



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future



MAY 2017

VISION

The OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy was created with the following vision:

“ A WORLD WHERE THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS IS RESPECTED, PROMOTED AND ADVANCED, IN WAYS THAT COMPLEMENT THE PURSUIT OF ANIMAL HEALTH, HUMAN WELL-BEING, SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. ”

INTRODUCTION

AS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION WITH A 90-YEAR HISTORY AND 180 MEMBER COUNTRIES,

the OIE has a long-established role in setting global standards for animal health, in dissemination of information, in helping countries to develop state Veterinary Services, and in fostering international cooperation.

Since 2001 these and other activities have enabled the OIE to make a **unique global leadership contribution to advancing animal welfare**, at the request of its Member Countries.



CONTEXT

ANIMAL WELFARE IS CLOSELY LINKED TO ANIMAL HEALTH, THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE, AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS.

Animal welfare is a complex, multifaceted, international and domestic public policy issue with scientific, ethical, economic, legal, religious and cultural dimensions plus important trade policy implications. It is a responsibility that must be shared between governments, communities, the people who own, care for and use animals, civil society, educational institutions, veterinarians and scientists.

Mutual recognition and constructive engagement among parties are necessary to achieve sustained improvements to animal welfare.

Animals may be kept as working animals, companion animals, for production of food, fibre and other animal products, for scientific and educational purposes and are transported and traded internationally.

The OIE recognises all these purposes as legitimate, while carrying an associated ethical responsibility to ensure any such use is humane, as defined through the OIE's international standards for animal welfare, in recognition of the sentience of animals. In food production systems, attention to animal welfare can improve productivity, quality, food safety, and economic returns, and therefore contribute to food security and economic prosperity. The ethical and economic drivers for animal welfare are complementary, in that both are legitimate considerations and ideally both should be taken into account in determining the conditions of the animals in any specific context.



THE OIE GLOBAL ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY HAS BEEN CREATED TO PROVIDE CONTINUING DIRECTION AND COORDINATION OF THE ORGANISATION'S ACTIONS IN THIS IMPORTANT FIELD.

4 PILLARS OF THE STRATEGY



DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

- The OIE develops animal welfare standards with input from international experts, based on relevant **scientific research** and taking into account associated ethical considerations and practical experience, in consultation with Member Countries and key international stakeholders to ensure ownership and global applicability. Animal welfare standards should achieve good animal welfare outcomes rather than prescribing design criteria.
- It **cooperates with relevant international and regional government and non-government organisations** in setting mutually recognised standards and to avoid duplication of effort.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND EDUCATION

- The OIE provides **guidance, including through the PVS Pathway tools**, to Member Countries in order to strengthen their Veterinary Services to enhance their capacity to implement animal welfare standards.
- It provides support for **training activities** for country Delegates and national animal welfare Focal Points.
- It develops and disseminates materials for animal welfare training and **capacity building** directed at all those who care for animals.
- It supports the **inclusion of animal welfare in curricula** for veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and students of animal agriculture and schools when relevant.



Asia and Pacific: Vietnam



COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENTS*, ORGANISATIONS AND THE PUBLIC

- The OIE develops communication programmes to provide **accurate, accessible and timely information on animal welfare** to governments, the agri-food sector, veterinarians and other professionals including farmers.
- It communicates with governments, international and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations and the private sector to foster **awareness of the OIE animal welfare standards**.
- It makes information available to the general public to improve awareness of animal welfare issues and developments.

