

**Presentation made by Dr Alejandro Thiermann**

**President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission**

**79th General Session of the OIE (May 2011)**

**1. Working Group on Animal Welfare**

Dr Thiermann noted that the Working Group on Animal Welfare (AWWG) had held its ninth meeting at the OIE Headquarters from 23 to 25 June 2010. He noted that the full report, including the work programme for 2011, was appended to the report of the February 2011 meeting of the Code Commission, which had been distributed to all OIE Delegates and had been published on the OIE website.

Dr Thiermann referred briefly to the following key points raised and discussed at the ninth AWWG meeting:

- A successful joint meeting was held between the AWWG and representatives of the OIE Collaborating Centres in Italy, Chile/Uruguay and New Zealand/Australia.
- It was agreed to encourage interaction between the AWWG and the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety and the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases via an initial exchange of meeting reports.
- A Guidance note for *ad hoc* Groups on the development of animal welfare standards, especially for animal production systems, was developed emphasising the importance of using outcome-based or animal-based criteria where possible, but also discussing situations where input-based criteria can be used.
- Planning for a Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, to be held in the last quarter of 2012 in the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region, would commence in mid-2011.
- Support was expressed for the proposed development of standards for working animals in collaboration with relevant animal welfare NGOs<sup>1</sup> and the FAO.
- It was agreed to commence discussion about disaster relief and management of animal welfare in conjunction with relevant animal welfare NGOs.
- To assist with the development of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (RAWS), it was agreed to review “lessons learnt” from the development of the RAWS for the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region and make this information available to other OIE Regions.

**2. The Assembly noted the report of the Working Group on Animal Welfare.**

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<sup>1</sup> NGOs: non-governmental organisations