

Recommendations

**of
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions
organised since 1 June 2012**

**endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates
of the OIE on 30 May 2013**

**25th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Europe**

Fleesensee (Germany), 17 to 21 September 2012

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) The role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) Steps towards a common animal welfare approach in Europe

Recommendation No. 1

The role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The transmission of pathogens between domestic and wild animals is a significant factor to address in controlling diseases;
2. The Veterinary Services continue to experience difficulty in controlling livestock diseases that can persist in wildlife populations;
3. There is sometimes insufficient scientific knowledge and surveillance data, including those related to emerging diseases, to make a balanced assessment of the risks to livestock production posed by the spread of pathogens in wildlife populations;
4. Understanding of veterinary professionals on wildlife pathology and the implications of wildlife diseases for veterinary public health is not optimal;
5. Vaccination of foxes against rabies and of wild boar against classical swine fever has been successfully carried out in Europe;
6. The Veterinary Services can advocate the implementation of suitable biosecurity measures in particular when zoning or compartmentalisation policies for animal production sectors are being put in place.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries organise surveillance for wildlife pathogens and diseases in Europe in a more coordinated and regular manner, with particular emphasis on pathogens and diseases having an actual or potential impact on livestock and public health;
2. Through the WAHIS system, OIE Member Countries strengthen their official notification to the OIE of listed and emerging diseases when they affect wildlife, in particular when they are transmissible to livestock and have a zoonotic impact;
3. OIE Member Countries cooperate, especially when they have common borders, by sharing relevant information collected by their Veterinary Services on the spread of wildlife disease or infections,;
4. The Member Countries recognise that a country should not suffer any prejudice if it declares infection of wild animals with OIE-listed pathogens or their exposure to them (i.e. presence of antibodies), insofar as the disease in question has not been notified in susceptible livestock species;

5. The Member Countries foster the development of biosecurity measures designed to prevent direct or indirect contact with wildlife, within the framework of a zoning or compartmentalisation policy, when applicable;
6. The Member Countries encourage scientific research in their respective country on the spread of pathogens in wildlife and on effective methods for controlling transmission to livestock;
7. The OIE consider the setting up of a Collaborating Centre in the Europe region on the role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases, to give Member Countries in the Region easier access to a source of capacity building in this field;
8. The OIE, within the framework of the *Ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education, recommend incorporating concepts of management of wildlife pathogens and diseases having an impact on domestic animals and public health in the development of the basic core curriculum and in continuing education programmes aimed at the Veterinary Services, the veterinary profession, and other relevant stakeholders;
9. The OIE continue to develop guidelines and standards relating to the role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases taking into account the range of relevant stakeholders' interests.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2012 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

Recommendation No. 2

Steps towards a common animal welfare approach in Europe

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, national and international public policy issue with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, political and commercial dimensions;
2. Following the Conventions drawn up by the Council of Europe, the Member States of the European Union and associated countries have, over the last few decades, adopted various harmonised rules on animal welfare and equipped themselves with a strategy, whereas many other contracting parties to the Council of Europe have not yet implemented all of the measures advocated in the Conventions;
3. The OIE has a mandate to improve animal health and welfare worldwide, that standards on animal welfare were first adopted at the General Session in May 2005 and that they have been regularly updated ever since;
4. Animal health is a key dimension of animal welfare and that the subject of animal welfare is included in the OIE PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services and is also taken into account in the OIE initiative on veterinary legislation;
5. Regional animal welfare strategies or approaches, adapted to the situation in each region and accompanied by a suitable implementation plan, make a major contribution to enabling the OIE to carry out its mandate with respect to improving animal health and welfare worldwide;
6. Through PVS evaluations and other activities, the OIE has been able to assess the challenges faced by some countries in the Region of Europe in trying to fulfil the missions inherent in good quality of Veterinary Services;
7. The lack of organisation of the various involved parties in the sector prevents the creation of public-private partnerships essential for the sustainable implementation of OIE recommendations and standards in the field of animal health and welfare;
8. The regional seminars on animal welfare in Europe, which were successfully held in Istanbul (Turkey) in July 2009 and in Kiev (Ukraine) in March 2012 with the support of the European Union, have confirmed the prominent regional role of the OIE in animal welfare and the importance of appointing and strengthening the capacities of Focal Points for Animal Welfare;
9. It is important to continue these capacity-building activities and to improve and develop them, both for the exchange of information and for their contribution to the overall strengthening of the capacities of the Veterinary Services using all the components of the OIE PVS Tool;

