OIE Conference on Evolving Veterinary Education for a Safer World
14 October, 2009: Paris

“The Scientific Assessment of Animal Welfare”

A C David Bayvel
Director Animal Welfare
MAFBNZ, Wellington, New Zealand
Chair OIE Animal Welfare Working Group
Introductory Comments

- Animal Welfare vs Animal Welfare Science
- Animal Welfare Science vs Animal Welfare Sciences
- Animal Welfare and Veterinary Science
- Animal Welfare Chairs
- OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres
“Animal welfare is a complex international public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, religious and political dimensions and which also raises important international trade policy issues”.
OIE Animal Welfare Definition (Scientific)

“means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment”.
Animal Welfare Science

Concepts

- Biological Functioning
- Natural Living
- Affective States
Animal Welfare Sciences

- Physiology
- Behaviour/Ethology
- Veterinary Science
- Agricultural Science
- Psychology
- Pharmacology
- Social Science
Five Domains of Animal Welfare Comprise

• Nutrition
• Environment
• Health
• Behaviour
• Mental
Animal Welfare Science Measures

- Physiological
- Behavioural
- Immunological
- Infra Red Thermography
- EEG
- Affective State Judgements
Welfare Quality Project

- Science and Society improving animal welfare
- 5 years, 44 Institutes and Universities
- 13 EU plus 4 Latin American countries
- 18 million EU
- Assessment Protocols for pigs, poultry and cattle
- www.welfarequality.net
• Other International Initiatives

• RCVS
• ACVSsc
• IACLAM
• EFSA & AWRA
• Further reading
• AVMA/AAVMC conference
• OIE intergovernmental leadership
Thank you for your attention
World Organisation for Animal Health

- 12 rue de Prony
- 75017 Paris, France
- Tel: 33 (0)1 44 15 18 88
- Fax: 33 (0)1 42 67 09 87
- Email: oie@oie.int
- http://www.oie.int