



Organisation
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Animal

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REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Paris, 23-25 June 2010

Dr Bayvel opened the AWWG meeting by asking the members to introduce themselves and by formally farewelling Dr Stuardo. The agenda was accepted and some new items added.

The members of the Working Group and other participants are listed in [Appendix A](#). The adopted Agenda is given in [Appendix B](#). Dr D. Bayvel chaired the meeting.

1. AWWG 8th Meeting Report, Action Minutes, Informal Meetings and Teleconferences

Members noted the report. Dr Bayvel referred to the action list that had been produced at the last meeting in 2009 and reviewed the items. It was agreed to develop a similar list of actions for this annual meeting.

Dr Bayvel noted that the informal meetings of the AWWG seems to be an effective means of updating and involving the members between annual meetings and it was agreed to continue this modus operandi when opportunities arise. It was also agreed, during the joint meeting with the AWCCs, to organize a joint teleconference, videoconference or meeting with the AWCC representatives in association with the 2011 AWWG meeting. The report of this joint meeting is could be found in [Appendix D](#).

2. OIE General Session 2010 outcomes

Dr Bayvel listed the Chapters that were adopted and confirmed that the Director General was re-elected. He also mentioned that he was awarded with a Meritorious Service Award, which he accepted on behalf of all the AWWG members.

After a discussion on the need for liaison with the other OIE working groups (Animal Production Food Safety, Wildlife), the AWWG agreed on sharing reports for information and awareness.

a) Resolution on Animal Welfare

The Animal Welfare Resolution adopted at the 78th OIE General Session was discussed and strongly endorsed.

b) World Animal Health and Welfare Fund

Dr Dehove, OIE World Fund Coordinator, was invited to join the meeting. He reviewed the World Fund (WF) history and stated that its main objectives were strengthening Veterinary Services, and improving animal health, animal welfare and food safety worldwide. He also mentioned the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool), in its 5th edition already, and explained that the PVS pathway comprises 3 stages: Evaluation, Gap Analysis and Follow-up. Veterinary Legislation missions may be carried out as an activity in the PVS pathway.

Dr Dehove stated that the WF is the only external financial resource the OIE receives for animal welfare.

Dr Wilkins asked if it was possible to consider obtaining funding from the OIE for a Rabies Control Programme in Bali, to which Dr Dehove answered that through the OIE Vaccine Bank it could be feasible to provide a certain number of vaccines, although the WF mainly addresses pilot projects.

Dr Rahman mentioned the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) Conference to be held in Ghana in March 2011, and explained to Dr Dehove that, during the joint meeting with the CC, it was agreed to propose training on "Working Animals" (including equines) with the collaboration and expertise of the CC from Teramo, Italy. He asked Dr Dehove if this could be funded by the OIE.

Dr Dehove agreed to analyze and submit a potential proposal to the OIE weekly Directors' meeting. He also mentioned that the WF can receive funds from NGO and private donors, with respect to Dr Wilkins' question.

In reference to animal welfare, Dr Molomo asked about how the new section of the OIE PVS Tool would be used to evaluate countries of which an evaluation has already been made. Dr Dehove explained that the new adopted sections are assessed during the third phase (follow-up), which is normally done 2-3 years after the second phase.

c) Other Issues Raised

- Professor Fraser commented on his disappointment on the lack of progress with AW regional strategies in regions other than the Asia, Far East and Oceania region.
- It has been proposed that a 3rd Global Animal Welfare Conference take place in December 2012 or January 2013 in the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region.
- Dr Kahn raised the issue of the database with contact names, work and papers on AW that had been proposed for development by Dr Ed Pajor. In view of the creation of the FAO portal, it was agreed that Prof. Fraser ask Dr. Pajor whether he see any further need to take further action on this proposal.
- The draft report of the informal meeting held during the 78th General Session in May 2010 was finalized and comments were invited from the AWWG members.

3. Work of the Aquatic Animal Health standard Commission

Dr Hill's presentation during the 78th General Session was reviewed. Concerning Chapter 7.2 on Welfare of Farmed Fish during transport, there was some discussion about the use of the term "farmed fish". It was agreed that different animal welfare issues arise when considering fish in production systems and wild fish.

Dr Gregory referred to a specific fishing practice that the Chapter does not address. Dr Wilkins added that Dr Hill made it clear during his presentation at the 78th General Session that he would welcome AWWG comment on aquatic animal welfare. It was agreed that the Chapter will be reviewed by the AWWG members and comments submitted to the October meeting of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.

The AWWG will also be asked to comment on the chapter being developed on killing for disease control purposes.

4. Private Standards

The OIE's ongoing work on private standards was discussed briefly. Dr Bayvel referred to Resolution N° 26 on Private Standards, which was adopted at the 78th General Session. Dr Wilkins asked if the report of the November meeting of the *Ad Hoc Group (AHG)* on private standards was available for the AWWG. Dr Kahn explained that this report is in the public domain as an annex to the February 2010 meeting report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission). It was decided that the link to the OIE Internet page, which contains all relevant information and links (reports of the June and November meeting of the *AHG* on private standards and international trade, final report of the questionnaire on private standards, technical item and the resolution of the 78th OIE General Session) would be provided to the members of the AWWG. She also commented on the different opinions of developing and of developed countries concerning private standards.