10. It is important for the European Union and other potential donors active in the Region of Europe to be associated with these capacity-building activities, and for these activities to systematically include all the relevant parties;
11. The OIE has prepared a draft concept note describing the problems encountered in some European countries and proposing solutions to resolve them in partnership with all involved parties seeking to promote animal welfare in the region.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Veterinary Services of all OIE Member Countries in the Region of Europe take all necessary measures to apply the standards on animal welfare adopted by the OIE;
2. The Delegates of OIE Member Countries in the Region of Europe take all necessary measures to ensure that, if a national Focal Point for Animal Welfare has not yet been appointed, one be appointed as quickly as possible and that the Focal Points take part in regional capacity-building programmes organised by the OIE;
3. The OIE use the results of evaluations performed using the OIE PVS Evaluation Tool and Gap Analysis Tool to propose suitably adapted continuing training programmes and twinning actions using OIE Collaborating Centres (CC) specialised in animal welfare and between Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE), or other relevant twinning activities between OIE Members of the Region;
4. The draft concept note developed by the OIE, aimed at achieving greater coordination among the Members of the Regional Commission for Europe on the subject of animal welfare, be transmitted to the Members of the Region in order to finalise its content particularly the balanced representation of the proposed steering group and any other associated committee, so the Concept note be adopted at the next meeting of the Regional Commission in May 2013;
5. The concept note, once adopted by the Regional Commission, be implemented by the OIE with the unfailing commitment of all the concerned countries and with the support of the European Union and other potential donors;
6. The European Union participate actively in these activities, including through financial support, sharing of regulatory and field experience, training programmes and awareness-raising campaigns, jointly with the OIE;
7. Within the framework outlined in recommendation paragraphs number 4 and 5, the permanent need to involve all interested parties including consumer, animal protection, producer, veterinarians and industry organisations, be taken into account.
8. As an outcome of the work to be done, a Regional OIE Animal Welfare strategy be considered.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2012 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

**21st Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for the Americas**

Bridgetown (Barbados), 26 to 29 November 2012

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks

Recommendation No. 1

Disaster management: the role and preparedness of Veterinary Services

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The growing interdependence between humans, animals and the environment in which they live is causing global health problems whose resolution requires a more holistic approach;
2. Veterinary Services have the primary responsibility for ensuring early detection and rapid response to emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, meaning that they must be strengthened in their entirety to prepare them to face the challenges arising from globalisation and disaster hazards, including climate change and bioterrorism;
3. There is a link between natural and technological disasters and the incidence of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases, including zoonoses;
4. OIE Members in the Region view with concern the obstacles facing Member Countries and their under-preparedness to cope with disasters influencing the incidence of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases;
5. Veterinary Authorities should prepare their disaster reduction plans, including emergency plans, at all technical and administrative levels of the Veterinary Service and forge partnerships with other related sectors;
6. It is cheaper to prevent and prepare for the consequences of disasters and that the Veterinary Authority has little involvement in the prevention stage of the disaster reduction cycle;
7. Member Countries of the Region have requested the OIE to become more directly involved in the issue of disaster risk reduction and management; and
8. Member Countries are willing to cooperate on disaster risk reduction and management.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries identify and include in their priorities the human and material resources needed to avoid and reduce the impact of potential disasters on animal health and welfare;
2. Veterinary Services enhance their cooperation and coordination with all sectors involved in disaster risk reduction and management, in particular public health authorities, to prevent and control zoonoses;
3. Member Countries promote the exchange of expertise on disaster risk reduction and management among countries in the Region;

