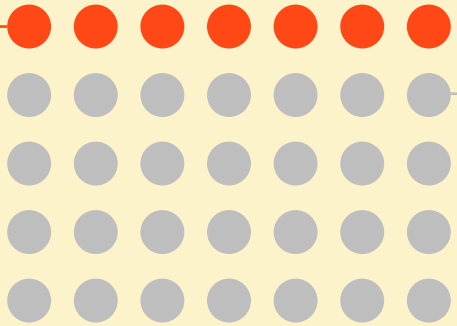
Towards Better Animal Welfare

WOAH establishes international standards for animal welfare which are set out in Section 7 of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. They cover areas including welfare during transport and slaughter. Section 7 of the Aquatic Animal Health Code covers the welfare of farmed fish. The Observatory assessed the uptake of these standards by WOAH Members, in addition to a Thematic Study on animal welfare during transport by land and sea (Chapters 7.2 and 7.3).

What Level of Advancement have Members reached in critical competencies relevant to animal welfare,[1] according to Performance of Veterinary Service evaluation (2017–2023)?

20% of Members evaluated (n = 35)
had national veterinary legislation on animal welfare covering most of Section 7 of WOAH standards, although they did not necessarily conform to these.



80%
were assessed as having no or limited national legislation relevant to WOAH's standards on animal welfare.

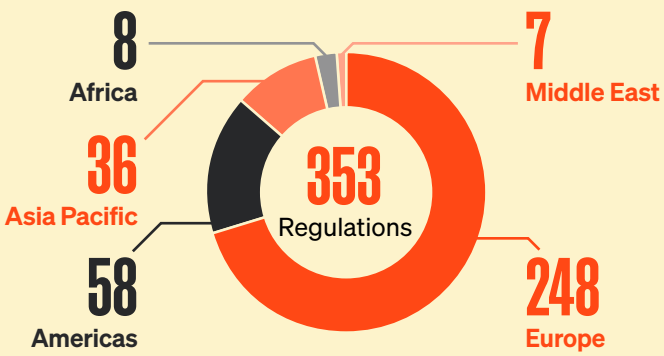
How many Members have national regulations related to animal welfare (2005–2023)?

75 Members
registered a total of

353 regulations
that may relate to WOAH standards in FAOLEX between 2005 and 2023

70%
originated from Members in Europe

Breakdown of number of animal welfare regulations by WOAH Regions[2]



Key recommendation

WOAH recommends that its Members prioritise at least some of the topics or WOAH standards relevant to animal welfare, such as slaughter, transport, research and/or stray dog population management, to be addressed by national legislation or regulation.

Next steps for WOAH

To continue refining the indicators using data on national regulations relating to animal welfare, potentially including contextual analysis and comparison of relevant Chapters of WOAH Code and abstracts of regulations in FAOLEX.

[1] *As established in the PVS Tool 2019*
[2] *Some regulations were affiliated to multiple Members. Thus the sum of the numbers of regulations from five Regions exceeds 353.*

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Data source: PVS IS and FAOLEX

World Organisation for Animal Health