

**OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE**  
**Report to 76<sup>th</sup> General Session of the International Committee**  
**Paris, 25 – 30 May 2008**

The OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare held its sixth meeting at the OIE Headquarters in Paris on 5-7 September 2007.

In this meeting one of the industry observers had a full representation as a Working Group Member on a rotational basis. In 2007 the IDF member took this role and the representatives of the other two industry organisations (the International Meat Secretariat [IMS] and the International Federation of Agricultural Producers [IFAP]) participated as observers and attended the second day of the meeting. Dr. Ed Pajor, of Purdue University (USA), also participated on the meeting. He will develop an Animal Welfare Educational and Research Database for the OIE.

At its September 2007 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.
- Further work on draft aquatic animal welfare guidelines after consideration by the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.
- Further work on three of the new areas of strategic priority agreed at the 2005 OIE General Session. In the companion animal area, an ad hoc Group on dog population control has met on two occasions and prepared a first draft report. In the production animal and laboratory animal areas it was decided to convene ad hoc Groups to establish the draft basic OIE guidelines on these areas. Discussion papers were prepared and adopted to assist these ad hoc Groups on defining the strategic approach and scope of the work.
- 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.