RAWS Group Coordination Meeting.

- **Information on other meetings**

  The AWWG shared information on future meetings and activities in which members of the Group will participate actively.


  Members reviewed and updated the current AWWG work programme through to June 2015. The updated work programme will be provided to the September 2014 meeting of the Code Commission.

15. **Dates of next meeting**

  It was agreed that the next full meeting of the AWWG will be held on 2–4 June 2015.

  A Working Group teleconference will be scheduled in early January to provide input to the February and March meetings of the Code Commission and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.

.../Annexes
### MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Paris, 24–26 June 2014

#### List of participants

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Annex I (contd)

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MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE
Paris, 24–26 June 2014

Agenda

**Tuesday 24th**

09:30   Introduction and priorities / Dr Belton
09:45   Administrative arrangements / Dr Belton
10:00   1) AWWG 12th meeting report, agreed actions, informal meeting at GS & teleconferences
10:45   2) OIE General Session 2014 Outcomes
       ▪ General Session AWWG Report / Resolutions on Animal Welfare
       ▪ Preparation of OIE Strategic Plan 2016–2020
11:30–11:45 Break
11:45   3) Report of the Working Groups on Food Safety and Wildlife Diseases
13:00–14:00 Lunch
14:00   4) Addressing Members comments:
       ▪ Draft Chapter 7.X. on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production System
       ▪ Chapters 7.5. and 7.6.
16:00–16:15 Break
       ▪ Chapter 7.10. on Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production Systems
       ▪ Chapter 3.1. on Veterinary Services
       ▪ Chapter 3.2. on Evaluation of Veterinary Services
       ▪ Chapter 3.3. on Communication
17:00   5) RAWS: update from the regions

**Wednesday 25th**

09:30   6) Global Animal Welfare Strategy
13:00–14:00 Lunch
14:00   7) Joint session with Collaborating Centres
15:00   8) OIE ad hoc Group on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Relation to Animal Health and Welfare
15:30   9) OIE ad hoc Group on the Welfare of Working Equids
Annex II (contd)

16:00–16:15  Break

16:15  10) Animal welfare and trade

- Recommendations of the OIE Regional Conference on Animal Welfare and International Trade, Montevideo (Uruguay), October 2013
- Update and discussions on the WTO Panel Report on the “EU Measures prohibiting the importation and marketing of seal products”

17:00  11) ISO/TC 34/WG 16 on Animal Welfare

19:00  Dinner

Thursday 26th

09:30  12) Implementing OIE AW standards

- P. Thornber – Progress on toolbox for implementing slaughter welfare standards
- Improved Animal Welfare Programme
- D. Fraser AWIN meeting feedback

11:00  13) Other Business

- AW chapters organization
- D. Belton feedback from IATA

11:30–11:45  Break

11:45  Other Business (contd)

- 2014 SATRS Issue №33
- OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, Chile 2016
- Animal Welfare Focal Point Seminars and agenda for OIE meetings
- Information on other meetings

13:00–14:00  Lunch

14:00  Work programme 2014–2015

16:00–16:15  Break

16:15  Meeting report

17:00  Next Meeting
Minutes of the Informal Meeting of the OIE AWWG

May 27th 2014 13:00 - Maison de la Chimie

Participants

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<th>AWWG Members</th>
<th>OIE</th>
<th>Apologies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Abdul Rahman (AR)</td>
<td>Derek Belton (DB)</td>
<td>Marosi Molomo (MM)</td>
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<td>Andrea Gavinelli (AG)</td>
<td>Leopoldo Stuardo (LS)</td>
<td>David Fraser (DF)</td>
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<td>David Bayvel (DB)</td>
<td>Tomoko Ishibashi (TI)</td>
<td>Peter Thornber (PT)</td>
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<td>Hassan Aidaros (HA)</td>
<td>Ratislav Kolesar (RK)</td>
<td>Vincent Guyonnet (VG)</td>
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<td>Luc Mirabito (LM)</td>
<td>Tomasz Grudnik (TG)</td>
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<td>Hassan Aidaros (HA)</td>
<td>Ma. Elaine Joy Villareal (MV)</td>
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<td>Jacques Servière (JS)</td>
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Start of the meeting 13:05 hrs.

1. Introduction

AR, Chair of the AWWG, welcomed the participants and shares the objectives of the meeting, which mainly is to take this opportunity to prepare the meeting of the working group in June. Each of the attendees introduced themselves.

2. Agenda (Annex I)

The Agenda was revised and no new items were added.

3. Thirteenth Working Group Meeting Proposed Agenda (Annex II)

LS presented a draft Agenda for the June meeting and agreed to circulate among members for comments and additions of new points in the other business item. It was agreed to set a teleconference with Collaborating Centres (CC) on Wednesday at 14h00.

Also it was agreed to include time and hour of discussion of each item. Finally it was agreed, to book a complete morning of the Agenda, to discuss the proposed of the Global Animal Welfare Strategy of the OIE. LS will send a Draft Agenda at earliest convenience.

4. Update ISO/TC 34/WG 16 work on animal welfare

LS informed about the 4th meeting of the ISO/TC 34 Working Group on Animal Welfare, which was held at the OIE Headquarters the 23rd of June. The agenda included among other points the presentation of the results of the impact study and the membership of the drafting Group for develop the draft of the Technical Specification.
5. Summary February TAHSC February meeting

DB summarised the Animal Welfare discussion during the last February Code Commission Meeting. Informing that the Code Commission had received an important number of comments on the Code Chapters 7.X, 7.5 and 7.6, where some of the more relevant, were sent for the AWWG looking for an opinion.

AG, in relation to one of the aspect comments by Members Countries in relation to the Water Bath Stunning method for poultry is in this moment being analysed by EFSA. This is a good example for the use of scientific information to solve some normative difficulties.

6. Information on the development of OIE Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020

DB informed that a draft have been discussed in the OIE Council, and this will be discuss during the General Session with Member Countries Delegates, and indicated also that as soon a discussion document will be available, this one will be presented to the AWWG.

7. Preparation for GAWS Planning Session at AWWG 13

AR recalls that there is a draft document prepared by DF and proposes to recirculate that document for further analysis and comments. The Members of the AWWG also proposed that DF to take the lead on the discussion of the GAWS at the June meeting.

AG indicates that the result of the Seal panel at WTO could have an impact on the way that the AWWG is going to develop the GAWS. It was also agreed to circulate the summary of the Appellate Body report. (Annex III).

DB proposed to conduct an environmental scan as a preparatory work for the GAWS discussion and he will circulate before the AWWG meeting in June.

(For information, bellow you can find the links where you can find the complete Panel Report and the full Appellate Body Report:


http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/400_401abr_e.pdf

8. Animal Welfare and Livestock production systems ad hoc Groups update and Member Country Comments

DB informed that the Dairy Cattle ad hoc Group met in November last year and their Report was included in the February Code Commission Report. An important number of comments were received and some of them were sent to the AWWG for have a final decision.

9. Update on the OIE new ad hoc Groups (Disaster management and risk reduction and Working equids)

LS informed that the ad hoc Group met in April this year. With members coming from FAO (LEGS), EC, Japan, Cuba, Kenya and World Animal Protection (Asia) and under the Presidency of Dr Gary Vroegindewey, Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The Group agreed to propose some modifications to the TOR to reflect the initial discussion. Finally they elaborated a Report which includes a draft Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health. This Report will be available for the AWWG meeting in June. The ad hoc Group also decided that a second meeting will take place in November this year.

AG noted the importance to discuss the Report of the ad hoc Group jointly with other Groups of the OIE system as there are others aspects that have been considered than only animal welfare.

LS finally informed that the ad hoc Group on AW on working equids will meet one week before the AWWG.
10. AWWG pilot work on developing toolboxes to assist implementation of OIE animal welfare standards

LS informed about the reception of a draft proposal from PT and enriched by LM. The AWWG agreed to discuss this proposal broadly and jointly with the information coming from the AWIN project.

11. Improved animal welfare programme (IAWP) update

RK mentioned that an important numbers of trainings have been already conducted in eligible and non-eligible countries for the project. MV completed the IAWP team together with TG. Also informed that the training material in CD-ROM, will be available in next months.

12. RAWS and EU Platform on animal welfare updates

LS summarised the activities of the Regional Commission in term of the RAWS.

In Europe, the 2nd meeting of the AW Platform for Europe was held in Moscow and the main discussed issues were the membership of the SG, the work on the already identified priorities such as the Control of Stray Dogs Population. A Seminar on this topic is planned for countries in the Balkan area for the month June.

In the Americas Region an electronic consultation is planned to start the process of review of the adopted strategy and also for the development of an implementation document. This work will be discussed at the next Regional Commission meeting in Guadalajara Mexico.

In the Middle East Region a final RAWS document was sent for comment for Regional Member comments for a period of two weeks and after that period will be consider adopted.

TI gives an update on the next AW FP Seminar in Canberra, Australia next November. This will be also a back to back meeting of the AFEO RAWS, to which the OIE Regional Representation in Tokyo took the responsibility of the Secretariat.

13. Collaborating Centres update

The group agreed to fix the meeting with the CC (face to face or video conference) for the second day of the AWG meeting at 13:00 hrs.