Dr Gavinelli commented that to reinforce the role of the animal welfare standards foreseen by the OIE at international level it would be advisable to further develop their scientific background. In this way, the role of the OIE standards versus the requirements established on a private basis could become more universally recognized and constitute benchmarking in terms of international trade. To do so, further thought would be needed to appropriately plan the work of future *AHG*s and the way scientific data could be incorporated in the OIE standards in a factual manner to constitute a clear reference for end users and to allow differentiation from the private ones.

5. Report of the *AHG* on Laboratory Animal Welfare

The future priorities of the *AHG* were discussed. Transport was mentioned as key laboratory animal welfare issue for consideration by the *AHG*.

6. Report of the *AHG* on Broiler welfare.

The AWWG reviewed the report of the second meeting of the *AHG*, including the comments of OIE Members on the report of the Group's first meeting.

Dr Thiermann confirmed that the Code Commission had been supportive of the work of this Group and considered that the draft Code text was appropriate to the OIE's needs.

Professor Fraser questioned whether the text, as currently developed, meets the expectations of an OIE animal welfare standard. He felt that the text, compared to the standards on transport and slaughter, provides relatively little specific guidance and few criteria that could be used to determine whether a given practice does or does not comply with the standard.

Dr Kahn commented that Code texts are not normally drafted from the perspective of providing a capacity to audit and verify the application of standards, with the exception of the chapters relating to the four diseases for which the OIE gives Members official disease status.

Dr Gavinelli agreed in part with Dr Fraser's comments. He considered that the *AHG* should provide more guidance on best practices for raising broiler chickens. In the absence of specific guidance (such as can be found in many published international and national guidelines and standards), he saw a risk that the OIE standard would not be useful or acceptable.

With reference to Dr Gavinelli's comment, Professor Aidaros commented that published international guidelines may not be relevant under all production conditions internationally.

According to some members of the AWWG, one problem with the draft text is the lack of specification of numeric parameters as measures. Dr Fraser recommended that where quantitative measures are not possible, a standard can be made more valuable by including "qualitative" criteria (which describe a desired outcome in words – for example, that all animals should have enough space to lie down at the same time) or "conditional" criteria (which describe what action should be taken when a problem is observed). He noted that the *ad hoc* Group identified variables but generally did not provide guidance on how they should be used.

Dr Kahn drew the attention of members to draft Article 4, which states:

‘‘It would be impractical at this time to assign numeric values to measurables...due to the large variations in the commercial production systems used by OIE members. However, numeric values can be valuable in benchmarking performance. ...It is recommended that values for welfare measurables be determined with reference to appropriate national, sectoral or perhaps regional norms for commercial broiler production.’’

Professor Fraser considered that the text provides a promising starting point but that more detailed provisions should be made in the specific articles.

Dr Rahman commented that the draft text provides a good starting point for developing countries and that at this early time in the OIE production animal standards development process, flexibility was important. Without flexibility, there was a risk that Members would not be able or prepared to consider implementing the provisions.

Mr Olsen commented that some of the other OIE texts, for example on animal transport, are clearer and that efforts could be made to provide clearer direction in the draft text on broilers. He also shared some of the concerns of Dr Rahman regarding the needs of developing countries.

Professor Aidaros noted that detailed provisions (e.g. on space allowance ambient temperature and relative humidity) do not exist in the text on transport and that, in the same way, it was not feasible to provide quantitative provisions in all articles.

Mr Mirabito commented that it is important to take into account the different conditions on farms and to provide guidance to farmers on how to evaluate the welfare of their animals. Professor Aidaros agreed with the comment of Mr Mirabito. He noted that the qualitative evaluation of outcomes is important rather than specification of design parameters.

Dr Wilkins commented that the amended text was a significant improvement but that there was still room for further improvement. More detail could be provided in the text. For example, guidance should be provided on gait scoring systems and the measurement of thermal index. Outcome measures need to be accompanied by guidance on how to reach such outcomes. In Dr Wilkins' view, this guidance could and should be included in the text. He also questioned if the scientific references included in the text would be kept in some form or place for information and guidance of OIE Members.

Dr Kahn commented that the scientific references could be maintained, not in the *Terrestrial Code*, but in another appropriate place (e.g. on the OIE internet site). These references had been included so that OIE Members could be informed of the availability of such information.

Dr Molomo commented that there is a need for some additional specificity but that there is also a need for flexibility in order for developing countries to be able to apply the OIE recommendations.

Dr Gavinelli commented that the topic of this chapter is broiler chickens and that there was no need to generalise, more specificity could be provided. An EFSA report would soon be released analysing the issue of genetic selection in relation to animal welfare for poultry. The developed countries are those that have the highest stocking rates. There is a discrepancy between the draft text and the other chapters on animal welfare in the *Terrestrial Code*. The draft text needs to be more practical and less theoretical.

Dr Thiermann asked the AWWG to provide guidance to the AHG on the specific modifications that they should make to address the AWWG concerns. He observed that many OIE Members have also been quite non-specific in some of their comments on the draft text.

Dr Kahn indicated that the AHG had tried to address the need for flexibility and had acknowledged in the course of its discussions that some statements are almost too general to be useful (e.g. ‘Thermal conditions for broilers should be appropriate for their stage of development’). However, there was a need to state some general principles at this stage and, perhaps, to flag these for the development of additional text in future.

