



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
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Animal

Annex XXXI

Original: English

June 2010

REPORT OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Paris, 23–25 June 2010

Dr Bayvel opened the AWWG meeting by asking the members to introduce themselves and by formally farewelling Dr Stuardo. The agenda was accepted and some new items added.

The members of the Working Group and other participants are listed in [Appendix A](#). The adopted Agenda is given in [Appendix B](#). Dr D. Bayvel chaired the meeting.

1. AWWG 8th Meeting Report, Action Minutes, Informal Meetings and Teleconferences

Members noted the report. Dr Bayvel referred to the action list that had been produced at the last meeting in 2009 and reviewed the items. It was agreed to develop a similar list of actions for this annual meeting.

Dr Bayvel noted that the informal meetings of the AWWG seems to be an effective means of updating and involving the members between annual meetings and it was agreed to continue this modus operandi when opportunities arise. It was also agreed, during the joint meeting with the AWCCs, to organize a joint teleconference, videoconference or meeting with the AWCC representatives in association with the 2011 AWWG meeting. The report of this joint meeting is could be found in [Appendix D](#).

2. OIE General Session 2010 outcomes

General Session 2010 Outcomes

Dr Bayvel listed the Chapters that were adopted and confirmed that the Director General was re-elected. He also mentioned that he was awarded with a Meritorious Service Award, which he accepted on behalf of all the AWWG members.

After a discussion on the need for liaison with the other OIE working groups (Animal Production Food Safety, Wildlife), the AWWG agreed on sharing reports for information and awareness.

a) Resolution on Animal Welfare

The Animal Welfare Resolution adopted at the 78th OIE General Session was discussed and strongly endorsed.

Annex XXXI (contd)**b) World Animal Health and Welfare Fund**

Dr Dehove, OIE World Fund Coordinator, was invited to join the meeting. He reviewed the World Fund (WF) history and stated that its main objectives were strengthening Veterinary Services, and improving animal health, animal welfare and food safety worldwide. He also mentioned the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool), in its 5th edition already, and explained that the PVS pathway comprises 3 stages: Evaluation, Gap Analysis and Follow-up. Veterinary Legislation missions may be carried out as an activity in the PVS pathway.

Dr Dehove stated that the WF is the only external financial resource the OIE receives for animal welfare.

Dr Wilkins asked if it was possible to consider obtaining funding from the OIE for a Rabies Control Programme in Bali, to which Dr Dehove answered that through the OIE Vaccine Bank it could be feasible to provide a certain number of vaccines, although the WF mainly addresses pilot projects.

Dr Rahman mentioned the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA) Conference to be held in Ghana in March 2011, and explained to Dr Dehove that, during the joint meeting with the CC, it was agreed to propose training on "Working Animals" (including equines) with the collaboration and expertise of the CC from Teramo, Italy. He asked Dr Dehove if this could be funded by the OIE.

Dr Dehove agreed to analyze and submit a potential proposal to the OIE weekly Directors' meeting. He also mentioned that the WF can receive funds from NGO and private donors, with respect to Dr Wilkins' question.

In reference to animal welfare, Dr Molomo asked about how the new section of the OIE PVS Tool would be used to evaluate countries of which an evaluation has already been made. Dr Dehove explained that the new adopted sections are assessed during the third phase (follow-up), which is normally done 2-3 years after the second phase.

c) Other Issues Raised

- Professor Fraser commented on his disappointment on the lack of progress with AW regional strategies in regions other than the Asia, Far East and Oceania region.
- It has been proposed that a 3rd Global Animal Welfare Conference take place in December 2012 or January 2013 in the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region.
- Dr Kahn raised the issue of the database with contact names, work and papers on AW that had been proposed for development by Dr Ed Pajor. In view of the creation of the FAO portal, it was agreed that Prof. Fraser ask Dr. Pajor whether he see any further need to take further action on this proposal.
- The draft report of the informal meeting held during the 78th General Session in May 2010 was finalized and comments were invited from the AWWG members.

3. Work of the Aquatic Animal Health standard Commission

Dr Hill's presentation during the 78th General Session was reviewed. Concerning Chapter 7.2 on Welfare of Farmed Fish during transport, there was some discussion about the use of the term "farmed fish". It was agreed that different animal welfare issues arise when considering fish in production systems and wild fish.

Dr Gregory referred to a specific fishing practice that the Chapter does not address. Dr Wilkins added that Dr Hill made it clear during his presentation at the 78th General Session that he would welcome AWWG comment on aquatic animal welfare. It was agreed that the Chapter will be reviewed by the AWWG members and comments submitted to the October meeting of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission.

The AWWG will also be asked to comment on the chapter being developed on killing for disease control purposes.

4. Private Standards

The OIE's ongoing work on private standards was discussed briefly. Dr Bayvel referred to Resolution N° 26 on Private Standards, which was adopted at the 78th General Session. Dr Wilkins asked if the report of the November meeting of the *Ad Hoc Group (AHG)* on private standards was available for the AWWG. Dr Kahn explained that this report is in the public domain as an annex to the February 2010 meeting report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission). It was decided that the link to the OIE Internet page, which contains all relevant information and links (reports of the June and November meeting of the *AHG* on private standards and international trade, final report of the questionnaire on private standards, technical item and the resolution of the 78th OIE General Session) would be provided to the members of the AWWG. She also commented on the different opinions of developing and of developed countries concerning private standards.

Dr Gavinelli commented that to reinforce the role of the animal welfare standards foreseen by the OIE at international level it would be advisable to further develop their scientific background. In this way, the role of the OIE standards versus the requirements established on a private basis could become more universally recognized and constitute benchmarking in terms of international trade. To do so, further thought would be needed to appropriately plan the work of future *AHG*s and the way scientific data could be incorporated in the OIE standards in a factual manner to constitute a clear reference for end users and to allow differentiation from the private ones.

5. Report of the *AHG* on Laboratory Animal Welfare

The future priorities of the *AHG* were discussed. Transport was mentioned as key laboratory animal welfare issue for consideration by the *AHG*.

6. Report of the *AHG* on Broiler welfare.

The AWWG reviewed the report of the second meeting of the *AHG*, including the comments of OIE Members on the report of the Group's first meeting.

Dr Thiermann confirmed that the Code Commission had been supportive of the work of this Group and considered that the draft Code text was appropriate to the OIE's needs.

Professor Fraser questioned whether the text, as currently developed, meets the expectations of an OIE animal welfare standard. He felt that the text, compared to the standards on transport and slaughter, provides relatively little specific guidance and few criteria that could be used to determine whether a given practice does or does not comply with the standard.

Dr Kahn commented that Code texts are not normally drafted from the perspective of providing a capacity to audit and verify the application of standards, with the exception of the chapters relating to the four diseases for which the OIE gives Members official disease status.

Dr Gavinelli agreed in part with Dr Fraser's comments. He considered that the *AHG* should provide more guidance on best practices for raising broiler chickens. In the absence of specific guidance (such as can be found in many published international and national guidelines and standards), he saw a risk that the OIE standard would not be useful or acceptable.

With reference to Dr Gavinelli's comment, Professor Aidaros commented that published international guidelines may not be relevant under all production conditions internationally.

According to some members of the AWWG, one problem with the draft text is the lack of specification of numeric parameters as measures. Dr Fraser recommended that where quantitative measures are not possible, a standard can be made more valuable by including "qualitative" criteria (which describe a desired outcome in words – for example, that all animals should have enough space to lie down at the same time) or "conditional" criteria (which describe what action should be taken when a problem is observed). He noted that the *ad hoc* Group identified variables but generally did not provide guidance on how they should be used.

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Dr Kahn drew the attention of members to draft Article 4, which states:

‘‘It would be impractical at this time to assign numeric values to measurables...due to the large variations in the commercial production systems used by OIE members. However, numeric values can be valuable in benchmarking performance. ...It is recommended that values for welfare measurables be determined with reference to appropriate national, sectoral or perhaps regional norms for commercial broiler production.’’

Professor Fraser considered that the text provides a promising starting point but that more detailed provisions should be made in the specific articles.

Dr Rahman commented that the draft text provides a good starting point for developing countries and that at this early time in the OIE production animal standards development process, flexibility was important. Without flexibility, there was a risk that Members would not be able or prepared to consider implementing the provisions.

Mr Olsen commented that some of the other OIE texts, for example on animal transport, are clearer and that efforts could be made to provide clearer direction in the draft text on broilers. He also shared some of the concerns of Dr Rahman regarding the needs of developing countries.

Professor Aidaros noted that detailed provisions (e.g. on space allowance ambient temperature and relative humidity) do not exist in the text on transport and that, in the same way, it was not feasible to provide quantitative provisions in all articles.

Mr Mirabito commented that it is important to take into account the different conditions on farms and to provide guidance to farmers on how to evaluate the welfare of their animals. Professor Aidaros agreed with the comment of Mr Mirabito. He noted that the qualitative evaluation of outcomes is important rather than specification of design parameters.

Dr Wilkins commented that the amended text was a significant improvement but that there was still room for further improvement. More detail could be provided in the text. For example, guidance should be provided on gait scoring systems and the measurement of thermal index. Outcome measures need to be accompanied by guidance on how to reach such outcomes. In Dr Wilkins' view, this guidance could and should be included in the text. He also questioned if the scientific references included in the text would be kept in some form or place for information and guidance of OIE Members.

Dr Kahn commented that the scientific references could be maintained, not in the *Terrestrial Code*, but in another appropriate place (e.g. on the OIE internet site). These references had been included so that OIE Members could be informed of the availability of such information.

Dr Molomo commented that there is a need for some additional specificity but that there is also a need for flexibility in order for developing countries to be able to apply the OIE recommendations.

Dr Gavinelli commented that the topic of this chapter is broiler chickens and that there was no need to generalise, more specificity could be provided. An EFSA report would soon be released analysing the issue of genetic selection in relation to animal welfare for poultry. The developed countries are those that have the highest stocking rates. There is a discrepancy between the draft text and the other chapters on animal welfare in the *Terrestrial Code*. The draft text needs to be more practical and less theoretical.

Dr Thiermann asked the AWWG to provide guidance to the *AHG* on the specific modifications that they should make to address the AWWG concerns. He observed that many OIE Members have also been quite non-specific in some of their comments on the draft text.

Dr Kahn indicated that the *AHG* had tried to address the need for flexibility and had acknowledged in the course of its discussions that some statements are almost too general to be useful (e.g. ‘Thermal conditions for broilers should be appropriate for their stage of development’). However, there was a need to state some general principles at this stage and, perhaps, to flag these for the development of additional text in future.

As most of the published references are from EU and North American countries and little to no references are available from developing countries, the *AHG* had not considered that it would be useful to recommend ‘target’ or ‘best practice’ parameters at this stage. The inclusion of tables (for example on ‘thermal index’) had not been supported at this time, for similar reasons.

In considering possible guidance to give to the *AHG*, Professor Fraser suggested the preparation of tables addressing key topics (e.g. injuries, feather condition). The table might be structured as follows: first column: list of possible injuries; second column: likely causes; third column: actions to take plus useful references.

In a similar vein, Mr Mirabito suggested that the *AHG* be asked to develop examples of the type of problems that may be encountered under various environmental conditions and the management approaches that should be considered.

Dr Kahn suggested that there could be value in recommending management approaches to promote welfare. The OIE could usefully provide advice to Members on management approaches that are conducive to preventing and managing animal welfare problems.

Dr Kahn thanked the AWWG for the helpful comments and suggestions provided. It was agreed that this guidance would be conveyed to the *AHG*. However, given the timelines for reporting to the Code Commission’s September meeting, it would not be possible for the *AHG* to address the comments of the AWWG. The AWWG undertook to provide any additional comments to OIE Headquarters by 6 August in order to provide advice to the Code Commission on additional work on the draft text that should, in the view of the AWWG, be considered before submitting the text for adoption.

7. Report of the *AHG* on Beef Cattle

The AWWG reviewed the report of the first meeting of the *AHG*, including the comments of OIE Members on the report of the Group’s first meeting.

Professor Gregory commented about the use of the wording “humane killing” and expressed his concerns about how this would be interpreted by different religious groups (e.g. Buddhist and Hindu). With reference to Professor Gregory’s comment, Dr Thiermann commented that any modification on this phrasing would necessitate review of the whole Terrestrial Code. Dr Gregory noticed that no reference is made to ‘serving capacity’ tests, which some countries utilize and consider to be a sensitive issue. It was agreed to forward relevant questions on these two issues to the *AHG*.

Professor Gregory also raised the issue of the exported cattle genotype and suitability for conditions in the destination country. Dr Kahn replied that this issue was more appropriate for consideration in the context of Chapter 7.2. Transport of Animals by Sea. Dr Thiermann agreed with Dr Kahn’s comment and added that the main problem of unsuitable bovine genotypes is what follows exportation, when the animals are introduced to an inappropriate environment.

8. Other Business

8.1 Discussion paper on long-distance transport (including export) of animals for slaughter.

Dr Wilkins summarised that the paper, which has been developed over a two year period, had been modified to include input from Professor Gregory and that some additional modifications suggested by Dr Rahman and Professor Aidaros would also be included. Dr Wilkins asked whether it was appropriate to include recommendations in the paper. He also suggested that the topic might be considered as a Technical Item at the OIE General Session in 2012. Dr Kahn indicated that Technical Items for 2011 had already been chosen and that proposals for subsequent years would need to be raised with the OIE Council.

Dr Bayvel asked Dr Wilkins why the definition of ‘long distance transport’ had been modified. Dr Wilkins provided background to this decision.

Mr Mirabito questioned the status of the paper and also whether the quality of transport was taken into account. He suggested that the quality of transport conditions is more important than the distance *per se*.

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Mr Olsen shared some concerns expressed by Mr Mirabito – in particular, the inclusion of export within the definition of ‘long distance transport’ seemed inappropriate as some animals are moved short distances for export. In addition, he did not support the proposal to define ‘unnecessarily long transport’ as ‘a journey that goes past the nearest abattoir capable of slaughtering the animals’. For practical and commercial reasons, farmers need to have access to more than a single abattoir.

Professor Fraser queried the focus of the paper on ethical concerns. He considered that the animal health and welfare issues with transport are well recognised and are similar to those for other livestock production practices and that it may be more appropriate to focus on these aspects rather than to identify long distance transport as an ethical issue. Dr Wilkins made reference to the practice of exporting livestock by sea, stating that welfare problems cannot be avoided when animals make these large sea voyages from country to country. This is done for commercial reasons and there is an ethical obligation to consider the problems associated with the practice.

Dr Thiermann raised a concern that the paper raises ethical concerns but does not clearly describe the problem. The transport distance is not the sole consideration. Welfare can be adversely affected when animals are transported short distances. Dr Thiermann suggested that if the primary concern is livestock export from continent to continent, it would be better to focus the paper on this aspect.

At the end of a thorough discussion, Dr Bayvel concluded that there was not strong or unanimous support for taking the paper forward. Dr Wilkins thanked members for this discussion and withdrew the paper. The matter was removed from the AWWG agenda.

8.2 Wildlife harvesting and culling

Dr Wilkins recalled that the paper in the folder was an old one and a new paper had been drafted addressing, in detail, the topics of hunting whales and fur seals. This paper had been amended in response to comments from AWWG members. At the last meeting, following discussion, it had been agreed not to further discuss these items.

Noting the new OIE focus on wildlife, as identified in the 5th OIE Strategic Plan, Dr Bayvel indicated that there could be value in discussing the possible future priority of developing guidance on the welfare issues associated with farming, harvesting and transporting wildlife. Dr Thiermann agreed with Dr Bayvel and recommended that these issues be approached generically, rather than focusing on a particular species or sector.

8.3 Future work on animal welfare and livestock production systems

Dr Bayvel noted that the OIE proposed to continue working on animal production systems, with dairy cattle and pigs identified as future priorities. The AWWG noted that the views of OIE Members and their readiness to accept (or not) the draft texts on broilers and beef cattle would be important in deciding when to launch work on new standards for production systems. Dr Kahn informed the group that some work could be undertaken looking at the applicability of the text on broilers to other species of meat birds (turkeys and ducks) in the course of 2011. Dr Wilkins reminded the group of the need to address broiler breeders as part of the work on welfare in broiler production systems. Dr Kahn confirmed that the *AHG* would be asked to look at this work in future and indicated that the AWWG could express an opinion on the relative priority of these and other animal welfare topics.

8.4 Animal Welfare Regional Strategies

Dr Bayvel provided an overview of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) that is being implemented in the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region (AFEO). He noted that this strategy provided a good example of what could be achieved with financial support and commitment of countries in the region. The region is also prepared to host a third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in future, potentially in 2012. The AWWG noted that little progress had been made with regional strategies in the four other OIE regions. Dr Bayvel expressed the hope that the current focus on training OIE Focal Points would assist in engaging other regions to developing regional animal welfare strategies.

Dr Gavinelli noted that the issue of a European Animal Welfare Strategy was on the agenda for the European Regional Commission meeting to be held in Kazakhstan in September 2010. As part of the preparation for the Regional Commission meeting, several papers will be provided to the Secretariat (i.e. the OIE Regional Affairs Department). Such papers include the RAWS/AFEO Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan; Resolution from the 78th General Session; plus a paper to be developed by the AWWG (Dr Wilkins, Dr Gavinelli, Dr Pelgrim and Dr Varas) drawing experiences from the AFEO region in the development and implementation of the RAWS.

8.5 OIE Animal Welfare Regional Seminars and Regional strategies

The AWWG noted the OIE commitment to undertake focal point training, for each of the six focal points nominated by Delegates, for all five regions on an ongoing (2 yearly cycle) basis. Members of the AWWG and/or representatives of the organisations that have agreements with the OIE have participated in these seminars.

The AWWG noted that the Region of the Americas will hold an animal welfare focal point training seminar in July 2010 and that the countries will discuss the prospects for developing a regional animal welfare strategy. The AWWG looked forward to receiving an update on the outcome of discussion at the seminar.

In Africa, there are many current projects receiving funding from international donors. To date, the development of a regional strategy has not been progressed.

In Europe, the topic of a regional animal welfare strategy will be discussed at the Regional Commission meeting in Kazakhstan in September 2010.

In the Middle East, there has been some discussion but work on a formal regional strategy has not yet commenced.

8.6 Conference on Global Trade and Farm Animal Welfare (Brussels, January 2009) – follow up.

Dr Gavinelli reported that the current EC focus is to incorporate animal welfare with other strategic objectives. It is planned to convene a meeting of a global group, before the end of this year, to discuss relevant issues. Organisations that participated in January 2009, including the OIE, will be invited to participate. Animal welfare is at present a new element of trade discussions and it is important to have a good exchange of ideas and information to support their proper development.

8.7 Technical Mission to Egypt

The technical mission report was reviewed by Dr Bayvel. The AWWG was pleased to note the collaborative approach taken involving the Egyptian Government, OIE, WSPA, the EC, and the Teramo AWCC in relation to organizing, and funding, relevant training activities.

8.8 FAO Animal Welfare Portal

Dr Gavinelli reported briefly on the FAO Animal Welfare Portal. The EC is on the editorial board, as is the OIE. Dr Kahn reported that the OIE had raised with FAO the concern that the OIE standards are not easy to find within the current structure of the portal. Professor Fraser asked members of the AWWG if the FAO Portal was meeting their needs. Dr Malomo commented that the Veterinary Services use the Portal and find useful information in it. Dr Rahman commented that the Portal does not contain much information drawn from the countries of Asia. Mr Mirabito commented that scientific references are sometimes lacking. It was agreed to provide AWWG feedback to the FAO.

8.9 FAO Animal Welfare Guidelines on Animal Identification and Traceability

The AWWG noted the recent FAO Animal Welfare Guideline dealing with identification of beef cattle. Mr Mirabito commented that the IDF had been sent a copy of the guideline for comment but had experienced difficulty with the five day deadline provided for comment. The AWWG recommended that the OIE provide a copy of the FAO guideline to the AHG on beef cattle for information.

Annex XXXI (contd)**8.10 Biotechnology and animal welfare considerations**

The AWWG noted that there is no work currently underway in relation to animals produced using biotechnology applications. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on this issue.

8.11 Collaborating Centre Annual Reports

The AWWG noted the reports provided by the collaborating centres of Chile/Uruguay; Italy; and New Zealand/Australia.

8.12 Update on the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC) Working Group on the economics of farm animal welfare.

Dr Bayvel advised that he understood the OIE should expect to receive the final draft report for comment around mid- July.

8.13 OIE Global Conference on Wildlife Diseases (March 2011)

The AWWG noted the “One Health” theme of this 2011 Conference.

8.14 International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)

The AWWG recommended that the OIE consider establishing a formal agreement with the ISAE, as the pre-eminent international body representing the animal welfare science community.

8.15 Application from Mexico for an OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre recognition

The AWWG requested that Mexico resubmit the documents relevant to its application in English and noted that the OIE Council, at its meeting in September 2010, would review the criteria proposed by the AWWG for approval of additional OIE Collaborating Centres.

8.16 Proposed Technical Item (with questionnaire) for GS 2012

The AWWG noted that the animal welfare Technical Item proposed for the General Session 2012 had been supported by the Regional Commission for AFEO region. The topic “National and international experiences and roles in previous and future development in the “One World, One Health” approach” was, however, deemed to be of higher priority.

8.17 WSPA Rabies control

Dr Wilkins provided information on a WSPA project in Bali designed to achieve rabies eradication using vaccine.

8.18 World Veterinary Year 2011

The AWWG noted the key events associated with the World Veterinary Year 2011, including the launching event in 24 January 2011, the World Conference on Veterinary Education (Lyon, France 12-16 May 2011) and the closing ceremony to be held in conjunction with the 30th World Veterinary Congress (Cape Town, South Africa 10-14 October).

8.19 WSPA proposal for future collaboration between the OIE, WSPA and other international organisations in the field of disaster relief and management.

Dr Wilkins made some comments on the work of WSPA in disaster relief, which is a current and future priority for WSPA. Drs Kahn and Wilkins agreed to undertake some bilateral discussion on this issue in the next few months. Dr Bayvel suggested that the item be included on the agenda for the AWWG meeting in 2011 and it was agreed that Dr Wilkins should make a formal presentation.

8.20 Discussion paper on criteria for assessing the priority of future OIE Animal Welfare Standards

Professor Fraser presented the discussion paper and thanked AWWG members for their comments. Dr Bayvel thanked Professor Fraser for his work on this topic and indicated that the paper would be submitted to the Code Commission for approval and subsequent forwarding to the OIE Council and Dr Vallat.

8.21 Criteria for assessing future Collaborating Centre applications

Dr Bayvel spoke to the paper that had been drafted and provided to OIE Headquarters and the OIE Council in 2009. It was agreed that Dr Bayvel would review this paper and, if necessary, update it to take account of any relevant recommendations of the Global Conference of the OIE Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, held this week in Paris, and also of the discussion at the joint meeting of the AWWG with the Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres with particular reference to the need for the sponsoring governments to commit tangible resources to the administration of centres involving more than one institution.

8.22 International trade in exotic animals.

Dr Gavinelli reported on serious concerns associated with the international transport of exotic animals (including birds, reptiles and fish). Both the health and the welfare of these animals are threatened when certification or other problems occur during international shipments. This was discussed during an international conference in Nuremberg in May 2010 where the EC was asked to take steps to improve control over this trade. The pet industry (PIJAC) has developed guidelines and these have been sent to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). However, veterinary control needs to be strengthened and it could be valuable for the OIE to develop guidance with the objective of avoiding animal welfare problems. Dr Gavinelli agreed to write to the OIE proposing that a meeting be held to discuss and scope this issue.

8.23 Code Commission Feedback

For the information of the AWWG members, Dr Thiermann advised that the Code Commission will discuss a procedure to put 'on hold' updating of newly adopted standards during a three year period, to allow for the OIE to focus resources on the development of new chapters and the updating of old chapters. This would not affect the revision of texts in response to significant new scientific information, which could be done at any time.

9. Work Program 2011

The existing work programme was reviewed and updated. A draft 2011 programme will be prepared by Dr Varas and the Chair prior to the end of the year and circulated to AWWG member for comments.

10. Next meeting

It was agreed to hold the 2011 AWWG meeting on 21 – 23 June 2011 and to arrange interaction with CCs during the afternoon of 20 June 2011. It was also agreed to continue bi-monthly teleconferences involving the Chair and OIE Headquarters and a full AWWG teleconference in mid-January 2011.

Meeting with the Director General

Dr Bayvel congratulated Dr Vallat on his re-election on behalf of the AWWG. He also thanked him for attending this meeting during the same week as the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres Global Conference which allowed the AWWG to meet with AWCC representatives and presented apologies on behalf of Dr Gavinelli who had to leave earlier and explained that each of the members would proceed with a question raised during the meeting for the Director General to address.

- **Animal welfare and trade – reflection on the PVS Tool**

Professor Aidaros mentioned that standards could be misused as possible trade barriers. He stated that 80% of countries do not have legislation on animal welfare and that pushing too hard on this issue could block progress.

Dr Vallat agreed with Professor Aidaros and explained the importance of undertaking evaluations in all the regions and encouraging countries to generate or update legislation on AW. He added that all Members agreed on having standards on AW in 2002 and that all chapters have been adopted unanimously. He also mentioned the importance of the PVS Tool as a support of the OIE Strategic Plan and for the improvement of Veterinary Services and legislation, including through Gap Analysis missions.

Dr Thiermann noted that standards are already included in the Code, and the modification of the OIE PVS Tool reflects this fact.

- **Non-trade related AW activities: working animals – possible OIE involvement**

Dr Rahman explained the need for guidelines on working animals and the possibility of proposing a training programme in collaboration with the CC-ITA, during the CVA conference to be held in Ghana in 2011.

Dr Vallat expressed the interest and support of the OIE on this issue, and mentioned the positive aspect of the use of working animals for climate change, as they reduce the use of motorised vehicles and provide manure for fertilizer.

- **Possible third Global OIE AW Conference in 2012**

Dr Bayvel mentioned that the RAWS/AFEO proposed to host a 3rd Global Conference on AW in the AFEO region if such a conference was considered appropriate.

Dr Vallat supported this proposal and mentioned Thailand, Malaysia, China and Japan as possible countries. He suggested that December 2012 or January 2013 could be a good date for this important event.

- **AH&W Fund – possibility to draw on the OIE World Fund for support with the provision of rabies vaccine to the province of Bali (Indonesia) as a pilot project**

Dr Wilkins mentioned the background of the Rabies Control Programme in Bali, which started two years ago in one region, and explained the necessity of extending this programme to the whole island. He asked the OIE for technical advice and possibly financial support, as the project required half a million pounds for the next 5 years. He also mentioned that NGOs or other organizations could provide financial support to the OIE.

Dr Vallat welcomed all donors and explained that within the project “One Health” managed by the Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia in Bangkok, there is a bank of vaccines to support pilot projects. He proposed Dr Wilkins to liaise with the Indonesian Government through the OIE Delegate to submit an application.

Dr Bayvel mentioned that the Australian Government could be supportive of this initiative.