14. Other Business

  LS informed about the 3rd Annual Meeting of the AWIN project. DF also participated at that meeting. The OIE only participated at the stakeholders meeting in which took place very positive interactions, and an important number of tools were presented, especially in the AW assessment techniques. It was agreed at the meeting, to share the Web site of the project, which is the following: [http://www.animal-welfare-indicators.net/site/](http://www.animal-welfare-indicators.net/site/)

- **Future of the OIE AWWG and future priorities;**
  JS asked about the priorities on future Chapters on AW on Animal production Systems. AR indicated also that captive and non-captive wild life species could be also been considered as a future priority of the OIE work.
  DB indicated that as there are already two ad hoc Groups working at this moment. Other ad hoc Groups, covering other productive species will probably start after one more year.

- **Working Programme and Agreed Actions;**
  This point will be discussed at the June meeting.

End of the Meeting 14:10 hrs.
Final agenda

1. Introduction / Meeting Objective
2. Agenda Review
3. Thirteenth Working Group Meeting Proposed Agenda
4. Update ISO/TC 34/WG 16 work on animal welfare
5. Summary February TAHSC February meeting
6. Information on the development of OIE Strategic Plan 2015–2020
7. Preparation for GAWS Planning Session at AWWG 13
8. Animal Welfare and Livestock production systems *ad hoc* Groups update and Member Country Comments
9. Update on the OIE new *ad hoc* Groups (Disaster management and risk reduction and working equids)
10. AWWG pilot work on developing toolboxes to assist implementation of OIE Animal Welfare Standards
11. Improved animal welfare programme (IAWP) update
12. RAWs and EU Platform on AW Updates
13. Collaborating Centres update
14. Other Business
   - Report on the AWIN Project (Animal Welfare Science Hub)
   - Future of the OIE AWWG and future priorities
   - Working Programme and Agreed Actions

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MEETING OF THE OIE ANIMAL WELFARE WORKING GROUP

Paris, 24–26 June 2014

Draft agenda

Introduction and priorities / Dr Vallat

Administrative arrangements / Dr Belton

25th June - 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm: Joint Session with Representatives of OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres (to be confirmed)

1. AWWG 12th meeting report, agreed actions, informal meeting at GS & teleconferences

2. OIE General Session 2014 Outcomes
   - General Session AWWG Report/ Resolutions on Animal Welfare
   - Preparation of OIE Strategic Plan 2016-2020


4. Addressing Member comments:
   - Draft Chapter 7.X. on Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production System
   - Chapters 7.5. and 7.6.
   - Chapter 7.10. Broiler Chicken Production Systems
   - Chapter 3.1. Veterinary Services
   - Chapter 3.2. Evaluation of Veterinary Services
   - Chapter 3.3. Communication

5. Joint session with Collaborating Centres (to be confirmed)

6. OIE ad hoc Group on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in Relation to Animal Health and Welfare

7. OIE ad hoc Group on the Welfare of Working Equids

8. Animal Welfare Strategies
   - RAWS: update of the regions
   - Global AW strategy
Annex II (contd)

9. Animal welfare and trade
   - Update Fur Seals WTO

10. ISO/TC 34/WG 16 on Animal Welfare

11. Implementing OIE AW standards
   - Improved Animal Welfare Programme
   - Animal Welfare Resources Stocktake
   - D. Fraser AWIN meeting feedback

12. Other business
   - AW Chapters organization
   - D. Belton feedback from IATA
   - Membership of the World Farmers Organisation
   - 2014 SATRS Issue
   - Animal Welfare Focal Point Seminars and agenda for OIE meetings
   - Animal Health and Welfare Fund
   - Information on other meetings


14. Meeting report

15. Next meeting
CHAPTER 7.10.

ANIMAL WELFARE AND BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Article 7.10.1.

Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter:

**Broiler:** means a bird of the species *Gallus gallus* kept for commercial meat production. Poultry kept in village or backyard flocks are not included.

**Harvesting:** means the catching and loading of birds on farm for transportation to the slaughterhouse/abattoir.

Article 7.10.2.

Scope

This chapter covers the production period from arrival of day-old birds on the farm to harvesting the broilers in commercial production systems. Such systems involve confinement of the birds, the application of biosecurity measures, and trade in the products of those birds, regardless of scale of production. These recommendations cover broilers kept in cages, on slatted floors, litter or dirt and indoors or outdoors.

Broiler production systems include:

1. **Completely housed system**
   
   Broilers are completely confined in a poultry house, with or without environmental control.

2. **Partially housed system**
   
   Broilers are kept in a poultry house with access to a restricted outdoor area.

3. **Completely outdoors system**
   
   Broilers are not confined inside a poultry house at any time during the production period but are confined in a designated outdoor area.

This chapter should be read in conjunction with Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. on the welfare of broilers during transport to the slaughterhouse/abattoir.

Article 7.10.3.

Criteria or measurables for the welfare of broilers

The welfare of broilers should be assessed using outcome-based measurables. Consideration should also be given to the resources provided and the design of the system. The following outcome-based measurables, specifically animal-based measurables, can be useful indicators of animal welfare. The use of these indicators and the appropriate thresholds should be adapted to the different situations where broilers are managed, also taking into account the strain of bird concerned.
Annex IV (contd)

Some criteria can be measured in the farm setting, such as gait, mortality and morbidity rates, while others are best measured at the slaughterhouse/abattoir. For example, at slaughter flocks can be assessed for presence of bruising, broken limbs and other injuries. The age of these lesions can help to determine the source. Back scratching and contact dermatitis and breast blisters are also easily observed at the slaughterhouse/abattoir. Other conditions such as ascites, leg deformities, dehydration and disease conditions can also be assessed at slaughter. It is recommended that values for welfare measurables be determined with reference to appropriate national, sectoral or perhaps regional norms for commercial broiler production.

The following outcome-based criteria and measurables are useful indicators of broiler welfare:

1. Mortality, culling and morbidity

   Daily, weekly and cumulative mortality, culling and morbidity rates should be within expected ranges. Any unforeseen increase in these rates could reflect an animal welfare problem.

2. Gait

   Broilers are susceptible to developing a variety of infectious and non-infectious musculoskeletal disorders. These disorders may lead to lameness and to gait abnormalities. Broilers that are lame or have gait abnormalities may have difficulty reaching the food and water, may be trampled by other broilers, and may experience pain. Musculoskeletal problems have many causes, including genetics, nutrition, sanitation, lighting, litter quality, and other environmental and management factors. There are several gait scoring systems available.

3. Contact dermatitis

   Contact dermatitis affects skin surfaces that have prolonged contact with wet litter or other wet flooring surfaces. The condition is manifested as blackened skin progressing to erosions and fibrosis on the lower surface of the foot pad, at the back of the hocks, and sometimes in the breast area. If severe, the foot and hock lesions may contribute to lameness and lead to secondary infections. Validated scoring systems for contact dermatitis have been developed for use in slaughterhouse/abattoir.

4. Feather condition

   Evaluation of the feather condition of broilers provides useful information about aspects of welfare. Plumage dirtiness is correlated with contact dermatitis and lameness for individual birds or may be associated with the environment and production system. Plumage dirtiness can be assessed as part of on-farm inspections, at the time of harvesting or prior to plucking. A scoring system has been developed for this purpose.

5. Incidence of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations

   Ill-health, regardless of the cause, is a welfare concern, and may be exacerbated by poor environmental or husbandry management.

6. Behaviour

   a) Fear behaviour

      Fearful broilers show avoidance of humans, and this behaviour is seen in flocks where animal handlers walk through the poultry house quickly when performing their tasks rather than moving more slowly while interacting with the broilers. Fearfulness (e.g. of sudden loud noises) can also lead to the broilers piling on top of, and even suffocating, one another. Fearful broilers may be less productive. Validated methods have been developed for evaluating fearfulness.
b) Spatial distribution

Changes in the spatial distribution (e.g. huddling) of the birds may indicate thermal discomfort or the existence of areas of wet litter or uneven provision of light, food or water.

c) Panting and wing spreading

Excessive panting and wing spreading indicates heat stress or poor air quality, such as high levels of ammonia.

d) Dust bathing

Dust bathing is an intricate body maintenance behaviour performed by many birds, including broilers. During dust bathing, broilers work loose material, such as litter, through their feathers. Dust bathing helps to keep the feathers in good condition, which in turns helps to maintain body temperature and protect against skin injury. Reduced dust bathing behaviour in the flock may indicate problems with litter or range quality, such as litter or ground being wet or not friable.

e) Feeding, drinking and foraging

Reduced feeding or drinking behaviour can indicate management problems, including inadequate feeder or drinker space or placement, dietary imbalance, poor water quality, or feed contamination. Feeding and drinking behaviour are often depressed when broilers are ill, and intake may be also reduced during periods of heat stress and increased during cold stress. Foraging is the act of searching for food, typically by walking and pecking or scratching the litter substrate; reduced foraging activity could suggest problems with litter quality or presence of conditions that decrease bird movement.

f) Feather pecking and cannibalism

Feather pecking can result in significant feather loss and may lead to cannibalism. Cannibalism is the tearing of the flesh of another bird, and can result in severe injury. These abnormal behaviours have multi-factorial causes.