As most of the published references are from EU and North American countries and little to no references are available from developing countries, the *AHG* had not considered that it would be useful to recommend ‘target’ or ‘best practice’ parameters at this stage. The inclusion of tables (for example on ‘thermal index’) had not been supported at this time, for similar reasons.

In considering possible guidance to give to the *AHG*, Professor Fraser suggested the preparation of tables addressing key topics (e.g. injuries, feather condition). The table might be structured as follows: first column: list of possible injuries; second column: likely causes; third column: actions to take plus useful references.

In a similar vein, Mr Mirabito suggested that the *AHG* be asked to develop examples of the type of problems that may be encountered under various environmental conditions and the management approaches that should be considered.

Dr Kahn suggested that there could be value in recommending management approaches to promote welfare. The OIE could usefully provide advice to Members on management approaches that are conducive to preventing and managing animal welfare problems.

Dr Kahn thanked the AWWG for the helpful comments and suggestions provided. It was agreed that this guidance would be conveyed to the *AHG*. However, given the timelines for reporting to the Code Commission’s September meeting, it would not be possible for the *AHG* to address the comments of the AWWG. The AWWG undertook to provide any additional comments to OIE Headquarters by 6 August in order to provide advice to the Code Commission on additional work on the draft text that should, in the view of the AWWG, be considered before submitting the text for adoption.

7. Report of the *AHG* on Beef Cattle

The AWWG reviewed the report of the first meeting of the *AHG*, including the comments of OIE Members on the report of the Group’s first meeting.

Professor Gregory commented about the use of the wording “humane killing” and expressed his concerns about how this would be interpreted by different religious groups (e.g. Buddhist and Hindu). With reference to Professor Gregory’s comment, Dr Thiermann commented that any modification on this phrasing would necessitate review of the whole Terrestrial Code. Dr Gregory noticed that no reference is made to ‘serving capacity’ tests, which some countries utilize and consider to be a sensitive issue. It was agreed to forward relevant questions on these two issues to the *AHG*.

Professor Gregory also raised the issue of the exported cattle genotype and suitability for conditions in the destination country. Dr Kahn replied that this issue was more appropriate for consideration in the context of Chapter 7.2. Transport of Animals by Sea. Dr Thiermann agreed with Dr Kahn’s comment and added that the main problem of unsuitable bovine genotypes is what follows exportation, when the animals are introduced to an inappropriate environment.

8. Other Business

8.1 Discussion paper on long-distance transport (including export) of animals for slaughter.

Dr Wilkins summarised that the paper, which has been developed over a two year period, had been modified to include input from Professor Gregory and that some additional modifications suggested by Dr Rahman and Professor Aidaros would also be included. Dr Wilkins asked whether it was appropriate to include recommendations in the paper. He also suggested that the topic might be considered as a Technical Item at the OIE General Session in 2012. Dr Kahn indicated that Technical Items for 2011 had already been chosen and that proposals for subsequent years would need to be raised with the OIE Council.

Dr Bayvel asked Dr Wilkins why the definition of ‘long distance transport’ had been modified. Dr Wilkins provided background to this decision.

Mr Mirabito questioned the status of the paper and also whether the quality of transport was taken into account. He suggested that the quality of transport conditions is more important than the distance *per se*.

Mr Olsen shared some concerns expressed by Mr Mirabito – in particular, the inclusion of export within the definition of ‘long distance transport’ seemed inappropriate as some animals are moved short distances for export. In addition, he did not support the proposal to define ‘unnecessarily long transport’ as ‘a journey that goes past the nearest abattoir capable of slaughtering the animals’. For practical and commercial reasons, farmers need to have access to more than a single abattoir.

Professor Fraser queried the focus of the paper on ethical concerns. He considered that the animal health and welfare issues with transport are well recognised and are similar to those for other livestock production practices and that it may be more appropriate to focus on these aspects rather than to identify long distance transport as an ethical issue. Dr Wilkins made reference to the practice of exporting livestock by sea, stating that welfare problems cannot be avoided when animals make these large sea voyages from country to country. This is done for commercial reasons and there is an ethical obligation to consider the problems associated with the practice.

Dr Thiermann raised a concern that the paper raises ethical concerns but does not clearly describe the problem. The transport distance is not the sole consideration. Welfare can be adversely affected when animals are transported short distances. Dr Thiermann suggested that if the primary concern is livestock export from continent to continent, it would be better to focus the paper on this aspect.

At the end of a thorough discussion, Dr Bayvel concluded that there was not strong or unanimous support for taking the paper forward. Dr Wilkins thanked members for this discussion and withdrew the paper. The matter was removed from the AWWG agenda.

8.2 Wildlife harvesting and culling

Dr Wilkins recalled that the paper in the folder was an old one and a new paper had been drafted addressing, in detail, the topics of hunting whales and fur seals. This paper had been amended in response to comments from AWWG members. At the last meeting, following discussion, it had been agreed not to further discuss these items.

Noting the new OIE focus on wildlife, as identified in the 5th OIE Strategic Plan, Dr Bayvel indicated that there could be value in discussing the possible future priority of developing guidance on the welfare issues associated with farming, harvesting and transporting wildlife. Dr Thiermann agreed with Dr Bayvel and recommended that these issues be approached generically, rather than focusing on a particular species or sector.