- **Wildlife – farming, transport, culling, harvesting**

Dr Vallat stated that OIE Members could be interested in the control of wildlife populations, as disease can be disseminated by these species. He mentioned that the control of stray dog populations for rabies control purposes was a first step in this area.

- **What contribution could the AWWG make to the other key horizontal themes – i.e. food safety, climate change and wildlife?**

Dr Vallat confirmed his agreement for liaison between the AWWG (including CCs) and the Wildlife Working Group and Animal Production Food Safety Working Group.

- **Comments of the WG on the draft standards for broiler production and beef cattle; future priorities for standard setting**

In reference to the report of the AHG on animal welfare and broiler production, Professor Fraser proposed that the document could be made more valuable by including more specific guidance. It was agreed that a conceptual document developed by Professor Fraser ([Appendix C](#)) would be sent to the AHGs and also submitted to the Code Commission.

Dr Vallat stated that the first objective is to develop standards that will be adopted. Revision of standards to address specific concerns could then be undertaken subsequent to adoption.

It was agreed to await the Code Commission feedback on this issue.

- **Regional Animal Welfare Strategies – support of the AWWG for development of strategies in all five regions.**

Dr Molomo mentioned the AWWG's interest to see the development of strategies in other regions.

Dr Vallat emphasised the importance of implementing an animal welfare strategy at a regional level. He mentioned his satisfaction with the RAWS in the AFEO region but stated that countries would need to support the development and adoption of a strategy. In addition, for Europe, the different levels of development of countries would need to be taken into account.

Dr Kahn mentioned that a regional strategy is on the agenda of the European Regional Commission to be held in Kazakhstan in September 2011.

MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Paris, 23–25 June 2010

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Annex XXXI (contd)

Appendix A (contd)

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MEETING OF THE OIE WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE
Paris, 23–25 June 2010

Adopted Agenda

Introduction of participants / Dr D Bayvel

Administrative arrangements / Dr S Kahn

22 June 2010 - 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm: Joint Session with Representatives of OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres

- 1. AWWG 8TH Meeting Report, Action List, Informal Meeting & Teleconferences**
- 2. OIE General Session 2010 Outcomes**
 - General Session Report
 - Resolution on Animal Welfare
 - World Animal Health and Welfare Fund
 - Other Issues Raised
- 3. Work of the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions**
- 4. Report of the AHG on Private Standards and International Trade in Animals and Animal Products**
- 5. Report of the AHG on Laboratory Animal Welfare**
 - Final Draft Chapter
 - Air Transport
 - Vet Training
 - Regulatory Testing
- 6. Report of the Electronic Consultation AHG on Broiler Animal Welfare**
- 7. Report of the AHG on Beef Cattle Animal Welfare**
- 8. Other Business**
 - Ethical concerns relevant to the work of the OIE on international animal welfare guidelines/standards – Long Distance Transport (including export) of animals for slaughter (Report of Dr Wilkins to the Animal welfare Working Group)
 - Wildlife Harvesting and Culling – Issues and Options Paper. Report prepared by David Wilkins (WSPA), Member of the WG
 - Future Work on Animal Welfare and Livestock Productions Systems AHGs

Annex XXXI (contd)Appendix B (contd)

- Animal Welfare Regional Strategies (RAWS/AFEO)
- OIE Animal Welfare Regional Seminars and Other Regional Strategies Reports
- January 2009 Brussels conference – Global Trade and Farm animal Welfare Conference – Follow Up Actions
- 2009 OIE Technical Mission to Egypt
- Animal Welfare Portal: FAO and Partners
- Biotechnology and welfare considerations
- Collaborating Centres Annual Reports (Italy, Chile/Uruguay, NZ/Australia)
- FAWC Working Group Update
- Animal Welfare Working Group Membership
- OIE International conference on Wildlife Diseases and Trade March 2011
- ISAE Relationship
- UNAM Relationship
- Technical Item for 2012 (including questionnaire)
- WSPA rabies control

9. Work programme 2010**10. Next Meetings**

**Guidance from the Animal Welfare Working Group to *ad hoc* groups on
the development of animal welfare standards**

When ‘welfare codes’ were first developed in the 1970s and 1980s, they tended to contain truisms such as ‘Animals should have adequate space’ and ‘Noise levels should not be excessive’. Although such statements can be useful to identify important variables in the course of providing more specific advice, they do not provide any implementable information or any means of determining whether a given practice or facility is in compliance. In contrast, an OIE animal welfare standard should contain recommendations that can be implemented, and criteria that can be used to tell whether a given practice or facility is in compliance with the standard.

Outcome-based or animal-based criteria should be used where possible because they are generally related most directly to animal welfare, and because they can be applied to a wide range of production systems. Such criteria can be qualitative (all animals should be able to lie down at the same time without lying on top of each other) or quantitative (no more than 1% of animals should be dead on arrival).

In some cases, input-based or resource-based criteria may be possible, for example if welfare is likely to be reduced by a certain factor in a wide range of systems. Again these can be qualitative (no animal should be hoisted while conscious) or quantitative (ammonia level in the air should not exceed 25 ppm).

In other cases, ‘conditional’ criteria can be used. These generally specify what actions should be taken under certain conditions. These can include both qualitative and quantitative elements, as in: (1) If more than 2% of birds arrive at the slaughter plant with broken wings, catching crews should be re-trained to catch birds in ways that are less likely to cause injuries. (2) In months where hot weather is expected, stocking density should be reduced so that birds have enough space to perform wing-stretching unimpeded.

For certain variables, it is possible to identify ‘critical levels’ beyond which welfare is expected to be affected. Such levels are normally determined by scientific research. For example, welfare in many species is noticeably affected if ammonia levels in the air exceed 25 ppm.

For other variables (percent lame, percent dead during transport) there are no critical levels but it may be possible to set or recommend ‘performance targets’. In the case of performance targets, an *ad hoc* committee may be able to agree that a certain level of performance should be achieved broadly, for example, that no more than 1% of animals should fall while being moved in a slaughter facility. In other cases, there may be so much variation between breeds or locations that a standard merely identifies variables that should be used to assess performance, and calls for national or breed-specific targets to be set. In such cases it is helpful to provide examples of performance targets from other standards that are broadly applicable under different conditions.

June 25, 2010

JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE AWWG AND AWCC REPRESENTATIVES**22 JUNE 2010**

Dr Bayvel asked the participants (Annex I) to introduce themselves and thanked them for their attendance. He invited the Collaborating Centre representatives to proceed with their presentations about the activities of their centre as relevant to the OIE's animal welfare work program.

1. Centre Overview Presentations

Dr Dalla Villa, from the CC of Italy, invited the attendees to visit the new ITA-CC Head Quarters. He explained the situation in the country after the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake in Abruzzo and stated that the particular difficulties in responding to this experience were in the coordination and organization of emergency and recovery phases, mainly due to the absence of specific guidelines and detailed operational procedures.

Dr Alessandrini continued the presentation, explaining that the centre would like to develop a tool for the systematic management of natural disasters. It was agreed to include Natural Disasters in the Agenda (Annex II)

Dr Gallo, from the CC of Chile/Uruguay, explained how this CC is structured in both countries and identified the meetings they have held since the year before when the CC was recognized by the OIE. She listed the CC main activity areas: transport and slaughter related to meat quality, dairy cattle related to the animal behaviour, and education. She handed over to Dr Huertas, a member of the *ad hoc* Group on beef cattle production systems, and added that she participated in a training programme on transport organized by the ITA-CC. Dr Huertas explained that she tried to repeat the mentioned training in Uruguay, with very limited funding, and the result was gratifying. With reference to Dr Huertas' observation, Dr Alessandrini commented that spreading of information is expected and is a sign of success.

Professor Mellor, from the CC of New-Zealand/Australia, explained how this CC is structured in both countries and added that all the countries in the Asia, Far East and Oceania Region are included in the priority initiatives being considered by the Centre Management Committee (Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Australia; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), New Zealand; and 5 centres from the NZ/AUS CC). Professor Phillips indicated that both governments strongly support the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Implementation Plan.

Regarding Professor Phillips' comment on funding, Dr Gavinelli commented that for many projects, funding was not a problem, as the EC has resources, but the challenge is to identify the necessary expertise and capability.

Professor Fraser asked if the CCs have observed an impact since they have been recognized by the OIE, in particular in terms of funding. Dr Gallo replied that as the CHI/URU-CC has been recognized only for the past year, it could be too soon to see any effects. Dr Huertas confirmed Dr Gallo's answer. Professor Mellor on the other hand, highlighted the fact that more interest in Animal Welfare studies undertaken by post graduate students has been observed, as Dr Gallo had mentioned during her presentation.

Professor Phillips stated that, at this stage, no payback has been observed yet from the investment made. Dr Bayvel commented that MAF and DAFF support to the OIE, is exemplified by the financial support for the RAWs. He also added that twinning projects are one of the main objectives of the OIE, and that they are funded. Dr Alessandrini commented that twinning projects offer an opportunity for customized training. Confirming Dr Alessandrini's comment, Dr Bayvel explained how these proposals are considered by the Director General of the OIE. Nowadays, there are 37 Collaborating Centres covering 35 topics in 21 countries.

Annex XXXI (contd)

Appendix D (contd)

2. Twinning Opportunities

Dr Dalla Villa commented that regarding the ITA-CC, there is no twinning project on animal welfare at the moment; however, making reference to the earthquake and as an example, he mentioned that it would be interesting to evaluate the possibility to enable a Twinning Project (TP) with Cuba as this country has expertise in Disaster Management. He added that it is important to evaluate which are the needs of a country to undertake a twinning project.

Dr Huertas commented that TPs are a good opportunity to receive and/or give help, in terms of expertise. She asked for assistance to know the procedure and funding. It was agreed that all the relative information would be sent to the CCs. Dr Kahn informed the group that the costs are covered by the OIE, and the countries only have to contribute with the time of their experts. In reference to Dr Huertas's comment, Professor Mellor commented that, to identify potential TP, the CHI/URU-CC could propose a training programme.

Dr Rahman mentioned that India could be interested in a TP with the NZ/AUS-CC, as India represents, along with Brazil and China, the most significant livestock industry for cattle. It was agreed that Dr Rahman would identify a candidate for a TP.

3. Collaborative Research

It was established that research opportunities could be part of the TP.

4. Information Exchange

Dr Dalla Villa commented that up to date there is no formal way to communicate between the CCs. It was agreed that OIE Headquarters will post CC and any relevant reports that are appropriate on the OIE website.

5. Conferences

Dr Bayvel mentioned that the RAWS/AFEO proposed to host the 3rd Global AW Conference in the region of Asia, Far East and Oceania in 2012, and that the DG is supportive of this idea.

It was agreed to ask the CCs to highlight potential conference topics in their Annual Reports.

Dr Rahman mentioned the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Conference that will be hold in Ghana in 2011 and it was agreed to organize a workshop on "Working Animals", in particular equine, and to ask the OIE for funds. This idea was discussed with Dr Dehove, World Fund Coordinator, during the AWWG meeting. Dr Dehove agreed to receive a proposal and submit it to the OIE weekly Directorate meeting for discussion and possible approval.

6. Natural Disasters

The role of the OIE regarding how to deal with natural disasters was discussed. Dr Wilkins referred to the progress WSPA has made during the last 10 years and explained that this organisation did receive many donations from the public towards rescue efforts in Haiti after the earthquake, thanks to publicity, but that little financial support had been obtained for Mongolia. Dr Dalla Villa stated that Italy and some other countries have specific legislation (Italian Law no. 266/1991) that acknowledges the work of volunteer organisations and that allows the country to activate funds in the case of national emergencies. As a consequence of this law, volunteers working for these NGOs have the right to take a temporary leave from work. He added that the OIE could surely lead on this approach in order to recognize the critical role of the animal welfare NGOs in veterinary disaster management. It was agreed to add this topic to the AWWG meeting agenda.

Annex XXXI (contd)

Appendix D (contd)

7. Student Exchange

The AWCC members were keen to receive and send students; however Dr Huertas mentioned that the problem is financial. Dr Bayvel indicated that the CC link with the governments of NZ and Australia had benefits in terms of possible financial support.

8. Agreed Actions

Interaction with CCs by teleconference, videoconference or meeting attendance was agreed to be included in the agenda for Annual AWWG meetings (Annex III).

.../Annexes

**JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE ANIMAL WELFARE WORKING GROUP AND
THE ANIMAL WELFARE COLLABORATION CENTRES**

Paris, 22 June 2010

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Annex XXXI (contd)Annex I (contd)**COLLABORATING CENTRES**

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JOINT MEETING BETWEEN THE AWWG AND AWCC REPRESENTATIVES**22 JUNE 2010**

Adopted Agenda

2h30 - 3h45: Centres Overview Presentations

Discussion

3h45 - 4h45: Strategic opportunities: Communication

- Twinning Opportunities
- Collaborative Research
- Information Exchange
- Conference Opportunities
- Ongoing Communication
- Natural Disasters
- Student Exchange

3h45 - 4h00: Agreed Actions/ More Actions

Action Items

	Issue/Action	By Who	By When
1.	Collaborating Centres joint meeting and Twinning		
1.1.	Identification of Indian twinning candidates plus exchanges with other countries in AFEO region	A. Rahman	01/08/2010
1.2.	Send the twinning application details	M. Varas	Complete
1.3.	OIE Headquarters to post CC and other relevant reports on the OIE website	M. Varas	01/10/2010
1.4.	CC annual reports: add a chapter in which CCs will highlight potential conference topics	Liaise with Scientific Department	Immediately
1.5.	Provide a list of experts to EC	CC	
1.6.	Circulate OIE General Session Technical Item about Collaborating Centres	M. Varas	Complete
1.7.	Prepare draft proposal for Global AW Conference in the region of Asia, Far East and Oceania	D. Bayvel/S. Kahn	01/10/2010
1.8.	Identification of possible conference themes or opportunities	All	
1.9.	Prepare a draft proposal to involve Teramo in training programme to be held in association with the Commonwealth Veterinary Association Conference (Ghana)	A. Rahman	01/09/2010
1.10.	Interaction with CCs by teleconference, videoconference or meeting attendance to be included on annual AWWG meeting agenda	M. Varas	Immediately
1.11.	OIE Policy on Disaster Management to be clarified	AWWG	Immediately
1.12.	Provide a DVD of the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres Conference	M. Varas	Complete

GLOSSARY

ACC: Aquatic Code Commission
AFEO: Asia, Far East and Oceania
AHG: *Ad Hoc* Group
AWCC: Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre
AWWG: Animal Welfare Working Group
CCs: Collaborating Centres
CHI/URU-CC: Collaborating Centre of Chile/Uruguay
CVA: Commonwealth Veterinary Association
DAFF: Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Australia
EC: European Commission
EFSA: European Food Safety Authority
EU: European Union
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAWC: Farm Animal Welfare Council
GS: General Session
IATA: International Air Transport Association
IDF: International Dairy Federation
IMS: International Meat Secretariat
ISAE: International Society of Applied Ethology
ITA-CC: Collaborating Centre of Italy
MAF: Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, New Zealand.
MERCOSUR: Southern Common Market
NGO: Non-governmental organization
NZ/AUS-CC: Collaborating Centre of New Zealand/Australia
OIE: World Organisation for Animal Health
PIJAC: Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
PVS: Performance of Veterinary Service
RAWS: Regional Animal Welfare Strategy
TP: Twinning project
UNAM: Universidad Autónoma de México
WF: World Fund
WG: Working Group
WSPA: World Society for the Protection of Animals



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Annex XXXII

Original: English
June 2010

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE AND BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Paris, 7–9 June 2010

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems (the Group) met at the OIE Headquarters on 7-9 June 2010.

The Members of the Group and other participants at the meeting are listed in [Appendix I](#). The adopted agenda is in [Appendix II](#).

1. Welcome and introduction

Dr Sarah Kahn, Head of the International Trade Department of the OIE, welcomed the participants on behalf of Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and thanked them for their participation. Dr Kahn presented the President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Cod Commission), Dr Alex Thiermann, and stated that this area of standard setting has significant implications for OIE Members and some OIE partner organisations and that the text would be of great interest to them.

Dr Kahn explained that during the 78th General Session in May 2010 questions were raised about the use of the terms 'standards' and 'recommendations'. She informed the Group that, during the General Session, the Director General explained that all texts adopted by Delegates and included in the OIE *Codes* and *Manuals* are considered to be standards. OIE guidelines are documents that are usually developed by experts who have not been democratically elected by the Delegates at the General Assembly. Relevant documents including the 'Guidelines on Veterinary Legislation' and 'Checklist on the practical application of Compartmentalisation' (both may be found on the OIE Internet site) provide technical guidance to Members and stakeholders.

Dr Kahn asked Members to carefully consider all comments provided by OIE Members and partner organisations in the working document provided by the OIE Secretariat and to provide a clear rationale, particularly when not accepting a comment. References should be provided where appropriate. These would not be included in the text adopted by Delegates but should be provided in the working document produced by the Group to help Delegates understand the reasons for modifying or maintaining the text.

The report of the meeting will be presented to the Animal Welfare Working Group at its annual meeting, to be held on 22-25 June 2010, and then to the Code Commission in September 2010, to be provided to OIE Members as an annex to the Code Commission report (normally in November). The Code Commission will hold its next meeting in February 2011. By then, the text of the draft chapter may be sufficiently well advanced to consider proposing it for adoption at the 79th General Session in May 2011.

Annex XXXII (contd)

Dr Thiermann explained that there were no comments on this document during the General Session in May 2010 as it had not been submitted for adoption. Dr Thiermann highlighted the importance of the work of this Group. He commented that this draft chapter will possibly be the first chapter in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* on animal welfare in livestock production systems and emphasised that the draft chapter should take into account the variety of production systems in all OIE Members, if it is to be acceptable by the Code Commission and by OIE Members.

The draft agenda was adopted with minor modifications.

2. Review of comments on the draft chapter *Animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems*

Regarding the scope of its work to date, the Group noted that specific recommendations on the management of the breeding flock and hatchery and on the period between hatching and arrival on the farm would need to be developed in future.

The Group noted that some Members and partner organisations requested more precise recommendations (e.g. on stocking density, light cycles and intensity), whereas others did not support the use of quantitative values. The Group considered that it was not feasible at the current time to give precise recommendations due to the diversity of production systems. Quantification of measures can be valuable e.g. as a basis for benchmarking individual farm performance against national norms or national performance against regional standards. Numeric values should always be determined at a local, national or regional level. Benchmarking can be accomplished by evaluating the current incidence of outcome based measurables on commercial farms, and then determining the extent to which problems can be reduced by management and genetic selection.

Some OIE Members and partner organisations made recommendations without providing a (scientific) rationale, making it difficult to take these comments into account.

The list of definitions was modified according to the comments of OIE Members and partner organisations.

Some Members and one partner organisation commented on the need for definitions or explanation of the measurables. This information was included in the Group's previous report and is now included in the draft standard. The *ad hoc* Group modified the list of measurables and the outcomes for each recommendation for consistency and to take account of the comments. One partner organisation requested that fear (including human avoidance behaviour) should not be included in the list of measurable; however, fear is considered to be a major welfare problem and is included under 'behaviour outcomes'.

A Member and a partner organisation requested that only litter based systems, not cages or slatted floor systems, should be recommended. The Group recognized that loose material on floors can be useful to promote certain bird behaviour. However, in some countries hot and humid environmental conditions mean that the use of litter can be detrimental to bird health. The Group also noted that some cages have a litter system built in.

One Member requested that a qualified *veterinarian* should be responsible for establishing health programmes. The existing recommendation was that a qualified *veterinarian* could establish these programmes and that programmes should be consistent with relevant recommendations of the *Veterinary Services*.

Chapters X.X.5.2 and X.X.5.3 were merged because some of the recommendations pertain to both environment and management.

The Group decided not to include a thermal heat index table in the draft chapter. However, additional information was added to the index. More detailed information is available for example in the Report of the Scientific Committee on Animal Health and Animal Welfare (EC, 21 March 2000).

The Group considered that there is sufficient scientific information to justify maintaining the proposed recommendation for a maximum concentration of ammonia of 25 ppm at bird level. (Kristenssen and Waathes, 2000; Jones et al., 2005).

Annex XXXII (contd)

The Group considered that recommending optimal humidity levels was not possible especially for countries with very high or low humidity levels. However, guidance is presented in the text dealing with the thermal heat index.

One Member proposed to add a comment about continuous noise. The Group did not recognize continuing noise as a problem, providing that the noise is not excessively loud.

One Member requested specific recommendations on the feeding and watering of young chicks. Due to the variety of possible systems the Group considered that specific recommendations could not be made. However, text was added indicating that the diet provided to broilers should be appropriate to their age.

Some Members and one partner organisation requested stronger text or a prohibition on painful interventions, whereas others wanted to remove any recommendation regarding these interventions because they are common procedures in certain countries. The Group considered that these are important welfare issues and strengthened the relevant text, but did not recommend prohibiting measures as this would not be consistent with the approach taken in other animal welfare chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*. The group wished to highlight the relevance of the first report and reprinted some text here for ease of reference:

Commercial broilers are not typically subjected to management practices that cause pain. However, prophylactic beak-trimming may be required in case of outbreaks of feather pecking and cannibalism, as described earlier. Guidelines for beak-trimming to minimize negative impacts on bird health and performance are presented in Glatz and Miao, 2005. Only the minimum amount of beak needed to prevent beak re-growth before market age (ideally, only the hook at the end of the upper beak) should be removed, and the trim should be performed so as to prevent subsequent distortion or deformation of the beak. The beak should be cauterized after cutting to minimise bleeding. Trimming at an early age (before 10 days of age; Hester and Shea-Moore, 2003) is preferred to prevent long-term pain, but since feather pecking and cannibalism develop when the broilers are somewhat older prophylactic trimming will likely occur after this time.

One partner organisation requested that selection of a slower growing breeding stock should be encouraged. However it was considered that welfare objectives may be achieved with any strain. Nonetheless, the Group recommended that welfare should be taken into account when choosing the strain of broiler to be used in a particular production system.

One partner organisation stated that lifting and carrying birds by the legs is stressful and should be avoided where possible. Another partner organisation suggested deleting all references to care in handling. The Group recognized that carrying birds by the legs might not be the optimal technique and considered it important to make a recommendation on proper handling and carrying.

The Group noted the following considerations:

- From a welfare point of view carrying birds upright might be better.
- However, carrying birds upright is not practical in all circumstances.
- Injuries can be avoided and stress reduced when carrying birds by the legs if this is done gently by trained personnel and for as short a period as possible.

One Member commented that cervical dislocation should only be done on birds weighing less than three kilograms and that death should be confirmed before disposal. The Group noted that these considerations were already taken into account in the existing *Terrestrial Code* chapter on killing of animals for disease control purposes.

Misunderstanding of the term ‘harvesting’ was clarified by including the term in the list of definitions.

Annex XXXII (contd)

One partner organisation requested more precise information on feed withdrawal prior to slaughter whereas another did not want to make any reference to this practice. The Group recognized the importance of the withdrawal period for purposes of food safety and decided to strengthen the text on this issue. However, it clarified that the duration of feed withdrawal should be such as to not adversely affect the welfare of the broilers and that the relevant period is prior to slaughter and not prior to catching.

Scientific references relevant to this section of the report

Glatz, P.C. and Miao, Z.H. 2005. Bird health and handling issues associated with beak-trimming. In: Glatz, P.C. (2005) Poultry Welfare Issues: Beak Trimming. Nottingham University Press, Nottingham, United Kingdom, pp. 87–92.

Hester, P.Y. and Shea-Moore, M. (2003) Beak trimming egg-laying strains of chickens World's Poultry Science Journal, 59, 458–474.

Jones, E.K.M., Wathes, C.M., and Webster, A.J.F. (2005) Avoidance of atmospheric ammonia by domestic fowl and the effect of early experience, Applied Animal Behavioral Science, 90:293-308.

Kristensen, H.H., and Waathes, C.M. (2000) Ammonia and poultry, World Poultry Science Journal, 56:235-243.

3. Review and finalize report of the meeting

After the previous discussions the Group developed and finalized the report and the modified draft chapter (Appendix III). The group noted that the scientific references contained in the draft chapter will be deleted after adoption of this chapter.

4. Programme for future work after this meeting

The Group discussed their future work. Their report, including the amended draft chapter, will be discussed during the June meeting of the Animal Welfare Working Group and during the September meeting of the Code Commission. After the latter meeting it will be sent to the Members as an annex of the Code Commission's meeting. Depending on the number and the content of these comments that have to be addressed, it will be decided if another meeting is necessary.

Specific recommendations on the management of the breeding flock and hatchery and on the period between hatching and arrival on the farm would need to be developed in future.

.../Appendices

AD HOC GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE AND BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Paris, 7–9 June 2010

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Annex XXXII (contd)

Appendix I (contd)

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AD HOC GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE AND BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION SYSTEMS**Paris, 7–9 June 2010**

Adopted agenda

1. Welcome and introduction – Dr Sarah Kahn
 2. Review of comments on the draft chapter *Animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems*
 3. Review and finalize report of the meeting
 4. Programme for further work after this meeting
-

DRAFT CHAPTER X.X.X.

ANIMAL WELFARE AND BROILER CHICKEN PRODUCTION

Article X.X.1.

Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter:

Broiler

means birds of the species *Gallus gallus* kept primarily for commercial meat production.

Cage housing system

In a cage housing system the caretaker accesses the birds from outside the enclosure in which the birds they are kept.

Deep litter housing system

In a deep litter housing system the birds are kept on floors that are is covered with bedding material.

Harvesting

means the catching and loading of birds on farm for transportation to the *slaughterhouse*.

Slatted floor housing system

In a slatted floor means a housing system where the birds *broilers* are kept on raised floors, on which droppings do not accumulate, but fall through.

Litter

Is a layer of absorbent material covering the floor of the poultry house.

Poultry house

is a covered facility designed to house commercial birds.

Article X.X. 2.

Scope

These recommendations cover the production period from arrival of the chicks on the farm to harvesting the broilers in commercial production systems. These systems include broilers kept in cages, on slatted floors, litter or dirt and indoors or outdoors. Backyard flocks are not included even if the ~~animals~~ broilers or products are traded locally.

This chapter should be read in conjunction with Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. on the welfare of the broiler during ~~transport~~ transport to the *abattoir* *slaughterhouse*.

~~Note 2: Recommendations on the management of the breeding flock and hatchery and for the period between hatching and arrival on the farm to be developed.~~

Annex XXXII (contd)Appendix III (contd)

Article X.X.3.

Commercial broiler production systems

Commercial broiler production systems include:

1. Intensive systems

~~Birds~~ Broilers are completely confined in a ~~roofed structure~~ poultry house, with or without environmental control and usually at a higher *stocking density* than in other production systems. ~~Birds~~ Broilers may be kept in cages, ~~with (e.g. wire or plastic floor or deep litter floor) or on deep litter, or~~ slatted floors or a combination.

