Practical Experience: Efficacious Animal Welfare Safeguard in the Process of Killing Animals for Disease Control in China

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1. **Principal Laws on Animal Welfare**

- Animal Husbandry Law of the People's Republic of China
- The Regulation on Rapid Response to the Major Animal Epidemics
• Article 39 in “Animal Husbandry Law” stipulated that Livestock and poultry breeding farms shall meet the following conditions:

----- Production premises and supporting facilities commensurate with their farming scales;
----- Animal husbandry and veterinary technicians;
----- Conditions for epidemic prevention;
----- Facilities like methane-generating pits for bio-safety disposal of animal faeces, waste water and other solid wastes.
• Article 42
  There should be necessary conditions for animal rearing and living in a livestock and poultry farm.

• Article 53
  Essential space, feeds, and drinking water must be provided to animals in transportation.
2. Approaches to safeguard animal welfare in the process of killing animals
2.1 Rapid Response Regulation and contingency plans for animal diseases at different levels make stringent stipulations on animal welfare.

Firstly, express provisions are made on animal disease prevention and handling:

----- Dispose of the carcases, animal excretions, contaminated feedstuff, litter and sewage in bio-safely way ;

----- Strictly disinfect the contaminated facilities ;

----- Conduct surveillance of susceptible animals and practice emergent vaccination when necessary ;

----- Cull and destroy all infected animals and cohort animals.
Secondly, movement and rearing of animals are under stringent management.

----- Susceptible animals be isolated within pens or only at the appointed places, markets of animals and animal products be closed.

----- Prohibition is implemented on animals being moved into and out of the zone, and on animal products being moved out of.
Thirdly, personnel involved in animal disposal for disease control is under strict supervision.

---- Local governments organize reserve teams composed of veterinary administrators, veterinarians, veterinary practitioners and the relevant specialists.

----- Persons with expertise can be organized to join the reserve teams.

----- Technical guidance should be provided to people who participate in the emergency response to animal diseases.
2.2 Measures for animal welfare safeguard

2.2.1 To formulate the principles and specify the killing methods

“young animals should be killed before older animals; infected animals be killed first, followed by in-contact animals”, “killing at the nearest location” and “methods leading to quick death”.
Killing methods are specified with free bullets fired to the large animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and pigs
Neck dislocation or controlled atmosphere killing applied to poultry.
2.2.2 To improve operational skill of animal killing personnel

----- Veterinary departments at all levels systematically train veterinarians and relevant personnel for timely response to animal disease emergency.

----- Stamping-out teams should be composed of veterinarians or personnel who are fond of animals, have been trained with veterinary knowledge.
2.2.3 To intensify bio-safety management

----- To dispose all animals dead and infected in a bio-safety way;

----- To disinfect thoroughly animal pens, facilities for animal rearing and the surroundings;

----- To set up animal health inspection stations to prohibit animals into and out of the infected zone, and to disinfect thoroughly all vehicles and persons into and out of the infected zone.
动物检疫消毒站
2.2.4 To Intensify Supervision Management in the Process of Stamping-out

----- Veterinary administrative departments and animal health inspection agencies are responsible for the standardization of killing operation as well as timely correction of the behaviors which do not meet animal welfare requirements.

----- Detailed records are required for animal killing personnel, animal species, number, methods of bio-safety disposal and disinfection and so on.
3. Future Focuses

• To strengthen publicity and training as concerns animal welfare.
• To strengthen scientific researches on animal welfare.
• To improve the framework of animal welfare standards.
Фибим Щрц!