4. The OIE continue its support for building the technical, management and good governance capacity of Veterinary Services, in order to contribute to reducing the incidence of emerging and re-emerging diseases and to animal welfare through disaster risk reduction and management;
5. The OIE continue its work of supporting Members by means of programmes such as the evaluation of performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool), PVS Gap Analysis, legislation missions and any other support via the PVS Pathway, in order to strengthen Veterinary Services, giving appropriate coverage to disaster risk reduction and management;
6. The OIE, through its Reference Centres and in collaboration with other international organisations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), and with relevant regional organisations, continue supporting Veterinary Authorities in developing surveillance, simulation models and other tools that take into account the relationship between natural and biological disasters, no matter whether it is of natural or intentional origin ;
7. The Director General of the OIE contact the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in order to promote interaction between the two organisations in the areas of animal health and welfare, and disaster risk reduction and management;
8. The OIE support Member Countries by creating opportunities for Veterinary Service training and capacity-building on disaster risk reduction and management, and by promoting the need for countries to share information and experience, with the emphasis on hazard, vulnerability and risk studies, and the development of disaster reduction plans;
9. The OIE consider disaster risk reduction and management in its veterinary curriculum development work; and
10. The OIE work with Cuba on finalising the establishment of an OIE Collaborating Centre on disaster risk reduction and management.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 29 November 2012 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

Recommendation No. 2

Innovative strategies for strengthening regional animal health networks

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Transboundary animal diseases have a great impact on animal and public health, on the economy of countries and on the societies in general;
2. The globalisation of trade, the intensification of animal and human movements, the environmental and climatic changes as well as many other socioeconomic factors greatly influence the spread of pathogens and vectors;
3. Surveillance and control of animal diseases, and especially transboundary diseases, must be a priority objective for any country and region;
4. There is a need to strengthen epidemiological surveillance systems and disseminate precise animal health data and scientific information on animal diseases and zoonoses, including their occurrence for any country and region;
5. The quality of the Veterinary Services is a critical factor to improve animal health and welfare, protect public health and contribute to food safety and food security through the implementation of OIE standards;
6. The OIE mandate includes collection and dissemination of information on the occurrence of animal diseases and on disease control measures, and adoption and publication of animal health and animal welfare standards worldwide;
7. The research and capacity building activities developed in tight interaction within regional networks in the field of animal health and veterinary public health represent an efficient mean to develop synergies and to share regional resources to reach common objectives;
8. The diversity and uniqueness of some countries can represent challenges to the implementation of regional animal health networks;
9. The management and conduct of efficient coordinated activities at regional or sub-regional level can represent a way to compensate for the lack of human and financial resources at national level;
10. CaribVET represents an interesting example of collaborative network bringing together Veterinary Services, academic institutions, regional and international organisations, diagnostic laboratories and research institutes (including OIE Reference Laboratories), providing technical support to improve animal health and veterinary public health in the Caribbean;
11. CaribVET has been officially recognised as the animal health network of the Caribbean since 2006 by the countries of the Caribbean region and by CARICOM, and has developed a letter of understanding with the OIE as well as a charter that has been adopted by all members; and
12. Animal Health is a key component of animal welfare.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The strengthening of existing regional animal health networks, the development of new networks when relevant, and assisting countries in such an objective be promoted;
2. The members of regional animal health networks fulfil their commitment to share resources for the development of joint regional activities;
3. Multi-national animal health and veterinary public health programmes/projects conducted in a region or a sub-region be nested, when relevant, in a regional animal health network or that the said network be involved in their general coordination, for better relevance, efficiency and cost effectiveness of the activities concerned;
4. The involvement of universities, research institutes, OIE Reference Centres, interested stakeholders, and other relevant entities in regional animal health networks be encouraged so to enable the development of technical and scientific activities closely linked to the animal health and veterinary public health priorities of the region, where relevant;
5. Cooperation agreements and collaborations between the OIE and regional animal health networks be developed with a view to their sustainability, including activities such as joint training initiatives, scientific meetings, laboratory support, and raising awareness of OIE standards and guidelines;
6. The development of an economic cost-benefit analysis framework of regional or sub-regional animal health networks be encouraged in order to help in convincing politicians and other decision makers of the value of such networks;
7. Regional animal health networks consider the development of a charter and seek political endorsement by regional political organisations with a view to sustainability;
8. The development of an OIE process for the evaluation and recognition of regional animal health networks having appropriate legal basis, along the lines of that already existing for OIE Reference Centres, be envisaged and that tools for evaluating such networks be developed in cooperation with existing experienced regional networks, such as CaribVET;
9. International donors take into account of the efforts being undertaken to develop regional animal health network and consider the provisions of support to such networks; and
10. The OIE Members of the Region of the Americas contribute to the sustainability of regional animal health network by sharing best practices, information, knowledge, and resources.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 29 November 2012 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