2. Semi intensive systems

~~Birds~~ Broilers are confined in a ~~roofed structure~~ poultry house but provided with ~~an~~ access to a restricted outdoor area. ~~They may be kept in cages (e.g. wire or plastic floor or deep litter floor) or on deep litter, a slatted floor or a combination of the two.~~

3. Extensive systems

~~Birds~~ Broilers are not confined throughout their production period in a ~~roofed structure~~ poultry house and are usually kept at a lower *stocking density* than in intensive or semi intensive systems.

Article X.X.4.

Criteria or measurables for the welfare of broilers

Measurables can be based on the outcomes for the broiler (outcome based criteria) or the design of the system (resource or design based criteria). Outcome based measurables may give a better indication of welfare than resource based measures because they reflect the complex interaction of several variables (e.g. experience and attitude of handlers and disease situation) that may be overlooked when relying on criteria that focus on the design of the system.

It would be impractical at this time to assign numeric values to measurables (e.g. to specify a certain mortality rate as 'acceptable' or 'optimum', due to the large variations in the commercial production systems used by OIE Members. However, numeric values can be valuable in benchmarking performance. Benchmarking can be accomplished by evaluating the current incidence of outcome based measurables on commercial farms, and then determining the extent to which those problems can be reduced by management and genetic selection. Some measurables can be measured in the farm setting (e.g. gait, mortality and morbidity rates), while others are best measured at the slaughterhouse. For example, at slaughter *flocks* can be assessed for presence of bruising, broken limbs and injuries. The age of these lesions can help to determine the source (e.g. catching) (Nicol & Scott, 1990). Back scratching, hock and feet burns and breast blisters are also easily observed. Other conditions such as ascites, leg deformities, dehydration and disease conditions can be assessed. It is recommended that values for welfare measurables be determined with reference to appropriate national, sectoral or perhaps regional norms for commercial broiler production.

The following outcome based measurables are useful indicators of broiler welfare:

1. Mortality (dead, culled) and morbidity

Daily, weekly and cumulative mortality (dead or culled) and morbidity rates should be within expected ranges. Any abrupt increase in the daily mortality or morbidity rate not connected to a specific *disease* could reflect an animal welfare problem.

2. Gait

Broilers are susceptible to developing a variety of infectious and non-infectious musculoskeletal disorders (see review in Mench, 2004). If severe these disorders may lead to overt lameness, and if less severe to gait abnormalities. Broilers that are lame or have more serious gait abnormalities may have difficulty reaching the food and water, may be trampled by other broilers, and may experience pain. Musculoskeletal problems have many causes, including related to genetics, nutrition, sanitation, lighting, litter quality, and other environmental and management factors (see Mench, 2004; Dawkins et al., 2004). Broilers in commercial flocks should be assessed for gait abnormalities, and corrective actions identified to reduce the incidence of problems in subsequent flocks. There are several gait scoring systems available (Kestin et al., 1992; Garner et al., 2002; Webster et al., 2008; Weeks et al., 2002; Berg and Sanotra, 2003). Regardless of the scoring or assessment system used, broilers that are unable to access feed or water should be humanely euthanized as soon as possible after they have been observed.

3. Contact dermatitis

Contact dermatitis affects skin surfaces which have prolonged contact with litter or other flooring surfaces, the foot pad, rear surface of the hock and, when severe, the breast area. The conditions are manifested as blackened skin progressing to erosions and fibrosis on the lower surface of the foot pad, at the back of the hocks, and sometimes in the breast area. If severe the foot and hock lesions may contribute to lameness or serve as a portal of entry for secondary infections. Scoring systems for contact dermatitis have been developed (Welfare Quality®, 2009).

4. Feather condition

Evaluation of the feather condition of broilers provides useful information about aspects of welfare. Plumage dirtiness is correlated with both hock burns and lameness for individual birds (Arnould and Colin, 2009). Plumage dirtiness can be assessed when the broilers are caught for transport to the slaughterhouse. A scoring system has been developed for this purpose (RSPCA, 2008).

5. Incidence of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations

Ascites, sudden death syndrome and respiratory diseases (including infectious bronchitis, avian pneumovirus infection and mycoplasmosis) are of great economic and welfare significance in broilers (SCAHAW, 2000).

6. Normal behaviour

Broiler behaviour can be a sensitive indicator of welfare problems.

6.1. Fear behaviour

Fearful broilers show avoidance of humans, and this behaviour is seen in flocks where animal handlers walk through the poultry house quickly when performing their tasks rather than moving more slowly while interacting with the broilers (Cransberg et al., 2000). Fearfulness (e.g. of sudden loud noises) can also lead to the broilers piling on top of, and even suffocating, one another. Fearful broilers may be less productive (Hemsworth et al., 1994).

6.2. Spatial distribution

Changes in the spatial distribution of the birds may indicate thermal discomfort (e.g. broilers will huddle when they are cold) or the existence of areas of wet litter or uneven provision of light, food or water (if broilers are unevenly distributed).

Annex XXXII (contd)Appendix III (contd)6.3. Panting and wing spreading

Panting and wing spreading indicate heat stress.

6.4. Dust bathing

Dust bathing is an intricate body maintenance behaviour performed by many birds, including broilers (Olsson and Keeling, 2005). During a dust bathing bout, broilers work loose material (like litter in bedded systems) through their feathers. Dust bathing helps to keep the feathers in good condition, which in turns helps to maintain body temperature and protect against skin injury. Reduced dust bathing behaviour in the flock may indicate problems with litter or range quality, such as litter or ground that is wet or not friable.

6.5. Feeding, drinking and foraging

Reduced feeding or drinking behaviour can indicate management problems, including inadequate feeder or drinker space or placement, dietary imbalance, poor water quality, or feed contamination. Feeding and drinking behaviour are often depressed when broilers are ill, and feeding is also reduced during periods of heat stress and increased during cold stress. Foraging is the act of searching for food, typically by walking and pecking or scratching the litter substrate; reduced foraging activity could suggest problems with litter quality or presence of conditions that decrease bird movement (e.g. gait problems).

7. Abnormal behaviour - feather pecking and cannibalism

Feather pecking is the pecking or pulling of the feathers of other broilers, and can result in significant feather loss. Cannibalism is the tearing of the flesh of another bird, and can result in severe injury, and even the death of the pecked broiler. These are abnormal behaviours (Mench and Keeling, 2001; Rodenberg and Koene, 2004; Newberry, 2004) with multi-factorial causes that are not usually seen in commercial broiler stocks, although they can occur under some circumstances. Feather pecking may sometimes lead to cannibalism or may occur independently; once started, these problems can spread rapidly through the flock.

8. Water and feed consumption

Monitoring daily water consumption can be a useful tool to indicate disease and other welfare conditions, taking into consideration ambient temperature, relative humidity, feed consumption and other related factors. Problems with the water supply can result in wet litter, diarrhoea, or dehydration.

Changes in feed consumption can also indicate the presence of disease and other welfare conditions of the flock as well as suitability of the feed.

9. Performance

9.1. Growth rate - an index that indicates the average daily gain (gr) of weight per average broiler of a flock.

9.2. Feed conversion - an index that indicates the quantity of feed (kg) that is necessary for a gain of bodyweight of one kilogram of the average broiler of a flock.

9.3. Liveability - an index that indicates the percentage of broilers present at the end of the production period; more commonly this indicator is measured as its opposite: mortality (see point 1 of Article X.X.4).

10. Injury rate

Broilers are susceptible to a number of injuries, and the rate of these injuries can indicate welfare problems in the flock. Injuries include those due to other broilers (scratches, feather loss or wounding due to feather pecking and cannibalism) and those due to environmental conditions (e.g. skin lesions) or humans. The most frequent injuries seen during catching are bruises, broken limbs and damaged wings. Fractures are located mainly on femur, radius, ulna, furcula and ischium. Dislocation of the femur at the hip joint is the most common traumatic injury.

11. Eye condition

Conjunctivitis can indicate the presence of irritants such as dust and ammonia. High ammonia levels will also cause corneal burns and eventual blindness (Morrow 2008:541).

The following outcome (animal) based measurables can be useful indicators of welfare. The following outcome (animal) based measurables can be useful indicators of welfare and should be measured at appropriate times by the caretaker (in no particular order):

- Mortality rate (dead, culled)
- Gait
- Contact dermatitis
- Feather condition
- Disease incidence / morbidity rates
- Ascites / sudden death syndrome (SDS)
- Respiratory disease
- Parasitic diseases
- Carcass and meat quality (condemnations)
- Behaviour: fear, thermal distress, illness
 - Human avoidance behaviour
 - Spatial distribution:
 - Panting and wing spreading:
 - Dust bathing
 - Feather pecking
 - Cannibalism
 - Feeding and drinking
- Water consumption
- Growth rate
- Feed conversion
- Injury rate
- Eye condition.

Annex XXXII (contd)Appendix III (contd)

Article X.X.5.

Recommendations1. Biosecurity and animal health

1.1.a) Biosecurity and disease prevention

Biosecurity means a set of measures designed to ~~protect a flock from the entry of infectious agents~~ maintain a *flock* at a particular health status and to prevent the entry (or exit) of specific infectious agents.

~~Biosecurity programmes should be implemented, commensurate with the risk of disease and in accordance with relevant recommendations found in Terrestrial Code chapters on OIE listed diseases.~~

Biosecurity programmes should be designed and implemented, commensurate with the desired flock health status and current disease risk (endemic and exotic or transboundary) that is specific to each epidemiological group of broilers and in accordance with relevant recommendations found in *Terrestrial Code* chapters on OIE listed diseases.

These programmes should address the control of the major routes for disease and pathogen transmission:

- a) Poultry
 - b) Other animals
 - e) People
 - d) Equipment
 - e) Vehicles.
- a) direct transmission from other *poultry*, domesticated and wild animals and humans,
 - b) fomites, such as equipment, facilities and *vehicles*,
 - c) vectors (e.g., arthropods and rodents),
 - d) ~~vii~~ aerosols Air,
 - e) ~~viii~~ water supply,
 - f) ~~viii~~ feed.

Outcome based measurables: ~~disease incidence~~ of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations, mortality ~~growth rate and feed conversion~~ and performance.

1.2.b) Animal health management / preventive medicine / veterinary treatment

Animal health management means a system designed to ~~prevent diseases occurring in a flock and provide treatment if disease occurs in order to~~ optimise the health and welfare of the *flock broilers*. It includes prevention, treatment and control of diseases and adverse conditions.

Those responsible for the care of ~~birds~~ broilers should be aware of the signs of ill-health or distress, such as a change in reduced food feed and water intake, reduced growth, changes in behaviour, abnormal conditions appearance of their feathers, ~~or droppings~~ faeces, or other physical features.

Annex XXXII (contd)Appendix III (contd)

If persons in charge are not able to identify the causes of ill-health or distress or to correct these or suspect the presence of a listed reportable disease, they should seek advice from those having training and experience, such as poultry *veterinarians* or other qualified advisers. Veterinary treatments should be prescribed by a qualified *veterinarian*.

There should be an effective programme for the prevention and treatment of *diseases* consistent with the programmes established by the *Veterinary Services* as appropriate.

Vaccinations and other administered treatments ~~to chickens~~ should be undertaken with consideration of the welfare of the ~~birds~~ broilers by people skilled in the procedures.

~~Culling of~~ Sick or injured ~~birds~~ broilers should be ~~done in a humane manner~~ culled humanely as soon as possible. Similarly, killing broilers ~~birds as may be required~~ for diagnostic purposes should be done in a humane manner according to Chapter 7.6. of the Terrestrial Code.

Outcome based measurables: ~~disease~~ incidence of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations, mortality and ~~poor~~ performance.

2. Environment and management

2.1. Thermal environment

~~In intensive and semi intensive production systems every attempt should be made to keep thermal conditions within the recommended range.~~

~~A table of recommended ranges will be included~~

Thermal conditions for broilers should be appropriate for their stage of development. For the growing stage the Thermal Heat Index (THI) can assist in identifying the comfort zones for the broilers at varying temperature and relative humidity levels.

When environmental conditions move outside these zones, various strategies can be used in different production systems to mitigate the adverse effects on the broilers: e.g. high air speeds and getting the birds to stand can alleviate the affects of high heat and humidity in intensive systems.

Ventilation should aim at controlling relative humidity to prevent the development of wet litter. Assessing litter condition on a regular basis is recommended.

Management of the thermal environment should be checked at least twice a day.

Outcome based measurables: normal and abnormal behaviour, mortality, contact dermatitis, water and feed consumption, performance, feather condition.

~~In extensive production systems appropriate management to mitigate the effects of extreme thermal conditions should be implemented.~~

~~Outcome based measurables: rates of mortality, rate of contact dermatitis, water consumption, feed consumption, growth rate, feed conversion and behaviour.~~

2.2. Lighting

There should be an adequate period of continuous darkness during each 24 hour period to allow the ~~birds~~ broilers to rest. There should also be an adequate period of continuous light. Reference should be made to relevant national, regional or international recommendations.

Annex XXXII (contd)Appendix III (contd)

The light intensity during the light period should be sufficient and homogeneously distributed to allow the ~~chicks~~ broilers to find feed and water in the first few days after they are placed in the poultry house, to stimulate ~~bird~~ activity, and ~~to~~ allow adequate inspection ~~of the birds~~.

~~Birds~~ Broilers should be gradually adjusted to lighting changes.

Outcome based measurables: gait lameness, metabolic disorders, performance feed and water consumption, normal and abnormal behaviour and injuries rate.

2.3. Air quality

Adequate ventilation is required at all times to provide fresh air ~~and is one means of controlling temperature and humidity.~~

Ammonia concentration should not routinely exceed 25 ppm at ~~bird~~ broiler level (Kristenssen and Waathes, 2000; Jones et al., 2005).

Dust levels should be kept to a minimum. Methods for doing that can include maintaining appropriate ventilation and ~~optimal relative humidity~~ satisfactory litter moisture levels (50% – 80%). Where the health and welfare of broilers depends on an artificial ventilation system, provision should be made for an appropriate back-up power and alarm system.

Outcome based measurables: incidence of respiratory diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations (respiratory diseases), behaviour (panting, huddling), eye condition, growth rate, feed conversion, performance, contact dermatitis and spatial distribution of the birds.

2.4. ~~Acoustic environment~~ Noise

Exposure of ~~birds~~ broilers to sudden or loud noises should be minimized where possible to prevent stress and fear reactions (e.g. piling).

~~Note: 1~~ Location of farms should, where possible, take into account existing environmental conditions local sources of noise.

Outcome based measurables: daily mortality rate, morbidity, performance growth rate, food conversion, injuries rate and fearfulness and fear behaviour.

2.5. Nutrition

Broilers ~~Birds~~ should always be fed a diet appropriate to their age and genetics, which contains adequate nutrients to meet their requirements for good health.

Feed and water should be palatable and free from contaminants potentially hazardous to ~~bird~~ broiler health.

~~Cleaning~~ The water system should be cleaned ~~done~~ regularly to prevent growth of hazardous microorganisms.

Broilers ~~Birds~~ must ~~should~~ be provided with adequate accessibility to feed on a daily basis. Water should be available continuously.

Special provisions should be made to enable young chicks ~~to~~ access to appropriate feed and water.

Outcome based measurables: feed and water consumption, performance growth rate, food conversion, normal and abnormal behaviour, gait lameness, disease incidence of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations, mortality morbidity and carcass and meat quality injury rate.

2.6. Flooring, bedding, resting surfaces (litter quality)

The provision of loose material is desirable in order to encourage dust bathing and foraging.

The floor of a poultry house building should preferably be easy to clean and disinfect.

~~If Litter is recycled~~ it should be managed to minimize any detrimental effects on welfare and health. Litter should be replaced or adequately treated when required to control a *disease outbreak* in the next *flock*.

Day-old birds chicks should be placed on a appropriate type of flooring ~~housed on a floor suitable for their size~~ to prevent injury. ~~Flooring conditions have an important impact on the welfare of chickens.~~

If housed on litter based systems, before ~~the one~~ day-old birds chicks enter the building poultry house, the floor should have a bedding of uncontaminated ~~new~~ substrate (e.g. wood shavings, straw, shredded paper, treated used litter) of sufficient depth to elicit normal behaviour and to protect them from the floor.

Litter quality is partly related to the type of substrate used and partly to different management practices. The type of substrate should be chosen carefully. Litter should be maintained so that it is dry and friable and not dusty, caked or wet.

~~The floors of cages and slatted systems~~ Slatted floors should be designed, constructed and maintained to adequately support the birds broilers and prevent injuries and ~~to~~ ensure that manure can fall through or be adequately removed.

Outcome based measurables: contact dermatitis, ~~breast blisters~~ feather condition, metabolic disorders ascites, gait lameness, behaviour (dust bathing and foraging), eye condition, incidence of diseases, metabolic disorders and parasitic infestations (respiratory disease) and performance growth rate.

2.7. Social environment

Management methods (e.g. reducing light intensity, providing foraging materials, nutritional modifications, reducing stocking density, selecting the appropriate genetic stock) should be implemented to reduce feather pecking and cannibalism in growing systems where these behaviours are a potential problem.

If these management strategies fail, therapeutic beak trimming should be considered as the last option and after a thorough investigation.

Outcome based measurables: injuries rate, normal and abnormal behaviour, feather condition and mortality; ~~carcass and meat quality~~.

2.8. Stocking density

Broilers chickens should be housed in at an acceptable stocking density.

Annex XXXII (contd)Appendix III (contd)

To determine the appropriate stocking density so that the floor space provided will ensure good welfare (comfort, ability to express normal postural adjustment and to access feed and water), the following factors should be taken into account: management capabilities, ambient conditions, housing systems, production systems, litter quality, ventilation, biosecurity strategy, selection of genetic stocks, and market age and weight of broilers ~~birds should be taken into account so that the floor space provided will ensure good welfare (comfort, ability to express normal postural adjustment and to access feed and water).~~

Outcome based measurables: ~~rates of injuries~~ rate, ~~rates of contact dermatitis~~, ~~rates of mortality~~, normal and abnormal behaviour, performance and growth rate, ~~feed conversion~~, plumage feather condition ~~and carcass quality~~.

2.9. Outdoor areas

Broilers can be given access to outdoor areas as soon as they are old enough to range safely. There should be sufficient exit areas to allow birds to enter and leave the poultry house freely.

Management of outdoor areas is important in extensive and semi-intensive production systems. Land (pasture) management measures should be taken to reduce the risk of ~~birds~~ broilers being infected by parasites ~~transmitted~~. This might include limiting the stocking density and / or using several pieces of land consecutively (rotation).

Outdoor areas should be managed appropriately to minimize swampy conditions and mud. Outdoor areas should preferably be placed on well drained grounds.

Outdoor areas should be managed appropriately to ensure that they are free of poisonous plants and other contaminants.

Particularly in extensive systems where ~~birds~~ broilers do not have access to an indoor area, protection from adverse climatic conditions (e.g. heat, cold, rain) should be provided.

Outcome based measurables: normal and abnormal behaviour, incidence of parasitic infestations ~~diseases~~, performance ~~growth rate~~, contact dermatitis, feather condition ~~and mortality rate and morbidity~~.

2.10. Protection from predators

Broilers should be protected from predators.

Outcome based measurables: fear behaviour, mortality and ~~injuries~~ rate.

3. Management

2.11. Genetic selection

Welfare and health considerations, in addition to productivity, should be taken into account when choosing a strain for a particular location or production system.

Outcome based measurables: gait lameness, metabolic disorders ~~ascites~~, ~~sudden death syndrome (SDS)~~, mortality and performance ~~feed conversion and growth rate~~.

Annex XXXII (contd)

Appendix III (contd)

2.12. Painful interventions

~~Commercial broilers chickens are not typically subjected to management practices that cause pain. However, prophylactic beak trimming may be required in case of outbreaks of feather pecking and cannibalism, as described earlier. Guidelines for beak trimming to minimize negative impacts on bird health and performance are presented in Glatz and Miao (2005). Only the minimum amount of beak needed to prevent beak re-growth before market age (ideally, only the hook at the end of the upper beak) should be removed, and the trim should be performed so as to prevent subsequent distortion or deformation of the beak. The beak should be cauterized after cutting to minimise bleeding. Trimming at an early age (before 10 days of age; Hester and Shea Moore, 2003) is preferred to prevent long term pain, but since feather pecking and cannibalism develop when the birds are somewhat older prophylactic trimming will likely occur after this time.~~

~~There is a small specialty market for capons (castrated male broilers). Because the testes of male chickens are located inside the abdominal cavity, this procedure is a major surgery (Jacob and Mather, 2000) that should be performed only by skilled individuals and with measures to minimize pain, injury, and bleeding. The procedure is described in Jacob and Mather (2000).~~

Painful interventions (e.g. beak trimming, toe trimming, dubbing) should not be routinely practiced on broilers.

If therapeutic beak trimming is required, it should be carried out by trained and skilled personnel and care should be taken to remove the minimum amount of beak necessary using a method which minimizes pain and controls bleeding (Glatz and Miao, 2005; Hester and Shea-Moore, 2003).

Surgical caponisation should not be performed without adequate pain and *infection* control methods and should only be performed by veterinarians or trained and skilled personnel under veterinary supervision.

Outcome based measurables: use of any of the above procedures.

2.13. Handling and inspection

~~Broilers should be inspected at least twice every a day. ~~This i~~ Inspection should have three main objectives: ~~to pick up dead birds;~~ 1) to identify sick or injured birds broilers to treat or cull them, and 2) to detect and correct any welfare or health problem in the flock (e.g. related to the supply of feed and water, thermal conditions, ventilation, litter quality), and 3) to pick up dead broilers.~~

~~Inspection should be done in such a way that birds broilers are not unnecessarily disturbed, for example ~~personnel~~ animal handlers should move quietly and slowly through the flock.~~

When birds broilers are handled they should not be injured or unnecessarily frightened or stressed.

Birds Broilers which have an incurable sickness, significant deformity or injury should be removed from the flock and humanely killed as soon as possible.

Cervical dislocation is an acceptable method for killing small numbers of birds broilers if carried out competently (see Article 7.6.17. of the Terrestrial Code). For a complete description of killing methods see Article 7.6.475. of the Terrestrial Code.

Outcome based measurables: normal and abnormal behaviour~~fe~~ar, performance, injuries~~y~~ rate, mortality and morbidity.

Annex XXXII (contd)Appendix III (contd)

2.14. Personnel training

All people responsible for the broilers should receive appropriate training so that they are ~~be~~ competent ~~according to their~~ to carry out their responsibilities and should have sufficient knowledge of broiler behaviour, handling techniques, emergency euthanasia procedures, biosecurity, general signs of disease, and indicators of poor *animal welfare* such as stress and pain ~~and fatigue~~, and their alleviation.

Outcome based measurables: all measurables could apply.

2.15. Emergency Plans

Poultry Broiler producers should have emergency plans to minimize and mitigate the consequences of: natural disasters, *disease* outbreaks and the failure of mechanical equipment. Planning may include the provision of fail- safe alarm devices to detect malfunctions, back up generators, access to maintenance providers, alternative heating arrangements, ability to store water on farm, access to water cartage services, adequate on farm storage of feed and alternative feed supply and emergency ventilation.

An emergency plan for animal health should be developed consistent with national programs established or recommended by *Veterinary Services* as appropriate.

2.16. Location, construction and equipment of farms

The location of poultry farms should be chosen to be safe from the effects of fires and floods and other natural disasters to the extent practical. In addition farms should be sited to avoid or minimize biosecurity risks, exposure of birds to chemical and physical contaminants, noise and adverse climatic conditions.

Housing Poultry houses, outdoor areas and equipment to which poultry broilers have access should be designed and maintained to avoid injury or pain to the birds.

Buildings Poultry houses should be constructed and electrical and fuel installations should be fitted to minimise the risk of fire and other hazards.

Poultry Broiler producers should have a maintenance programme in place for all equipment that, in case of failure, can jeopardize broiler welfare.

2.17. On farm harvesting

Feed Broilers should not ~~be removed at a suitable~~ be subject to an excessive period of feed withdrawal ~~time~~ prior to ~~catching~~ the expected *slaughter* time.

Water should be available ~~for as long as possible~~ up to the time of catching.

~~Injured and sick birds~~ Broilers that are not fit for *transport* (severely injured or severely ill) should be culled ~~or separated~~ prior to harvesting the *flock*.

Catching should be carried out ~~done~~ by skilled ~~workers~~ *animal handlers* and every attempt should be made to minimize stress and fear reactions, and injury. If a broiler is injured during catching it should be culled.

~~The~~ Broilers should not be picked up by their neck or wings.

~~The~~ Broilers should be carefully ~~put~~ placed in the *transport container* ~~carefully~~.

Annex XXXII (contd)Appendix III (contd)

Mechanical catchers, where used, should be designed, operated and maintained to minimize injury, stress and fear to the ~~birds~~ broilers. A contingency plan is advisable in case of mechanical failure.

Catching should preferably be carried out under dim or blue light to calm the broilers ~~birds~~.

Catching should be scheduled to minimize the time to *slaughter* as well as climatic stress during catching, *transport* and holding.

Stocking density in *transport containers* should suit climatic conditions and maintain comfort.

Containers should be clean and disinfected and designed and maintained to avoid injury to the broilers ~~birds~~.

Outcome based measurables: ~~incidence of injuries~~ rate and mortality rate (dead on arrival) ~~and carcass quality~~.

2.18. Humane killing

Injured and sick birds should be killed humanely.

Cervical dislocation is considered a humane method for killing small numbers of broilers ~~birds~~ (see Article 7.6.17. of the *Terrestrial Code*).

For a description of other methods for the humane killing of broilers see Article 7.6.5. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

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Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Annex XXXIII

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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON PET FOOD

Paris, 1–3 September 2010

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Pet Food (hereafter referred as *ad hoc* Group) met at the OIE Headquarters from 1 to 3 September 2010.

The members of the *ad hoc* Group are listed at [Annex I](#). The terms of reference of the Group are attached at [Annex II](#) and the agenda adopted is given at [Annex III](#).

Dr Alex Thiermann, President of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (*Code Commission*), welcomed the group members on behalf of Dr Vallat, Director General of the OIE, and thanked the entire group for its efforts in the very important topic of pet food. He commented on the importance of controlling animal diseases and thus complementing the OIE objective of improving animal health worldwide.

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed and addressed the Member comments from EU, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada and industry submissions (European Pet Food Industry (FEDIAF), Pet Food Institute (PFI), Mars Petcare Inc.) on the this pet food chapter and revised the text accordingly ([Annex IV](#)).

On consideration of the documents provided by OIE Members and industry organisations, it became evident that the *ad hoc* Group needed to resolve several differing points of view. Some comments supported a broad text, covering all animal species kept as pets; all hazards (i.e. consistent with the list of microbiological, chemical and hazards covered by Chapter 6.3.) and all implications for animal and public health, including coverage of zoonotic diseases. Other comments called for the scope of the text to be restricted to risks posed by OIE-listed diseases potentially associated with heat treated, shelf stable pet food intended for dogs and cats. Many comments were received on the definitions used in the draft text, including the descriptions of pet foods (e.g. 'shelf stable', 'moist'). OIE Members were divided on whether it was necessary or appropriate to cover public health/food safety in the text. Reflecting this diversity of views, some Members opposed presentation of the draft text for adoption in May 2011.

