

2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare

Cairo (Egypt), 20-22 October, 2008

Resolution

CONSIDERING THAT:

- Economic and social development must be addressed in parallel with animal welfare and that a progressive implementation of OIE standards, adapted to the economic situation and capacities of Members, is appropriate;
- animal health is a key component of animal welfare;
- that one of the objectives of the OIE is to facilitate international trade in animals and animal products;
- that the OIE is the unique reference organization globally for the elaboration of international animal welfare standards;
- the OIE Strategic Plan has included animal welfare since 2001 and that the current Strategic Plan contains provisions for action, coordination and integrated planning on terrestrial and aquatic animal welfare at the national, regional and global level;
- it is of concern that some private standards for animal welfare are not consistent with the OIE standards;
- OIE regional strategies, based on global animal welfare standards, represent a shared vision between government and the private sector, built upon collaboration between the various sectors, including animal health, public health, industry (production, transport and processing), academic and research sectors;
- animal welfare standards should be democratically and transparently adopted and both science and ethics based, bearing in mind the production systems and uses of animals of each Member and the relevant environmental, regional, geographic, economic, cultural and religious aspects;

- scientific information should be the basis for the preparation of international standards and that these should be appropriately evaluated and validated taking into account the different circumstances and contexts relevant to the Members
- the need to promote scientific research, capacity building, education and communication in the animal welfare area
- the ongoing work of the OIE in reinforcing the capacity of Veterinary Services, using the OIE Tool for the *Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool)* with the legal base in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*;
- the continuing support of the OIE for twinning programmes involving OIE Collaborating Centres;
- a number of important and relevant topics and issues were identified at the 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare.

OIE MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO:

- create or update, where necessary, legislation that prevents cruelty to animals as well as legislation that establishes a legal basis for complying with OIE standards for animal health, safety of animal products for human consumption and animal welfare, as well as supporting guidelines for the use of good practice to encourage compliance with OIE standards;
- support the development of programmes for education and scientific research relevant to animal welfare. Education programmes should be directed to key players, particularly to veterinarians, livestock owners and animal handlers, NGOs and other key target categories, such as women and children;
- promote the adoption by the United Nations of a Declaration addressing animal welfare, including compliance with OIE animal health and welfare standards;

- nominate OIE animal welfare national focal points, under the authority of the OIE Delegate and to develop national programmes;
- encourage the private sector to respect OIE standards and not to adopt private standards that are in conflict with the OIE standards, particularly for the importation of animal products from developing countries;

THE OIE IS REQUESTED TO:

- provide appropriate technical support to Members in the implementation of the OIE standards, including through the provision of tools relevant to 1) veterinary legislation 2) veterinary education on animal welfare 3) good governance of Veterinary Services;
- describe Veterinary Services' responsibilities for animal welfare in the *Terrestrial Code* and to include appropriate references in the OIE *PVS Tool*;
- work closely with donors and international organisations that have a commitment to animal welfare to help Veterinary Services and their partners in developing countries to implement the OIE animal welfare standards;
- continue collaboration at the regional level, with involvement of the OIE Regional and sub-regional Representations to support the development of strategies to address regional needs and priorities;
- advocate the role and responsibility of the Veterinary Services, including public and private sector veterinarians, in animal welfare and promote technical support to veterinary education and the provision of information on animal health and welfare, particularly to animal owners and handlers;

- collaborate and form partnerships with organisations representing all relevant sectors of the production and distribution chain for animals and animal products to develop and promote the OIE animal welfare standards as the key reference for national, regional and international trade and to urge the private sector to adopt private standards for animal welfare that are consistent with the OIE standards;
- influence those responsible for making decisions on scientific research to develop new programmes addressing animal welfare priorities;
- promote the development of twinning programmes between OIE Collaborating Centres in the field of animal welfare;
- continue to work on the standard setting priorities established by the OIE International Committee as well as the priorities for standard setting on humane methods for controlling stray dog populations¹ and free ranging cats and wild invasive species;
- consider establishing a procedure for determining priorities for future standards development.

¹ Programmes for controlling stray dog populations can include culling in some countries.