

OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE
Report to 75th General Session of the International Committee
Paris, 20 – 25 May 2007

The OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare held its fifth meeting in Paris from 4 to 6 July 2006. The meeting was also attended by an expert from the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare in Teramo, Italy, and three industry experts, from the International Dairy Federation (IDF), the International Meat Secretariat (IMS) and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), respectively, attended as observers.

At its July 2006 meeting, the Working Group agreed that work programme priorities would include the following:

- Revision of guidelines adopted in 2005 for land transport, sea transport, slaughter for human consumption and killing for disease control purposes, with particular reference to items under study on animal handlers and on the foetus.
- Further work on draft aquatic animal welfare guidelines after consideration by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.
- Further work on the four new areas of strategic priority agreed at the 2005 OIE General Session. For companion animals, an *ad hoc* Group on dog population control has met on two occasions and prepared a first draft report. For livestock production, wild animals and laboratory animals, discussion papers have been prepared to assist with defining the strategic approach and scope, and proposals to create additional *ad hoc* Groups have been supported by the Terrestrial Animal Health Commission.
- Planning for a second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare “Putting the Standards to Work: Towards the Implementation of the OIE’s International Animal Welfare Standards”, to be held in Cairo, Egypt in October 2008.

The Working Group Chair participates in bi-monthly teleconferences with OIE Central Bureau staff to discuss work programme progress and other issues of operational and strategic significance, as they arise.

The Working Group continues to see the active involvement of all OIE Member Countries as being critical to further developing the progress made to date, with particular emphasis on the adoption of OIE approved guidelines. This involvement requires close liaison and collaboration with non-governmental organisations and the private sector.

Communication and consultation with interested parties are also seen as critical commitments, with the OIE Web site, the OIE *Bulletin* and the special issue of the *Scientific and Technical Review* entitled “Animal Welfare: Global Issues, Trends and Challenges” all providing important sources of information and emphasising the OIE’s international animal welfare leadership role.