Recalling the background to this work, Dr MacDiarmid reminded members of the *ad hoc* Group that the rationale for the OIE drafting text on pet food was the request from industry associations and the Delegate for the United States of America that the OIE address the disruption of international trade in pet food that has resulted from concerns over potential risks from OIE-listed diseases. In particular, some countries require certification that is very difficult to provide and that is not science based or appropriate to the low risk presented by heat treated, shelf stable pet food.

Recognising the disruption to international trade caused by the imposition of measures that are not based on science and are trade restrictive, the OIE undertook to provide guidance to Members.

It was agreed that, at this meeting, the *ad hoc* Group would focus on a core issue, that is, the risk of transmitting OIE listed diseases through international trade in heat treated, shelf stable pet food which currently represents the majority of trade. This would enable the *ad hoc* Group to focus on making recommendations on international trade measures that are appropriate to this type of product. It was agreed that at a later date, if requested by Members, the OIE could undertake further work on other pet foods traded internationally.

Annex XXXIII (contd)

The *ad hoc* Group modified the title of this pet food chapter accordingly.

Dr Kahn pointed out that Chapter 6.3. addresses food for all animals covered in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (*Code*), except bees. Therefore, Members' concerns about hazards other than OIE listed diseases, and about public health/food safety implications, should be addressed in that chapter. Dr Kahn also noted that the *Code Commission* would decide whether the revised pet food chapter would be more appropriately included in Section 4 (General recommendations on disease prevention and control) or Section 5 (Trade measures, import/export procedures and veterinary certification) as it was no longer directly relevant to Section 6 (Veterinary public health). The *ad hoc* Group was of the opinion that this text should be placed in Section 5.

The *ad hoc* Group discussed at some length the issue of sourcing raw materials for pet food, noting the divergent views presented by industry associations. The *ad hoc* Group did not support the view that pet food raw materials should be sourced only from animals not affected by specified diseases (i.e. FMD, avian influenza, infectious bursal disease and Newcastle disease) because it considered that there is no scientific basis for this position and the reality is that in many countries pet food may be sourced from animals infected with these disease agents. Properly controlled processing of pet food provides a very wide margin of safety in respect of most pathogens, including avian influenza, FMD and Newcastle disease. Some members of the *ad hoc* Group questioned the need to include provisions on the sourcing of raw materials, pointing out that the importation of raw materials into biosecure facilities for heat treatment is a well recognised and sound approach to risk management. While OIE Members are free to import products into quarantine facilities for further processing, the OIE recommendations are intended for importation of products for unrestricted use.

In response to the proposal from the USA, the *ad hoc* Group reviewed and amended Table 1 in Article 6. The table was revised to incorporate known information about heat treatment risk mitigation measures for various OIE listed diseases. The table also addresses the fact that risk mitigation measures are only appropriate for species that are affected by a disease. In the case of BSE, it is noted that risk mitigation will be achieved by safe sourcing of ingredients and not by inactivation of the disease agent.

Noting that insect borne diseases, such as vesicular stomatitis, African horse sickness and bluetongue, do not present a risk of transmission via meat, milk and products derived from them, the *ad hoc* Group recommended that the *Code Commission* include appropriate references to meat, milk and products derived from them as 'safe commodities' in Chapters 8.15. and 12.1., respectively. On this basis, Table 1 should be amended to show that measures are not required for these disease agents. The *ad hoc* Group noted that some of the pathogen inactivation data in Table 1 is supported by specific Articles in the *Code* while others are supported by reference to OIE Technical Disease Cards. The *ad hoc* Group asked the *Code Commission* whether data presented in this *Code* chapter can, legitimately, be supported by reference to the Disease Cards, which have not been through the same formal adoption processes of *Code* articles.

The *ad hoc* Group recommended that the *Code Commission* should consider a comment from New Zealand to add "All claims made on a label should be able to be substantiated" in Chapter 6.3. as the *ad hoc* Group believed that the comment was not relevant to the pet food chapter.

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed the definitions provided in this pet food chapter and agreed that most should be deleted as the defined terms were not used in the text. The definition of 'heat treated, shelf stable pet food' proposed by an industry organisation was included in the draft text.

The introduction to the draft text was amended to remind Members to read Chapter 6.3. in conjunction with the chapter on pet food. Accordingly, Article 4., which contained cross references to Chapter 6.3., was deleted to avoid repetition.

The *ad hoc* Group did not accept the recommendation from APFSWG to make reference to various CAC standards in this pet food chapter because they were not relevant to the purpose of this chapter but agreed that they should be referenced in Chapter 6.3., which should be read in conjunction with this chapter.

Annex XXXIII (contd)

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed a revised technical support document submitted by the US Pet Food Institute and noted that the document contained interesting information on the temperatures that could be reached using modern extrusion technology. However, considering that, while the temperature data reported in that document represent best practice in some major pet food companies, there is wide variation in the techniques used around the world, the *ad hoc* Group decided that this document should not be used as a basis for OIE recommendations. Nonetheless, the information on temperatures achieved is valuable and the *ad hoc* Group urged the publication of the information on the temperatures achieved during the extrusion process.

Dr MacDiarmid recalled that an earlier draft of the Pet Food Institute's support document, which contains much useful background information on the manufacture of modern pet foods, was circulated to OIE Members with the report of the *Code Commission* meeting in September 2009.

.../ Annexes

MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON PET FOOD

Paris, 1-3 September 2010

List of participants

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Terms of Reference for an OIE *ad hoc* group on pet food

Considering that

1. In May 2009 the OIE adopted *Terrestrial Code* Chapter 6.3. The control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed;
2. Subsequently the animal food industry drew to the attention of the OIE a number of problems with the international trade in heat treated pet food (i.e. food for dogs and cats);
3. In 2009 the Delegate for the United States of America submitted a supporting document developed by the US pet food industry on heat treated pet food to the OIE; and
4. In September 2009 the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission sent a draft proposed new chapter on heat treated pet food, together with the supporting document, to Members for comment:

The *ad hoc* Group should:

1. address comments provided by OIE Members (February 2010), the OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group (November 2009) and industry organizations, and;
 2. prepare a revised draft chapter on heat treated pet food, including practical recommendations for facilitating safe trade, for further discussion at the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission meeting in September 2010.
-

MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON PET FOOD**Paris, 1–3 September 2010**

Adopted agenda**1. Introduction**

OIE update: Discussion on the report of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and Animal Production and Food Safety Working Group.

Briefing on the scope of the draft *Terrestrial Code* chapter on pet food.

2. Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in heat treated pet food

a) Address comments of:

- OIE Member Countries and Territories;
- Animal Production and Food Safety Working Group;
- Submissions from relevant industry organisations.

b) Draft revised text for consideration by the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission in Sep 2010.

3. Conclusions

~~CONTROL OF HAZARDS OF ANIMAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE OIE LISTED DISEASES IN HEAT TREATED, SHELF STABLE PET FOOD~~

Article 1

Introduction

~~Pet food is often overlooked as a component of the animal feed and human food supply chain that has a direct impact on animal health and *welfare* and also on food safety and public health. The importance stems not only from the potential to affect pets and their owners, but also from the potential to affect food producing *animals* through the use of pet food as a protein source in compounded feeds.~~

Article 2~~1~~

Objective and scope

~~The objective of this chapter is to complement Chapter 6.3. and to provide specific guidance on preventing the transfer of OIE listed diseases (Chapter 1.2.) through international trade in pet food in relation to animal health, *zoonoses* and food safety. The chapter should be read in conjunction with Chapter 6.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*.~~

~~Pet food means any commercial feed prepared and distributed for consumption by dogs or cats. This chapter refers to heat-treated, shelf stable pet food (hereafter referred to as pet food). The finished product, in an unopened container, can exist at room temperature for an extended time period.~~

~~The chapter aims at ensuring the control of animal and public health hazards OIE listed diseases through adherence to recommended practices measures during the production (procurement, handling, storage, processing and distribution) and use of pet food, including pet treats (snacks) and pet chews.~~

~~For the purpose of this chapter, “pets” are limited to dogs or cats.~~

Article 3

Definitions

~~*Dry pet food* — means pet food with a moisture content less than 20 percent, called “kibble” or “crunchy”.~~

~~*Pet chews* — means any commercial product prepared and distributed for consumption by dogs or cats made of animal skin, hide, hooves, ears, animal bones, ligaments, snouts, or pizzles[†].~~

~~*Pet food* — means any commercial feed, including snacks and treats, prepared and distributed for consumption by dogs or cats.~~

~~*Soft moist pet food* — means pet food with a moisture content of 20 percent or more and less than 65 percent.~~

~~*Wet pet food* — means low acid (pH greater than 4.6) pet food in hermetically sealed containers with a moisture content greater than 65 percent.~~

~~[†] This definition is taken from 2009 Official Publication of the Association of American Feed Control Officials Incorporated. Oxford, Indiana, USA. Pages 322-323.~~

Annex XXXIII (contd)Annex IV (contd)

Article 42

General principles Pet food specific measures

An important consideration with pet food is that ingredients from multiple animal species, often sourced from multiple countries, zones or compartments are combined into the final product. However, as the products covered in this chapter have been heat-treated, the products themselves would not pose significant animal health risk when compared to unprocessed products coming from the same countries, zones or compartments.

When determining the appropriate import requirements, the potential animal health concerns of all species and ingredients of animal origin need to be addressed. The table in Article 3 can be used to determine the appropriate disease risk mitigation measures. These treatments should not be cumulative, only the most stringent treatment should apply and will address all identified animal health risks. The *Competent Authority* should also take into account the following factors:

1. Sanitary measures should be based on the animal health status of the country, zone or compartment of origin of the animal-derived ingredients. The source of all animal-derived ingredients should be considered. All ingredients should meet OIE requirements, taking into account the end use.
2. Quality assurance in the processing facility should be sufficient to verify that the product has been treated as required. The facility should maintain processing records, and the system should provide alert if minimum processing is not accomplished.
3. After processing, the product should be handled in a manner designed to prevent contamination of finished product by unprocessed materials.
4. Processing facilities should have procedures in place to enable tracing and recall of non-compliant products.
- 1- Roles and responsibilities

The *Competent Authority* and those involved in the production of pet food should follow the recommendations in point 1 of Article 6.3.4.

- 2- Risk assessment and risk management

Risk assessment and risk management should follow the recommendations in point 3 of Article 6.3.4. Those involved in the production of pet food should take into account scientific evidence, including the sensitivity of analytical methods and the characterisation of *risks*, when defining limits and tolerances for hazards.

The ingredients in the finished product should have undergone one or more of the time and temperature treatments listed in Table 1.

- 3- Good Manufacturing Practices

Where national guidelines exist, good manufacturing practices (including good hygienic practices) should be followed. Countries without such guidelines are encouraged to develop them.

Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and/or Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point² (HACCP) principles, where appropriate, should be followed to control hazards that may occur in the manufacture and distribution of pet food:

4. Sampling and analysis

Sampling and analytical protocols should follow the recommendations in point 7 of Article 6.3.4.

5. Labelling

Labelling should follow the recommendations in point 8 of Article 6.3.4.

6. Design and management of inspection programmes

Inspection programme should follow the recommendations in point 9 of Article 6.3.4.

7. Assurance and certification

In addition to point 10 of Article 6.3.4, assurances for pet food products of animal origin may be provided through facility approvals.

8. Hazards which should be considered in the manufacture of pet food

a) Biological hazards are described in point 11 a) of Article 6.3.4.

b) Chemical hazards are described in point 11 b) of Article 6.3.4.

c) Physical hazards are described in point 11 c) of Article 6.3.4.

9. Antimicrobials

Concerning the use of antimicrobials in pet food refer to Chapters 6.7. to 6.11. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

10. Management of information

Described in point 14 of Article 6.3.4.

Article 5

Groups of pet food

Pet food groups are described by the percentage of moisture in the finished product. Wet pet food is described as containing greater than 65% moisture in the finished product. Dry pet food contains less than 20% moisture in the finished product; while soft-moist products will contain between 20% and 65% moisture.³

Article 6~~2~~

Time and temperature treatments Elimination of biological hazards from pet food

Table 1 lists the minimum treatment/temperatures applied in the processing of ingredients of animal origin used in pet foods to ensure the inactivation of biological hazards. Biological hazards in pet food may be avoided or eliminated by a number of treatments such as those listed in Table 1. However, other processes determined to be equivalent should be accepted.

² Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point, as defined in the Annex to the Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969).

³ These descriptions are taken from 2009 Official Publication of the Association of American Feed Control Officials Incorporated. Oxford, Indiana, USA. Pages 132-134.

Annex XXXIII (contd)

Annex IV (contd)

Table 1. Minimum time and temperature treatments for processing of pet foods containing ingredients of animal origin

Group	Product subgroup	Minimum time and temperature treatments
A Wet	1) Low acid pet food in hermetically sealed containers	1) $F_0 = 3$ $F_e = 3$
	2) Refrigerated pet food in non-hermetically sealed containers	2) (under study)
B Soft Moist	1) Extruded-expanded	1) (under study)
	2) Extruded non-expanded	2) (under study)
	3) Non-extruded	3) (under study)
C Dry	1) Extruded-expanded	1) (under study)
	2) Extruded non-expanded	2) (under study)
	3) Non-extruded	3) (under study)

Table 1. Risk mitigation measures for processing of pet foods containing ingredients of animal origin

Biological Hazard	Bovine	Ovine	Caprine	Porcine	Equine	Poultry	Egg	Milk
<u>Bluetongue</u>	<u>NR</u> (Article 8.3.2)	<u>NR</u> (Article 8.3.2)	<u>NR</u> (Article 8.3.2)	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u> (Article 8.3.2)
<u>Foot and mouth disease</u>	70C/30min (Article 8.5.34.) pH<6 or >9 (TDC)				<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	(Article 8.5.28.)
<u>Rift Valley fever</u>	(under study)	(under study)	(under study)	(under study)	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	(under study)
<u>Rinderpest</u>	pH<4 or >10 (TDC)				<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	(under study)
<u>Vesicular stomatitis</u>	<u>NR</u> 58C/30 min pH<4 or >10(TDC)	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>
<u>Avian influenza</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	60C/507 sec 70C/3.5 sec 74C/0.51 sec (Article 10.4.26) pH<2 (TDC)	60C/188 sec (Article 10.4.25) pH<2 (TDC)	<u>NR</u>
<u>Newcastle disease</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	65C/14 min 74C/5 min (Article 10.13.21) pH<2 (TDC)	57C/26.6 min (Article 10.13.20)	<u>NR</u>
<u>Infectious bursal disease</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	(under study)	(under study)	<u>NR</u>
<u>Bovine spongiform encephalopathy</u>	Safe commodities (Article 11.5.1)	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>
<u>Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia</u>	(Article 11.8.2)	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>
<u>African horse sickness</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>
<u>Peste des petits ruminants</u>	<u>NR</u>	pH<4 or >10 (TDC)	pH<4 or >10 (TDC)	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>
<u>African swine fever</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	56C/70 min 60C/20min pH<3.9 or>11.5 (TDC)	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>
<u>Classical swine fever</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	70c/internal pH<6 (Article 15.2.21)	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>
<u>Swine vesicular disease</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	56/1 hr pH<2.5 or > 10 (TDC)	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>NR</u>

NR : means no sanitary measures should be imposed.

TDC: OIE Technical disease card

— text deleted



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for Animal
Health

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de Sanidad
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Annex XXXIV

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May 2010

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON SALMONELLOSIS

Paris, 10–12 May 2010

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Salmonellosis (the *ad hoc* Group) met at OIE Headquarters on 10–12 May 2010.

The members of the *ad hoc* Group and other participants are listed at [Annex I](#) and the adopted Agenda is given at [Annex II](#).

On behalf of the Director General of the OIE, Dr Sarah Kahn, Head of the OIE International Trade Department, welcomed the group members and thanked them for their participation and support. Dr Kahn commented that this *ad hoc* Group is addressing an important and complex area with both animal health and public health implications. Dr Kahn commented on the active participation of the OIE in the parallel work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) on the development of guidelines for the control of *Campylobacter* and *Salmonella* spp. in chicken meat. Dr Kahn noted that the draft Codex Guideline included references to relevant OIE standards, including the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) draft Chapter 6.4. Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production, as the primary source of information regarding the primary production phase. Dr Kahn commented on the need to maintain sufficient detail in this chapter to ensure harmonisation with the Codex Guideline.

Dr Ignacio Sánchez Esteban then took over as Chair of the meeting.

1. Chapter 6.5. Detection, Prevention and Control of *Salmonella* in Poultry

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed the reports of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) and Member comments referred to them by the Code Commission. The *ad hoc* Group amended the text as appropriate.

A number of Members commented on the inconsistent use of the word ‘establishment’ and ‘flock’ throughout the text. The *ad hoc* Group reviewed these comments and the use of the terms throughout the chapter and amended the text accordingly. In Articles 6.5.7., 6.5.8. and 6.5.9. the term ‘establishment’ was changed to ‘flock’. This change was made where the text referred to a single epidemiological unit.

This change was not made in Articles 6.5.8. point 3. and Article 6.5.9. point 2., where establishment was the appropriate term.

The *ad hoc* Group wished to remind Members that the term ‘flock’ is defined in the Glossary of the *Terrestrial Code* and is used throughout this chapter to refer to an epidemiological unit, consistent with the definition in the Glossary.

Annex XXXIV (contd)

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed the use in the text of the terms farm, poultry house and building, and made amendments as appropriate to ensure consistent use of these terms.

In the introductory text of Article 6.5.4. the *ad hoc* Group recommended that the proposed new text ‘exclude false positive or negative results’ be deleted in addition to the text ‘ensure that decisions are soundly based’ so that the sentence reads as shown below. The objective of confirmatory testing is broader than simply excluding false positive or false negative test results:

‘In the framework of regulatory programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in poultry and salmonellosis in humans, confirmatory testing may be required.’

In Article 6.5.4. point c) the *ad hoc* Group recommended that the proposed new words ‘before slaughter’ be deleted, because the timing of sampling is detailed in sub-points (ii) and (iii) of this point.

A Member commented on the inappropriate use of the terms: culling and depopulation. The *ad hoc* Group amended the definition of ‘culling’ and replaced the word ‘depopulation’ with ‘destruction and slaughter’ to clarify the use of the term culling in this chapter.

The revised chapter is presented in Annex III.

2. Draft Chapter 6.4. Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed Member comments received from Argentina, Canada, the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA), the European Union, New Zealand, the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health, comprising: México, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá and the Dominican Republic (OIRSA), South Africa, Switzerland and the United States of America. The *ad hoc* Group amended the text as appropriate.

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed the use of the terms establishment, flock, farm, poultry house and building in the text and made amendments as appropriate to ensure consistent use of these terms.

The *ad hoc* Group wished to remind Members that this chapter provides recommended biosecurity procedures that can be applied on the poultry establishment to prevent and control infectious agents of poultry that are a threat to poultry health and, at times, human health.

Because some infectious agents in poultry do not result in clinical or pathological signs in birds but are of public health concern (for example *Campylobacter* species in poultry), the *ad hoc* Group deleted the word ‘disease’ from ‘infectious ~~disease~~ agents’ throughout the chapter.

As the term culling was used only in Article 6.4.6. point 5, the term culling was deleted from the definitions specific to this chapter and ‘culling’ was replaced by ‘destruction or slaughter of a flock before the end of the normal production period’. This ensured consistency with the amended definition for culling used in Chapter 6.5.

Several Members proposed amendments to the text of Article 6.4.5. point 2. f on the treatment of feed, to clarify the preferred method of treatment. The *ad hoc* Group amended this text to provide options for feed treatment, including the use of bactericidal and bacteriostatic agents.

Several Members commented on procedures for cleaning and sanitising of hands. The *ad hoc* Group proposed text providing for the use of disinfectants to sanitise hands at the entrance of poultry houses where running water may not be available (Article 6.4.5. point 2b). In all other references to hand washing using soap and water (which is the preferred method for sanitising hands), the use of disinfectants was not added as an option.

The revised chapter is provided in Annex IV.

Alignment of the two chapters

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed Chapters 6.4. and 6.5., and made amendments to ensure consistency between the two chapters.

3. New work

3.1. Guidelines

The *ad hoc* Group discussed a Member's proposal to develop a new document providing detailed guidelines on biosecurity procedures in poultry production.

The *ad hoc* Group noted that the choice of biosecurity procedures in poultry production implemented within the territory of a Member will vary according to production types and national conditions, including geographical situation, poultry health status, the risk of introduction and dissemination of infectious agents and the cost effectiveness of control measures. In view of this, the *ad hoc* Group considered it would be impractical to attempt to develop a single document containing detailed information that would be applicable to all Members and all production types.

The *ad hoc* Group also noted that there are many readily available guidelines published by private and public institutions that take into account production types and national conditions.

In view of these considerations, the *ad hoc* Group recommended that an OIE guideline on biosecurity procedures in poultry production not be developed by the OIE.

3.2. *Campylobacter* species in poultry

The *ad hoc* Group agreed to develop additional text providing some specific recommendations for the management of *Campylobacter* species in poultry. Due to lack of time at the Paris meeting, the Group agreed to undertake this work electronically.

.../Annexes

MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON SALMONELLOSIS**Paris, 10–12 May 2010****List of participants****MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP****Dr Ignacio Sánchez Esteban**

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Annex I (contd)

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MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON SALMONELLOSIS**Paris, 10–12 May 2010**

Adopted Agenda**Welcome****1. Hygiene and Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production (Chapter 6.4.)**

1.1. Consider Member comments and amend text as appropriate

2. Prevention, Detection and Control of *Salmonella* in Poultry (Ch 6.5.)2.1. Consider Member comments referred to the *ad hoc* Group by the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission and amend text as appropriate.**3. Any other business**

CHAPTER 6.5.

**PREVENTION, DETECTION AND CONTROL OF
SALMONELLA IN POULTRY**

Article 6.5.1.

Introduction

This Chapter provides recommendations on the prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in *poultry*.

Salmonellosis is one of the most common foodborne bacterial *diseases* in the world. The great majority of *Salmonella infections* in humans are foodborne with *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium accounting for a major part of the problem. *Salmonella* serotypes and prevalence may vary considerably between localities, districts, regions and countries and therefore, *surveillance* and identification of the prevalent *Salmonella* serotypes in humans and *poultry* should be carried out in order to develop a control programme for the area.

In most food animal species, *Salmonella* can establish a clinically inapparent *infection* of variable duration, which is significant as a potential *zoonosis*. Such animals may be important in relation to the spread of *infection* between *flocks* and as causes of human foodborne *infection*. In the latter case, this can occur when *meat* and eggs, or their products, enter the food chain thus producing contaminated food.

Article 6.5.2.

Purpose and scope

This Chapter deals with methods for on farm prevention, detection and control of *Salmonella* in *poultry*, and complements the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005) and Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products (CAC/RCP 15-1976). A pathogen reduction strategy at the farm level is seen as the first step in a continuum that will assist in reducing the presence of foodborne pathogens in eggs and *meat*.

Hygiene and biosecurity procedures to be implemented in *poultry flocks* farms and hatcheries are described in Chapter 6.4. Hygiene and Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production.

The recommendations presented in this Chapter are relevant to the control of all *Salmonella* with special attention to *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium*, as these are common *Salmonella* serotypes in many countries. It should be noted that the epidemiology of animal and human salmonellosis in a particular locality, district, region or country is important for effective control of *Salmonella*.

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Article 6.5.3.

Definitions (for this Chapter only)

Breeders: means *poultry* destined for the production of fertile eggs for incubation for the purpose of producing *day-old birds*.

Competitive exclusion: means the administration of defined or undefined bacterial flora to *poultry* to prevent gut colonisation by enteropathogens, including *Salmonella*.

Culling: means the ~~depopulation~~ destruction or slaughter of a *flock* before the end of its normal production period.

Layers: means *poultry* during the period of laying eggs for human consumption.

Article 6.5.4.

Surveillance of poultry flocks for *Salmonella*

Where justified by *risk assessment*, *surveillance* should be carried out to identify infected *flocks* in order to take measures that will reduce the prevalence in *poultry* and the risk of transmission of *Salmonella* to humans. Sampling methods, frequency and type of samples required should be determined by the *Veterinary Services* based on a *risk assessment*. Microbiological testing is preferred to serological testing because of its higher sensitivity in broilers *flocks* and higher specificity in breeders and *layer flocks*. In the framework of regulatory programmes for the control of *Salmonella* in *poultry* and salmonellosis in humans, confirmatory testing may be required.

Sampling

1. Available methods for sampling

Drag swabs: sampling is done by dragging swabs throughout the *poultry building house*.

Boot swabs: sampling is done by walking throughout the *poultry building house* with absorbent material placed over the footwear of the sampler.

Dust samples: sampling is done by collecting dust from exhaust fans, screens and other equipment in the *poultry building house*.

Faecal samples: multiple fresh faecal/caecal samples collected from different areas in the *poultry building house*.

Meconium, chick box liners papers, dead in shell and culled ~~chicks~~ day-old birds at the hatchery.

Hatchery samples: throughout the hatchery, including inside the incubators.

2. Sample size

Refer to the *Terrestrial Manual* (under development).

3. Laboratory methods

Refer to the *Terrestrial Manual* (under development).

Annex XXXIV (contd)

Annex III (contd)

4. Time and frequency of testing

Time and frequency of sampling for each *poultry* type are listed below:

a) Breeders and hatcheries

i) Breeder flocks before lay

- Before the end of the first week of life when the status of the breeder ~~ing flock farm~~ and/or the hatchery is not known or does not comply with this chapter.
- Within the four weeks before being moved to another house, or before going into production if the birds will remain in the same house for the production period.
- One or more times during the growing period if there is a culling policy in place. The frequency would be determined on commercial considerations.

ii) Breeder flocks in lay

- At least at monthly intervals during the laying period.
- Additional testing should be determined by the *Veterinary Services*.

iii) Hatcheries

- Testing at hatcheries should complement on farm testing.
- The minimal frequency should be determined by the *Veterinary Services*.

b) Poultry for the production of eggs for human consumption

i) Flocks grown to be layers

- Before the end of the first week of life when the status of the breeder ~~ing flock farm~~ and/or the hatchery is not known or does not comply with this chapter.
- Within the four weeks before being moved to another house, or before going into production if the birds will remain in the same house for the production period.
- One or more times during the growing period if there is a culling policy in place. The frequency would be determined by commercial considerations.

ii) Layer flocks

- At expected peak of lay for each production cycle (the period of time in the laying cycle when the production of the *flock* is highest).
- One or more times if there is a culling policy in place or if eggs are diverted to processing for the inactivation of the pathogen. The minimal frequency should be determined by the *Veterinary Services*.