8.3 Future work on animal welfare and livestock production systems.

Dr Bayvel noted that the OIE proposed to continue working on animal production systems, with dairy cattle and pigs identified as future priorities. The AWWG noted that the views of OIE Members and their readiness to accept (or not) the draft texts on broilers and beef cattle would be important in deciding when to launch work on new standards for production systems. Dr Kahn informed the group that some work could be undertaken looking at the applicability of the text on broilers to other species of meat birds (turkeys and ducks) in the course of 2011. Dr Wilkins reminded the group of the need to address broiler breeders as part of the work on welfare in broiler production systems. Dr Kahn confirmed that the *AHG* would be asked to look at this work in future and indicated that the AWWG could express an opinion on the relative priority of these and other animal welfare topics.

8.4 Animal Welfare Regional Strategies

Dr Bayvel provided an overview of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) that is being implemented in the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region (AFEO). He noted that this strategy provided a good example of what could be achieved with financial support and commitment of countries in the region. The region is also prepared to host a third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in future, potentially in 2012. The AWWG noted that little progress had been made with regional strategies in the four other OIE regions. Dr Bayvel expressed the hope that the current focus on training OIE Focal Points would assist in energising other regions to developing regional animal welfare strategies.

Dr Gavinelli noted that the issue of a European Animal Welfare Strategy was on the agenda for the European Regional Commission meeting to be held in Kazakhstan in September 2010. As part of the preparation for the Regional Commission meeting, several papers will be provided to the Secretariat (i.e. the OIE Regional Affairs Department). Such papers include the RAWS/AFEO Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan; Resolution from the 78th General Session; plus a paper to be developed by the AWWG (Dr Wilkins, Dr Gavinelli, Dr Pelgrim and Dr Varas) drawing experiences from the AFEO region in the development and implementation of the RAWS.

8.5 OIE Animal Welfare Regional Seminars and Regional strategies

The AWWG noted the OIE commitment to undertake focal point training, for each of the six focal points nominated by Delegates, for all five regions on an ongoing (2 yearly cycle) basis. Members of the AWWG and/or representatives of the organisations that have agreements with the OIE have participated in these seminars.

The AWWG noted that the Region of the Americas will hold an animal welfare focal point training seminar in July 2010 and that the countries will discuss the prospects for developing a regional animal welfare strategy. The AWWG looked forward to receiving an update on the outcome of discussion at the seminar.

In Africa, there are many current projects receiving funding from international donors. To date, the development of a regional strategy has not been progressed.

In Europe, the topic of a regional animal welfare strategy will be discussed at the Regional Commission meeting in Kazakhstan in September 2010.

In the Middle East, there has been some discussion but work on a formal regional strategy has not yet commenced.

8.6 Conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare (Brussels, January 2009) – follow up.

Dr Gavinelli reported that the current EC focus is to incorporate animal welfare with other strategic objectives. It is planned to convene a meeting of a global group, before the end of this year, to discuss relevant issues. Organisations that participated in January 2009, including the OIE, will be invited to participate. Animal welfare is at present a new element of trade discussions and it is important to have a good exchange of ideas and information to support their proper development.

8.7 Technical Mission to Egypt

The technical mission report was reviewed by Dr Bayvel. The AWWG was pleased to note the collaborative approach taken involving the Egyptian Government, OIE, WSPA, the EC, and the Teramo AWCC in relation to organizing, and funding, relevant training activities.

8.8 FAO Animal Welfare Portal

Dr Gavinelli reported briefly on the FAO Animal Welfare Portal. The EC is on the editorial board, as is the OIE. Dr Kahn reported that the OIE had raised with FAO the concern that the OIE standards are not easy to find within the current structure of the portal. Professor Fraser asked members of the AWWG if the FAO Portal was meeting their needs. Dr Malomo commented that the Veterinary Services use the Portal and find useful information in it. Dr Rahman commented that the Portal does not contain much information drawn from the countries of Asia. Mr Mirabito commented that scientific references are sometimes lacking. It was agreed to provide AWWG feedback to the FAO.

8.9 FAO Animal Welfare Guidelines on Animal Identification and Traceability

The AWWG noted the recent FAO Animal Welfare Guideline dealing with identification of beef cattle. Mr Mirabito commented that the IDF had been sent a copy of the guideline for comment but had experienced difficulty with the five day deadline provided for comment. The AWWG recommended that the OIE provide a copy of the FAO guideline to the *AHG* on beef cattle for information.

8.10 Biotechnology and animal welfare considerations

The AWWG noted that there is no work currently underway in relation to animals produced using biotechnology applications. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on this issue.

8.11 Collaborating Centre Annual Reports

The AWWG noted the reports provided by the collaborating centres of Chile/Uruguay; Italy; and New Zealand/Australia.

8.12 Update on the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) Working Group on the economics of farm animal welfare.

Dr Bayvel advised that he understood the OIE should expect to receive the final draft report for comment around mid- July.

8.13 OIE Global Conference on Wildlife Diseases (March 2011)

The AWWG noted the “One Health” theme of this 2011 Conference.

8.14 International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)

The AWWG recommended that the OIE consider establishing a formal agreement with the ISAE, as the pre-eminent international body representing the animal welfare science community.

8.15 Application from Mexico for an OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre recognition

The AWWG requested that Mexico resubmit the documents relevant to its application in English and noted that the OIE Council, at its meeting in September 2010, would review the criteria proposed by the AWWG for approval of additional OIE Collaborating Centres.

8.16 Proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) for GS 2012

The AWWG noted that the animal welfare Technical Item proposed for the General Session 2012 had been supported by the Regional Commission for AFEO region. The topic “National and international experiences and roles in previous and future development in the “One World, One Health” approach” was, however, deemed to be of higher priority.