7. Water and feed consumption

Monitoring daily water consumption is a useful tool to indicate disease and other welfare conditions, taking into consideration ambient temperature, relative humidity, feed consumption and other related factors. Problems with the water supply can result in wet litter, diarrhoea, dermatitis or dehydration.

Changes in feed consumption can indicate unsuitability of feed, the presence of disease or other welfare problems.

8. Performance

a) Growth rate (gr) - an index that indicates the average daily gain of weight per average broiler of a flock.

b) Feed conversion - an index that measures the quantity of feed consumed by a flock relative to the total live weight harvested, expressed as the weight of feed required to produce one kg of broiler body weight.

c) Liveability - an index that indicates the percentage of broilers present at the end of the production period. More commonly this indicator is measured as its opposite, mortality.
Annex IV (contd)

9. **Injury rate**

The rate of these injuries can indicate welfare problems in the *flock* during production or harvesting. Injuries include those due to other broilers (scratches, feather loss or wounding due to feather pecking and cannibalism) and those due to environmental conditions, such as skin lesions (e.g. contact dermatitis) and those due to human intervention, such as catching. The most prevalent injuries seen during catching are bruises, broken limbs, dislocated hips, and damaged wings.

10. **Eye conditions**

Conjunctivitis can indicate the presence of irritants such as dust and ammonia. High ammonia levels can also cause corneal burns and eventual blindness. Abnormal eye development can be associated with low light intensity.

11. **Vocalisation**

Vocalisation can indicate emotional states, both positive and negative. Interpretation of *flock* vocalisations is possible by experienced *animal handlers*.

Article 7.10.4.

**Recommendations**

1. **Biosecurity and animal health**

   a) **Biosecurity and disease prevention**

   Biosecurity means a set of measures designed to maintain a *flock* at a particular health status and to prevent the entry (or exit) of specific infectious agents.

   Biosecurity programmes should be designed and implemented, commensurate with the best possible *flock* health status and current disease risk (endemic and exotic or transboundary) that is specific to each epidemiological group of broilers and in accordance with relevant recommendations found in the *Terrestrial Code*.

   These programmes should address the control of the major routes for disease and pathogen transmission:

   i) direct transmission from other *poultry*, domesticated and wild *animals* and humans,

   ii) fomites, such as equipment, facilities and *vehicles*,

   iii) *vectors* (e.g. arthropods and rodents),

   iv) aerosols,

   v) water supply,

   vi) feed.


   b) **Animal health management, preventive medicine and veterinary treatment**

   Animal health management means a system designed to optimise the health and welfare of the broilers. It includes prevention, treatment and control of *diseases* and adverse conditions.
Those responsible for the care of broilers should be aware of the signs of ill-health or distress, such as a change in feed and water intake, reduced growth, changes in behaviour, abnormal appearance of feathers, faeces, or other physical features.

If persons in charge are not able to identify the causes of diseases, ill-health or distress, or to correct these, or if they suspect the presence of a reportable disease, they should seek advice from veterinarians or other qualified advisers. Veterinary treatments should be prescribed by a veterinarian.

There should be an effective programme for the prevention and treatment of diseases consistent with the programmes established by Veterinary Services as appropriate.

Vaccinations and treatments should be administered, on the basis of veterinary or other expert advice, by personnel skilled in the procedures and with consideration for the welfare of the broilers.

Sick or injured broilers should be humanely killed as soon as possible. Similarly, killing broilers for diagnostic purposes should be done in a humane manner according to Chapter 7.6.

Outcome-based measurables: incidence of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations, mortality, performance, gait.

2. Environment and management

a) Thermal environment

Thermal conditions for broilers should be appropriate for their stage of development, and extremes of heat, humidity and cold should be avoided. For the growing stage, a heat index can assist in identifying the comfort zones for the broilers at varying temperature and relative humidity levels.

When environmental conditions move outside these zones, strategies should be used to mitigate the adverse effects on the broilers. These may include adjusting air speed, provision of heat, evaporative cooling and adjusting stocking density.

Management of the thermal environment should be checked frequently enough so that failure of the system would be noticed before it caused a welfare problem.

Outcome-based measurables: behaviour, mortality, contact dermatitis, water and feed consumption, performance, feather condition.

b) Lighting

There should be an adequate period of continuous darkness during each 24-hour period to allow the broilers to rest. There should be an adequate period of continuous light.

The light intensity during the light period should be sufficient and homogeneously distributed to allow the broilers to find feed and water after they are placed in the poultry house, to stimulate activity, and allow adequate inspection.

There should also be an adequate period of continuous darkness during each 24-hour period to allow the broilers to rest and to promote normal behaviour, gait and good leg health.
Annex IV (contd)

There should be a period for gradual adjustment to lighting changes.

Outcome-based measurables: gait, metabolic disorders, performance, behaviour, eye condition, injury rate.

c) Air quality

Adequate ventilation is required at all times to provide fresh air, to remove waste gases such as carbon dioxide and ammonia, dust and excess moisture content from the environment.

Ammonia concentration should not routinely exceed 25 ppm at broiler level.

Dust levels should be kept to a minimum. Where the health and welfare of broilers depend on an artificial ventilation system, provision should be made for an appropriate back-up power and alarm system.

Outcome-based measurables: incidence of respiratory diseases, metabolic disorders, eye conditions, performance, contact dermatitis.

d) Noise

Broilers are adaptable to different levels and types of noise. However, exposure of broilers to sudden or loud noises should be minimised where possible to prevent stress and fear reactions, such as piling. Ventilation fans, feeding machinery or other indoor or outdoor equipment should be constructed, placed, operated and maintained in such a way that they cause the least possible amount of noise.

Location of farms should, where possible, take into account existing local sources of noise.

Outcome-based measurables: daily mortality rate, morbidity, performance, injury rate, fear behaviour.

e) Nutrition

Broilers should always be fed a diet appropriate to their age and genetics, which contains adequate nutrients to meet their requirements for good health and welfare.

Feed and water should be acceptable to the broilers and free from contaminants at a concentration hazardous to broiler health.

The water system should be cleaned regularly to prevent growth of hazardous microorganisms.

Broilers should be provided with adequate access to feed on a daily basis. Water should be available continuously. Special provision should be made to enable young chicks access to appropriate feed and water.

Broilers that are physically unable to access feed or water should be humanely killed as soon as possible.

Outcome-based measurables: feed and water consumption, performance, behaviour, gait, incidence of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations, mortality, injury rate.

f) Flooring, bedding, resting surfaces and litter quality

The floor of a poultry house should preferably be easy to clean and disinfect.

The provision of loose and dry bedding material is desirable in order to insulate the chicks from the ground and to encourage dust bathing and foraging.
Litter should be managed to minimise any detrimental effects on welfare and health. Poor litter quality can lead to contact dermatitis and breast blisters. Litter should be replaced or adequately treated when required to prevent diseases in the next flock.

Litter quality is partly related to the type of substrate used and partly to different management practices. The type of substrate should be chosen carefully. Litter should be maintained so that it is dry and friable and not dusty, caked or wet. Poor litter quality can result from a range of factors including water spillage, inappropriate feed composition, enteric infections, poor ventilation and overcrowding.

If broilers are kept on slatted floors, where a very humid climate precludes the use of other flooring substrates, the floors should be designed, constructed and maintained to adequately support the broilers, prevent injuries and ensure that manure can fall through or be adequately removed.

To prevent injury and keep them warm, day-old birds should be placed on an appropriate type of flooring suitable for their size.

If day-old birds are housed on litter, before they enter the poultry house, a layer of uncontaminated substrate, such as wood shavings, straw, rice husk, shredded paper, treated used litter should be added to a sufficient depth to allow normal behaviour and to separate them from the floor.

Outcome-based measurables: contact dermatitis, feather condition, gait, behaviour (dust bathing and foraging), eye conditions, incidence of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations, performance.

g) Prevention of feather pecking and cannibalism

Feather pecking and cannibalism are rarely seen in broilers because of their young age. However, management methods, such as reducing light intensity, providing foraging materials, nutritional modifications, reducing stocking density, selecting the appropriate genetic stock should be implemented where feather pecking and cannibalism are a potential problem.

If these management strategies fail, therapeutic beak trimming is the last resort.

Outcome-based measurables: injury rate, behaviour, feather condition, mortality.

h) Stocking density

Broilers should be housed at a stocking density that allows them to access feed and water and to move and adjust their posture normally. The following factors should be taken into account: management capabilities, ambient conditions, housing system, production system, litter quality, ventilation, biosecurity strategy, genetic stock, and market age and weight.

Outcome-based measurables: injury rate, contact dermatitis, mortality, behaviour, gait, incidence of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations, performance, feather condition.

i) Outdoor areas

Broilers can be given access to outdoor areas as soon as they have sufficient feather cover and are old enough to range safely. There should be sufficient exit areas to allow them to leave and re-enter the poultry house freely.

Management of outdoor areas is important in partially housed and completely outdoors production systems. Land and pasture management measures should be taken to reduce the risk of broilers being infected by pathogens or infested by parasites. This might include limiting the stocking density or using several pieces of land consecutively in rotation.
Outdoor areas should be placed on well drained ground and managed to minimise swampy conditions and mud.