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- c) Poultry for the production of meat
 - i) *Flocks* should be sampled at least once ~~before slaughter~~.
 - ii) When sampling occurs on farms and when there is a long period (2 weeks or more) between thinning and final depopulation further testing should be considered.
 - iii) When sampling occurs on farms, *flocks* should be sampled as late as possible before the first birds are transported to the *slaughterhouse*. In order to allow for the implementation of control measures during processing, this should be done at a time that ensures the results are available before *slaughter*.
 - iv) Whether sampling occurs on the farm which is more appropriate for consequent control measures or at the processing plant, there should be an integrated system in place that allows for investigation of the source of positive *flocks*.
- d) Empty ~~building~~ poultry house testing
 - i) Bacteriological monitoring of the efficacy of *disinfection* procedures is recommended when *Salmonella* have been detected in the previous *flock*.

As appropriate, sampling of equipment and surfaces as well as boot swabs or drag swabs of the empty ~~building~~ *poultry house* after depopulation, cleaning and *disinfection*.

Results from *surveillance* may lead to the implementation of additional prevention and control measures to reduce the risk of transmission of *Salmonella* to humans:

- a) In breeders, control measures may be implemented to reduce the transmission of *Salmonella* to the next generation, especially for trans-ovarian transmitted serotypes such as *S. Enteritidis*.
- b) In *layer flocks* control measures will reduce and may eliminate contamination of eggs with *Salmonella*.
- c) In *poultry* for *meat* production, control measures may be implemented at *slaughter* or further down the food chain.

Article 6.5.5.

Prevention and Control measures

Salmonella prevention and control may be achieved by adopting Good Agricultural Practices and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), and general measures detailed in Chapter 6.4. Hygiene and Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production, in combination with the following additional measures, where appropriate. No single measure used alone will achieve effective *Salmonella* control.

Annex XXXIV (contd)Annex III (contd)

Additional prevention and control measures include: vaccination, competitive exclusion, ~~flock culling~~, use of organic acids, culling and product diversion to processing.

Antimicrobials should not be used to control *infection* with *Salmonella* in *poultry* because the effectiveness of the treatment is limited, may mask the infection at sampling, has the potential to produce residues in *meat* and eggs and can contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobials may also reduce normal flora in the gut and increase the likelihood of colonisation with *Salmonella*. In special circumstances antimicrobials may be used to salvage birds with high genetic value.

1. *Day-old birds* used to stock a *poultry* house should be obtained from breeder~~ing~~ flocks and hatcheries that have been monitored according to this Chapter and in which no evidence of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* has been detected.
2. *Layer* and breeder *flocks* should be stocked from *flocks* that have been monitored according to this chapter and in which no evidence of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* has been detected.
3. Feed contamination with *Salmonella* is known to be a source of *infection* for *poultry*. Therefore, it is recommended to monitor the *Salmonella* status of *poultry* feed, and if found positive to take corrective measures.

~~The use of h~~Heat treated feeds with or without the addition of ~~or feeds subjected to~~ other bacteriocidal~~static~~ or bacteriostatic~~icidal~~ treatments (e.g. addition of organic acids). ~~(e.g. organic acids) is~~ are recommended ~~(e.g. organic acids)~~. Where heat treatment is not possible, the use of bacteriostatic or bactericidal treatments is recommended.

Feed should be stored in clean closed containers to prevent access by wild birds and rodents. Spilled feed should be cleaned up immediately to remove attractants for wild birds and rodents.

4. Competitive exclusion may be used in *day-old birds* to reduce colonisation by *Salmonella*.

When used, competitive exclusion should be administered according to the instructions provided by the manufacturer and in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the *Veterinary Services*.

5. Vaccines are used against *Salmonella* *infections* caused by different serotypes in various *poultry* species, including single or combined vaccines. Vaccines produced according to the *Terrestrial Manual* should be used.

If live vaccines are used it is important that field and vaccine strains be easily differentiated in the laboratory. If serology is used as the *surveillance* method, it may not be possible to distinguish between vaccination and *infection* with a field strain.

Vaccination can be used as part of an overall *Salmonella* control programme. It is recommended that vaccination not be used as the sole control measure.

When the status of the breeder~~ing~~ flock farm and/or the hatchery from which the *flock* originates is not known or does not comply with this Chapter, vaccination of *flocks*, starting with *day-old birds*, against the *Salmonella* serotypes known to be significant should be considered.

Annex XXXIV (contd)Annex III (contd)

Vaccination against the *Salmonella* serotypes known to be significant should be considered when moving *day-old birds* to a previously contaminated shed so as to minimise the risk of the birds contracting *Salmonella* infection.

When used, vaccines should be administered according to the instructions provided by the manufacturer and in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the *Veterinary Services*.

Vaccination against *S. Enteritidis* can cause cross reactions in *Salmonella* Pullorum/*S.* Gallinarum serological tests and needs to be considered when implementing measures for these pathogens.

6. Depending on animal health, *risk assessment*, and public health policies, culling is an option to manage infected breeder and *layer flocks*. Infected *flocks* should be destroyed or *slaughtered* and processed to minimise human exposure to *Salmonella*.

If culling is not applied ~~poultry are not culled~~, eggs for human consumption should be diverted for processing for inactivation of *Salmonella*.

7. *S. Enteritidis* is characterised by its ovarian transmission pattern. Countries should set targets for eradicating (or significantly reducing) *S. Enteritidis* from egg-producing *flocks* through a guided policy for eradication from the top of the production pyramid, i.e. from grandparent *flocks* through breeder *flocks* to *layer flocks*.
8. The responsible *veterinarian* should evaluate the results of *surveillance* testing for *Salmonella* and supervise the implementation of appropriate control measures. ~~This information~~ These results should be available to the veterinarian before marketing if a veterinary certificate for *flock Salmonella* status is required. When required by the *Competent Authority*, the veterinarian or other person responsible for notification should notify the *Competent Authority* if the presence of *Salmonella* of the relevant serotype is confirmed.

Article 6.5.6.

Prevention of *Salmonella* spread from infected flocks

If a *flock* is found infected with specific *Salmonella* serotypes of concern, the following actions should be taken in addition to general measures detailed in Chapter 6.4. Hygiene and Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production:

1. According to the epidemiological situation, investigations should be carried out to determine the origin of the *infection*.
2. Movement of *poultry flocks* at the end of the production cycle should only be allowed for *slaughter* or destruction. Special precautions should be taken in the transport, *slaughter* and processing of the birds, e.g. they could be sent to a separate *slaughterhouse* or processed at the end of a shift before cleaning and *disinfection* of the equipment.
3. Litter should not be reused. *Poultry* litter/faeces and other potentially contaminated farm waste should be disposed of in a safe manner to prevent the direct or indirect exposure of humans, livestock and wildlife to *Salmonella*. Particular care needs to be taken in regard to *poultry* litter/faeces used to fertilise plants intended for human consumption. If litter is not removed then it should be treated in a manner to inactivate infectious agents, to prevent the spread from one *flock* to the next.

Annex XXXIV (contd)

Annex III (contd)

4. Particular care should be taken in cleaning and *disinfection* of the *poultry* house and equipment.
5. Before restocking the facility, a bacteriological examination should be carried out as detailed in this Chapter and the *Terrestrial Manual*.

Article 6.5.7.

Recommendations for importation of live poultry (other than day-old birds)

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the *poultry* originated from an ~~establishment~~ flock that participates in a *Salmonella surveillance* programme in accordance with the recommendations in Article 6.5.4.;
2. the *poultry* originated from an ~~establishment~~ flock in which no evidence of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* has been detected prior to shipment and have had no contact with birds or other material from ~~establishment~~ flocks that do not comply with this chapter;
3. the *poultry* originated from an ~~establishment~~ flock that complies with the recommendations of Chapter 6.4.

Article 6.5.8.

Recommendations for importation of day-old birds

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the *day-old birds* showed no clinical signs of salmonellosis on the day of shipment;
2. the *day-old birds* originated from a breeder ~~establishment~~ flock and hatchery that participate in a *Salmonella surveillance* programme in accordance with the recommendations in Article 6.5.4.;
3. the *day-old birds* originated from a breeder ~~establishment~~ flock and hatchery in which no evidence of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* has been detected and have had no contact during setting, incubation or hatching with *hatching eggs* or other material from an ~~establishment~~ that do not comply with this chapter;
4. the *day-old birds* originated from a breeder ~~establishment~~ flock and hatchery that complies with the recommendations of Chapter 6.4.;
5. the *day-old birds* were shipped in new and clean *containers*.

Annex XXXIV (contd)Annex III (contd)

Article 6.5.9.

Recommendations for importation of hatching eggs

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the *hatching eggs* originated from a breeder ~~*establishment*~~ *flock* that participates in a *Salmonella surveillance* programme in accordance with the recommendations in Article 6.5.4.;
2. the *hatching eggs* originated from a breeder ~~*establishment*~~ *flock* in which no evidence of *S. Enteritidis* and *S. Typhimurium* has been detected and have had no contact with *poultry* or other material from an ~~*establishment*~~ that do not comply with this Chapter;
3. the *hatching eggs* originated from a breeder ~~*establishment*~~ *flock* that complies with the recommendations of Chapter 6.4.;
4. the *hatching eggs* were shipped in new and clean packaging materials.

— text deleted

CHAPTER 6.4.

BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES IN POULTRY PRODUCTION

Article 6.4.1.

Introduction

This chapter provides recommended biosecurity procedures in *poultry* production.

Infectious *disease* agents of *poultry* are a threat to *poultry* health and, at times, human health and have significant social and economic implications. In *poultry* production, especially under intensive conditions, prevention is the most viable and economically feasible approach to the control of infectious *disease* agents.

Biosecurity procedures should be implemented with the objective of preventing the introduction and dissemination of infectious *disease* agents in the *poultry* production chain. Biosecurity will be enhanced with the adoption and implementation of the principles of Good Agricultural Practices and the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) system will help to achieve these objectives.

Article 6.4.2.

Purpose and scope

This chapter deals with biosecurity procedures in *poultry* production. It should be read in conjunction with the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005) and Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products (CAC/RCP 15-1976 ~~Revision 2007~~).

~~This chapter provides general recommendations for infectious *disease* agents of *poultry*. Recommendations on specific *diseases* may be found in relevant *disease* chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*.~~

This chapter identifies several ~~relevant~~ biosecurity measures. The choice of measures to be implemented will vary according to national conditions, including *poultry disease infection* status, the risk of introduction and dissemination of infectious *disease* agents and the cost effectiveness of control measures.

Recommendations on specific infectious agents may be found in relevant *disease* chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*.

Article 6.4.3.

Definitions (for this Chapter only)

Breeders: means *poultry* destined for the production of fertile eggs for incubation for the purpose of producing *day-old birds*.

Culling: means the depopulation of a *flock* before the end of its normal production period.

Live bird markets: means markets where live birds from various sources are sold for *slaughter*, ~~or~~ further rearing or production.

Annex XXXIV (contd)Annex IV (contd)

Article 6.4.4.

Recommendations on the location and construction of poultry establishments1. All establishments (poultry farms and hatcheries)

- a) A suitably isolated geographical location is recommended, ~~taking into account~~ Factors to consider include the ~~direction of the prevailing winds~~, location of other poultry and livestock establishments, wild bird concentrations and the distance from roads used to transport *poultry*.
- b) *Poultry establishments* should be located and constructed to provide adequate drainage ~~away from~~ for the site. Run-off or untreated site wastewater should not discharge into waterfowl habitats.
- c) *Poultry* houses and hatcheries should be designed and constructed (preferably of smooth impervious materials) so that cleaning and *disinfection* can be carried out effectively. Ideally, the area immediately surrounding the *poultry* houses and hatcheries should be paved with concrete or other impervious material to facilitate cleaning and *disinfection*.
- d) The *establishment* should be surrounded by a security fence to prevent the entry of unwanted animals and people.
- e) A sign indicating restricted entry should be posted at the entrance to the ~~farm~~ establishment.

2. Additional measures for poultry farms

- a) *Establishments* should be designed ~~for use with~~ to house a single species and a single production type purpose. ~~Whenever possible, the design should also consider the ‘all-in all-out’ single age group principle should be used. If this is not feasible and several flocks are maintained on one establishment, the establishment should be designed so that each flock can~~ should be managed as a separate *epidemiological unit*.
- b) *Poultry* houses, and buildings used to store feed, ~~or~~ eggs, or other material, should be constructed and maintained to prevent the entry of wild birds, rodents and ~~insects~~ arthropods.
- c) Where feasible, the floors of *poultry* houses should be constructed using concrete or other impervious materials and designed so that cleaning and *disinfection* can be carried out effectively.
- d) Where feasible, feed should be delivered into the farm from outside the security fence.

3. Additional measures for hatcheries

- a) The design of the hatchery should take account of work flow and air circulation needs, with ‘one way flow’ movement of eggs and *day-old birds* and one way air flow in the same direction.
- b) The hatchery buildings should include physical separation of areas used for the following:
 - i) personnel changing, showering and sanitary facilities;
 - ii) receipt, storage and transfer of eggs;
 - iii) incubation;

Annex XXXIV (contd)

Annex IV (contd)

- iv) hatching;
- v) sorting, sexing and other handling ~~placing~~ of *day-old birds* ~~in boxes~~;
- vi) storage of egg boxes and ~~chick~~ boxes for *day-old birds*, egg flats, chick box ~~pads~~ liners, chemicals and other items;
- vii) ~~washing~~ equipment washing;
- viii) waste disposal;
- ix) dining facilities for personnel;
- x) office space.

Article 6.4.5.

Recommendations applicable to the operation of poultry establishments

1. All establishments (poultry farms and hatcheries)

- a) All establishments should have a written biosecurity plan. Personnel in the establishments should have access to basic training in biosecurity relevant to poultry production and understand the implications to animal health, human health and food safety.
- ~~a)b)~~ There should be good communication between all those personnel involved in the *poultry* production chain ~~from breeding to production and consumption~~ to ensure that steps are taken to minimise the introduction and dissemination of infectious ~~disease~~ agents. ~~Personnel should have access to basic training in biosecurity relevant to poultry production and food safety.~~
- ~~b)c)~~ Traceability at all levels of the *poultry* production chain should be possible.
- ~~c)d)~~ Records ~~of production~~ should be maintained: on an individual flock basis and include data on bird health, production, On farm, this includes cleaning and disinfection, treatment medications, vaccination, flock history, mortality and disease surveillance data. This should be maintained on an individual flock basis. In hatcheries, relevant records should include data on fertility, hatchability, vaccination and treatments. Records should be readily available for inspection on site.
- ~~c)e)~~ ~~A veterinarian should be responsible for m~~Monitoring of poultry health on the establishment should be under the supervision of a veterinarian.
- ~~e)f)~~ ~~Access to the establishment should be controlled to ensure only authorised persons and vehicles enter the site.~~
- ~~g)f)~~ Establishments should ~~be free from~~ control unwanted vegetation and be free from debris.
- ~~g)h)~~ Procedures for the prevention of entry of wild birds into poultry houses and buildings, and the control of vermin such as rodents and arthropods should be implemented ~~on a routine basis.~~
- ~~i)~~ Access to the establishment should be controlled to ensure only authorised persons and vehicles enter the site.

Annex XXXIV (contd)Annex IV (contd)

- hi) All personnel and visitors entering an *establishment* should follow a biosecurity procedure. The preferred procedure is for visitors and personnel entering the establishment to shower and change into clean clothes and footwear provided by the *establishment*. Where this is not practical, clean outer garments (coveralls or overalls, head covering hats and footwear) should be provided.

~~Before entering and after leaving a poultry house, personnel and visitors should wash their hands with soap and water use a properly maintained disinfectant footbath. The disinfectant solution in the footbath should be changed on a regular basis to ensure its efficacy, according to the manufacturer's instructions.~~

- ij) Personnel and visitors should not have had recent contact with other *poultry*, *poultry* waste, or *poultry* processing plant(s). This time period should be based on the level of risk of transmission of infectious ~~disease~~ agents. This will depend on the *poultry* production purpose, biosecurity procedures and ~~disease infection~~ status (e.g. the time between visiting a breeder *flock* and then a broiler *flock* would be less than the time between visiting a broiler *flock* and then a breeder *flock*).
- jk) Delivery *vehicles* should be cleaned, and *disinfected* before loading each consignment of ~~hatching eggs, day-old birds or poultry.~~

2. Additional measures for all poultry farms

- a) Whenever possible, the 'all-in all-out' single age group principle should be used. If this is not feasible and several flocks are maintained on one establishment, each flock should be managed as a separate epidemiological unit.
- b) All personnel and visitors entering a poultry house should wash their hands with soap and water or sanitise them using a disinfectant. Personnel and visitors should also change footwear, use a boot spray or use a properly maintained disinfectant footbath. The disinfectant solution in the footbath should be changed on a regular basis to ensure its efficacy, according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- c) Animals, other than *poultry* of the appropriate (resident) species and age, should not be permitted access to *poultry* houses. No animals should have access to other buildings (e.g. those used to store feed, ~~or eggs or other material~~).
- bd) The drinking water supply to *poultry* houses should be potable according to the World Health Organization or to the relevant national standard, and microbiological quality should be monitored if there is any reason to suspect contamination. The water delivery system should be cleaned and disinfected between *flocks* when the *poultry* house is empty.
- ee) Birds used to stock a *poultry* house should preferably be obtained from breeder *flocks* and hatcheries that are free from vertically transmitted infectious ~~disease~~ agents.
- df) Heat treated feeds with or without the addition of other bacteriocidalstatic or bacteriostaticicidal treatments (e.g. addition of organic acids) is are recommended (e.g. ~~organic acids~~). Where heat treatment is not possible, the use of bacteriostatic or bactericidal treatments is recommended.

Feed should be stored in a manner to prevent access by wild birds and rodents. Spilled feed should be cleaned up immediately to remove attractants for wild birds and rodents. The movement of feed between flocks should be avoided.

Annex XXXIV (contd)Annex IV (contd)

- eg) The litter in the *poultry* house should be kept dry and in good condition.
- fh) Dead birds should be removed from *poultry* houses as quickly as possible but ~~or~~ at least daily. These should be disposed of in a safe and effective manner.
- gi) Personnel involved in the catching of birds should be adequately trained in bird handling and basic biosecurity procedures.
- hj) To minimise stress ~~p~~*Poultry* should be transported in well ventilated *containers* and should not be over crowded. Exposure to extreme temperatures should be avoided.
- ik) *Containers* should be *cleaned* and *disinfected* between each use.
- jl) When a *poultry* house is depopulated, it is recommended that all faeces and litter be removed from the house and disposed of in a safe manner to minimise the risk of dissemination of infectious agents approved by the Veterinary Services.

If litter is not removed and replaced between *flocks* then the litter should be treated in a manner to ~~inactivate infectious disease agents, to prevent~~ minimise the risk of dissemination of infectious ~~disease~~ agents from one *flock* to the next.

After removal of faeces and litter, cleaning and *disinfection* of the *poultry house* ~~building~~ and equipment should be done in accordance with Chapter 4.13.

~~All litter removed from a *poultry* house should be disposed of in a safe manner to prevent the dissemination of infectious agents.~~

- km) For *poultry flocks* that are allowed to range outdoors, feeders, feed and other items which may attract wild birds should be kept indoors. attractants to wild birds should be minimised e.g. feeders should be kept inside the poultry house. *Poultry* should not be allowed access to sources of contamination (e.g. household waste, litter storage areas, other ~~farm~~ animals, stagnant water and water of unknown quality and litter storage areas). The nesting area should be inside the *poultry* house.
- hn) To avoid the development of antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobials should be used according to relevant directions of the *Veterinary Services* and manufacturer's instructions and in accordance with *Terrestrial Code* Chapters 6.8, 6.9., 6.10. and 6.11.

3. Additional measures for layers

Refer to Section 3 of the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products (CAC/RCP 15-1976).

34. Additional measures for breeders ~~farms~~

- a) Nest box litter and liners should be kept clean.
- b) *Hatching eggs* should be collected at frequent intervals, at least daily, and placed in ~~a~~-new or clean and *disinfected* packaging material.

Annex XXXIV (contd)Annex IV (contd)

- c) Grossly dirty, ~~broken~~, cracked, ~~broken, or leaking~~ eggs should be collected separately and should not be used as *hatching eggs*.
- d) *Hatching eggs* should be cleaned and sanitised as soon as possible after collection using an approved sanitising agent, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- e) *Hatching eggs* or their packaging materials should be marked to assist traceability and veterinary investigations.
- f) The ~~sanitised~~ *hatching eggs* should be stored in a dedicated room as soon as possible after cleaning and sanitisation ~~collection~~. Storage conditions should minimise the potential for microbial contamination and growth and ensure maximum hatchability. The room should be well ventilated, kept clean, and regularly *disinfected* using disinfectants approved for this purpose.

45. Additional measures for hatcheries

- a) Dead in shell embryos should be removed from hatcheries as soon as they are found and disposed of in a safe and effective manner.
- b) All hatchery waste, garbage and discarded equipment should be contained or at least covered while on site and removed from the hatchery and its environs as soon as possible.
- c) After use, hatchery equipment, tables and surfaces should be promptly and thoroughly cleaned and *disinfected* with an approved disinfectant.
- d) Egg handlers, ~~chick~~ sexers and ~~chick~~ handlers of *day-old birds* should wash their hands with soap and water before commencing work and between working with batches of *hatching eggs* or *day-old birds* from different breeder *flocks*.
- e) *Hatching eggs* and *day-old birds* from different breeder *flocks* should be ~~kept separate~~ identifiable during incubation, hatching, sorting and transportation.
- f) *Day-old birds* should be delivered to the farm in new *containers* or in clean, *disinfected containers*.

Article 6.4.6.

Prevention of further dissemination of infectious ~~disease~~ agents of poultry

When a *flock* is suspected to be infected or determined to be infected, in addition to the general biosecurity measures described previously, management procedures should be adjusted to effectively isolate the suspected or infected *flock* from other *flocks* on the *establishment* and other epidemiologically related *establishments*. The following measures are recommended:

1. Personnel should ~~be trained in the management of~~ suspected or infected *flocks* to ~~prevent~~ minimise the risk of the dissemination of infectious ~~disease~~ agents to other *flocks* and *establishments*, and to humans. ~~(Relevant measures include: handling of an infected *flock* separately, last in sequence and the use of dedicated personnel, and clothing and equipment).~~
2. A veterinarian should be consulted immediately.

Annex XXXIV (contd)

Annex IV (contd)

3. When infection has been confirmed, ~~e~~ Epidemiological investigations should be carried out to determine the origin and route of transmission of the infectious ~~disease~~ agent.
34. Poultry litter/faeces and other potentially contaminated farm waste should be disposed of in a safe manner to prevent minimise the risk of dissemination of infectious ~~disease~~ agents. The disposal method used will depend on the infectious agent involved.
45. Depending on the epidemiology of the ~~disease~~ infection, the results of a *risk assessment*, and public and animal health policies, culling destruction or slaughter of a flock before the end of the normal production period may be used to manage infected flocks. When infected *flocks* are destroyed or *slaughtered* they should be processed in a manner to minimise exposure of humans and other *flocks* to the infectious ~~disease~~ agent, and in accordance with recommendations of the *Veterinary Service* and relevant Chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*. Based on *risk assessment*, non-infected, high risk *flocks* may be culling destroyed or slaughtered before the end of their normal production period. ~~Movement of culled poultry should only be allowed for slaughter or destruction.~~

Before restocking, the *poultry* house including equipment ~~or establishment~~ should be cleaned, *disinfected* and tested to verify that the cleaning has been effective. Special attention should be paid to feed equipment and water systems.

Microbiological monitoring of the efficacy of *disinfection* procedures is recommended when pathogenic agents have been detected in the previous *flock*.

56. Depending on the epidemiology of the ~~disease~~ infection, *risk assessment*, vaccine availability and public and animal health policies, vaccination is an option to minimise the dissemination of the infectious ~~disease~~ agent. When used, vaccines poultry should be administered ~~vaccinated~~ in accordance with the directions of the *Veterinary Services* and the manufacturer's instructions. Recommendations in the *Terrestrial Manual* should be followed as appropriate.

Article 6.4.7.

Recommendations to prevent the dissemination of infectious ~~disease~~ agents to and from live bird markets

1. Personnel should be educated on the significance of infectious ~~disease~~ agents and the need to apply biosecurity practices to prevent dissemination of these agents. Education should be targeted to personnel at all levels of operations in these markets (e.g. drivers, owners, handlers, processors).

Programmes should be implemented to raise consumer awareness ~~of consumers~~ about ~~of~~ the risks associated with activities of live bird markets
2. Personnel should wash their hands with soap and water before and after handling birds.
3. Birds from diseased flocks should not be transported to live bird markets.
34. All *containers* and *vehicles* should be cleaned and *disinfected* every time they leave the market.
45. Live birds that leave the market and go to a farm should be housed kept separately from other birds for a period of time to minimise the potential dissemination of infectious ~~disease~~ agents of *poultry*.
56. Periodically the market should be emptied, cleaned and *disinfected*. This is of particular importance when an infectious ~~disease~~ agent of *poultry* deemed significant by the *Veterinary Services* has been identified in the market or the region.

Annex XXXIV (contd)Annex IV (contd)

67. Where feasible, *surveillance* should be carried out in these markets to detect infectious ~~disease~~ agents of *poultry*, especially those agents of zoonotic significance. The *surveillance* programme should be determined by the *Veterinary Services*, and in accordance with recommendations in relevant ~~disease-specific~~ chapters of the *Terrestrial Code*.
78. ~~Attempts~~ Efforts should be made to ensure the possibility of tracing all birds entering and leaving the markets.

— text deleted

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June 2010

REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON COMMUNICATION

Paris, 30 June–2 July 2010

A second meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Communication was held at the OIE headquarters in Paris from 30 June to 2 July 2010.

The members of the Group are listed in [Annex I](#) and the terms of reference adopted are in [Annex II](#).

The Deputy Director General of the OIE, Dr Monique Eloit, welcomed the Group on behalf of the Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat, and made introductory remarks stressing the importance of communication for Veterinary Services in the delivery of their mandates. Veterinary Services should carry out communication activities with all relevant stakeholders on a regular basis and not only in crisis time. Dr Eloit further indicated the need for Veterinary Services to have effective communication strategies in place, thus not limiting these strategies to extension activities. Therefore and as a follow-up to the work achieved by the first OIE *ad hoc* Group on communication in 2008, the OIE intends to provide Members with guidelines/standards on communication.

Dr Eloit proposed Dr Elaine Vanier to chair the Group and the Group accepted. The OIE Communication Unit offered to take over the Rapporteur and Secretariat functions.

Dr Alex Thiermann explained that since the meeting of the first group in 2008, there has been positive feedback from Members which led the OIE to consider several options as to how to guide Members in communication issues (be it in form of a specific chapter to be included in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) or guidelines, standards to be added to existing chapters in the *Terrestrial Code*). He briefly clarified that for the *Terrestrial Code* time being the guidelines on communication being developed will be only for the *Terrestrial Code* but that the OIE Trade Department would consider their future application to the OIE *Aquatic Animal Health Code*. Dr Thiermann also advised the Group to monitor the work of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education as there will possibly be a link between the two efforts. Finally, he recalled that these guidelines, once adopted, would be the basis for further revision of the Veterinary Services competencies in the PVS tool.