8.17 WSPA Rabies control

Dr Wilkins provided information on a WSPA project in Bali designed to achieve rabies eradication using vaccine.

8.18 World Veterinary Year 2011

The AWWG noted the key events associated with the World Veterinary Year 2011, including the launching event in 24 January 2011, the World Conference on Veterinary Education (Lyon, France 12-16 May 2011) and the closing ceremony to be held in conjunction with the 30th World Veterinary Congress (Cape Town, South Africa 10-14 October).

8.19 WSPA proposal for future collaboration between the OIE, WSPA and other international organisations in the field of disaster relief and management.

Dr Wilkins made some comments on the work of WSPA in disaster relief, which is a current and future priority for WSPA. Drs Kahn and Wilkins agreed to undertake some bilateral discussion on this issue in the next few months. Dr Bayvel suggested that the item be included on the agenda for the AWWG meeting in 2011 and it was agreed that Dr Wilkins should make a formal presentation.

8.20 Discussion paper on criteria for assessing the priority of future OIE Animal Welfare Standards

Professor Fraser presented the discussion paper and thanked AWWG members for their comments. Dr Bayvel thanked Professor Fraser for his work on this topic and indicated that the paper would be submitted to the Code Commission for approval and subsequent forwarding to the OIE Council and Dr Vallat.

8.21 Criteria for assessing future Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Bayvel spoke to the paper that had been drafted and provided to OIE Headquarters and the OIE Council in 2009. It was agreed that Dr Bayvel would review this paper and, if necessary, update it to take account of any relevant recommendations of the Global Conference of the OIE Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, held this week in Paris, and also of the discussion at the joint meeting of the AWWG with the Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres with particular reference to the need for the sponsoring governments to commit tangible resources to the administration of centres involving more than one institution.

8.22 International trade in exotic animals.

Dr Gavinelli reported on serious concerns associated with the international transport of exotic animals (including birds, reptiles and fish). Both the health and the welfare of these animals are threatened when certification or other problems occur during international shipments. This was discussed during an international conference in Nuremberg in May 2010 where the EC was asked to take steps to improve control over this trade. The pet industry (PIJAC) has developed guidelines and these have been sent to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). However, veterinary control needs to be strengthened and it could be valuable for the OIE to develop guidance with the objective of avoiding animal welfare problems. Dr Gavinelli agreed to write to the OIE proposing that a meeting be held to discuss and scope this issue.

8.23 Code Commission Feedback

For the information of the AWWG members, Dr Thiermann advised that the Code Commission will discuss a procedure to put 'on hold' updating of newly adopted standards during a three year period, to allow for the OIE to focus resources on the development of new chapters and the updating of old chapters. This would not affect the revision of texts in response to significant new scientific information, which could be done at any time.

9. Work Program 2011

The existing work programme was reviewed and updated. A draft 2011 programme will be prepared by Dr Varas and the Chair prior to the end of the year and circulated to AWWG member for comments.

10. Next meeting

It was agreed to hold the 2011 AWWG meeting on 21 – 23 June 2011 and to arrange interaction with CCs during the afternoon of 20 June 2011. It was also agreed to continue bi-monthly teleconferences involving the Chair and OIE Headquarters and a full AWWG teleconference in mid-January 2011.

Meeting with the Director General

Dr Bayvel congratulated Dr Vallat on his re-election on behalf of the AWWG. He also thanked him for attending this meeting during the same week as the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres Global Conference which allowed the AWWG to meet with AWCC representatives and presented apologies on behalf of Dr Gavinelli who had to leave earlier and explained that each of the members would proceed with a question raised during the meeting for the Director General to address.

- **Animal welfare and trade – reflection on the PVS Tool**

Professor Aidaros mentioned that standards could be misused as possible trade barriers. He stated that 80% of countries do not have legislation on animal welfare and that pushing too hard on this issue could block progress.

Dr Vallat agreed with Professor Aidaros and explained the importance of undertaking evaluations in all the regions and encouraging countries to generate or update legislation on AW. He added that all Members agreed on having standards on AW in 2002 and that all chapters have been adopted unanimously. He also mentioned the importance of the PVS Tool as a support of the OIE Strategic Plan and for the improvement of Veterinary Services and legislation, including through Gap Analysis missions.

Dr Thiermann noted that standards are already included in the Code, and the modification of the OIE PVS Tool reflects this fact.

- **Non-trade related AW activities: working animals – possible OIE involvement**

Dr Rahman explained the need for guidelines on working animals and the possibility of proposing a training programme in collaboration with the CC-ITA, during the CVA conference to be held in Ghana in 2011.

Dr Vallat expressed the interest and support of the OIE on this issue, and mentioned the positive aspect of the use of working animals for climate change, as they reduce the use of motorised vehicles and provide manure for fertilizer.

- **Possible third Global OIE AW Conference in 2012**

Dr Bayvel mentioned that the RAWS/AFEO proposed to host a 3rd Global Conference on AW in the AFEO region if such a conference was considered appropriate.

Dr Vallat supported this proposal and mentioned Thailand, Malaysia, China and Japan as possible countries. He suggested that December 2012 or January 2013 could be a good date for this important event.