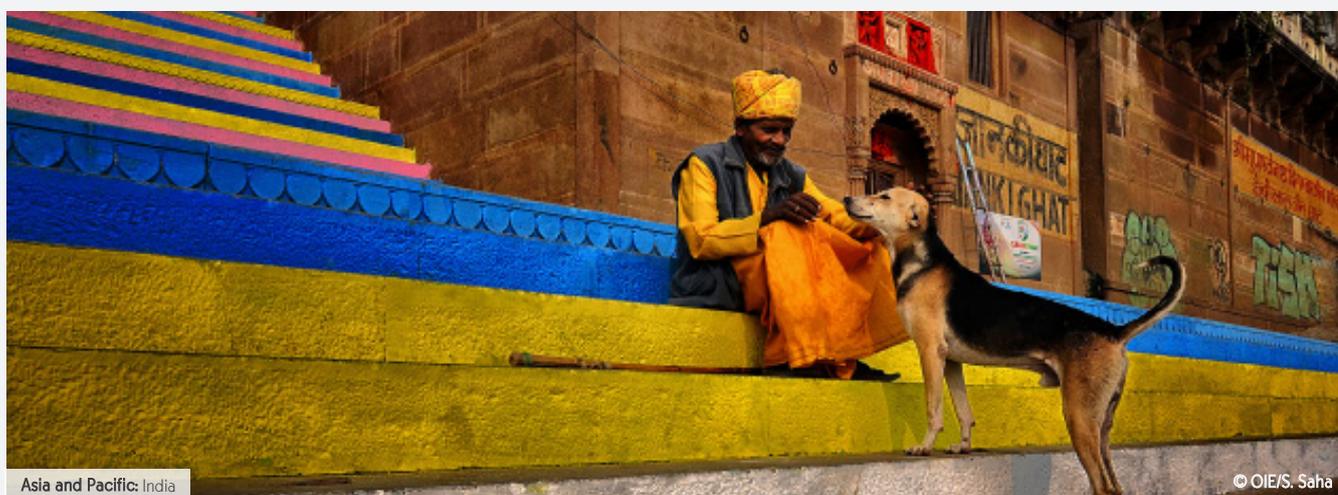
* including Veterinary Services and educational institutions.



IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS* AND POLICIES

- The OIE supports Member Countries in **policy development and governance** related to animal welfare through training, advice, and policy research and analysis.
- It makes recommendations to Member Countries on the inclusion of animal welfare **in national legislation and on implementing animal welfare standards**.
- It works with relevant **international and regional organisations** to ensure that private or commercial animal welfare standards are consistent with OIE standards.

* included in the Section 7 of the *Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes*.



ACTIVITIES

To support the elements outlined above, future activities will continue with the aim of delivering improved animal welfare outcomes through the implementation of this Strategy.

1.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORUM that will bring together members of the animal welfare research community, the global animal welfare movement and the global animal-source food sector to:

- discuss animal welfare policies, issues and activities at global level;
- identify sources of expertise, educational programmes and other animal welfare related activities;
- provide overall guidance in supporting communication and advocacy activities related to animal welfare;
- identify areas for the development of additional animal welfare standards; and
- influence and support the implementation of animal welfare standards.

2.

DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENCE-BASED ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

using the best scientific and practical expertise on animal welfare, taking into account associated ethical considerations and regional perspectives. Strengthening the role of the OIE collaborating centres on animal welfare is a key component of this action.

3.

ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTING THE ONGOING DEVELOPMENT, EVOLUTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGIES (RAWS).

RAWS are intended to facilitate the implementation of the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy within the context of their specific region, by:

- promoting understanding and awareness of animal welfare in the region through communication, education and training;
- guiding Member Countries in the implementation of animal welfare standards to ensure harmonised approaches across the region;
- providing a mechanism for developing animal welfare policies, legislation and activities appropriate to the region;
- promoting cooperation among Member Countries and other organisations in applying animal welfare standards in the region;
- advocating the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary, veterinary paraprofessional and animal science curricula in the region;
- ensuring that new knowledge and developments in animal welfare are broadly communicated in the region;
- identifying possible research and development needs and priorities, and
- continue to monitor the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) and its recognition of OIE's international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.



Africa: South Africa

4.

STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES through capacity building activities, using the PVS pathway, focusing on national animal welfare Focal Points, will support Member Country's involvement in the standard development process. Focal Points, working under the responsibility of OIE delegate of their country, would be responsible for coordination of activities related to animal welfare, including:

- liaison with in-country national Competent Authority(ies) for animal welfare, animal welfare experts and relevant national non-governmental organisations;
- receiving and sharing relevant information with the OIE, with stakeholders in their own countries and OIE region, and with other national animal welfare Focal Points;
- facilitating the implementation of animal welfare standards and training;
- contributing to the implementation of the RAWS.



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5.

BROADENING THE HORIZONS AND STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE AND OTHER AREAS OF SCIENCES

such as social, environmental and economic science, through the participation and collaboration in research, publications and conference at global, regional or national levels.



Asia and Pacific: Nepal

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OIE WELFARE PORTAL

www.oie.int/animalwelfare

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