Dr Vanier suggested that the Group should continue to refer to the document as a “chapter on communication” even if the final shape of the document would still have to be defined, and the group agreed.

Annex XXXV (contd)**1. REVISIONS TO PROPOSED CHAPTER**

The Group revised the proposed chapter and took into consideration comments submitted by Members.

The Group felt that it was important to set the scene in the introduction to the proposed chapter in order to allow non-professional communicators to clearly understand the purpose of the chapter and at the same time allow professional communicators to recognise a sufficient degree of professionalism in them.

It was agreed to avoid the term “institutionalize” when referring to communication as it could imply reference to the mere creation of an operational communication unit whereas emphasis should also be put on the integration of communication as a discipline as a clear difference from extension which only deals with transfer of knowledge.

The Group felt that it was important to link the criteria referred to in the principles of communication with the fundamental principles of quality of the Veterinary Services, described in the *Terrestrial Code*.

It was agreed that in the definition of “communication” the word “influencing” should be replaced by “guiding” as this term seems to be more appropriate and does not carry the negative connotation of manipulation.

The discussions highlighted the importance of clarifying what is meant by “communication strategy”. Mrs Emeka-Okolie pointed out that the proposed chapter should reflect common communication terminologies. However, in order to be consistent with the existing terminologies in the *Terrestrial Code*, the Group agreed to refer to “strategic plan for communication” and “operational plans for communication”.

The Group indicated that, for the Veterinary Services to achieve an effective communication system, integration of expertises from the veterinary and communication fields is essential.

The Group agreed that critical elements that allow communication professionals to carry out their work appropriately should be clearly identified.

As a result of the extensive changes and additions made to the proposed chapter, the Group decided to present the text without the usual editorial marks. However, strike-out and double-underline were applied to the section on Definitions, since this had already been submitted and commented on by Members.

The revised text is presented at Annex III of this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Group recommends that when preparing the proposed chapter for adoption, after considering Member comments on the proposed chapter, the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Commission should also review existing texts on communication in Article 3.1.2. and Article 3.2.6. and submit both for simultaneous adoption.
2. The Group recommends that once this proposed chapter is adopted, the existing PVS tool criteria should be reviewed to incorporate the relevant elements of communication.
3. As there is a close link between the work of the *ad hoc* Group on Communication and the *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education, the Group recommends that the reports of the two groups be shared.

Annex XXXV (contd)• Annex I

- **REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE OIE
AD HOC GROUP ON COMMUNICATION**
- **Paris, 30 June–2 July 2010**

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**REPORT OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
OIE AD HOC GROUP ON COMMUNICATION**

Paris, 30 June - 2 July 2010

Terms of reference

1. To follow up on the work done by the *ad hoc* Group in September 2008.
2. To discuss the rationale for the status of “communication” as a specific discipline, which justifies the development and adoption of OIE general standards and guidelines.
3. To discuss and clearly address the difference between “communication” and “extension”, intended to describe concepts in common language.
4. To draft OIE standards on communication within the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, based on the framework developed by the group as a result of the previous meeting and which was endorsed by OIE Members.
5. To provide documents to be used to support both the endorsement by the relevant OIE Commission and the adoption by OIE Members. Also, to support publication of these standards and guidelines in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and/or any other relevant support.
6. To design and recommend the critical competencies of Veterinary Services dealing with communication to be submitted to the relevant expert *ad hoc* groups and OIE Commissions for inclusion in the PVS tool.

PROPOSED CHAPTER ON COMMUNICATION

General considerations

Introduction

In general communication entails the interactive exchange of information between various individual, institutional and public audiences for purposes of informing, guiding and motivating action. The application of the science and technique of communication involves modulating messages according to situations, objectives and target audiences.

The recognition of communication as a discipline of the *Veterinary Services* and its incorporation within it is critical for their operations. The integration of veterinary and communication expertises is essential for effective communication.

Communication should be an integral part of all the activities of the *Veterinary Services* including animal health (surveillance, early detection and rapid response, prevention and control), animal welfare and veterinary public health (food safety, zoonoses) and veterinary medicine.

Objectives of this chapter on communication for the *Veterinary Services* are to provide guidance for the development of a communication system, strategic and operational communication plans and elements to assess their quality.

Principles of communication

Veterinary Services should have the authority and capability to communicate on matters within their mandate

Veterinary and communication expertises should be combined

Communication should be targeted and follow the fundamental criteria of transparency, consistency, timeliness, balance, accuracy, honesty and empathy and respect the fundamental principles of quality of *Veterinary Services* (article 3.1.2.)

Communication should be a continuous process

Veterinary Services should be responsible for planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating and revising their strategic and operational communication plans

Definitions

Communication

means the discipline of informing, ~~influencing~~ guiding and motivating individual, institutional and public audiences, ~~preferably ideally~~ on the basis of interactive exchanges, about any issue falling ~~under the mandate of the OIE and~~ under the competence of the *Veterinary Services*.

Crisis

means a ~~time~~ situation of great ~~danger~~ threat, difficulty or uncertainty when ~~problems related to any issues~~ falling under ~~the mandate of the OIE and~~ the competence of the *Veterinary Services* require immediate action.

Annex XXXV (contd)Annex III (cont.)***Crisis Communication***

means the process of ~~providing~~ communicating information of potentially incomplete nature within time constraints in the event of a crisis. ~~that allows an individual, affected and/or interested parties, an entire community or the general public to make best possible decisions and be informed of and/or accept policy decisions and rationale behind policy decisions during a crisis.~~

Outbreak communication

means the process of communicating in the event of an *outbreak*. Outbreak communication includes *notification*.

Communication system

In addition to the Principles for Communication the following critical elements should be used, over and above Chapter 3.1., when planning, implementing and assessing a communication system.

Critical elements

- **Authority and organizational structure**

- Legislation providing authority to *Veterinary Services* under the responsibility of the CVO to communicate on matters within their mandate
- Identified and accessible official contact points for communication
- Organizational chart indicating direct link to the CVO through chain of command (e.g. dedicated communication unit, communication officer)

- **Human resources**

- Job descriptions of communication personnel identifying roles and responsibilities
- Sufficient number of qualified personnel with knowledge, skills, attitude and abilities relevant to communication
- Continuous training and education on communication provided to communication personnel

- **Financial and material resources**

- Clearly identified budget for communication that provides adequate funding
- Provision and/or access to appropriate material resources in order to carry out roles and responsibilities: suitable premise/accommodation that is adequately equipped with sufficient office and technical equipment, including information technology and access to the Internet

- **Management of the communication system**

- Roles and responsibilities of the communication unit
 - Report to the CVO

Annex XXXV (contd)Annex III (cont.)

- Engaged in decision-making process
 - Responsible for the planning, implementation and evaluation of the strategic and operational plans for communication and relevant standard operating procedures
 - Function as contact point on communication issues for the Veterinary Services
 - Provide guidance and expertise on communication issues to the Veterinary Services
 - Provide and coordinate continuous education on communication for the *Veterinary Services*
- Strategic plan for communication

A well-designed strategic plan for communication should support the *Veterinary Services* strategic plan and have management support and commitment. The strategic plan for communication should address all high level organization-wide communication objectives. The plan should be a long-term plan.

A strategic plan for communication should be monitored, periodically reviewed and should identify measurable performance objectives and techniques to assess.

The strategic plan for communication should consider the different types of communication: routine communication, risk communication, outbreak communication and crisis communication.

The key outcomes in effectively implementing a strategic plan for communication are increased knowledge and awareness of issues by the public and stakeholders, higher understanding of the role of the *Veterinary Services*, higher visibility of and improved trust and credibility in the *Veterinary Services*. These will enhance understanding and/or acceptance of policy decisions and subsequent change of perception, attitude and/or behaviour.

- Operational plans for communication

Operational plans for communication should be based on the assessment of specific issues and should identify specific objectives and target audiences such as staff, partners, stakeholders, media and the general public.

Each operational plan for communication should consist of a well-planned series of activities using different techniques, tools, messages and channels to achieve intended objectives and utilizing available resources within a specific timeframe.



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Annex XXXVI

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MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON VETERINARY EDUCATION

Paris, 29 June–1 July 2010

The OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education met at the OIE Headquarters on 29 and 30 June and 1 July 2010.

The members of the *ad hoc* Group and other participants at the meeting are listed at Appendix I. The adopted Agenda is at Appendix II and the adopted terms of reference in appendix III.

The following documents were distributed electronically to the participants:

- 1) Evaluation system of veterinary training in Europe, which is organised jointly by EAEVE and FVE.
- 2) Curriculum Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Jordan University of Science and Technology
- 3) Curriculum Examples from the United States.
- 4) Education, Accreditation, and Certification Activities in the United States and Canada related to the Delivery of National Veterinary Services.
- 5) Global Harmonization of Veterinary Education and Animal Health Services.
- 6) Academic Requirements – DVM.
- 7) Direct outcomes assessment at AVC.
- 8) Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications
- 9) Other relevant documents and initiatives:

Resolution of the EP on the EU Animal Health Strategy, see point 62 in particular:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/docs/parl_opinion.pdf

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Global Conference on Evolving Veterinary Education for a Safer World (12-14 October Paris, France) see recommendations under: http://www.oie.int/eng/A_DEANS2009/DEANS-CONCLUSION.html

OIE Scientific and Technical Review Vol 28 (2) 2009: Veterinary Education for Global Animal and Public Health: http://www.oie.int/boutique/index.php?page=ficprod&id_produit=740&lang=en&PHPSESSID=c8716df145f6d2aa400eebb1ab61abd0

General consultation on possible approaches for the new Animal Health Law (closed on 10 Jan 2010), see point 2.1.4 of the consultation document in particular, related to veterinary qualifications and training:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/pillars/consultation_process_en.htm

Annex XXXVI (contd)**1. Welcome and introductions**

Dr Thiermann welcomed members of the ad hoc Group to the meeting on behalf of Dr Vallat. He reminded all participants of the background to and the importance of this work. Dr Thiermann commented that the membership of this Group is very balanced, with representation from all five OIE regions. Dr Bonbon noted that the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Communications is meeting this week and suggested that the two Groups liaise informally on topics of mutual interest, particularly in relation to the recommendation from the OIE Conference on Veterinary Education about the need to promote the role of the veterinary profession in regard to societal expectations.

Dr Kahn briefly outlined the administrative arrangements for the meeting and then invited Dr DeHaven to take over as the official Chair.

2. Adoption of the agenda, terms of reference and introductory remarks

Dr DeHaven thanked participants for making themselves available for this important work and presented the draft agenda and the draft terms of reference. The draft agenda was adopted with slight modifications and the draft terms of reference were adopted without modifications. Dr DeHaven indicated that the key task for this meeting was to prepare a list of Day 1 Competencies – i.e. the knowledge, skills and awareness that a veterinary graduate needed to have on ‘Day 1’ to enable him/her to fulfil the tasks defined by the OIE in the competencies of Veterinary Services⁴. Based on this list of competencies, the OIE could ask the *ad hoc* Group (at a subsequent meeting) to propose a draft curriculum.

Dr Kahn outlined the procedures that the OIE would follow with the Group’s report. The report will be sent to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (the Code Commission) for consideration at its next meeting (6-17 September). The report will then be distributed to OIE Members, as an annex to the Code Commission’s report. The Group has not been asked to draft text for the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*. Dr Kahn clarified that the report would be provided to Members for information and any comment they wish to make but not with a view to formal adoption. At its second meeting (proposed to take place 15-17 December 2010), the *ad hoc* Group will review any comments from the Terrestrial Code Commission and OIE Members. The Group should then continue working to provide explanatory material and draft a curriculum covering the list of competencies. If there is time, aquatic animals should be considered and appropriate recommendations drafted. The report of the second meeting will be provided to the Terrestrial Code Commission for consideration at its meeting in February 2011. The Group may hold a third meeting if needed. The results of the Group’s work will be provided to OIE Members – possibly by Dr Vallat in his presentation to the 79th General Assembly in May 2011.

At Dr DeHaven’s invitation, Dr Kahn summarised the content of the texts from the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and the OIE *PVS Tool*, which had been provided to the participants in preparation for the meeting.

In response to a question from Dr Jorna as to whether aquatic animals were covered by the OIE *PVS Tool* and whether they were within the scope of the Group’s work, Dr Kahn clarified that the OIE has prepared a separate *PVS Tool* for the Evaluation of Aquatic Animal Health Services and that one OIE Member has been evaluated to date. While aquatic animal health is very important, there are some particular issues in regard to veterinary education in this field. The OIE therefore asked the *ad hoc* Group to concentrate in the first instance on veterinary education for terrestrial animals and to return to aquatic animals at a later date. Dr Peralta noted that in Paraguay fish health and medicine is taught as part of the veterinary curriculum. Dr Ogilvie supported the importance of veterinary education on aquatic animal health and agreed that this topic should be included within the Group’s terms of reference.

Dr Pangui commented that the course at his university include an internship of one month related to the national veterinary legislation.

It was agreed that there is a need to promote the important role of the veterinary profession, particularly as it relates to public health.

⁴ Based on the OIE official definition of Veterinary Services, which covers both official veterinarians and private practitioners.

The relationship of accreditation of veterinary colleges with the work of the OIE in veterinary education was discussed. Some participants noted that in developed countries, there are efforts to coordinate veterinary accreditation functions. It was agreed that the OIE's task is not to duplicate or in any way replace ongoing programmes and activities directed at accreditation of veterinary education institutes. Rather, the goal is to address the needs of all countries for veterinarians to have basic training in certain functions that are central to the efficient veterinary services and to address the particular needs of developing countries on the subjects to be covered when training veterinarians –for work in both the public and the private sector.

3. Discussion with the OIE Director General

Dr Vallat, OIE Director General, joined the *ad hoc* Group for a short discussion. In his opening comments, Dr Vallat recalled the outcomes of the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education (October 2009). The objectives of this conference were to improve veterinary education worldwide, with the goal of contributing to improving animal welfare and public health globally. Dr Vallat commented that without appropriate initial training, it is impossible to improve animal health worldwide, leading to increasing disease risks every day.

Dr Vallat stated that the OIE objective, according to the recommendation voted by the veterinary Deans at the conference, was to provide all veterinary education establishments with a basic list of topics and content of interest to the international community as a public good. The OIE would like to see all veterinarians trained with this basic list of requirements to help assure the contribution of the veterinary profession to the global improvement of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health.

Dr Vallat estimated that probably 20 % of veterinary education establishments globally are advanced and that significant improvements are needed in 80%.

Dr Vallat drew participants' attention to the 2nd Global Conference on veterinary education, which will be organised under the auspices of the Veterinary Year 2011, which will take place on 13 – 14 May 2011, in Lyon France. Dr Vallat proposed that the Group's report be presented at that conference and hopefully endorsed by participants. Dr Vallat noted that the list of competencies is not proposed as a binding standard. However, he anticipated that it could have a significant influence on OIE Members' approaches to veterinary education on a worldwide basis.

Dr Vallat identified a further important step relating to cooperation between veterinary education establishments in advanced and in developing countries. The report of this Group will be an important input to international donors prepared to support investments in veterinary education in less developed countries. Twinning programmes between veterinary education establishments can then be developed – either under the auspices of the OIE or other frameworks.

Dr DeHaven asked Dr Vallat about the potential for future involvement of the OIE in the assessment of veterinary education establishments, making reference to the OIE *PVS Tool*. Dr Vallat replied that this is a very serious task, which requires a large investment of time, resources and expertise. In the case of the OIE *PVS Tool*, the process of development took four years and the delivery and ongoing review of the programme is demanding of OIE resources. No decision has been taken on the future involvement of the OIE in this activity. Dr Vallat asked the Group to consider this matter and provide advice to the OIE.

Dr DeHaven drew to Dr Vallat's attention the meeting of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Communications, which is taking place this week. He asked Dr Vallat if some collaboration between the two *ad hoc* Groups could be beneficial to help promote the role of veterinary services in safeguarding public health. Dr Vallat agreed that this could be beneficial and reminded the Group of the need for clear messages.

Noting that accreditation processes for veterinary education establishments are well established in some regions, Dr DeHaven commented that a future role for the OIE in this area could generate concerns about duplication of activities. Dr Vallat replied that the OIE has not proposed to involve itself in the evaluation of veterinary education establishments. A more appropriate role for the OIE might be in the overview of twinning agreements between advanced and less advanced veterinary education establishments.

Annex XXXVI (contd)

Dr Vallat also pointed out that the conduct of PVS Evaluation of OIE Members is an effective tool to influence countries' policies on the quality of veterinary training. The OIE has included criteria for veterinary training and for the functioning of the Veterinary Statutory Body in the PVS Tool. This provides a possibility to consider the quality of veterinary education during the establishment of national requirements for acceptance of veterinarians to practice in the country and to encourage donors and governments to invest in this important element of infrastructure.

In response to a question from Dr DeHaven, Dr Vallat indicated that the 79th OIE General Session would provide an opportunity to OIE Members to express their opinions on this OIE initiative and to support further development of the Groups work.

Dr Peralta expressed strong support for the OIE initiative on veterinary education. He considered that newly graduated veterinarians should be able to understand and, as appropriate, apply the provisions in the *Terrestrial Code*.

All members agreed that veterinary education is a global public good. While the OIE should not interfere with the autonomy of veterinary teaching establishments, it is appropriate for the OIE to provide this additional support to Members with the overall goal of supporting the implementation of the OIE standards.

Dr Pangui commented that during the recent meeting held at Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), 8 West African countries considered the reports of the PVS and PVS Gap Analysis of countries in the UEMOA (WAEMU) region. All participants agreed that the findings of these reports had important implications for the quality of veterinary education in the region. Improvement of veterinary education is central to the improvement of animal health and public health in Africa and inadequate veterinary education threatens the public good. Dr Pangui is representing the 15 member countries of Francophone Central and West Africa at this meeting.

4. Presentations by the members of the *ad hoc* Group

Presentation Dr DeHaven

Dr DeHaven presented an overview of the delivery of veterinary education in the United States. He made reference to the example of Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr Peralta asked in what year do veterinary students have the opportunity to choose a specialisation. Dr DeHaven indicated that in the 4th year students have the opportunity to make choices to enable 'tracking' of certain species. Dr Peralta indicated the term 'orientation' is used in Latin America. In all countries, the word specialisation is used to refer to post-graduate activities. In the USA, students may also undertake 'externships' – where they spend up to two months at an external site (e.g. in private practices, at AVMA, government, etc.). Another teaching model is at Western University where students obtain all of their clinical experience in private veterinary Practices. The University monitors the quality of experience offered at such private practices.

Dr DeHaven explained that in the US different levels of government accreditation of individual veterinarians is being implemented. There is a first level for pet animals and a second one for food animals, which includes tasks for the veterinary service. There is a program for continuing education with a frequency of three years, to maintain the accreditation status.

Dr DeHaven indicated that most veterinary students bear the cost of their own education and that they graduate with a debt of \$130,000 i.e. twice the annual salary of a just-qualified veterinarian. In addition, governmental support to veterinary education establishments is declining. There is a current initiative – 'North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium' – which will recommend major changes to veterinary education in the USA and Canada.

Presentation Dr. Jorna

Dr Jorna outlined of the activities of the WVA during the next couple of years.

He stated that WVA is renewing the veterinary education policy that was established in 1999. The policy is explained in position papers and the WVA expects to produce 6 or 7 of these. One such paper has been produced on the Global Veterinary Day 1 competencies and one on minimum requirements, which is under review.

Society expects that the veterinarian acts as a link between animals, animal owners and society generally. Society needs to have confidence and trust in the high standard of veterinary education and professional implementation. Society only recognises the practitioner and other duties related to animal health and welfare and public health need to be explained.

The veterinary profession requires a level of education and training provided by the schools that ensures new graduates have solid Day-One Competencies for a real professional independent start to undertake the duties required daily of veterinarians, realising that Day-One Competencies are Starting Competencies.

Day-One Competencies in general are the combination of knowledge, skills, experience, attitude and aptitude that veterinary graduates need to enter the veterinary profession. The World Veterinary Association (WVA), representing all veterinarians in the profession, has described Day-One Competences in the position-paper: Global Veterinary Day-One Competences [www.worldvet.org].

The WVA is involved in undergraduate education and continuing professional development (CPD)/lifelong learning (LL). For the conference in Lyon in May 2011 the WVA would like to invite deans and professional educators from all continents to explain their circumstances. The WVA is communicating with its members on the new strategy, and the objectives in animal health, animal welfare and public health.

In order to help explain their strategy and the importance of high level veterinary education, the WVA will start to hold regional meetings, with a first meeting in Djerba (7-10 December 2010) for North Africa and the Middle East. A meeting is planned to take place in Accra (Ghana) on 20-25 March 2011 and another meeting could be planned during the FAVA meeting in the Philippines (18 -20 February 2011).

With respect to CPD/LL, the WVA plans to make programmes by the profession and the colleges for all different disciplines. The WVA organises congresses, which, in future, will take place every two years (2011, 2013 and 2015). The WVA will also make new contacts with other veterinary associations like the WSAVA, WBA, IPVS, WEVA to combine plans for CPD.

Dr Pangui commented that veterinary education establishments must understand the global impact of animal diseases on public health and the importance therefore of the standards for training veterinarians.

It is important that veterinary education establishments adopt a curriculum that is adapted to the world in which we live. Veterinary educators will not accept the OIE in a role of 'policing' veterinary education standards. However, they should recognise the global implications of animal diseases and the significant role played by the OIE. Globalisation and the continuing presence and emergence of transboundary diseases means that problems in one country or continent can have an impact on people all around the world. In veterinary education, knowledge is important, particularly of the diseases relevant to the country and the region. Knowledge of veterinary legislation is also important. Dr Pangui's institute accepts students from several countries and regions, so the curriculum needs to be broad enough to address all relevant issues.

Presentation Dr Lekeux

Dr Lekeux recommended that thought be given to harmonising different systems of evaluation, using a simple model, to help to differentiate between education relevant to local practitioners and that relevant to veterinarians who will work within the veterinary services. There should be a focus on continuing education and on access to and use of international databases.

Dr DeHaven agreed that simple approaches are preferable. He stated that it is generally the case that all veterinarians do the same training, not knowing whether they will go into private practice or the veterinary authority. This training should be broad enough to provide day 1 graduates with sufficient knowledge to be able to opt for government service or private practice. More detailed and specialised knowledge comes with experience.

Annex XXXVI (contd)

Dr Lekeux replied that some faculties prefer to provide a single, baseline degree that equips graduates to deal with the most commonly encountered emergencies in the major animal species. Other faculties aim to provide specialised graduates. In these days, given the many important functions of the veterinary services, training for governmental activities could be considered as a specialisation.

Dr DeHaven recalled Dr Vallat's comment about focusing on the needs of the 80% of universities where veterinary education needs to be significantly improved. It was generally agreed that continuing education is an important theme but probably beyond the scope of the present meeting. It should be addressed subsequently.

Presentation Dr Bui Tran Anh

Dr Bui Tran Anh stated that in Vietnam there are 6 agricultural schools, each of which has a veterinary school. Students must achieve 180 credits over a five year period. The university is the agricultural university of Hanoi. Each class contains about 300 students. Students finish their studies with a thesis, during the last year of their studies. They must defend their thesis in front of a jury of faculty staff. Because teachers are from many different countries, the study program has a mixed structure. There is only one specialisation: animal health. If veterinarians wish to specialise in another speciality, they must register with the university to develop an appropriate course. The university and the curriculum are under the responsibility and administration of the Ministry of Education.

Dr Bui Tran Anh commented that the OIE should identify certain requirements – eg specify the period of time for which training should last, and a list of the disciplines that should be covered. The veterinary education establishments should have some flexibility within this framework. For example, within a global envelope of credits, half could be according to the OIE recommendations and the remaining half the choice of the veterinary education establishments. The content within certain disciplines should be obligatory. This would help the 80% of veterinary education establishments to improve their standard.

Dr Lekeux outlined the European rules for veterinary education establishments, i.e. that veterinary training must take place over a minimum 5 year period and that certain scientific studies must be undertaken.

Dr DeHaven again recalled the comment of Dr Vallat that the emphasis should be placed on helping developing countries to improve their standards of veterinary education.

Presentation Dr Ogilvie

Dr Ogilvie encouraged the group to look at relevant examples and experiences to assist the group in its deliberations. The US and Canadian colleges of veterinary medicine are very similar. The acceptance procedures and the expectations are similar. However there are also European elements in the Canadian system and networks between the Canadian and the European schools.

The Council on Education Standards for Veterinary Education are available on the AVMA website (http://www.avma.org/education/cvea/coe_pp.asp).

It was agreed that the report of this group should include a Glossary of acronyms and list of useful websites/sources of information.

The Council on Education standard relevant to veterinary medicine contains 11 separate standards, one of which covers the veterinary curriculum.

Nine competencies are identified by the AVMA – these are well thought out and are sufficiently broad to give the colleges necessary flexibility. They are also well aligned with the European competencies.

Dr Ogilvie sees a need for veterinary graduates to be better trained in areas of public health, transboundary diseases and regulatory veterinary medicine. The Canadian Veterinary Reserve initiative of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency provides a good model for veterinary continuing education in these areas.

Dr Ogilvie also drew the attention of members to the 'FORCAN' project, which is considering Canada's needs for effective provision of animal health services in future.

Presentation Dr Peralta

Dr Peralta commented on the 80% of veterinary education establishments that are not currently capable of producing veterinarians of an acceptable level. The number of veterinary schools varies amongst the countries of MERCOSUR. Brazil has 200 vet faculties, Chile more than 20, Argentina: 8, Uruguay: 1, Paraguay: 2 and Bolivia: 4. In 1995 the Association of Veterinary Medicine Colleges, of which Dr Peralta is the President, was created. The content of the MERCOSUR countries' veterinary curricula are 70% aligned while 30% of the content specifically address national interests. They also take into account the standards of Europe and North America. During 2000-2004 ARCOSUR was established for accrediting higher education facilities, which obliged countries to create national accreditation agencies. Standard for accreditation of vet faculties now exist. Paraguay went through a regional accreditation in April and in June Argentina, July Chile and so on. Based on a single document, which takes into account the European standard and that of America/Canada, the veterinary schools must meet a similar standard.

In the ARCOSUR standard there are five fundamental areas: 1) veterinary medicine, 2) animal health, exports, relevant legislation, 3) production, food and reproduction, 4) administration and management and 5) wildlife and zoo animals. Other areas include agriculture administration economics. Other important themes include veterinary leadership; wildlife; aquatic animals and fish. In addition, every country must establish its own priorities taking into account national markets and issues. More than 30 subjects are obligatory, each separated into three stages: 2 years of basic science; then 2 pre-clinical and 2 clinical years. The students finalise their studies with a thesis, which they must defend before a jury of academic staff.

With respect to knowledge of the OIE Terrestrial Code, Dr Peralta commented that epidemiology, animal health, public health, food safety inspection, animal welfare and legislation (at least basic knowledge of the rules) should be included in the curriculum and considered as obligatory for veterinarians regardless of where they finally work. These could be addressed in the first four years of study.

