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Report

OIE Animal Welfare Global Forum

“Animal transport: a shared responsibility”

Paris, France, 11-12 April 2019

1. Background:

One of the main activities of the OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy (GAWS) was to establish a Forum to bring together members of the animal welfare research community, the global animal welfare movement and the global animal-source food sector to open a transparent debate on animal welfare topics such as: animal welfare policies, issues and activities at global level; sources of expertise, educational programmes and other animal welfare related activities; guidance in supporting communication and advocacy activities related to animal welfare; areas for the development of additional animal welfare standards; and how best to influence and support the implementation of animal welfare standards.

On 28-29 March 2018 in Paris the 1st OIE Animal Welfare Global Forum was held where the main challenges of academia, industry, NGOs and governments in the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards were presented.

2. Development of the Forum

The second OIE Animal Welfare Global Forum was held the 11-12 April 2019 at the OIE Headquarters in Paris, France. The theme for the 2019 Forum was; ‘Animal transport: a shared responsibility’. The objective of this version of the Forum was to provide a platform for the open and transparent exchange of ideas, experiences and specific knowledge on the welfare of animals during transport by land, sea or air and discuss proposals to improve the implementation of relevant OIE international Standards. The Forum was attended by 40 participants representing OIE Members, international organisations, industry, NGOs and civil society.

Animal transport was selected as the theme for the 2019 Forum because transport is an integral part of the life of animals – whether they are being transported for food, sports, research or leisure. Thousands of animals are transported every year through the world and these animals face important challenges related to their health and welfare. An understanding of behaviour patterns of animals and appropriate handling techniques are some of the guiding principles for transport to ensure minimal adverse effects.

The welfare of animals during transport is of paramount importance and is the joint responsibility of all the actors involved, including animal owners and business agents, transport operators, drivers, pilots, captains of vessels, transport regulators and national Veterinary Services.

The final programme of the Forum is presented as an Annex to this report. The Presentations of the speakers of the Plenary Sessions are available at the OIE website at the following address: (<http://www.oie.int/en/animal-welfare/developments-in-animal-welfare/>).

3. Plenary Sessions

In her opening remarks, the OIE Director General, Dr Monique Eloit, highlighted the importance of stakeholder participation during development and implementation of the OIE Standards in the transport of animals. This was followed by a keynote speech from Professor Clive Phillips on the welfare of sheep during sea transport, in which Professor Phillips stressed that the quality and the success of transport is in the hands of all those that participate in it.

Two plenary sessions were conducted covering topics related to the implementation of the OIE Standards on animal welfare during transport such as; the involvement of national Veterinary Services, and the role of civil society and the industry in raising awareness of its importance. The role of OIE



partners, such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA), in providing mechanisms to facilitate standards implementation was also highlighted. After the plenary sessions, participants were divided into Working Groups to consider the three means of transport addressed in the OIE Codes (i.e. sea, land and air transport) and to further discuss current challenges and areas for improvement in the implementation.

4. Breakout Groups Session

To facilitate the collection of the ideas discussed during the Forum, three working groups were formed. One for each OIE animal welfare transport chapter. A series of questions were provided in advance to the different Groups, to stimulate the discussions.

Working Group 1 – Transport of animals by sea

The Group identified the key global actors in the transport chain, and the importance in terms of trade of the species that are transported, as well as their final use (breeding, slaughter or fattening).

The Group also discussed the importance of understanding the range of mechanisms used to implement the OIE Standards, such as laws and regulations; education and training; and the co-development of industry requirements such as Codes of Practice.

The Group identified some implementation challenges like:

- Varying levels of commitment to improving welfare in exporting/importing countries
- Overall lack of resources – competing priorities
- Inadequate infrastructure to handle and manage livestock
- Limited knowledge of appropriate nutrition and production for the livestock breeds and classes in the receiving country
- Training – difficulty in reaching those responsible for the handling and husbandry of the livestock and maintaining their competence, including due to staff turnover
- Development of appropriate extension materials – brochures/leaflets
- Media focus on instances of poor welfare outcomes

Finally, the Australian representative who was participating in the Group shared information on the activities Australia has undertaken to improve the conditions of animal welfare during sea transport, such as the review of their livestock export standards with a focus on pre-export assurances, for the whole supply chain, the improvement of the monitoring of environmental conditions on board and the participation of independent observers along with the accredited veterinarians during the transport of sheep.

Working group 2 – Transport of animals by land

The Group outlined three main points during their discussions. The extensive number of persons and entities involved, in often complex supply chains, associated with long-distance and transboundary land transport operations. It was agreed in the Group that that high levels of communication and coordination are required for operations to run smoothly. Some important challenges for the implementation of the chapter include:

- the economic and social value placed on animals and their products,
- the lack of tools for assessing animal welfare during the transport,
- the lack of unified responsibilities of businesses operators and governments,
- the inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks, and
- the challenge of supervising mobile operators, border crossing points and resting places



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Finally, the Group identified, some improvements that may be made to support better implementation of the OIE animal welfare transport standards:

- training and professionalisation of the operators,
- strengthening the capabilities of Veterinary Services,
- the development and implementation of new technologies for monitoring animal welfare during the journey,
- the implementation of a network of contact points between the competent authorities, and
- the improvement of the legislative framework, and
- the use of some OIE tools like the PVS pathway and twinning projects.

Working Group 3 – Transport of animals by air

This Group highlighted the importance of all the participants in the chain of transport, mainly because of the technical diversity and complexity of this means of transport.

The Group also agreed that the key areas of improvement of the welfare of the animals transported by air include activities such as training, communication, planning, document management and regulatory compliance.