**20th Conference of the
OIE Regional Commission for Africa**

Lomé (Togo), 18 to 22 February 2013

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Promoting intra-Africa trade of animals and animal products

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) The importance of integrating animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation in improving food security and contributing to agricultural Gross Domestic Product in Africa

Recommendation No. 1

Promoting intra-Africa trade of animals and animal products

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Effective promotion of intra-African trade could help production within the continent to meet African demand for animal products;
2. The intensification of production systems in Africa is low and animal products are insufficiently optimised, thereby rendering Africa producers uncompetitive;
3. Consumption of animal products in the continent of Africa is still low despite the abundance of animal resources;
4. The demand for animal products is increasing in the African continent and this demand is not being met by domestic production;
5. The African continent is a net importer of animal products, while the opportunities for intra-African trade are insufficiently exploited;
6. Non-sanitary constraints to commercial transactions relating to animals and animal products exist in Africa, in particular customs tariffs, legislation and tariff policies unfavourable to trade, failure to apply regional measures, difficulty for operators in animal production sectors to access credit, all types of red tape, as well as frequently dilapidated or unsuitable production, processing, and marketing infrastructure and transport facilities;
7. Sanitary constraints to trade in animals and animal products exist in Africa, in particular the persistence of major epizootic diseases and zoonoses, the lack of quarantine infrastructure, failure to comply with standards and regulations, the lack of product control laboratories, labelling deficiencies and the absence or non-conformity of certificates of origin;
8. Laws and regulations relating to veterinary medicine and the protection of animal health, and legislation relating to the control of animal diseases, veterinary inspections at border posts, notifiable diseases, animals and food of animal origin, specific rules on the organisation of official controls for products of animal origin intended for human consumption, official animal health checks, risk analysis in animal health, animal movement control and animal identification and traceability already exist at the level of Member Countries;
9. Support policies and programmes for livestock production already exist or are planned by African States: livestock censuses, policies for building or improving transport infrastructure, construction programmes for abattoirs and livestock markets, legislation on livestock routes, institutional organisation of industry operators, facilitating access to credit and setting up of information systems on markets.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to help consolidate cooperation between the Member Countries of Africa in the veterinary domain;
2. The OIE help to facilitate information exchanges on sanitary aspects of methods used to prepare, process and manufacture animal products;
3. The OIE continue to support cooperation and technical assistance among the laboratories of Veterinary Services of the various Member Countries through twinning projects, among others;
4. The OIE help to strengthen the capacities of Veterinary Services in terms of animal disease surveillance, diagnosis and control and to strengthen the capacities of quality control laboratories for animal products;
5. The OIE continue to recognise the disease status of Member Countries with respect to foot and mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, African horse sickness, and that this recognition be extended to include other diseases, such as peste des petits ruminants;
6. The OIE continue to provide technical support with the preparation of dossiers for countries wishing to apply for official recognition of a given disease-free status;
7. The OIE participate in the organisation of symposia and seminars aimed at achieving enhanced ownership, by Member Countries, of OIE standards and the measures contained in the WTO SPS Agreement;
8. The OIE continue, by means of the PVS Pathway, to help Member Countries to sustainably improve the quality of their Veterinary Services;
9. The Member Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the Africa region take full ownership of the recommendations of the various missions conducted within the framework of OIE PVS Pathway missions;
10. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region develop policies and programmes aimed at improving the competitiveness of products of animal origin;
11. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region be encouraged to develop or apply policies designed to overcome sanitary and non-sanitary constraints to intra-African trade of animal and animal products, notably on the basis of the OIE standards;
12. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region be encouraged to develop or apply bilateral, sub-regional and regional policies for harmonisation of the sanitary and non-sanitary standards, reference systems and procedures governing trade in animals and products of animal origin; and
13. The Member Countries and RECs in the Africa region put in place or strengthen the capacity of information systems on markets for animal and products of animal origin.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 22 February 2013 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)