Dr Peralta has communicated with his counterparts in the MERCOSUR countries on this topic. Later this month is the 27th meeting of the veterinary schools in the region – Dr Peralta would like to inform them of the OIE's work on veterinary education.

In response to a question from Dr Jorna about the participation of other countries in South America, Dr Peralta clarified that the ARCOSUR system reflects the agreement between governments of countries in the region to facilitate the movement of professionals from country to country.

In response to a question from Dr Thiermann, Dr Peralta clarified that some other countries in the region are considering the possibility of joining the ARCOSUR system.

In response to a question from Dr Pangui, Dr Peralta commented that universities are independent in Paraguay, under the terms of the constitution. However, Paraguay has a programme for transfer of competencies to producers. Working with producers, the university and the government, there are programmes for training private producers. Some producers are designated for students to spend some part of their training at these enterprises.

Annex XXXVI (contd)Presentation Dr Pangui

Dr Pangui summarised the programme of his institute, which provides veterinary education for students from 15 countries. In response to a question from Dr DeHaven, Dr Pangui commented that this is a unique situation. Veterinary education is costly and requires a substantial investment of resources, people and expertise. The move by some countries in the region to open their own veterinary schools has presented some problems where the responsible governments have not yet understood the requirements for effective veterinary education. Dr Pangui stated that there is an important need for leadership, especially for the francophone countries of Africa. In some cases, there is not access to suitably qualified teachers and this makes it very difficult to deliver an acceptable quality of veterinary education.

Dr Ogilvie commented that in North America the training of veterinarians in public health has benefited from some activities conducted in collaboration between veterinary and medical training institutions.

Presentation Dr Bonbon

Dr Bonbon made some comments about the harmonisation of European rules. An early priority was to harmonise on aspects that applied to the EU internal market and free movement of veterinarians from country to country. This addresses questions relating to competition within professions, including veterinarians. Veterinary training is not dealt with at the European level by the animal health Directorate (SANCO); rather, it is handled by the Internal Market Directorate. Dr Bonbon said that the perspective is changing from the EU internal market to animal health since the establishment of harmonised rules. This could have implications for the future qualification of veterinarians.

In Europe, the majority of the veterinarians are private but they also have a mandate in the public sector (e.g. for sampling and vaccination, notification, certification). It is necessary that these veterinarians deliver the same quality of service throughout the EU. The actual curriculum may vary according to the national circumstances. Dr Jorna stressed that the EAEVE/FVE evaluation system seeks to harmonize the level of education according to EU Directive 2005/36.

Dr Lekeux commented that the alignment of curricula is a necessity within the EU common market – some countries/sectors depend heavily on graduates from other EU countries for their veterinary expertise.

5. Development of draft list of competencies

The *ad hoc* Group developed a list of competencies (Appendix IV).

6. Discussion about draft list of competencies

Dr DeHaven proposed to continue with the draft list of competencies and look at them again from the perspective that these should be also applicable for the “80%” of the veterinary schools in developing countries. He explained that from a US perspective he felt quite comfortable about the draft list as developed so far and that this list would pose no problems for the veterinary faculties in the US. He asked the members of the group to comment on whether this list is not overambitious, especially for developing countries.

Dr Jorna commented that 95% of the European veterinary schools already comply with the draft list of competencies and stated that the list of competencies mentioned is not overambitious but lists the necessary competencies.

Dr Peralta agreed with the previous speakers and explained that for most of the veterinary schools in the MERCOSUR countries, these competencies are already taught. However, in some countries, where the number of veterinary schools is very high, some of the schools will not meet all of the listed competencies. There is an ongoing process of evaluation and accreditation. Dr Peralta expected that the schools with the poorest results would close or improve their level in coming years. Answering a question from Dr DeHaven, he agreed that if veterinary schools can not meet these competencies, they should close.

Dr Pangui agreed completely with the list of competencies and was of the opinion that schools that could not comply with this list should close. The School of Veterinary Sciences and Medicine of Dakar meets the developed competencies.

Dr Bui Tran Anh agreed with the previous speakers that the developed list of competencies was appropriate. He explained a difficulty faced by his country, highlighting the complex approach to the entrance examination. Dr Bui Tran Anh also agreed that veterinary schools that could not meet basic competencies should be closed. He informed the group that standards of veterinary education are very variable in Asia. Some countries, like Japan and Chinese Taipei, have veterinary schools comparable with the schools in Europe or the US.

Dr Bonbon explained that EU legislation will probably change. In the near future, only veterinarians that come from accredited veterinary schools will be able to work for the veterinary services in the EU countries.

Dr Ogilvie agreed with previous speakers that the list of competencies was appropriate.

Dr Bonbon considered that governments should establish policies to link the number of students with the number of veterinarians needed in a country or region.

In the afternoon the group discussed two issues: 1) communication and 2) ways to deliver veterinary education.

7. Communication and veterinary education

The group discussed the difficulties related to communication and the veterinary profession. In many countries, veterinarians are thought of as pet doctors. Dr Jorna commented that when the public pays attention to Veterinary Services, it is usually related to negative news items (such as food safety problems and culling of animals).

Dr Pangui recommended that veterinary services seek partners, for example medical doctors, to communicate the importance of their work in food safety. Dr Bonbon added that in the EU there are some initiatives to link veterinary and medical education programs to promote a better relationship and understanding between the veterinary and medical world. Dr Bui Tran Anh confirmed that in his country veterinarians are recognised for their work in animal health and not for their contribution to human health. Dr Pangui added that in Africa there is confusion about what is a veterinarian, with many unqualified persons calling themselves veterinarians. The term 'para-veterinarian' adds to the confusion. In the medical world the word paramedical doctor does not exist. Answering a question from Dr Jorna, Dr Pangui stated that there is no proper system for licensing veterinarians in Africa.

Dr Ogilvie recommended that communication be part of veterinary education, so that veterinarians could more ably represent their profession, including the veterinary services. He mentions a Canadian initiative 'Vetcamp', which provides for children aged 9 to 13 years to spend a week at the university campus so that they can appreciate all aspects of the veterinary profession.

Summary of discussion on communication:

- 1) Veterinary Services should take advantage of special events to communicate the importance of veterinary education and of the profession.
- 2) There is an important role for national and international organizations, like the OIE, which is the global reference organisation for animal health and welfare.
- 3) Communication should be targeted to reach specific groups.
- 4) To improve the standing of the veterinary profession, improving veterinary education and implementing an accreditation system are important steps.
- 5) Communication should be included in the veterinary curriculum.
- 6) Start educating young.

Annex XXXVI (contd)**8. Methods for delivery of veterinary education**

The group discussed this topic extensively, with respect to the different existing structures for veterinary education. In most countries there is some attention paid to the work of the veterinary services in the veterinary curriculum, in theoretical classes and in some cases (including in Canada and Senegal) through internships. In some countries (e.g. Canada, Vietnam) the veterinary services organize education related to its work. In France the Ecole National de Services Vétérinaires (Lyon) provides a compulsory two year education for veterinarians who wish to work for the governmental veterinary services. To enter this school, veterinarians must pass an entrance examination.

9. Next steps

Dr Kahn explained that the report and the list of competencies should not be distributed outside the *ad hoc* Group. The report and list will become public after the Code Commission's meeting as an annex of the meeting's report (in November 2010). However, noting the importance of providing information on the work of the OIE in veterinary education, Dr Kahn undertook to provide a PowerPoint presentation that the members of the *ad hoc* Group could use as a basis for discussion with interested parties.

The group discussed the possible application of the list of competencies to veterinary education on aquatic animals. Dr Kahn explained that most veterinary schools include little or no information on aquatic animals in their veterinary curricula. Education programs for aquatic animal specialists may not always include basic veterinary sciences, which is an essential competency. Dr Kahn indicated that the application of the list of competencies to aquatic animals would require some careful consideration and suggested that this be undertaken at a subsequent meeting.

Dr DeHaven proposed to focus the next meeting on addressing comments from the Code Commission and OIE Members. The issue of continuing education and the competencies of Veterinary Services' senior officials could also be addressed.

Dr DeHaven undertook to review the draft list of competencies and send his comments by email to the *ad hoc* Group members by 19 July. He asked that members comment by email to Dr Pelgrim and Dr Kahn by 30 July. Dr Pelgrim and Dr Kahn will process the comments and provide the revised report and list of competencies to the Code Commission for consideration.

The next meeting will be held on 15-17 December 2010.

Appendices/...

List of acronyms

ARCOSUR Agencia Regional de Accreditation – (MERCOSUR countries are members).

AVMA American Veterinary Medical Association

FVE Federation of Veterinarians of Europe

FORCAN Foresighting for an Animal Health Emergency Management

IPVS International Porcine Veterinary Society

WBA World Bovine Association

WEVA World Equine Veterinary Association

WSVA World Small Animal Veterinary Association

MERCOSUR Mercado Común del Cono Sur (association of 6 countries: Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia).

MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON VETERINARY EDUCATION

Paris, 29 June–1 July 2010

List of participants

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MEETING OF THE OIE *AD HOC* GROUP ON VETERINARY EDUCATION
Paris, 29 June–1 July 2010

Adopted agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
 2. Adoption of the agenda and introductory remarks
 3. Discussion with the OIE Director General
 4. Presentations by the members of the ad hoc Group
 5. Development of draft list of competencies
 6. Discussion about draft list of competencies
 7. Communication and veterinary education
 8. Methods for delivery of veterinary education
 9. Next steps
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***Ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education: Terms of Reference**

Background

Following the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education, «Evolving veterinary education for a safer world» (12-14 October 2009, Paris), the OIE will convene an *ad hoc* Group, which will hold its first meeting on 29 June – 1 July 2010, to address the recommendations of the conference.

Draft Terms of Reference

The *ad hoc* group should

1. Based on the recommendations of the OIE Global Conference on Veterinary Education, draft recommendations for Veterinary Education Establishments (VEE) on a core curriculum model that includes those key competencies of veterinarians that are required to perform the necessary OIE and public policy tasks, including those defined in the OIE terrestrial and aquatic animal health codes and takes into account new threats, opportunities and societal expectations.
2. Conduct an in depth global review, with a world wide scope, of the current approaches to veterinary education taking into account current and future expectations of the day-one graduated veterinarians and examine whether approaches to, and structures for, veterinary education should be modified to produce better equipped profession.
3. Provide advice to the OIE on the implementation of recommendations n° 4, 14 and 16.

Recommendation 3

That VEE, taking into account the recommendations of the OIE and specific/regional national needs/circumstances, define and implement a core curriculum model that ensures graduate veterinarians to have the day-one competencies needed by a veterinarian to perform the required OIE tasks including delivery of national veterinary services. This includes knowledge on governance, veterinary legislation and basic management. These competencies should focus on capacity for analysis, and adaptation to complex situations rather than on encyclopaedic knowledge of specific issues.

Recommendation 4

That the World Veterinary Association (WVA) and other professional veterinary bodies examine, with the support of the OIE, how initial and continuing veterinary education curricula can best meet societal expectations for safeguards for public health, safe food, and prevention and mitigation of trans-boundary diseases complying with OIE recommendations at a global level.

Recommendation 14

That the OIE, WVA and other national, regional and international veterinary associations examine how to improve the public perception of the importance of veterinary activities for society as a whole, and convince governments and/or international donors of the need to better finance initial and continuing veterinary education as a Global Public Good.

Recommendation 16

That the responsible national, regional and local veterinary authorities support the development and implementation of programmes to evaluate the continuing education of veterinarians in their respective jurisdictions taking into account OIE *PVS Tool* criteria.

In developing guidelines on this core curriculum model, the *ad hoc* Group should review relevant resource materials, including extracts from the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Terrestrial Code*) and examples of veterinary curricula from all five OIE Regions.

List of documents to be provided (note: some documents will need to be translated).

1. Extracts from the OIE *Terrestrial Code*
2. Extracts from the OIE *PVS Tool*
3. Examples of veterinary curricula provided by participants

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4. Summary provided by participants of current developments in the regions – focus on initiatives and activities to standardise, harmonise, modernise or benchmark veterinary curricula.

Extracts from the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code**Article 3.1.2. point 8*

The Veterinary Services should develop and document appropriate procedures and standards for all providers of relevant activities and associated facilities. These procedures and standards may for example relate to:

- programming and management of activities, including international veterinary certification activities;
- prevention, control and notification of disease outbreaks;
- risk analysis, epidemiological surveillance and zoning;
- inspection and sampling techniques;
- diagnostic tests for animal diseases;
- preparation, production, registration and control of biological products for use in the diagnosis or prevention of diseases;
- border controls and import regulations;
- disinfection and disinfestation;
- treatments intended to destroy, if appropriate, pathogens in animal products.

Article 3.2.3 point 3

Key functional capabilities of Veterinary Services include:

epidemiological surveillance, disease control, import controls, animal disease reporting systems, animal identification systems, traceability systems, animal movement control systems, communication of epidemiological information, training, inspection and certification. Laboratory and field systems and their organisational relationships [should be described].

*Article 3.2.7. Functional capabilities and legislative support***Animal health and veterinary public health**

The Veterinary Authority should be able to demonstrate that it has the capacity, supported by appropriate legislation, to exercise control over all animal health matters. These controls should include, where appropriate, compulsory notification of prescribed animal diseases, inspection, movement controls through systems which provide adequate traceability, registration of facilities, quarantine of infected premises/areas, testing, treatment, destruction of infected animals or contaminated materials, controls over the use of veterinary medicines, etc. The scope of the legislative controls should include domestic animals and their reproductive material, animal products, wildlife as it relates to the transmission of diseases to humans and domestic animals, and other products subject to veterinary inspection. Arrangements should exist for co-operation with the Veterinary Authorities of the neighbouring countries for the control of animal diseases in border areas and for establishing linkages to recognise and regulate transboundary activities. Information on the veterinary public health legislation covering the production of products of animal origin for national consumption may be also considered in the evaluation.

Export/import inspection

The Veterinary Authority should have appropriate legislation and adequate capabilities to prescribe the methods for control and to exercise systematic control over the import and export processes of animals and animal products in so far as this control relates to sanitary and zoosanitary matters. The evaluation should also involve the consideration of administrative instructions to ensure the enforcement of importing country requirements during the pre-export period.

In the context of production for export of foodstuffs of animal origin, the Veterinary Authority should demonstrate that comprehensive legislative provisions are available for the oversight by the relevant authorities of the hygienic process and to support official inspection systems of these commodities which function to standards consistent with or equivalent to relevant Codex Alimentarius and OIE standards.

Control systems should be in place which permit the exporting Veterinary Authority to approve export premises. The Veterinary Services should also be able to conduct testing and treatment as well as to exercise controls over the movement, handling and storage of exports and to make inspections at any stage of the export process. The product scope of this export legislation should include, inter alia, animals and animal products (including animal semen, ova and embryos), and animal feedstuffs.

The Veterinary Authority should be able to demonstrate that they have adequate capabilities and legislative support for zoosanitary control of imports and transit of animals, animal products and other materials which may introduce animal diseases. This could be necessary to support claims by the Veterinary Services that the animal health status of the country is suitably stable, and that cross-contamination of exports from imports of unknown or less favourable zoosanitary status is unlikely. The same considerations should apply in respect of veterinary control of public health. The Veterinary Services should be able to demonstrate that there is no conflict of interest when certifying veterinarians are performing official duties.

Legislation should also provide the right to deny and/or withdraw official certification. Penalty provisions applying to malpractice on the part of certifying officials should be included.

The Veterinary Services should demonstrate that they are capable of providing accurate and valid certification for exports of animals and animal products, based on Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the Terrestrial Code. They should have appropriately organised procedures which ensure that sanitary/animal health certificates are issued by efficient and secure methods. The documentation control system should be able to correlate reliably the certification details with the relevant export consignments and with any inspections to which the consignments were subjected.

Security in the export certification process, including electronic documentation transfer, is important. A system of independent compliance review is desirable, to safeguard against fraud in certification by officials and by private individuals or corporations. The certifying veterinarian should have no conflict of interest in the commercial aspects of the animals or animal product being certified and be independent from the commercial parties.

Article 3.2.8. Animal Health Controls

2. Animal health control

Details of current animal disease control programmes should be considered in the evaluation. These programmes would include epidemiological surveillance, official government-administered or officially-endorsed, industry-administered control or eradication programmes for specific diseases or disease complexes, and animal disease emergency preparedness. Details should include enabling legislation, programme plans for epidemiological surveillance and animal disease emergency responses, quarantine arrangements for infected and exposed animals or herds, compensation provisions for animal owners affected by disease control measures, training programmes, physical and other barriers between the free country or zone and those infected, incidence and prevalence data, resource commitments, interim results and programme review reports.

Annex XXXVI (contd)Appendix III (contd)

3. National animal disease reporting systems

The presence of a functional animal disease reporting system which covers all agricultural regions of the country and all veterinary administrative control areas should be demonstrated.

An acceptable variation would be the application of this principle to specific zones of the country. In this case also, the animal disease reporting system should cover each of these zones. Other factors should come to bear on this situation, e.g. the ability to satisfy trading partners that sound animal health controls exist to prevent the introduction of disease or export products from regions of lesser veterinary control.

Article 3.2.9. Veterinary Public Health Controls

1. Food hygiene

The Veterinary Authority should be able to demonstrate effective responsibility for the veterinary public health programmes relating to the production and processing of animal products. If the Veterinary Authority does not exercise responsibility over these programmes, the evaluation should include a comprehensive review of the role and relationship of the organisations (national, state/provincial, and municipal) which are involved. In such a case, the evaluation should consider whether the Veterinary Authority can provide guarantees of responsibility for an effective control of the sanitary status of animal products throughout the slaughter, processing, transport and storage periods.

2. Zoonoses

Within the structure of Veterinary Services, there should be appropriately qualified personnel whose responsibilities include the monitoring and control of zoonotic diseases and, where appropriate, liaison with medical authorities.

3. Chemical residue testing programmes

Adequacy of controls over chemical residues in exported animals, animal products and feedstuffs should be demonstrated. Statistically-based surveillance and monitoring programmes for environmental and other chemical contaminants in animals, in animal-derived foodstuffs and in animal feedstuffs should be favourably noted. These programmes should be coordinated nationwide. Correlated results should be freely available on request to existing and prospective trading partner countries. Analytical methods and result reporting should be consistent with internationally recognised standards. If official responsibility for these programmes does not rest with the Veterinary Services, there should be appropriate provision to ensure that the results of such programmes are made available to the Veterinary Services for assessment. This process should be consistent with the standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission or with alternative requirements set by the importing country where the latter are scientifically justified.

4. Veterinary medicines

It should be acknowledged that primary control over veterinary medicinal products may not rest with the Veterinary Authority in some countries, owing to differences between governments in the division of legislative responsibilities. However, for the purpose of evaluation, the Veterinary Authority should be able to demonstrate the existence of effective controls (including nationwide consistency of application) over the manufacture, importation, export, registration, supply, sale and use of veterinary medicines, biologicals and diagnostic reagents, whatever their origin. The control of veterinary medicines has direct relevance to the areas of animal health and public health.

In the animal health sphere, this has particular application to biological products. Inadequate controls on the registration and use of biological products leave the Veterinary Services open to challenge over the quality of animal disease control programmes and over safeguards against animal disease introduction in imported veterinary biological products.

It is valid, for evaluation purposes, to seek assurances of effective government controls over veterinary medicines in so far as these relate to the public health risks associated with residues of these chemicals in animals and animal-derived foodstuffs. This process should be consistent with the standards set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission or with alternative requirements set by the importing country where the latter are scientifically justified.

5. Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health

The existence of any organised programme which incorporates a structured system of information feedback from inspection in establishments producing products of animal origin, in particular meat or dairy products, and applies this in animal health control should be favourably noted. Such programmes should be integrated within a national disease surveillance scheme.

Veterinary Services which direct a significant element of their animal health programmes specifically towards minimising microbial and chemical contamination of animal-derived products in the human food chain should receive favourable recognition in the evaluation. There should be evident linkage between these programmes and the official control of veterinary medicines and relevant agricultural chemicals.

Chapter 6.1. The role of the Veterinary Services in food safety

Article 6.1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this chapter is to provide guidance to OIE Members in regard to the role and responsibilities of the Veterinary Services in food safety, to assist them in meeting the food safety objectives laid down in national legislations and the requirements of importing countries.

Article 6.1.2. Background

Historically, the Veterinary Services were set up to control livestock diseases at the farm level. There was an emphasis on prevention and control of the major epizootic diseases of livestock and of diseases that could affect man (zoonotic diseases). As countries begin to bring the serious diseases under control, the scope of official animal health services normally increases to address production diseases of livestock, where control leads to more efficient production and/or better quality animal products. The role of the Veterinary Services has traditionally extended from the farm to the slaughterhouse, where veterinarians have a dual responsibility – epidemiological surveillance of animal diseases and ensuring the safety and suitability of meat. The education and training of veterinarians, which includes both animal health (including zoonoses) and food hygiene components, makes them uniquely equipped to play a central role in ensuring food safety, especially the safety of foods of animal origin. As described below, in addition to veterinarians, several other professional groups are involved in supporting integrated food safety approaches throughout the food chain. In many countries the role of the Veterinary Services has been extended to include subsequent stages of the food chain in the “farm to fork” continuum.

Article 6.1.3. Approaches to food safety: The concept of the food production continuum

Food safety and quality are best assured by an integrated, multidisciplinary approach, considering the whole of the food chain. Eliminating or controlling food hazards at source, i.e. a preventive approach, is more effective in reducing or eliminating the risk of unwanted health effects than relying on control of the final product, traditionally applied via a final ‘quality check’ approach. Approaches to food safety have evolved in recent decades, from traditional controls based on good practices (Good Agricultural Practice, Good Hygienic Practice, etc.), via more targeted food safety systems based on hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) to risk-based approaches using food safety risk analysis.

Annex XXXVI (contd)Appendix III (contd)*Risk-based management systems*

The development of risk-based systems has been heavily influenced by the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (“SPS Agreement”). This Agreement stipulates that signatories shall ensure that their sanitary and phytosanitary measures are based on an assessment of the risks to human, animal or plant life or health, taking into account risk assessment techniques developed by relevant international organizations. Risk assessment, the scientific component of risk analysis, should be functionally separated from risk management to avoid interference from economic, political or other interests. The SPS Agreement specifically recognises as the international benchmarks the standards developed by the OIE for animal health and zoonoses and by the Codex Alimentarius Commission for food safety. In recent decades there has also been a trend towards a redefinition of responsibilities. The traditional approach, whereby food operators were primarily held responsible for food quality while regulatory agencies were charged with assuring food safety, has been replaced by more sophisticated systems that give food operators primary responsibility for both the quality and the safety of the foods they place on the market. The role of the supervisory authorities is to analyse scientific information as a basis to develop appropriate food safety standards (both processing and end product standards) and verification inspections to ensure that the control systems used by food operators are appropriate, validated, effective and operated in such a way that the standards are met. In the event of non-compliance, regulatory agencies are responsible to ensure that appropriate corrective actions are taken and sanctions are applied.

The Veterinary Services play an essential role in the application of the risk analysis process and the implementation of risk-based recommendations for regulatory systems, including the extent and nature of veterinary involvement in food safety activities throughout the food chain, as outlined above. Each country should establish its health protection objectives, for animal health and public health, through consultation with stakeholders (especially livestock producers, processors and consumers) in accordance with the social, economic, cultural, religious and political contexts of the country. These objectives should be put into effect through national legislation and policies and steps taken to raise awareness of them both within the country and to trading partners.

Functions of Veterinary Services

The Veterinary Services contribute to the achievement of these objectives through the direct performance of some veterinary tasks and through the auditing of animal and public health activities conducted by other government agencies, private sector veterinarians and other stakeholders. In addition to veterinarians, several other professional groups are involved in ensuring food safety throughout the food chain, including analysts, epidemiologists, food technologists, human and environmental health professionals, microbiologists and toxicologists. Irrespective of the roles assigned to the different professional groups and stakeholders by the administrative system in the country, close cooperation and effective communication between all involved is imperative to achieve the best results from the combined resources. Where veterinary or other professional tasks are delegated to individuals or enterprises outside the Veterinary Authority, clear information on regulatory requirements and a system of checks should be established to monitor and verify performance of the delegated activities. The Veterinary Authority retains the final responsibility for satisfactory performance of delegated activities.

At the farm level

Through their presence on farms and appropriate collaboration with farmers, the Veterinary Services play a key role in ensuring that animals are kept under hygienic conditions and in the early detection, surveillance and treatment of animal diseases, including conditions of public health significance. The Veterinary Services may also provide livestock producers with information, advice and training on how to avoid, eliminate or control food safety hazards (e.g. drug and pesticide residues, mycotoxins and environmental contaminants) in primary production, including through animal feed. Producers’ organisations, particularly those with veterinary advisors, are in a good position to provide awareness and training as they are regularly in contact with farmers and are well placed to understand their priorities. Technical support from the Veterinary Services is important and both private veterinarians and employees of the Veterinary Authority can assist. The Veterinary Services play a central role in ensuring the responsible and prudent use of biological products and veterinary drugs, including antimicrobials, in animal husbandry. This helps to minimise the risk of developing antimicrobial resistance and unsafe levels of veterinary drug residues in foods of animal origin. Chapters 6.8. to 6.11. of the Terrestrial Code contain recommendations on the use of antimicrobials.

Meat inspection

Slaughterhouse inspection of live animals (ante-mortem) and their carcasses (post-mortem) plays a key role in both the surveillance network for animal diseases and zoonoses and ensuring the safety and suitability of meat and by-products for their intended uses. Control and/or reduction of biological hazards of animal and public health importance by ante- and post-mortem meat inspection is a core responsibility of the Veterinary Services and they should have primary responsibility for the development of relevant inspection programmes.

Wherever practicable, inspection procedures should be risk-based. Management systems should reflect international standards and address the significant hazards to both human and animal health in the livestock being slaughtered. The Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat (CHPM) constitutes the primary international standard for meat hygiene and incorporates a risk-based approach to application of sanitary measures throughout the meat production chain. Chapter 6.2. of the Terrestrial Code contains recommendations for the control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection, which complement the CHPM.

Traditionally, the primary focus of the Terrestrial Code was on global animal health protection and transparency. Under its current mandate, the OIE also addresses animal production food safety risks. The Terrestrial Code includes several standards and recommendations aimed at protecting public health (such as Chapter 6.2. on the control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection) and work is underway developing new standards to prevent the contamination of animal products by *Salmonella* spp. and *Campylobacter* spp. The OIE and Codex collaborate closely in the development of standards to ensure seamless coverage of the entire food production continuum. The recommendations of the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission on the production and safety of animal commodities should be read in conjunction.

