Animal welfare

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards on animal welfare to support Members to improve how they handle terrestrial and aquatic animals on farm, during transport, slaughter, killing for disease control purposes, as well as in research and for specific topics such as dog population management. Through its Annual Report, the Observatory intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

An increasing number of national animal welfare regulations are being passed

336 regulations on animal welfare originating from 58 Members were recorded between 1996 and 2021. More than 75% of them came from the European region.

The implementation of standards on dog population management can be strengthened

70% of Members did not estimate the number of stray dogs according to surveys carried out in the European region and North Africa.

68% of responding Members had dog population control programmes in place, and 69% of these programmes were monitored and evaluated.

There is variability in the implementation of the different components of the standard on dog population management.

The capacity of Veterinary Services regarding animal welfare needs to be further improved

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions, 26% of Members have reached or exceeded the minimal capacity for the Critical Competency related to animal welfare.

World Organisation for Animal Health

- Intensify efforts to collect animal welfare-related information to accurately assess Members’ compliance with international standards.
- Understand the issues faced by Members when legislating and implementing animal welfare standards.
- Monitor Members’ progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH’s support.

Members

- Address the issues that prevent the regulation and implementation of animal welfare standards.
- Establish and/or strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of dog population control programmes.

Access the full information here

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.