- **AH&W Fund – possibility to draw on the OIE World Fund for support with the provision of rabies vaccine to the province of Bali (Indonesia) as a pilot project**

Dr Wilkins mentioned the background of the Rabies Control Programme in Bali, which started two years ago in one region, and explained the necessity of extending this programme to the whole island. He asked the OIE for technical advice and possibly financial support, as the project required half a million pounds for the next 5 years. He also mentioned that NGOs or other organizations could provide financial support to the OIE.

Dr Vallat welcomed all donors and explained that within the project “One Health” managed by the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia in Bangkok, there is a bank of vaccines to support pilot projects. He proposed Dr Wilkins to liaise with the Indonesian Government through the OIE Delegate to submit an application.

Dr Bayvel mentioned that the Australian Government could be supportive of this initiative.

- **Wildlife – farming, transport, culling, harvesting**

Dr Vallat stated that OIE Members could be interested in the control of wildlife populations, as disease can be disseminated by these species. He mentioned that the control of stray dog populations for rabies control purposes was a first step in this area.

- **What contribution could the AWWG make to the other key horizontal themes – i.e. food safety, climate change and wildlife?**

Dr Vallat confirmed his agreement for liaison between the AWWG (including CCs) and the Wildlife Working Group and Animal Production Food Safety Working Group.

- **Comments of the WG on the draft standards for broiler production and beef cattle; future priorities for standard setting**

In reference to the report of the *AHG* on animal welfare and broiler production, Professor Fraser proposed that the document could be made more valuable by including more specific guidance. It was agreed that a conceptual document developed by Professor Fraser ([Appendix C](#)) would be sent to the *AHGs* and also submitted to the Code Commission.

Dr Vallat stated that the first objective is to develop standards that will be adopted. Revision of standards to address specific concerns could then be undertaken subsequent to adoption.

It was agreed to await the Code Commission feedback on this issue.

- **Regional Animal Welfare Strategies – support of the AWWG for development of strategies in all five regions.**

Dr Molomo mentioned the AWWG's interest to see the development of strategies in other regions.

Dr Vallat emphasised the importance of implementing an animal welfare strategy at a regional level. He mentioned his satisfaction with the RAWS in the AFEO region but stated that countries would need to support the development and adoption of a strategy. In addition, for Europe, the different levels of development of countries would need to be taken into account.

Dr Kahn mentioned that a regional strategy is on the agenda of the European Regional Commission to be held in Kazakhstan in September 2011.

.../Appendices

MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE
Paris, 23-25 June 2010

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**MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE
Paris, 23-25 June 2010**

Adopted Agenda

Introduction of participants / Dr D Bayvel

Administrative arrangements / Dr S Kahn

22 June 2010 - 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm: Joint Session with Representatives of OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres

- 1. AWWG 8TH Meeting Report, Action List, Informal Meeting & Teleconferences**
- 2. OIE General Session 2010 Outcomes**
 - General Session Report
 - Resolution on Animal Welfare
 - World Animal Health and Welfare Fund
 - Other Issues Raised
- 3. Work of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions**
- 4. Report of the AHG on Private Standards and International Trade in Animals and Animal Products**
- 5. Report of the AHG on Laboratory Animal Welfare**
 - Final Draft Chapter
 - Air Transport
 - Vet Training
 - Regulatory Testing
- 6. Report of the Electronic Consultation AHG on Broiler Animal Welfare**
- 7. Report of the AHG on Beef Cattle Animal Welfare**
- 8. Other Business**
 - Ethical concerns relevant to the work of the OIE on international animal welfare guidelines/standards – Long Distance Transport (including export) of animals for slaughter (Report of Dr Wilkins to the Animal welfare Working Group)
 - Wildlife Harvesting and Culling – Issues and Options Paper. Report prepared by David Wilkins (WSPA), Member of the WG

Appendix B (contd)

- Future Work on Animal Welfare and Livestock Productions Systems AHGs
- Animal Welfare Regional Strategies (RAWS/AFEO)
- OIE Animal Welfare Regional Seminars and Other Regional Strategies Reports
- January 2009 Brussels conference – Global Trade and Farm animal Welfare Conference – Follow Up Actions
- 2009 OIE Technical Mission to Egypt
- Animal Welfare Portal: FAO and Partners
- Biotechnology and welfare considerations
- Collaborating Centres Annual Reports (Italy, Chile/Uruguay, NZ/Australia)
- FAWC Working Group Update
- Animal Welfare Working Group Membership
- OIE International conference on Wildlife Diseases and Trade March 2011
- ISAE Relationship
- UNAM Relationship
- Technical Item for 2012 (including questionnaire)
- WSPA rabies control

9. Work programme 2010

10. Next Meetings

GUIDANCE FROM THE ANIMAL WELFARE WORKING GROUP TO *AD HOC* GROUPS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

When ‘welfare codes’ were first developed in the 1970s and 1980s, they tended to contain truisms such as ‘Animals should have adequate space’ and ‘Noise levels should not be excessive’. Although such statements can be useful to identify important variables in the course of providing more specific advice, they do not provide any implementable information or any means of determining whether a given practice or facility is in compliance. In contrast, an OIE animal welfare standard should contain recommendations that can be implemented, and criteria that can be used to tell whether a given practice or facility is in compliance with the standard.

Outcome-based or animal-based criteria should be used where possible because they are generally related most directly to animal welfare, and because they can be applied to a wide range of production systems. Such criteria can be qualitative (all animals should be able to lie down at the same time without lying on top of each other) or quantitative (no more than 1% of animals should be dead on arrival).