Outdoor areas should provide shelter for broilers and be free from poisonous plants and contaminants.

Protection from adverse climatic conditions should be provided in completely outdoors systems.

Outcome-based measurables: behaviour, incidence of disease, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations, performance, contact dermatitis, feather condition, injury rate, mortality, morbidity.

j) Protection from predators

Broilers should be protected from predators.

Outcome-based measurables: fear behaviour, mortality, injury rate.

k) Choice of broiler strain

Welfare and health considerations, in addition to productivity and growth rate, should be taken into account when choosing a strain for a particular location or production system.

Outcome-based measurables: gait, metabolic disorders, contact dermatitis, mortality, behaviour, performance.

l) Painful interventions

Painful interventions, such as beak trimming, toe trimming and dubbing, should not be routinely practised on broilers.

If therapeutic beak trimming is required, it should be carried out by trained and skilled personnel at as early an age as possible and care should be taken to remove the minimum amount of beak necessary using a method which minimises pain and controls bleeding.

Surgical caponisation should not be performed without adequate pain and infection control methods and should only be performed by veterinarians or trained and skilled personnel under veterinary supervision.

Outcome-based measurables: mortality, culling and morbidity, behaviour.

m) Handling and inspection

Broilers should be inspected at least daily. Inspection should have three main objectives: to identify sick or injured broilers to treat or cull them, to detect and correct any welfare or health problem in the flock, and to pick up dead broilers.

Inspection should be done in such a way that broilers are not unnecessarily disturbed, for example animal handlers should move quietly and slowly through the flock.

When broilers are handled, they should not be injured or unnecessarily frightened or stressed.

Broilers which have an incurable illness, significant deformity or injury should be removed from the flock and killed humanely as soon as possible as described in Chapter 7.6.
Cervical dislocation is an accepted method for killing individual broilers if carried out competently as described in Article 7.6.17.

Outcome-based measurables: behaviour, performance, injury rate, mortality, vocalisation, morbidity.

n) Personnel training

All people responsible for the broilers should have received appropriate training or be able to demonstrate that they are competent to carry out their responsibilities and should have sufficient knowledge of broiler behaviour, handling techniques, emergency killing procedures, biosecurity, general signs of diseases, and indicators of poor animal welfare and procedures for their alleviation.

Outcome-based measurables: all measurables could apply.

o) Emergency plans

Broiler producers should have emergency plans to minimise and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters, disease outbreaks and the failure of mechanical equipment. Planning may include the provision of fail-safe alarm devices to detect malfunctions, backup generators, access to maintenance providers, alternative heating or cooling arrangements, ability to store water on farm, access to water cartage services, adequate on farm storage of feed and alternative feed supply and a plan for managing ventilation emergencies.

The emergency plans should be consistent with national programmes established or recommended by Veterinary Services.

p) Location, construction and equipment of farms

The location of broiler farms should be chosen to be safe from the effects of fires and floods and other natural disasters to the extent practical. In addition farms should be sited to avoid or minimise biosecurity risks, exposure of broilers to chemical and physical contaminants, noise and adverse climatic conditions.

Broiler houses, outdoor areas and equipment to which broilers have access should be designed and maintained to avoid injury or pain to the broilers.

Broiler houses should be constructed and electrical and fuel installations should be fitted to minimise the risk of fire and other hazards.

Broiler producers should have a maintenance programme in place for all equipment the failure of which can jeopardise broiler welfare.

q) On farm harvesting

Broilers should not be subject to an excessive period of feed withdrawal prior to the expected slaughter time.

Water should be available up to the time of harvesting.

Broilers that are not fit for loading or transport because they are sick or injured should be killed humanely.

Catching should be carried out by skilled animal handlers and every attempt should be made to minimise stress and fear reactions, and injury. If a broiler is injured during catching, it should be killed humanely.

Broilers should not be picked up by their neck or wings.
Annex IV (contd)

Broilers should be carefully placed in the transport container.

Mechanical catchers, where used, should be designed, operated and maintained to minimise injury, stress and fear to the broilers. A contingency plan is advisable in case of mechanical failure.

Catching should preferably be carried out under dim or blue light to calm the broilers.

Catching should be scheduled to minimise the time to slaughter as well as climatic stress during catching, transport and holding.

Stocking density in transport containers should suit climatic conditions and maintain comfort.

Containers should be designed and maintained to avoid injury, and they should be cleaned and, if necessary, disinfected regularly.

Outcome-based measurables: injury rate, mortality rate at harvesting and on arrival at the slaughterhouse/abattoir.

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CHAPTER 3.2.
EVALUATION OF VETERINARY SERVICES

Article 3.2.1.

General considerations

1) Evaluation of Veterinary Services is an important element in the risk analysis process which countries may legitimately use in their policy formulations directly applying to animal health and sanitary controls of international trade in animals, animal-derived products, animal genetic material and animal feedstuffs.

Any evaluation should be carried out with due regard for Chapter 3.1.

2) In order to ensure that objectivity is maximised in the evaluation process, it is essential for some standards of discipline to be applied. The OIE has developed these recommendations which can be practically applied to the evaluation of Veterinary Services. These are relevant for evaluation of the Veterinary Services of one country by those of another country for the purposes of risk analysis in international trade. The recommendations are also applicable for evaluation by a country of its own Veterinary Services – the process known as self-evaluation – and for periodic re-evaluation. These recommendations should be used by OIE experts when facilitating an evaluation under the auspices of the OIE, following a request of a Member Country. In applying these recommendations on the evaluation, the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool) should be used.

In carrying out a risk analysis prior to deciding the sanitary or zoosanitary conditions for the importation of a commodity, an importing country is justified in regarding its evaluation of the Veterinary Services of the exporting country as critical.

3) The purpose of evaluation may be either to assist a national authority in the decision-making process regarding priorities to be given to its own Veterinary Services (self-evaluation) or to assist the process of risk analysis in international trade in animals and animal-derived products to which official sanitary or zoosanitary controls apply.

4) In both situations, the evaluation should demonstrate that the Veterinary Services have the capability for effective control of the sanitary and zoosanitary status of animals and animal products. Key elements to be covered in this process include adequacy of resources, management capability, legislative and administrative infrastructures, independence in the exercise of official functions and history of performance, including disease reporting.

5) Good governance is the key to competence, integrity and confidence in organisations. Mutual confidence between relevant official Veterinary Services of trading partner countries contributes fundamentally to stability in international trade in animals and animal-related products. In this situation, scrutiny is directed more at the exporting country than at the importing country.

6) Although quantitative data can be provided on Veterinary Services, the ultimate evaluation will be essentially qualitative. While it is appropriate to evaluate resources and infrastructure (organisational, administrative and legislative), it is also appropriate to place emphasis on the evaluation of the quality of outputs and performance of Veterinary Services. Evaluation should take into consideration any quality systems used by Veterinary Services.

7) An importing country has a right of assurance that information on sanitary or zoosanitary situations provided by the Veterinary Services of an exporting country is objective, meaningful and correct. Furthermore, the Veterinary Services of the importing country are entitled to expect validity in the veterinary certification of export.
Annex V (contd)

8) An exporting country is entitled to expect that its animals and animal products will receive reasonable and valid treatment when they are subjected to import inspection in the country of destination. The country should also be able to expect that any evaluation of its standards and performance will be conducted on a non-discriminatory basis. The importing country should be prepared and able to defend any position which it takes as a consequence of the evaluation.

9) As the veterinary statutory body is not a part of the Veterinary Services, an evaluation of that body should be carried out to ensure that the registration or licensing of veterinarians and authorisation of veterinary para-professionals is included.

Article 3.2.2.

Scope

1) In the evaluation of Veterinary Services, the following items may be considered, depending on the purpose of the evaluation:

- organisation, structure and authority of the Veterinary Services;
- human resources;
- material (including financial) resources;
- veterinary legislation, regulatory frameworks and functional capabilities;
- animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls;
- formal quality systems including quality policy;
- performance assessment and audit programmes;
- participation in OIE activities and compliance with Member Countries’ obligations.

2) To complement the evaluation of Veterinary Services, the legislative and regulatory framework, the organisational structure and functioning of the veterinary statutory body should also be considered.

3) Article 3.2.14. outlines appropriate information requirements for:

- self-evaluation by the Veterinary Authority which perceives a need to prepare information for national or international purposes;
- evaluation by a prospective or actual importing country of the Veterinary Services of a prospective or actual exporting country;
- verification or re-verification of an evaluation in the course of a visit to the exporting country by the importing country;
- evaluation by third parties such as OIE PVS experts or regional organisations.

Article 3.2.3.

Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services

1) A key element in the evaluation is the study of the organisation and structure of the official Veterinary Services. The Veterinary Services should define and set out their policy, objectives and commitment to quality systems and standards. These organisational and policy statements should be described in detail. Organisational charts and details of functional responsibilities of staff should be available for evaluation. The role and responsibility of the Chief Veterinary Officer/Veterinary Director should be clearly defined. Lines of command should also be described.
2) The organisational structure should also clearly set out the interface relationships of government Ministers and departmental Authorities with the Chief Veterinary Officer/Veterinary Director and the Veterinary Services. Formal relationships with statutory authorities and with industry organisations and associations should also be described. It is recognised that Services may be subject to changes in structure from time to time. Major changes should be notified to trading partners so that the effects of re-structuring may be assessed.