In terms of the most important problems faced in this means of transport, the Group identified the following:

- noncompliance with shipping containers and the associated documentation,
- increased difficulties in transporting animals used in research, and
- the administrative and conflicting health status of some transported species, such as horses.

The Group noted also that there are regulatory instruments that may be applied to improve the welfare of animals during air transport, notably the IATA Live Animal Regulation (LAR), which is in line with the OIE Terrestrial Code, and some National regulation such as the USDA Code of Federal Regulation. With reference to the IATA LAR, the Group discussed the importance of the Terrestrial Code, as the IATA LAR is only applicable to their Members and not to all OIE Member Countries, which highlights the need to further reinforce the implementation of the OIE Chapter.

The Group noted that Veterinary Services must adopt the OIE standards and the IATA regulations into their own national legislative frameworks to enable a compliance and enforcement mechanism. The Group identified the lack of reporting of animal welfare breaches as one of the main causes impeding understanding of the implementation challenges of the Chapter, in comparison with the reporting system for animal health. Also, they recommended reference to the OIE Transport Chapters in the veterinary certification models to support the implementation of the transport chapters.

Finally, the Group recommended investing in more activities to increase the awareness of animal welfare in general and on the existing animal welfare standards.

Closing Session

The OIE Deputy Director General, Dr Mathew Stone summarised the key points raised during the Working Group sessions which included:

- the need to clearly establish a sense of collective responsibility amongst all participants in the transportation chain, as well as clearly demarcated individual responsibility at every point the chain and clear mechanisms to transfer that responsibility between transportation chain participants;
- the role of effective communication and coordination among those responsible to reduce the risk of animal welfare failures,

- the need to develop regulatory frameworks through “Good regulatory practices” to ensure a strong buy-in from all stakeholders and a commitment to effective implementation, and
- the importance of having a multidisciplinary approach when developing animal welfare policies, so that economic, social and practical considerations inform and complement the use of animal welfare science.

In her closing remarks, Dr Eloit thanked participants for their contribution to the discussions during the Forum and highlighted that the next steps for the OIE would be to take the outcomes of the Forum and start a process of internal discussion, with the view to develop a plan to update the chapters on the welfare of animals during transport in line with the latest scientific developments and the guidance provided.



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Annexe

OIE Animal Welfare Global Forum “Animal transport: a shared responsibility” Paris (France) 11–12 April 2019	
Day 1: Thursday 11 April 2019	
Opening Session: Setting the scene Chair: Monique Eloit, OIE Director General	
Time	Theme
08:30–09:15	Registration and Tea/Coffee
09:15–09:20	Welcome and opening remarks Monique Eloit, Director General, OIE
09:20–09:30	Outcomes of the First OIE Global Animal Welfare Forum Matthew Stone, Deputy Director General "International Standards and Science", OIE
09:30–09:45	OIE Animal welfare standard on animal transport Leopoldo Stuardo, Chargé de mission – Animal Welfare, Standards Department, OIE
09:45– 10:00	OIE Training initiatives on animal transport Tomasz Grudnik, OIE Sub Regional Representation for Europe, Brussels, Belgium
10:00–10:30	Key note presentation – Animal transport Clive Phillips, OIE Collaborating Centre for Asia Pacific Region, “David Bayvel Consortium”, Australia
10:30–11:00	Morning Break Tea / Coffee
Session 1: Different perspectives on animal transport Chair: Monique Eloit	
11:00–11:20	Animal Transport Guidelines Project Nancy De Briyne FVE
11:20–11:40	Animal transport by sea – a front line perspective Renee Willis Australian Government Accredited Veterinarian (AAV), Australia
11:40–12:00	An International Organisational perspective in supporting the implementation of OIE transport standards Andrea Gruber IATA, Switzerland
12:00–12:20	The economics of animal transport Coen van Wagenberg Senior scientist food quality economics in supply chains, Wageningen Economic Research, The Netherlands
12:20–13:00	Panel discussion
13:00–14:00	Lunch



Session 2 – Experiences in animal transport Chair: Matthew Stone, OIE Deputy Director General – International Standards and Science		
Time	Theme	Speaker
14:00–14:20	Animal transport; the experience of an exporting country, including lessons learnt Michael Sheahan National Animal Welfare, Focal Point from Ireland	
14:20–14:40	Implementation of OIE animal welfare transport standards - a national perspective Johannes Shoopala Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer, Namibia	
14:40-15:00	Animal transport; a private sector perspective Gustavo Monaco Exporting manager, MINERVA S.A, Brazil	
15:00–15:20	Role of animal welfare protection organisations in improving animal welfare in transport operations Julia Havenstein ICFAW – Animals Angels, Germany	
15:20–16:00	Panel discussion	
16:00–16:30	Afternoon Break Tea/Coffee	
Working Group Sessions – Animal transport: identifying challenges and exploring solutions		
Time	Theme	Rapporteur
16:30–18:30	Group 1: Transport of animals by sea	To be confirmed
	Group 2: Transport of animals by land	
	Group 3: Transport of animals by air	
18:30–19:30	Welcome cocktail	
Day 2: Friday 12 April 2019		
Session 3 – Presentation of Working Group Sessions Chair: Matthew Stone		
Time	Theme	Rapporteur
09:00–09:15	Group 1: Transport of animals by sea	To be confirmed
09:15–09:30	Group 2: Transport of animals by land	
09:30–09:45	Group 3: Transport of animals by air	
09:45–11:00	Discussion of outcomes of the Working Group sessions	
11:00–11:30	Morning Break Tea/Coffee	
Closing Session Chair: Monique Eloit		
Time	Theme	Speaker
11:30–12:15	Summary of key themes emerging from discussions	Matthew Stone and Leopoldo Stuardo
12:15–12:45	Open Discussion	
12:45–13:00	Closure of the meeting	Monique Eloit