In some cases, input-based or resource-based criteria may be possible, for example if welfare is likely to be reduced by a certain factor in a wide range of systems. Again these can be qualitative (no animal should be hoisted while conscious) or quantitative (ammonia level in the air should not exceed 25 ppm).

In other cases, ‘conditional’ criteria can be used. These generally specify what actions should be taken under certain conditions. These can include both qualitative and quantitative elements, as in: (1) If more than 2% of birds arrive at the slaughter plant with broken wings, catching crews should be re-trained to catch birds in ways that are less likely to cause injuries. (2) In months where hot weather is expected, stocking density should be reduced so that birds have enough space to perform wing-stretching unimpeded.

For certain variables, it is possible to identify ‘critical levels’ beyond which welfare is expected to be affected. Such levels are normally determined by scientific research. For example, welfare in many species is noticeably affected if ammonia levels in the air exceed 25 ppm.

For other variables (percent lame, percent dead during transport) there are no critical levels but it may be possible to set or recommend ‘performance targets’. In the case of performance targets, an *ad hoc* committee may be able to agree that a certain level of performance should be achieved broadly, for example, that no more than 1% of animals should fall while being moved in a slaughter facility. In other cases, there may be so much variation between breeds or locations that a standard merely identifies variables that should be used to assess performance, and calls for national or breed-specific targets to be set. In such cases it is helpful to provide examples of performance targets from other standards that are broadly applicable under different conditions.

June 25, 2010

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE AWWG AND AWCC REPRESENTATIVES

22 JUNE 2010

Dr Bayvel asked the participants (Annex I) to introduce themselves and thanked them for their attendance. He invited the Collaborating Centre representatives to proceed with their presentations about the activities of their centre as relevant to the OIE's animal welfare work program.

1. Centre Overview Presentations

Dr Dalla Villa, from the CC of Italy, invited the attendees to visit the new ITA-CC Head Quarters. He explained the situation in the country after the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake in Abruzzo and stated that the particular difficulties in responding to this experience were in the coordination and organization of emergency and recovery phases, mainly due to the absence of specific guidelines and detailed operational procedures.

Dr Alessandrini continued the presentation, explaining that the centre would like to develop a tool for the systematic management of natural disasters. It was agreed to include Natural Disasters in the Agenda (Annex II)

Dr Gallo, from the CC of Chile/Uruguay, explained how this CC is structured in both countries and identified the meetings they have held since the year before when the CC was recognized by the OIE. She listed the CC main activity areas: transport and slaughter related to meat quality, dairy cattle related to the animal behaviour, and education. She handed over to Dr Huertas, a member of the *ad hoc* Group on beef cattle production systems, and added that she participated in a training programme on transport organized by the ITA-CC. Dr Huertas explained that she tried to repeat the mentioned training in Uruguay, with very limited funding, and the result was gratifying. With reference to Dr Huertas' observation, Dr Alessandrini commented that spreading of information is expected and is a sign of success.

Professor Mellor, from the CC of New-Zealand/Australia, explained how this CC is structured in both countries and added that all the countries in the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region are included in the priority initiatives being considered by the Centre Management Committee (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Australia; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), New Zealand; and 5 centres from the NZ/AUS CC). Professor Phillips indicated that both governments strongly support the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Implementation Plan.

Regarding Professor Phillips' comment on funding, Dr Gavinelli commented that for many projects, funding was not a problem, as the EC has resources, but the challenge is to identify the necessary expertise and capability.

Professor Fraser asked if the CCs have observed an impact since they have been recognized by the OIE, in particular in terms of funding. Dr Gallo replied that as the CHI/URU-CC has been recognized only for the past year, it could be too soon to see any effects. Dr Huertas confirmed Dr Gallo's answer. Professor Mellor on the other hand, highlighted the fact that more interest in Animal Welfare studies undertaken by post graduate students has been observed, as Dr Gallo had mentioned during her presentation.

Appendix D (contd)

Professor Phillips stated that, at this stage, no payback has been observed yet from the investment made. Dr Bayvel commented that MAF and DAFF support to the OIE, is exemplified by the financial support for the RAWS. He also added that twinning projects are one of the main objectives of the OIE, and that they are funded. Dr Alessandrini commented that twinning projects offer an opportunity for customized training. Confirming Dr Alessandrini's comment, Dr Bayvel explained how these proposals are considered by the Director General of the OIE. Nowadays, there are 37 Collaborating Centres covering 35 topics in 21 countries.

2. Twinning Opportunities

Dr Dalla Villa commented that regarding the ITA-CC, there is no twinning project on animal welfare at the moment; however, making reference to the earthquake and as an example, he mentioned that it would be interesting to evaluate the possibility to enable a Twinning Project (TP) with Cuba as this country has expertise in Disaster Management. He added that it is important to evaluate which are the needs of a country to undertake a twinning project.

Dr Huertas commented that TPs are a good opportunity to receive and/or give help, in terms of expertise. She asked for assistance to know the procedure and funding. It was agreed that all the relative information would be sent to the CCs. Dr Kahn informed the group that the costs are covered by the OIE, and the countries only have to contribute with the time of their experts. In reference to Dr Huertas's comment, Professor Mellor commented that, to identify potential TP, the CHI/URU-CC could propose a training programme.