Recommendation No. 2

**The importance of integrating animal welfare, environmental health
and veterinary legislation in improving food security and contributing
to agricultural Gross Domestic Product in Africa**

CONSIDERING THAT

1. Livestock systems occupy an important terrestrial surface area and that they play a significant socio-economic role;
2. The implementation of animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation principles in animal production operations increases productivity, resulting in a higher quantity and quality of animal products, thereby ensuring food security and enhancing the contribution to agricultural gross domestic product;
3. The OIE has developed standards and guidelines on animal welfare as well as on veterinary legislation and that their implementation requires special efforts by Members Countries, including strengthening the governance of the Veterinary Services;
4. Although environmental health is considered in the general principles laid out in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, the OIE is currently relatively silent on the topic;
5. OIE Member Countries have been invited to designate a National Focal Point for Animal Welfare and some Regional Commissions have established networks to share knowledge and experience amongst these Focal Points;
6. Animal welfare non-compliance and a disregard for environmental health in livestock production operations are common in both developed and developing countries;
7. The current OIE animal welfare standards are not yet exhaustive in that they do not address all animal husbandry operations and do not cover all species of livestock;
8. A proper awareness and capacity building of all relevant interested parties is an essential prerequisite for effective and efficient delivery of the mandate of the Veterinary Services; and
9. Implementation of the Veterinary Services mandated activities requires appropriate human and financial resources, a good organisational structure and a clearly defined national chain of command.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE continue to provide support to its Members and particularly African countries in advocating the implementation of animal welfare, environmental health and veterinary legislation principles complying with OIE Standards in animal production systems;
2. The OIE, through its Veterinary Legislation Support Programme, continue to offer expertise to its Members, upon request, so as to ultimately ensure they have good, enforceable legislation relevant to the veterinary domain;
3. The OIE develop additional animal welfare standards and guidelines to cover other relevant animal husbandry operations and species;
4. The Veterinary Services of all OIE Member Countries in the Africa region take all necessary measures to implement the standards on animal welfare and veterinary legislation adopted by the OIE;
5. The Delegates of OIE Member Countries in the Africa region take all necessary measures to ensure that, if a national Focal Point for Animal Welfare has not yet been appointed, one be appointed as quickly as possible and that the Focal Points take part in regional capacity-building programmes organised by the OIE;
6. The OIE use the results of evaluations performed within the framework of the OIE PVS Pathway to propose suitably adapted continuing training programmes and twinning actions between Collaborating Centres specialising in animal welfare, between veterinary education establishments (VEE) and between Veterinary Statutory Bodies(VSB);
7. During the development of its 6th Strategic Plan, the OIE engage a discussion with its Members on extending the OIE's mandate on environmental health as it relates to animal health and animal welfare;
8. OIE Member Countries step up and strengthen stakeholders' knowledge and awareness of animal welfare and environmental health management issues through the use of mass communication media and the establishment of an information portal on their websites; and
9. OIE Member Countries, with the support of the OIE and development partners, make concerted efforts on capacity building so as to raise the level of competence and skills in animal welfare as well as environmental health management in livestock production operations.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Africa on 22 February 2013 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)