3) Organisational components of Veterinary Services which have responsibility for key functional capabilities should be identified. These capabilities include epidemiological surveillance, disease control, import controls, animal disease reporting systems, animal identification systems, traceability systems, animal movement control systems, communication of epidemiological information, training, inspection and certification. Laboratory and field systems and their organisational relationships should be described.

4) To reinforce the reliability and credibility of their services, the Veterinary Services may have set up quality systems that correspond with their fields of activity and to the nature and scale of activities that they carry out. Evaluation of such systems should be as objective as possible.

5) The Veterinary Authority alone speaks for the country as far as official international dialogue is concerned. This is also particularly important to cases where zoning and compartmentalisation are being applied. The responsibilities of the Veterinary Authority should be made clear in the process of evaluation of Veterinary Services.

6) The Veterinary Authority is defined in the Glossary. As some countries have some relevant roles of the Veterinary Authority vested in autonomous sub-national (state/provincial, municipal) government bodies, there is an important need to assess the role and function of these Services. Details of their roles, relationship (legal and administrative) to each other and to the Veterinary Authority should be available for evaluation. Annual reports, review findings and access to other information pertinent to the animal health activities of such bodies should also be available.

7) Similarly, where the Veterinary Authority has arrangements with other providers of relevant services such as universities, laboratories, information services, etc., these arrangements should also be described. For the purposes of evaluation, it is appropriate to expect that the organisational and functional standards that apply to the Veterinary Authority should also apply to the service providers.

Article 3.2.4.

Evaluation criteria for quality systems

1) The Veterinary Services should demonstrate a commitment to the quality of the processes and outputs of their services. Where services or components of services are delivered under a formal quality systems programme which is based on OIE recommended standards or, especially in the case of laboratory components of Veterinary Services other internationally recognised quality standards, the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation should make available evidence of accreditation, details of the documented quality processes and documented outcomes of all relevant audits undertaken.

2) Where the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation make large use of formal quality systems in the delivery of their services, it is appropriate that greater emphasis be placed on the outcomes of evaluation of these quality systems than on the resource and infrastructural components of the services.

Article 3.2.5.

Evaluation criteria for human resources

1) The Veterinary Services should demonstrate that their human resource component includes an integral core of full-time civil service employees. This core should always include veterinarians. It should also include administrative officials and veterinary para-professionals. The human resources may also include part-time and private sector veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. It is essential that all the above categories of personnel be subject to legal disciplinary provisions. Data relating to the resource base of the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation should be available.
Annex V (contd)

2) In addition to raw quantitative data on this resource base, the functions of the various categories of personnel in the Veterinary Services should be described in detail. This is necessary for analysis and estimation of the appropriateness of the application of qualified skills to the tasks undertaken by the Veterinary Services and may be relevant, for example, to the roles of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals in field services. In this case, the evaluation should provide assurances that disease monitoring is being conducted by a sufficient number of qualified, experienced field veterinarians who are directly involved in farm visits; there should not be an over-reliance on veterinary para-professionals for this task.

3) Analysis of these data can be used to estimate the potential of the Veterinary Services to have reliable knowledge of the state of animal health in the country and to support an optimal level of animal disease control programmes. A large population of private veterinarians would not provide the Veterinary Services with an effective epizootiological information base without legislative (e.g. compulsory reporting of notifiable diseases) and administrative (e.g. official animal health surveillance and reporting systems) mechanisms in place.

4) These data should be assessed in close conjunction with the other information described in this chapter. For example, a large field staff (veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals) need fixed, mobile and budgetary resources for animal health activities in the livestock farming territory of the country. If deficiencies are evident, there would be reason to challenge the validity of epizootiological information.

Evaluation criteria for material resources

1. Financial

Actual yearly budgetary information regarding the Veterinary Services should be available and should include the details set out in the model questionnaire outlined in Article 3.2.14. Information is required on conditions of service for veterinary staff (including salaries and incentives), and should provide a comparison with the private sector and perhaps with other professionals. Information should also be available on non-government sources of revenue available to veterinarians in their official responsibilities.

2. Administrative

a) Accommodation

The Veterinary Services should be accommodated in premises suitable for efficient performance of their functions. The component parts of the Veterinary Services should be located as closely as possible to each other at the central level, and in the regions where they are represented, in order to facilitate efficient internal communication and function.

b) Communications

The Veterinary Services should be able to demonstrate that they have reliable access to effective communications systems, especially for animal health surveillance and control programmes. Inadequate communications systems within the field services components of these programmes or between outlying offices and headquarters, or between the Veterinary Services and other relevant administrative and professional services, signify an inherent weakness in these programmes. Adequate communications systems between laboratories and between field and laboratory components of the Veterinary Services should also be demonstrated.

Examples of types of communications which should be routinely available on an adequate country-wide basis are national postal, freight and telephone networks. Rapid courier services, facsimile and electronic data interchange systems such as e-mail and Internet services are examples of useful communication services which, if available, can supplement or replace the others. A means for rapid international communication should be available to the Veterinary Authority, to permit reporting of changes in national disease status consistent with OIE recommendations and to allow bilateral contact on urgent matters with counterpart Veterinary Authorities in trading-partner countries.
Annex V (contd)

c) Transport systems

The availability of sufficient reliable transport facilities is essential for the performance of many functions of Veterinary Services. This applies particularly to the field services components of animal health activities such as emergency response visits. Otherwise, the Veterinary Services cannot assure counterpart services in other countries that they are in control of the animal health situation within the country.

Appropriate means of transport are also vital for the satisfactory receipt of samples to be tested at veterinary laboratories, for inspection of imports and exports, and for the performance of animals and animal product inspection in outlying production or processing establishments.

3. Technical

Details available on laboratories should include resources data, programmes under way as well as those recently completed and review reports on the role or functions of the laboratory. Information as described in the model questionnaire should be used in the evaluation of laboratory services.

a) Cold chain for laboratory samples and veterinary medicines

Adequate refrigeration and freezing systems should be available and should be used throughout the country to provide suitable low temperature protection for laboratory samples in transit or awaiting analysis, as well as veterinary medical products such as vaccines when these are required for use in animal disease control programmes. If these assurances cannot be given, it may be valid to discount many types of test results, as well as the effectiveness of certain disease control programmes and the export inspection system in the country undergoing evaluation.

b) Diagnostic laboratories

Analysis of the laboratory service component of Veterinary Services, which would include official governmental laboratories and other laboratories authorised by the Veterinary Services for specified purposes, is an essential element of the evaluation process. The quality of the veterinary diagnostic laboratories of a country underpins the whole control and certification processes of the zoosanitary or sanitary status of exported animals and animal products, and therefore these laboratories should be subject to rigid quality assurance procedures and should use international quality assurance programmes (wherever available) for standardising test methodologies and testing proficiency. An example is the use of International Standard Sera for standardising reagents.

In countries where there is more than one diagnostic laboratory for a given pathogen, the designation of a National Reference Laboratory for that pathogen may contribute to the quality of analysis performed by the diagnostic laboratories.

Quality of analysis is equally important to the testing performed on individual export consignments as to the broader ongoing testing regimes which are used to determine the animal health and veterinary public health profiles of the country and to support its disease control programmes. For the purposes of evaluation, veterinary diagnostic laboratories include those which are concerned with either animal health or veterinary public health activities. The Veterinary Services should approve and designate these laboratories for such purposes and have them audited regularly.

c) Research

The scope of animal health, welfare, disease and veterinary public health problems in the country concerned, the stages reached in the controls which address those problems and their relative importance can be measured to some degree by analysis of information on government priorities and programmes for research in animal health. This information should be accessible for evaluation purposes.
Article 3.2.7.

Legislation and functional capabilities

1. Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health

The Veterinary Authority should be able to demonstrate that it has the capacity, supported by appropriate legislation, to anticipate and exercise control over all animal health and animal welfare matters. These controls should include, where appropriate, compulsory notification of prescribed animal diseases, inspection, movement controls through systems which provide adequate traceability, registration of facilities, quarantine of infected premises or areas, testing, treatment, humane killing of infected animals, disposal of carcasses, or destruction of contaminated materials, controls over the use of veterinary medicines, etc. The scope of the legislative controls should include domestic animals and their reproductive material, animal products, wildlife as it relates to the transmission of diseases to humans and domestic animals, and other products subject to veterinary inspection. Arrangements should exist for co-operation with the Veterinary Authorities of the neighbouring countries for the control of animal diseases in border areas and for establishing linkages to recognise and regulate transboundary activities. Within the structure of Veterinary Services, there should be appropriately qualified personnel whose responsibilities include animal welfare. Information on the veterinary public health legislation covering the production of products of animal origin for national consumption may be also considered in the evaluation.

2. Export and import inspection

The Veterinary Authority should have appropriate legislation and adequate capabilities to prescribe the methods for control and to exercise systematic control over the import and export processes of animals and animal products in so far as this control relates to sanitary and zoosanitary matters. The evaluation should also involve the consideration of administrative instructions to ensure the enforcement of importing country requirements during the pre-export period.