Dr Rahman mentioned that India could be interested in a TP with the NZ/AUS-CC, as India represents, along with Brazil and China, the most significant livestock industry for cattle. It was agreed that Dr Rahman would identify a candidate for a TP.

3. Collaborative Research

It was established that research opportunities could be part of the TP.

4. Information Exchange

Dr Dalla Villa commented that up to date there is no formal way to communicate between the CCs. It was agreed that OIE Headquarters will post CC and any relevant reports that are appropriate on the OIE website.

5. Conferences

Dr Bayvel mentioned that the RAWS/AFEO proposed to host the 3rd Global AW Conference in the region of Asia, Far East and Oceania in 2012, and that the DG is supportive of this idea.

It was agreed to ask the CCs to highlight potential conference topics in their Annual Reports.

Dr Rahman mentioned the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Conference that will be hold in Ghana in 2011 and it was agreed to organize a workshop on "Working Animals", in particular equine, and to ask the OIE for funds. This idea was discussed with Dr Dehove, World Fund Coordinator, during the AWWG meeting. Dr Dehove agreed to receive a proposal and submit it to the OIE weekly Directorate meeting for discussion and possible approval.

6. Natural Disasters

The role of the OIE regarding how to deal with natural disasters was discussed. Dr Wilkins referred to the progress WSPA has made during the last 10 years and explained that this organisation did receive many donations from the public towards rescue efforts in Haiti after the earthquake, thanks to publicity, but that little financial support had been obtained for Mongolia. Dr Dalla Villa stated that Italy and some other countries have specific legislation (Italian Law no. 266/1991) that acknowledges the work of volunteer organisations and that allows the country to activate funds in the case of national emergencies. As a consequence of this law, volunteers working for these NGOs have the right to take a temporary leave from work. He added that the OIE could surely lead on this approach in order to recognize the critical role of the animal welfare NGOs in veterinary disaster management. It was agreed to add this topic to the AWWG meeting agenda.

7. Student Exchange

The AWCC members were keen to receive and send students; however Dr Huertas mentioned that the problem is financial. Dr Bayvel indicated that the CC link with the governments of NZ and Australia had benefits in terms of possible financial support.

8. Agreed Actions

Interaction with CCs by teleconference, videoconference or meeting attendance was agreed to be included in the agenda for Annual AWWG meetings (Annex III).

**JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE ANIMAL WELFARE WORKING GROUP AND THE ANIMAL WELFARE
COLLABORATION CENTRES**

Paris, 22 June 2010

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JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE AWWG AND AWCC REPRESENTATIVES

22 JUNE 2010

Adopted Agenda

2h30 - 3h45: Centres Overview Presentations

Discussion

3h45 - 4h45: Strategic opportunities: Communication

- Twinning Opportunities
- Collaborative Research
- Information Exchange
- Conference Opportunities
- Ongoing Communication
- Natural Disasters
- Student Exchange

3h45 - 4h00: Agreed Actions/ More Actions

Action Items

	Issue/Action	By Who	By When
1.	Collaborating Centres joint meeting and Twinning		
1.1.	Identification of Indian twinning candidates plus exchanges with other countries in AFEO region	A. Rahman	01/08/2010
1.2.	Send the twinning application details	M. Varas	Complete
1.3.	OIE Headquarters to post CC and other relevant reports on the OIE website	M. Varas	01/10/2010
1.4.	CC annual reports: add a chapter in which CCs will highlight potential conference topics	Liaise with Scientific Department	Immediately
1.5.	Provide a list of experts to EC	CC	
1.6.	Circulate OIE General Session Technical Item about Collaborating Centres	M. Varas	Complete
1.7.	Prepare draft proposal for Global AW Conference in the region of Asia, Far East and Oceania	D. Bayvel/S. Kahn	01/10/2010
1.8.	Identification of possible conference themes or opportunities	All	
1.9.	Prepare a draft proposal to involve Teramo in training programme to be held in association with the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Conference (Ghana)	A. Rahman	01/09/2010
1.10.	Interaction with CCs by teleconference, videoconference or meeting attendance to be included on annual AWWG meeting agenda	M. Varas	Immediately
1.11.	OIE Policy on Disaster Management to be clarified	AWWG	Immediately
1.12.	Provide a DVD of the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres Conference	M. Varas	Complete

GLOSSARY

ACC: Aquatic Code Commission
AFEO: Asia, Far East and Oceania
AHG: *Ad Hoc* Group
AWCC: Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre
AWWG: Animal Welfare Working Group
CCs: Collaborating Centres
CHI/URU-CC: Collaborating Centre of Chile/Uruguay
CVA: Commonwealth Veterinary Association
DAFF: Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Australia
EC: European Commission
EFSA: European Food Safety Authority
EU: European Union
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAWC: Farm Animal Welfare Council
GS: General Session
IATA: International Air Transport Association
IDF: International Dairy Federation
IMS: International Meat Secretariat
ISAE: International Society of Applied Ethology
ITA-CC: Collaborating Centre of Italy
MAF: Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, New Zealand.
MERCOSUR: Southern Common Market
NGO: Non-governmental organization
NZ/AUS-CC: Collaborating Centre of New Zealand/Australia
OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health
PIJAC: Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
PVS: Performance of Veterinary Service
RAWS: Regional Animal Welfare Strategy
TP: Twinning project
UNAM: Universidad Autónoma de México
WF: World Fund
WG: Working Group
WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animals

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