In the context of production for export of foodstuffs of animal origin, the Veterinary Authority should demonstrate that comprehensive legislative provisions are available for the oversight by the relevant authorities of the hygienic process and to support official inspection systems of these commodities which function to standards consistent with or equivalent to relevant Codex Alimentarius and OIE standards.

Control systems should be in place which permit the exporting Veterinary Authority to approve export premises. The Veterinary Services should also be able to conduct testing and treatment as well as to exercise controls over the movement, handling and storage of exports and to make inspections at any stage of the export process. The product scope of this export legislation should include, inter alia, animals and animal products (including animal semen, ova and embryos), and animal feedstuffs.

The Veterinary Authority should be able to demonstrate that they have adequate capabilities and legislative support for zoosanitary control of imports and transit of animals, animal products and other materials which may introduce animal diseases. This could be necessary to support claims by the Veterinary Services that the animal health status of the country is suitably stable, and that cross-contamination of exports from imports of unknown or less favourable zoosanitary status is unlikely. The same considerations should apply in respect of veterinary control of public health. The Veterinary Services should be able to demonstrate that there is no conflict of interest when certifying veterinarians are performing official duties.

Legislation should also provide the right to deny or withdraw official certification. Penalty provisions applying to malpractice on the part of certifying officials should be included.
The *Veterinary Services* should demonstrate that they are capable of providing accurate and valid certification for exports of *animals* and animal products, based on Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. They should have appropriately organised procedures which ensure that sanitary or animal health certificates are issued by efficient and secure methods. The documentation control system should be able to correlate reliably the certification details with the relevant export consignments and with any inspections to which the consignments were subjected.

Security in the export certification process, including electronic documentation transfer, is important. A system of independent compliance review is desirable, to safeguard against fraud in certification by officials and by private individuals or corporations. The certifying *veterinarian* should have no conflict of interest in the commercial aspects of the *animals* or animal product being certified and be independent from the commercial parties.

**Article 3.2.8.**

**Animal health controls**

1. **Animal health status**

An updated assessment of the present animal disease status of a country is an important and necessary procedure. For this undertaking, studies of the OIE publications such as *World Animal Health*, the *Bulletin and Disease Information* should be fundamental reference points. The evaluation should consider the recent history of the compliance of the country with its obligations regarding international notification of animal *diseases*. In the case of a Member Country, failure to provide the necessary animal health reports consistent with OIE requirements will detract from the overall outcome of the evaluation of the country.

An *exporting country* should be able to provide further, detailed elaboration of any elements of its animal disease status as reported to the OIE. This additional information will have particular importance in the case of animal *diseases* which are foreign to or strictly controlled in the *importing country* or region. The ability of the *Veterinary Services* to substantiate elements of their animal disease status reports with surveillance data, results of monitoring programmes and details of disease history is highly relevant to the evaluation. In the case of evaluation of the *Veterinary Services* of an *exporting country* for *international trade* purposes, an *importing country* should be able to demonstrate the reasonableness of its request and expectations in this process.

2. **Animal health control**

Details of current animal disease control programmes should be considered in the evaluation. These programmes would include epidemiological *surveillance*, official government-administered or officially-endorsed, industry-administered control or eradication programmes for specific *diseases* or *disease complexes*, and animal disease emergency preparedness. Details should include enabling legislation, programme plans for epidemiological *surveillance* and animal disease emergency responses, quarantine arrangements for infected and exposed *animals* or *herds*, compensation provisions for animal owners affected by disease control measures, training programmes, physical and other barriers between the free country or zone and those infected, incidence and prevalence data, resource commitments, interim results and programme review reports.

3. **National animal disease reporting systems**

The presence of a functional animal disease reporting system which covers all agricultural regions of the country and all veterinary administrative control areas should be demonstrated.

An acceptable variation would be the application of this principle to specific *zones* of the country. In this case also, the animal disease reporting system should cover each of these *zones*. Other factors should come to bear on this situation, e.g. the ability to satisfy trading partners that sound animal health controls exist to prevent the introduction of *disease* or export products from regions of lesser veterinary control.
Annex V (contd)

Article 3.2.9.

Veterinary public health controls

1. **Food hygiene**

The Veterinary Authority should be able to demonstrate effective responsibility for the veterinary public health programmes relating to the production and processing of animal products. If the Veterinary Authority does not exercise responsibility over these programmes, the evaluation should include a comprehensive review of the role and relationship of the organisations (national, state, provincial and municipal) which are involved. In such a case, the evaluation should consider whether the Veterinary Authority can provide guarantees of responsibility for an effective control of the sanitary status of animal products throughout the slaughter, processing, transport and storage periods.

2. **Zoonoses**

Within the structure of Veterinary Services, there should be appropriately qualified personnel whose responsibilities include the monitoring and control of zoonotic diseases and, where appropriate, liaison with medical authorities.

3. **Chemical residue testing programmes**

Adequacy of controls over chemical residues in exported animals, animal products and feedstuffs should be demonstrated. Statistically-based surveillance and monitoring programmes for environmental and other chemical contaminants in animals, in animal-derived foodstuffs and in animal feedstuffs should be favourably noted. These programmes should be coordinated nationwide. Correlated results should be freely available on request to existing and prospective trading partner countries. Analytical methods and result reporting should be consistent with internationally recognised standards. If official responsibility for these programmes does not rest with the Veterinary Services, there should be appropriate provision to ensure that the results of such programmes are made available to the Veterinary Services for assessment. This process should be consistent with the standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission or with alternative requirements set by the importing country where the latter are scientifically justified.

4. **Veterinary medicines**

It should be acknowledged that primary control over veterinary medicinal products may not rest with the Veterinary Authority in some countries, owing to differences between governments in the division of legislative responsibilities. However, for the purpose of evaluation, the Veterinary Authority should be able to demonstrate the existence of effective controls (including nationwide consistency of application) over the manufacture, importation, export, registration, supply, sale and use of veterinary medicines, biologicals and diagnostic reagents, whatever their origin. The control of veterinary medicines has direct relevance to the areas of animal health and public health.

In the animal health sphere, this has particular application to biological products. Inadequate controls on the registration and use of biological products leave the Veterinary Services open to challenge over the quality of animal disease control programmes and over safeguards against animal disease introduction in imported veterinary biological products.

It is valid, for evaluation purposes, to seek assurances of effective government controls over veterinary medicines in so far as these relate to the public health risks associated with residues of these chemicals in animals and animal-derived foodstuffs. This process should be consistent with the standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission or with alternative requirements set by the importing country where the latter are scientifically justified.
5. Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health

The existence of any organised programme which incorporates a structured system of information feedback from inspection in establishments producing products of animal origin, in particular meat or dairy products, and applies this in animal health control should be favourably noted. Such programmes should be integrated within a national disease surveillance scheme.

Veterinary Services which direct a significant element of their animal health programmes specifically towards minimising microbial and chemical contamination of animal-derived products in the human food chain should receive favourable recognition in the evaluation. There should be evident linkage between these programmes and the official control of veterinary medicines and relevant agricultural chemicals.

Article 3.2.10.

Performance assessment and audit programmes

1. Strategic plans

The objectives and priorities of the Veterinary Services can be well evaluated if there is a published official strategic plan which is regularly updated. Understanding of functional activities is enhanced if an operational plan is maintained within the context of the strategic plan. The strategic and operational plans, if these exist, should be included in the evaluation.

Veterinary Services which use strategic and operational plans may be better able to demonstrate effective management than countries without such plans.

2. Performance assessment

If a strategic plan is used, it is desirable to have a process which allows the organisation to assess its own performance against its objectives. Performance indicators and the outcomes of any review to measure achievements against pre-determined performance indicators should be available for evaluation. The results should be considered in the evaluation process.

3. Compliance

Matters which can compromise compliance and adversely affect a favourable evaluation include instances of inaccurate or misleading official certification, evidence of fraud, corruption, or interference by higher political levels in international veterinary certification, and lack of resources and poor infrastructure.

It is desirable that the Veterinary Services contain (or have a formal linkage with) an independent internal unit, section or commission the function of which is to critically scrutinise their operations. The aim of this unit should be to ensure consistent and high integrity in the work of the individual officials in the Veterinary Services and of the corporate body itself. The existence of such a body can be important to the establishment of international confidence in the Veterinary Services.

An important feature when demonstrating the integrity of the Veterinary Services is their ability to take corrective action when miscertification, fraud or corruption has occurred.

A supplementary or an alternative process for setting performance standards and application of monitoring and audit is the implementation of formal quality systems to some or all activities for which the Veterinary Services are responsible. Formal accreditation to international quality system standards should be utilised if recognition in the evaluation process is to be sought.
Annex V (contd)

4. Veterinary Services administration

a) Annual reports

Official government annual reports should be published, which provide information on the organisation and structure, budget, activities and contemporary performance of the Veterinary Services. Current and retrospective copies of such reports should be available to counterpart Services in other countries, especially trade partners.

b) Reports of government review bodies

The reports of any periodic or ad hoc government reviews of Veterinary Services or of particular functions or roles of the Veterinary Services should be considered in the evaluation process. Details of action taken as a consequence of the review should also be accessible.

c) Reports of special committees of enquiry or independent review bodies

Recent reports on the Veterinary Services or elements of their role or function, and details of any subsequent implementation of recommendations contained in these reports should be available. The Veterinary Services concerned should recognise that the provision of such information need not be detrimental to the evaluation outcome; in fact, it may demonstrate evidence of an effective audit and response programme. The supplying of such information can reinforce a commitment to transparency.

d) In-service training and development programme for staff

In order to maintain a progressive approach to meeting the needs and challenges of the changing domestic and international role of Veterinary Services, the national administration should have in place an organised programme which provides appropriate training across a range of subjects for relevant staff. This programme should include participation in scientific meetings of animal health and animal welfare organisations. Such a programme should be used in assessing the effectiveness of the Services.

e) Publications

Veterinary Services can augment their reputation by demonstrating that their staff publish scientific articles in refereed veterinary journals or other publications.

f) Formal linkages with sources of independent scientific expertise

Details of formal consultation or advisory mechanisms in place and operating between the Veterinary Services and local and international universities, scientific institutions or recognised veterinary organisations should be taken into consideration. These could serve to enhance the international recognition of the Veterinary Services.

g) Trade performance history

In the evaluation of the Veterinary Services of a country, it is pertinent to examine the recent history of their performance and integrity in trade dealings with other countries. Sources of such historical data may include Customs Services.

Article 3.2.11.

Participation in OIE activities

Questions on a country's adherence to its obligations as a member of the OIE are relevant to an evaluation of the Veterinary Services of the country. Self-acknowledged inability or repeated failure of a Member Country to fulfil reporting obligations to the OIE will detract from the overall outcome of the evaluation. Such countries, as well as non-member countries, will need to provide extensive information regarding their Veterinary Services and sanitary or zoosanitary status for evaluation purposes.
Article 3.2.12.

Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body

1. **Scope**

   In the evaluation of the veterinary statutory body, the following items may be considered, depending on the purpose of the evaluation:

   a) objectives and functions;
   
   b) legislative basis for the veterinary statutory body, including autonomy and functional capacity;
   
   c) the composition of the veterinary statutory body, including the organisation represented in it;
   
   d) accountability and transparency of decision-making;
   
   e) sources and management of funding;
   
   f) administration of training programmes and continuing professional development for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

2. **Evaluation of objectives and functions**

   The policy and the objectives of the veterinary statutory body, including details of its power and functions, should be defined, notably with regard to:

   a) the licensing or registration of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals to perform the activities of veterinary medicine/science;
   
   b) the minimum standards of education (initial and continuing) required for degrees, diplomas and certificates entitling the holders thereof to be registered or licensed as veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals;
   
   c) the standards of professional conduct and competence of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals and ensuring that these standards are met.

3. **Evaluation of legislative basis, autonomy and functional capacity**

   The veterinary statutory body should be able to demonstrate that it has the capacity, supported by appropriate legislation, to exercise and enforce control over all veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals subject to its authority. These controls should include, where appropriate, compulsory licensing or registration, participation in the definition of minimum standards of education (initial and continuing) for the recognition of degrees, diplomas and certificates by the Competent Authority, setting standards of professional conduct and competence, investigating complaints and the application of disciplinary procedures.

   The veterinary statutory body should be able to demonstrate autonomy from undue political and commercial interests.

   Where applicable, the implementation of regional agreements for the recognition of degrees, diplomas and certificates for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals should be demonstrated.

4. **Evaluation of the composition of the veterinary statutory body**

   Detailed descriptions of the composition, rules and conditions for membership, including duration of appointment and representation of interested third parties, public and private, should be available.
5. **Evaluation of accountability and transparency of decision-making**

Detailed information should be available on disciplinary procedures regarding the conducting of enquiries into professional misconduct, transparency of decision-making, publication of findings, sentences and mechanisms for appeal.

Additional information regarding the publication at regular intervals of activity reports, lists of registered or licensed persons including deletions and additions should also be taken into consideration.

6. **Evaluation of financial sources and financial management**

Information regarding income and expenditure, including fee structure(s) for the licensing or registration of persons should be available.

7. **Evaluation of training programmes and programmes for continuing professional development, for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals**

Documentary evidence should be available to demonstrate compliance with initial and continuing education requirements, including with OIE recommendations.

8. **Evaluation of mechanisms for coordination between Veterinary Authority and veterinary statutory body**

The exact mechanisms will vary according to the national governance systems.

**Article 3.2.13.**

1) The Veterinary Services of a country may undertake self-evaluation against the above criteria for such purposes as national interest, improvement of internal efficiency or export trade facilitation. The way in which the results of self-evaluation are used or distributed is a matter for the country concerned.

2) A prospective importing country may undertake an evaluation of the Veterinary Services of an exporting country as part of a risk analysis process, which is necessary to determine the sanitary or zoosanitary measures which the country will use to protect human or animal life or health from disease or pest threats posed by imports. Periodic evaluation reviews are also valid following the commencement of trade.

3) In the case of evaluation for the purposes of international trade, the authorities of an importing country should use the principles elaborated above as the basis for the evaluation and should attempt to acquire information according to the model questionnaire outlined in Article 3.2.14. The Veterinary Services of the importing country are responsible for the analysis of details and for determining the outcome of the evaluation after taking into account all the relevant information. The relative ranking of importance ascribed, in the evaluation, to the criteria described in this chapter will necessarily vary according to case-by-case circumstances. This ranking should be established in an objective and justifiable way. Analysis of the information obtained in the course of an evaluation study should be performed in as objective a manner as possible. The validity of the information should be established and reasonableness should be employed in its application. The assessing country should be willing to defend any position taken on the basis of this type of information, if challenged by the other party.

**Article 3.2.14.**

This article outlines appropriate information requirements for the self-evaluation or evaluation of the Veterinary Services of a country.
1. Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services

   a) National Veterinary Authority

   Organisational chart including numbers, positions and numbers of vacancies.

   b) Sub-national components of the Veterinary Authority

   Organisational charts including numbers, positions and number of vacancies.

   c) Other providers of veterinary services

   Description of any linkage with other providers of veterinary services.

2. National information on human resources

   a) Veterinarians

      i) Total numbers of veterinarians registered or licensed by the Veterinary statutory body of the country.

      ii) Numbers of:

         – full time government veterinarians: national and sub-national;
         – part time government veterinarians: national and sub-national;
         – private veterinarians authorised by the Veterinary Services to perform official veterinary functions [Describe accreditation standards, responsibilities and limitations applying to these private veterinarians.]
         – other veterinarians.

      iii) Animal health and welfare:

         Numbers associated with farm livestock sector on a majority time basis in a veterinary capacity, by geographical area [Show categories and numbers to differentiate staff involved in field service, laboratory, administration, import and export and other functions, as applicable.]:

         – full time government veterinarians: national and sub-national;
         – part time government veterinarians: national and sub-national;
         – other veterinarians.

   iv) Veterinary public health:

      Numbers employed in food inspection on a majority time basis, by commodity [Show categories and numbers to differentiate staff involved in inspection, laboratory and other functions, as applicable.]:

      – full time government veterinarians: national and sub-national;
      – part time government veterinarians: national and sub-national;
      – other veterinarians.
Annex V (contd)

v) Numbers of veterinarians relative to certain national indices:

- per total human population;
- per farm livestock population, by geographical area;
- per livestock farming unit, by geographical area.

vi) Veterinary education:

- number of veterinary schools;
- length of veterinary course (years);
- curriculum addressing the minimum competencies of day 1 veterinary graduates and the post-graduate and continuing education topics to assure the delivery of quality veterinary services, as described in the relevant chapter(s) of the Terrestrial Code;
- international recognition of veterinary degree.

vii) Veterinary professional associations.

b) Graduate personnel (non-veterinary)

Details to be provided by category (including biologists, biometricians, economists, engineers, lawyers, other science graduates and others) on numbers within the Veterinary Authority and available to the Veterinary Authority.

c) Veterinary para-professionals employed by the Veterinary Services

i) Animal health and welfare:

- Categories and numbers involved with farm livestock on a majority time basis:
  - by geographical area;
  - proportional to numbers of field Veterinary Officers in the Veterinary Services, by geographical area.
  - Education or training details.

ii) Veterinary public health:

- Categories and numbers involved in food inspection on a majority time basis:
  - meat inspection: export meat establishments with an export function and domestic meat establishments (no export function);
  - dairy inspection;
  - other foods.
  - Numbers in import and export inspection.
  - Education or training details.
d) Support personnel

Numbers directly available to Veterinary Services per sector (administration, communication, transport).

e) Descriptive summary of the functions of the various categories of staff mentioned above

f) Veterinary, veterinary para-professionals, livestock owner, farmer and other relevant associations

g) Additional information or comments.

3. Financial management information

a) Total budgetary allocations to the Veterinary Authority for the current and past two fiscal years:

i) for the national Veterinary Authority;

ii) for each of any sub-national components of the Veterinary Authority;

iii) for other relevant government-funded institutions.

b) Sources of the budgetary allocations and amount:

i) government budget;

ii) sub-national authorities;

iii) taxes and fines;

iv) grants;

v) private services.

c) Proportional allocations of the amounts in a) above for operational activities and for the programme components of Veterinary Services.

d) Total allocation proportionate of national public sector budget. [This data may be necessary for comparative assessment with other countries which should take into account the contexts of the importance of the livestock sector to the national economy and of the animal health status of the country.]

e) Actual and proportional contribution of animal production to gross domestic product.

4. Administration details

a) Accommodation

Summary of the numbers and distribution of official administrative centres of the Veterinary Services (national and sub-national) in the country.

b) Communications

Summary of the forms of communication systems available to the Veterinary Services on a nation-wide and local area bases.
Annex V (contd)

c) Transport

i) Itemised numbers of types of functional transport available on a full-time basis for the Veterinary Services. In addition provide details of transport means available part-time.

ii) Details of annual funds available for maintenance and replacement of motor vehicles.

5. Laboratory services

a) Diagnostic Laboratories (laboratories engaged primarily in diagnosis)

a i) Descriptive summary of the organisational structure and role of the government veterinary laboratory service in particular its relevance to the field Veterinary Services.

b ii) Numbers of veterinary diagnostic laboratories operating in the country:

i) government operated laboratories;

ii) private laboratories authorised by Veterinary Authority for the purposes of supporting official or officially endorsed animal health control or public health testing and monitoring programmes and import and export testing.

g iii) Descriptive summary of accreditation procedures and standards for private laboratories.

d iv) Human and financial resources allocated to the government veterinary laboratories, including staff numbers, graduate and post-graduate qualifications and opportunities for further training.

e v) List of diagnostic methodologies available against major diseases of farm livestock (including poultry).

f vi) List of related National Reference Laboratories, if any.

g vii) Details of collaboration with external laboratories including international reference laboratories and details on numbers of samples submitted.

h viii) Details of quality control and assessment (or validation) programmes operating within the veterinary laboratory service.

j ix) Recent published reports of the official veterinary laboratory service which should include details of specimens received and foreign animal disease investigations made.

j x) Details of procedures for storage and retrieval of information on specimen submission and results.

k xi) Reports of independent reviews of the laboratory service conducted by government or private organisations (if available).

l xii) Strategic and operational plans for the official veterinary laboratory service (if available).
6b) **Research laboratories Institutes (laboratories engaged primarily in animal health or animal welfare research)**

   a i) Numbers of veterinary research laboratories operating in the country:

   - government operated laboratories;

   - private laboratories involved in full time research directly related to animal health and veterinary public health matters involving production animal species.

   b ii) Summary of human and financial resources allocated by government to veterinary research.

   c iii) Published programmes of future government sponsored veterinary research.

   d iv) Annual reports of the government research laboratories.

76. **Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities**

   a) Animal health and animal welfare and veterinary public health

   i) Assessment of the adequacy and implementation of relevant legislation (national or sub-national) concerning the following:

   - animal and veterinary public health controls at national frontiers;

   - control of endemic animal diseases, including zoonoses;

   - emergency powers for management of disasters which could have impact on animal health and animal welfare, and control of exotic disease outbreaks, including zoonoses;

   - inspection and registration of facilities;

   - animal feeding;

   - veterinary public health controls of the production, processing, storage and marketing of meat for domestic consumption;

   - veterinary public health controls of the production, processing, storage and marketing of fish, dairy products and other food of animal origin for domestic consumption;

   - registration and use of veterinary pharmaceutical products including vaccines;

   - animal welfare.

   ii) Assessment of ability of Veterinary Services to enforce legislation.

   b) Export and import inspection

   i) Assessment of the adequacy and implementation of relevant national legislation concerning:

   - veterinary public health controls of the production, processing, storage and transportation of meat for export;

   - veterinary public health controls of production, processing, storage and marketing of fish, dairy products and other food of animal origin for export;
Annex V (contd)

- animal health, animal welfare, and veterinary public health controls of the export and import of animals, animal genetic material, animal products, animal feedstuffs and other products subject to veterinary inspection;

- animal health controls of the importation, use and bio-containment of organisms which are aetiological agents of animal diseases, and of pathological material;

- animal health controls of importation of veterinary biological products including vaccines;

- administrative powers available to Veterinary Services for inspection and registration of facilities for veterinary control purposes (if not included under other legislation mentioned above);

- documentation and compliance.

ii) Assessment of ability of Veterinary Services to enforce legislation.

87. Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health controls

a) Animal health

i) Description of and sample reference data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the Veterinary Services.

ii) Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to Veterinary Services.

iii) Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including:

- epidemiological surveillance or monitoring programmes;

- officially approved industry administered control or eradication programmes for specific diseases.

iv) Description and relevant details of animal disease emergency preparedness and response plans.

v) Recent history of animal disease status:

- animal diseases eradicated nationally or from defined sub-national zones in the last ten years;

- animal diseases of which the prevalence has been controlled to a low level in the last ten years;

- animal diseases introduced to the country or to previously free sub national regions in the last ten years;

- emerging diseases in the last ten years;

- animal diseases of which the prevalence has increased in the last ten years.
b) Animal welfare
   
i) Description of major animal welfare issues.
   
ii) Description of specific official programmes initiated by the Veterinary Services to address animal welfare problems.

cb) Veterinary public health
   
i) Food hygiene
   
   – Annual national slaughter statistics for the past three years according to official data by species of animals (bovine, ovine, porcine, caprine, poultry, farmed game, wild game, equine, other).
   
   – Estimate of total annual slaughterings which occur but are not recorded under official statistics.
   
   – Proportion of total national slaughter which occurs in registered export establishments, by category of animal.
   
   – Proportion of total national slaughter which occurs under veterinary control, by category of animal.
   
   – Numbers of commercial fresh meat establishments in the country which are registered for export by the Veterinary Authority:
     
   – slaughterhouses (indicate species of animals);
     
   – cutting or packing plants (indicate meat type);
     
   – meat processing establishments (indicate meat type);
     
   – cold stores.
   
   – Numbers of commercial fresh meat establishments in the country approved by other importing countries which operate international assessment inspection programmes associated with approval procedures.
   
   – Numbers of commercial fresh meat establishments under direct public health control of the Veterinary Services (including details of category and numbers of inspection staff associated with these premises).
   
   – Description of the veterinary public health programme related to production and processing of animal products for human consumption (including fresh meat, poultry meat, meat products, game meat, dairy products, fish, fishery products, molluscs and crustaceans and other foods of animal origin) especially including details applying to exports of these commodities.
   
   – Descriptive summary of the roles and relationships of other official organisations in public health programmes for the products listed above if the Veterinary Authority does not have responsibility for those programmes which apply to national production destined to domestic consumption or exports of the commodities concerned.

ii) Zoonoses
   
   – Descriptive summary of the numbers and functions of staff of the Veterinary Authority involved primarily with monitoring and control of zoonotic diseases.
   
   – Descriptive summary of the role and relationships of other official organisations involved in monitoring and control of zoonoses to be provided if the Veterinary Authority does not have these responsibilities.
Annex V (contd)

iii) Chemical residue testing programmes

- Descriptive summary of national surveillance and monitoring programmes for environmental and chemical residues and contaminants applied to animal-derived foodstuffs, animals and animal feedstuffs.

- Role and function in these programmes of the Veterinary Authority and other Veterinary Services to be described in summary form.

- Descriptive summary of the analytical methodologies used and their consistency with internationally recognised standards.

iv) Veterinary medicines

- Descriptive summary of the administrative and technical controls involving registration, supply and use of veterinary pharmaceutical products especially including biological products. This summary should include a focus on veterinary public health considerations relating to the use of these products in food-producing animals.

- Role and function in these programmes of the Veterinary Authority and other Veterinary Services to be described in summary form.

98. Quality systems

a) Accreditation

Details and evidence of any current, formal accreditation by external agencies of the Veterinary Services of any components thereof.

b) Quality manuals

Documented details of the quality manuals and standards which describe the accredited quality systems of the Veterinary Services.

c) Audit

Details of independent (and internal) audit reports which have been undertaken of the Veterinary Services of components thereof.

109. Performance assessment and audit programmes

a) Strategic plans and review

i) Descriptive summary and copies of strategic and operational plans of the Veterinary Services organisation.

ii) Descriptive summary of corporate performance assessment programmes which relate to the strategic and operational plans - copies of recent review reports.

b) Compliance

Descriptive summary of any compliance unit which monitors the work of the Veterinary Services (or elements thereof).

c) Annual reports of the Veterinary Authority

Copies of official annual reports of the national (sub-national) Veterinary Authority.
d) Other reports
   i) Copies of reports of official reviews into the function or role of the Veterinary Services which have been conducted within the past three years.
   ii) Descriptive summary (and copy of reports if available) of subsequent action taken on recommendations made in these reviews.

e) Training
   i) Descriptive summary of in-service and development programmes provided by the Veterinary Services (or their parent Ministries) for relevant staff.
   ii) Summary descriptions of training courses and duration.
   iii) Details of staff numbers (and their function) who participated in these training courses in the last three years.

f) Publications
   Bibliographical list of scientific publications by staff members of Veterinary Services in the past three years.

h) Sources of independent scientific expertise
   List of local and international universities, scientific institutions and recognised veterinary organisations with which the Veterinary Services have consultation or advisory mechanisms in place.

1149. Membership of the OIE
   State if country is a member of the OIE and period of membership.

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