The Veterinary Authority should provide for flexibility in the delivery of the meat inspection service. Countries may adopt different administrative models, involving degrees of delegation to officially recognised competent bodies operating under the supervision and control of the Veterinary Authority. If personnel from the private sector are used to carry out ante- and post-mortem inspection activities under the overall supervision and responsibility of the Veterinary Authority, the Veterinary Authority should specify the competency requirements for all such persons and verify their performance. To ensure the effective implementation of ante- and post-mortem inspection procedures, the Veterinary Authority should have in place systems for the monitoring of these procedures and the exchange of information gained. Animal identification and animal traceability systems should be integrated in order to be able to trace slaughtered animals back to their place of origin, and products derived from them forward in the meat production chain.

Certification of animal products for international trade

Another important role of the Veterinary Services is to ensure that health certification for international trade complies with animal health and food safety standards. Certification in relation to animal diseases, including zoonoses, and meat hygiene should be the responsibility of the Veterinary Authority. Certification may be provided by other professions (a sanitary certificate) in connection with food processing and hygiene (e.g. pasteurisation of dairy products) and conformance with product quality standards.

The roles of the Veterinary Services

Most reported outbreaks of foodborne disease are due to contamination of foods with zoonotic agents, often during primary production. The Veterinary Services play a key role in the investigation of such outbreaks all the way back to the farm and in formulating and implementing remedial measures once the source of the outbreak has been identified. This work should be carried out in close collaboration with human and environmental health professionals, analysts, epidemiologists, food producers, processors and traders and others involved.

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In addition to the roles mentioned above, veterinarians are well equipped to assume important roles in ensuring food safety in other parts of the food chain, for example through the application of HACCP-based controls and other quality assurance systems during food processing and distribution. The Veterinary Services also play an important role in raising the awareness of food producers, processors and other stakeholders of the measures required to assure food safety.

Optimising the contribution of the Veterinary Services to food safety

In order for Veterinary Services to make the best possible contribution to food safety, it is important that the education and training of veterinarians in the roles outlined in this chapter meets high standards and that there are national programmes for ongoing and comprehensive professional development. The Veterinary Services should comply with the OIE fundamental principles of quality given in Chapter 3.1. of the Terrestrial Code. Recommendations for the evaluation of Veterinary Services are provided in Chapter 3.2. of the Terrestrial Code and in the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services.

There should be a clear and well documented assignment of responsibilities and chain of command within the Veterinary Services. The national Competent Authority should provide an appropriate institutional environment to allow the Veterinary Services to develop and implement the necessary policies and standards and adequate resources for them to carry out their tasks in a sustainable manner. In developing and implementing policies and programmes for food safety, the Veterinary Authority should collaborate with other responsible agencies to ensure that food safety risks are addressed in a coordinated manner.

**MINIMUM COMPETENCIES EXPECTED OF VETERINARY
GRADUATES TO ASSURE DELIVERY OF HIGH-QUALITY NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES**

Introduction

The assurance of global public health is not limited to the expertise of human medical professionals, but requires the knowledge and skill set of veterinarians. Specifically, veterinarians in every nation are responsible for the delivery of National Veterinary Services (NVS) - that is, services provided under the legislative framework and the auspices of the governmental authority of a given country to implement animal health to assure the health and wellbeing of animals, people and ecosystems. The term “Veterinary Services” refers to the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* definition, which includes both public and private components of the veterinary profession involved in the promotion of animal and public health as well as animal welfare.

National Veterinary Services should be able to meet standards adopted by each country, but should also be able to comply with appropriate international standards and recommendations, particularly those in the OIE’s *Terrestrial Code*. In delivering National Veterinary Services, veterinarians serve as an integral partner in the *One Health* effort—a collaboration of multiple disciplines working locally, nationally, and globally, to address critical challenges and attain optimal health for people, domestic animals, wildlife, and the environment (www.onehealthcommission.org).

Although only some veterinarians will focus their careers on the delivery of National Veterinary Services, all veterinarians, regardless of professional area of practice after graduation, are responsible for promoting animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health, act frequently as sub-contractors for National Veterinary Services and in many instances opt for career changes into National Veterinary Services. As such, veterinary education is a cornerstone to assure that the average veterinary graduate not only has received a level of education and training provided that ensures sound overall day-one competencies, as well as the required skills, knowledge, aptitudes, and attitudes (competencies) to understand and be able to perform entry-level national veterinary service tasks that relate to the security and promotion of animal and public health. In addition, basic education that includes instruction in the minimum competencies will establish a basis on which those veterinarians seeking national veterinary service careers can build expertise through on-the-job training and quality postgraduate continuing education.

Taking into account the vast societal, economic, and political differences among OIE member countries, the following list of competencies are those that the OIE *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education believe necessary for the veterinary graduate to be adequately prepared to participate in entry-level national veterinary services.

Competencies as used by the *ad hoc* Group include:

- Skills: psychomotor abilities, both manual and physical;
- Knowledge: cognitive abilities meaning mental skills
- Attitude: affective abilities, meaning feelings and emotions; and
- Aptitude: a student’s natural ability, talent, or capacity for learning.

While the *ad hoc* Group outlined minimum competencies relevant to the delivery of National Veterinary Services, no attempt was made to dictate in which specific course or during which educational year each competency should be taught. Indeed, it may be that many of the following competencies cross course boundaries and can be integrated across the curriculum in multiple courses. Nor did the *ad hoc* Group suggest how many credit hours of educational contact were required to teach each competency, as this might vary depending on the needs and resources of each country. What was unanimously agreed upon, though, is that education in the following minimum competencies during the course of each veterinary school’s curriculum will prepare the average entry level (new graduate) veterinarian to promote global veterinary public health and provide an excellent base for advanced training and education for those veterinarians wishing to pursue a career in both public and private components of National Veterinary Services.

Annex XXXVI (contd)Appendix IV (contd)***Day 1 Competencies Relative to the Delivery of National Veterinary Services***

The OIE's *ad hoc* Group on Veterinary Education grouped the following minimum competencies relating to national veterinary services into three categories-

1. General competencies are those that are part of every veterinary school's core curriculum. Because these competencies are essential to more than just the national veterinary services, the *ad hoc* Group only listed them here without further definition.
2. Specific competencies are those essential for all veterinary students to be taught during the course of the professional curriculum. Each competency is defined, with the definitions based largely on those competencies found in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*. Learning objectives for the average entry-level veterinarian are also provided for each specific competency identified.
3. Advanced competencies are those that should be instructed to veterinary students during the course of the professional curriculum. However, expertise in these competencies, while essential to those veterinarians whose career is limited to national veterinary services, is better obtained through quality postgraduate continuing education and on-the-job training. The *ad hoc* Group included these advanced competencies here, with the understanding that the primary learning objective for each centers on the average entry-level veterinarian being able to have a general awareness of and appreciation for each competency, with the ability to know where to find up-to-date credible information should deeper knowledge be needed or desired.

1. General competencies

- 1.1. Basic veterinary sciences
- 1.2. Clinical veterinary sciences
- 1.3. Animal production including:
 - 1.3.1. animal identification and traceability
 - 1.3.2. herd health management and economics of animal production
- 1.4. Food hygiene and safety including:
 - 1.4.1. on farm food safety practices
 - 1.4.2. traceability
 - 1.4.3. drug and chemical use and residue testing programs
 - 1.4.4. slaughter inspection
 - 1.4.5. integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health:
the role of veterinarians in conjunction with physicians, public health practitioners, and risk analysts to ensure healthy, hazard-free food—both nationally and internationally—from animal production on the farm to traceability of animal movement, sanitation at food processing plants, proper storage of processed animal products, in-home food storage and preparation safety, and health and cleanliness of all humans involved in the food chain from farm to fork.
- 1.5. Commitment to lifelong learning

2. Specific competencies

- 2.1. Zoonoses (including food borne diseases)

Zoonoses are diseases or infections that are naturally transmissible from animals or their products to humans or from humans to animals. Many food borne pathogens are zoonotic and most emerging human pathogens have an animal (livestock or wildlife) origin. As such, zoonoses have major implications on human health and trade in animals and animal products.

Specific learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian being able to:

- 2.1.1. identify the clinical signs, clinical course, transmission potential, and pathogen associated with common zoonotic and food borne diseases, to include those on the OIE list of notifiable diseases;
 - 2.1.2. directly use or explain the use of current diagnostic and therapeutic tools for common zoonotic and food borne diseases;
 - 2.1.3. understand the implications of common zoonotic and food borne diseases on human health (e.g., how does the disease spread from animals to humans) and know where to find up-to-date and information regarding these implications;
 - 2.1.4. understand regulatory implications (e.g., which national services veterinarian must be contacted if a zoonotic pathogen is identified) of common zoonotic and food borne diseases and pathogens and know where to find up-to-date information regarding these implications.
- 2.2. Transboundary animal diseases

Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) are those epizootic diseases that are highly contagious or transmissible and have the potential to spread very rapidly irrespective of national borders. Transboundary animal disease agents may or may not be zoonotic, but regardless of zoonotic potential, the highly contagious nature of these diseases invariably impacts global economy, global trade and global public health. Examples of transboundary diseases include highly pathogenic avian influenza, rinderpest, classical swine fever and foot and mouth disease.

Specific learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian being able to:

- 2.2.1. identify the clinical signs, clinical course, transmission potential (including vectors), and pathogen associated with important transboundary diseases and pathogens, to include those on the OIE list of notifiable diseases;
 - 2.2.2. describe the current global distribution of important transboundary diseases and/or know where to find up-to-date distribution information;
 - 2.2.3. directly use or explain the management of samples and use of current diagnostic tools for confirmation and therapeutic tools to prevent and combat important transboundary diseases and pathogens;
 - 2.2.4. understand regulatory implications (e.g., which national services veterinarian must be contacted if a epizootic pathogen is identified or suspected) of important transboundary diseases and pathogens and know where to find up-to-date information regarding these implications.
- 2.3. Emerging and re-emerging diseases

An emerging disease is a new infection resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known infection spreading to a new geographic area or population, or a previously unrecognized pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time. A 're-emerging disease' is a resurgence in a defined time period and location, of a disease considered to have been eradicated or controlled in the past. Both emerging and re-emerging diseases have significant impacts on animal (naïve populations) and/or public health.

Specific learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian being able to:

- 2.3.1. define "emerging disease" and provide contemporary examples;
- 2.3.2. define "re-emerging disease" and provide contemporary examples;
- 2.3.3. understand the reasons/hypotheses to explain the emergence/re-emergence of diseases;

know where to find up-to-date information regarding emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Annex XXXVI (contd)Appendix IV (contd)

2.4. Regulation of animal welfare

Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behavior, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter (when relevant), management, nutrition, humane handling, and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

Specific learning objectives of this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian being able to:

- 2.4.1. define animal welfare and the related responsibilities of owners, handlers, veterinarians;
- 2.4.2. identify major signs of bad welfare;
- 2.4.3. know where to find up-to-date information regarding local, national and international animal welfare regulations/standards in order to describe contemporary humane care:
 - 2.4.3.1. slaughtering and killing techniques for major livestock species (e.g., cattle, sheep, swine, poultry);
 - 2.4.3.2. animal handling techniques for the aforementioned major livestock species at all levels of production (e.g., farm, feedlot, sale barn, slaughter house);
 - 2.4.3.3. housing for the aforementioned major livestock species at all levels of production (e.g., farm, feedlot, sale barn, slaughter house);
 - 2.4.3.4. transport of the major livestock species.

2.5. Veterinary drugs and biologicals

‘Veterinary drugs and biologicals’ means drugs, insecticides/acaricides, vaccines, and biological products used or presented as suitable for use to prevent, treat, control, or eradicate animal pests or diseases; or to be given to animals to establish a veterinary diagnosis; or to restore, correct or modify organic functions in an animal or group of animals.

Specific learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian being able to:

- 2.5.1. use common veterinary drugs and biologicals in the appropriate manner and administered to the appropriate species;
- 2.5.2. explain and/or utilize the concept of drug withdrawal time as a means to prevent drug residues in products of animal origin meant for human consumption, and know how to find up-to-date information regarding specific withdrawal times;
- 2.5.3. explain common mechanisms leading to development of antimicrobial resistance in common pathogens.
- 2.5.4. know where to find and how to interpret up-to-date information regarding the link between use of antimicrobials in food animals and development of antimicrobial resistance by pathogens of human importance;

Annex XXXVI (contd)Appendix IV (contd)

2.5.5. understand and describe local, regional, national, and international regulations authorizing the registration, distribution and use of common drugs in food animals;

2.5.6. know the appropriated use of drugs and biologicals to ensure the safety of the food chain and a proper environment (e.g., residues, waste).

2.6. Epidemiology

Epidemiology is the study of factors affecting the health and illness of populations, and serves as the foundation and logic of interventions made in the interest of veterinary public health and preventive medicine.

Specific learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian being able to:

2.6.1. know and understand the general principles of descriptive epidemiology;

2.6.2. trace the source and spread of a disease, to include the ability to:

2.6.2.1. access and use appropriate information sources;

2.6.2.2. understand and participate appropriately to an epidemiological inquiry in case of occurrence of a reportable disease;

2.6.2.3. monitor and conduct initial surveillance of diseases, to include communication of epidemiological information to other public health practitioners;

2.6.2.4. directly perform and/or explain the use of common and current diagnostic tests and procedures, to include proper collection, handling, and transport of appropriate specimens/samples.

2.7. Disease prevention and control programs

Disease prevention and control programs are those programs, most often approved and managed or supervised by the veterinary authority of a country, established for the purpose of controlling a vector, pathogen or disease by specific control or preventive measures, to include movement controls, vaccination and treatment.

Specific learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian being able to:

2.7.1. describe established programs for the prevention and/or control of common zoonotic or contagious diseases or emerging/re-emerging diseases, to include the relevant veterinary authority oversight;

2.7.2. understand and implement contingency plans to control transboundary diseases, to include methods to:

2.7.2.1. control movement of animals, animal products, equipment, and people;

2.7.2.2. quarantine infected and at-risk premises/areas;

2.7.2.3. humanely kill affected animals;

Annex XXXVI (contd)Appendix IV (contd)

- 2.7.2.4. dispose of infected carcasses in an appropriate manner;
 - 2.7.2.5. disinfect or destroy contaminated materials;
 - 2.7.3. understand and participate to regular or emergency vaccination campaign, as well as to regular test-and-cull/treat programmes;
 - 2.7.4. explain the concept of “early detection system,” which is defined as a system, under the control of the veterinary services, for the timely detection and identification of an incursion or emergence of diseases/infections in a country, zone or compartment;
 - 2.7.5. know which diseases of animals (including companion animals) require compulsory notification by the veterinarian to the prescribed national authority in order to mitigate disease transmission;
 - 2.7.6. know where to find up-to-date and reliable information regarding specific disease, prevention and control measures, including rapid response mechanisms.
- 2.8. Inspection and certification procedures

Inspection means examination and evaluation of animals and animal products by an authorized veterinarian prior to completing a certificate to document the health or sanitary status, respectively. Certification means an official document, completed by an authorized veterinarian, for purposes of verifying the health or sanitary status of animals and animal products, respectively, most often prior to transport. For example, as defined in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, an international veterinary certificate describes the animal health and/or public health requirements that are fulfilled by the exported animal commodity.

Specific learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian being able to:

- 2.8.1. directly inspect, identify, and document, or explain such processes used to assess the health or risks of animals and animal products for the purpose of transport / export;
 - 2.8.2. directly conduct or explain the process of *ante* and *post mortem* risk-based inspection of animals and animal products;
 - 2.8.3. directly certify or explain the process leading to certification of commodity quality and wholesomeness as it relates to sanitary matters for export;
 - 2.8.4. explain common import control mechanisms (e.g., border controls) and certification processes related to assurance of the health of animals, the public, and the ecosystem in the importing country.
- 2.9. Veterinary legislation

Veterinary legislation is an essential element of the national infrastructure that enables veterinary authorities to carry out their key functions, including surveillance, early detection and control of animal diseases and zoonoses, animal production food safety and certification of animals and animal products for export.

Specific learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian:

Annex XXXVI (contd)

Appendix IV (contd)

- 2.9.1. having a working knowledge of the fundamentals of national legislation in general and of rules and regulations governing the veterinary profession at the local, provincial, national, and regional level, particularly in relation to delivery of national veterinary services;
- 2.9.2. knowing where to find up-to-date and credible information regarding veterinary legislation and the rules and regulations governing the veterinary profession in his/her own state, province, region and/or country.

3. Advanced competencies

3.1. Organization of veterinary services

Veterinary services means the implementation by governmental and non-governmental organizations of animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations, such as those in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, related primarily to the trade/movement of animals and animal products throughout a given country, territory, or region. The delivery of national veterinary services brings a country, territory, or region in line with international standards in terms of legislation, structure, organization, resources, capacities, and the role of the private sector and paraprofessionals.

The primary learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian having a general awareness of and appreciation for:

- 3.1.1. the delivery of national veterinary services as a global public good;
- 3.1.2. how veterinary services are organized within his/her own country/region (e.g., central and local levels, epidemiological networks);
- 3.1.3. the function and authority of the national veterinary service within his/her own country/region;
- 3.1.4. how his/her country's national veterinary service agencies interact with veterinary services in other countries and international partners;
- 3.1.5. the relationship between private and public sector veterinarians in delivery of national veterinary services within his/her own country;
- 3.1.6. the essential need to evaluate the quality of veterinary services and the fundamental principles to ensure the quality of veterinary service activities (e.g., professional judgment, independence, impartiality, integrity, objectivity, procedures and standards, communication, and human and financial resources);
- 3.1.7. where to find up-to-date and reliable information should deeper knowledge be needed or desired.

Secondary learning objectives include the average entry-level veterinarian understanding, in addition to the definition of veterinary services outlined above, the following definitions:

- 3.1.8. veterinary authority: The governmental authority of a country, territory, or region that comprises veterinarians, other professionals, and paraprofessionals and with the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification, international standards and recommendations such as those in the OIE *Terrestrial Code*, and other relevant legislation related to animal and public health and animal welfare. The veterinary authority typically accredits or approves private-sector organizations, veterinarians, and veterinary paraprofessionals to deliver veterinary service functions;

veterinary statutory body: An autonomous authority, typically at the national level that regulates veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

Annex XXXVI (contd)Appendix IV (contd)

3.2. Application of risk analysis

Risk is the likelihood of the occurrence and likely magnitude of the biological and economic consequences of an adverse event or effect to animal or human health. The process of risk analysis involves hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication. The importation of animals and animal products involves a degree of disease risk to the importing country. Risk analysis as applied to importation provides the importing country with an objective and defensible method of assessing the disease risks associated with the importation of animals, animal products, animal genetic material, feedstuffs, biological products and pathological material.

Primary learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian having a general awareness of and appreciation for:

- 3.2.1. how risk analysis can be applied to assessment of animal disease related risks and residues of veterinary drugs, including importation of animals and animal products and other related veterinary services activities;
- 3.2.2. how risk analysis can be used to ensure veterinary services adequately protect animal and human health;
- 3.2.3. where to find up-to-date credible information should deeper knowledge be needed or desired (e.g. the *OIE Handbook on Import risk Analysis*).

Secondary learning objectives include the average entry-level veterinarian understanding, in addition to the definitions of risk and risk analysis outlined above, the following definitions:

- 3.2.4. hazard identification: the process of identifying pathogenic agents that could potentially be introduced in a commodity (e.g., food of animal origin);
- 3.2.5. risk assessment: evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic consequences of entry, establishment, and spread of a hazard within a territory;
- 3.2.6. risk management: the process of identifying, selecting, and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of risk;
- 3.2.7. risk communication: the interactive transmission and exchange of information and opinions throughout the risk analysis process concerning risk; risk-related factors; and risk perceptions among risk assessors, risk managers, risk communicators, the general public, and other interested parties (e.g., stakeholders).

3.3. Research

Research means the seeking for and gathering and analyzing of data, information, and facts to extract new meaning or develop unique solutions to problems or cases for the advancement of knowledge.

The primary learning objective for this competency is for the average entry-level veterinarian:

- 3.3.1. to have a general awareness of and appreciation for how both basic and applied research are essential to advance veterinary knowledge in the areas relevant to delivery of national veterinary services (e.g., zoonoses, transboundary diseases, (re-)emerging diseases, epidemiology, animal welfare, veterinary drugs and biologicals) so that future generations are better equipped to assure the health of animals, the public, and the ecosystem.

3.4. International trade framework

The framework on which regulations governing safe international trade in animals and animal products relies on the interaction and cooperation among several organizations as well as on the latest scientific advances so as to improve animal health world-wide and to promote and preserve the safety of the international trade in animals and animal products.

Primary learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian having a general awareness of and appreciation for:

- contemporary international regulations, such as the following, that govern the safe trade of animals and animal products; including understanding whether veterinary legislation in his/her region is in line with international guidelines, such as those established by the OIE;
- the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (i.e., SPS Agreement);
- the role and responsibilities of the WTO standard setting organizations such as the OIE and Codex Alimentarius Commission in developing science-based contemporary regulations governing international trade in animals and animal products;
- understand the potential implications of common transboundary diseases on international trade (e.g., does presence of a disease in one country potentially impede international trade of the affected animal species and its products—and know where to find up-to-date information regarding these implications).

3.5. Administration and management

In the broadest sense, administration consists of the performance or management of business or organizational operations and, thus, the making or implementing of major decisions, whereas management is the act of getting people together to accomplish desired goals and objectives. Administration can also be defined as the universal process of organizing people and resources efficiently so as to direct activities toward common goals and objectives, with management comprising planning, organizing, staffing, leading or directing, and controlling an organization or effort for the purpose of accomplishing a goal.

Primary learning objectives for this competency include the average entry-level veterinarian having general awareness and appreciation of:

- 3.5.1. best practices in administration and management as those relate to delivery of quality national veterinary services;
- 3.5.2. the importance of excellent interpersonal communication skills in the delivery of quality national veterinary services, to include self-knowledge and knowledge of others;
- 3.5.3. the understanding of communication as a critical discipline in the administration of veterinary services;
- 3.5.4. where to find up-to-date credible information should deeper knowledge be needed or desired;
- 3.5.5. at least one language other than the official language of the country

Secondary learning objectives include the average entry-level veterinarian understanding:

- 3.5.6. notions of the categorization of disease related risks as regards their socio/economic impacts and the impacts of their control measures, as well as prioritization of actions according to these categories and the situation of a territory, country, region.



Organisation
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de la Santé
Animale

World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Annex XXXVII

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MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS

Paris, 16 February 2010

The OIE hosted a meeting with selected private standard setting organisations (PSSOs) with a global scope. The participants in the meeting are listed at Appendix I. The adopted Agenda is at Appendix II.

1. Welcome Mr Michael Scannell and introduction of the participants

Dr Sarah Kahn, Head of the OIE International Trade Department, welcomed all participants and thanked them for their participation to discuss this important topic. She informed them that Mr. Michael Scannell, the chair of the meeting, was not able to attend in person due to the emergency cancellation of all trains from Brussels to Paris but that he would join the meeting by telephone.

Mr. Michael Scannell welcomed the participants also and proposed that they make a short presentation on the work of their organisation relevant to the subject of the meeting.

The Director General of the OIE, Dr. Vallat, joined the meeting in the afternoon. He also thanked the participants for their efforts and indicated that the meeting had been very helpful to identify future strategies in respect of collaboration between the OIE and the private standard setting organisations.

2. Presentations

a) World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) – Dr Sarah Kahn

Dr Kahn summarised the ongoing work of the OIE in relation to private standards: input in the discussions about private standards of the SPS commission and the Codex Alimentarius Commission, an OIE resolution about private standards from 2008; a brainstorming meeting; two meetings of an OIE *ad hoc* group and an OIE questionnaire. Dr Kahn briefly reviewed the results of the questionnaire, mentioning the differences in the responses of developed and developing countries.

Dr Kahn also summarized the conclusions of the November 2009 meeting of the *ad hoc* group on private standards for sanitary measures and animal welfare, as follows:

- The OIE should create links with private standard setting organisations (PSSOs) to encourage and promote the use of OIE standards as benchmarks against which private standards would be referenced for international trade in animals and animal products.
- OIE members should work with PSSOs in order to promote the use of official national and international standards as benchmarks against which private standards can be referenced

Annex XXXVII (contd)

- OIE members should create mechanisms to identify private standards that deviate from official standards and create barriers to trade and bring such deviations to the attention of relevant responsible authorities, PSSOs and the OIE.
- PSSOs should work towards increased harmonization of PS, especially with the view to reducing the number of different audits and certification requirements.
- PSSOs should continue with current efforts to improve the transparency of PS and the consultation of relevant stakeholders, especially in developing and in transition countries, to address the problems identified by OIE Members, notably compliance cost, lack of basis in science, lack of transparency, etc.
- PSSOs should improve links with official national authorities to promote transparency and cooperation.

b) World Trade Organization (WTO) – Dr Gretchen Stanton

Dr Stanton outlined the WTO-SPS activities on private standards, beginning with the initial topic that was discussed, in connection with private standards, in 2005, ie the complaint of St. Vincent and the Grenadines about pesticides MRLs for bananas. Since that time, Dr Stanton indicated, the topic had been discussed at several meetings of the SPS Committee. The WTO had sent out a questionnaire and compiled the responses in a descriptive report. This report, which contains several possible actions on the part of WTO Members and the SPS Committee, will be discussed for the second time at a working group prior to the Committee's meeting in March 2010.

Only a few practical examples of trade problems with private standards have been provided by WTO Members. The concerns most frequently raised on private standards are:

- lack of (scientific) justification;
- extra costs (of compliance and certification);
- effect on smallest / poorest producers;
- lack of advance notice when standard is introduced/modified and
- lack of mechanism for formal challenge.

Dr Stanton also advised that there are advantages for producers that can meet private standards:

- this can confer a competitive advantage;
- it can enable them to obtain better prices, and
- it can help to support the adoption of official standards.

There is still no definitive legal advice on the question of whether the SPS Agreement applies to private organisations.

c) European Commission (EC) – Mr. Michael Scannell

For the EC, private standards are considered to be a normal feature of the market place. However, they must respect regulatory requirements in relation to unfair commercial practices, non-distortion of competition, transparency etc. Producers in the EU and producers in third countries have to comply with the same standards, so they are not discriminatory in the sense of the SPS Agreement. The EC considers that private standards are not covered by the SPS Agreement.

There are several initiatives underway aimed at addressing the challenges presented by private standards within the EU, including the EC 'Guidelines for food certification schemes' that is currently under development. [Note: the OIE has provided advice to the Directorate responsible for this initiative.]

d) GLOBALG.A.P. – Prof. Dr Bert Urlings

Prof Urlings explained that Globalgap is a non-profit private body, established in 1996 by EU Food retailers that sets voluntary standards for the certification of agricultural products around the globe. Its mission is to work on the continuous improvement of Good Agricultural Practices at farm level to ensure confidence in the safe and sustainable production of food for the benefit of consumers. Globalgap is governed by producers and retailers on a 50 – 50 basis. Its scope is the producer to the consumer continuum.

Food safety is the most important issue addressed in the Globalgap standards, but they also contain requirements on animal welfare and topics outside the OIE mandate (for example, the environment). Legislation, including international standards (including the OIE standards), are the basis for the Globalgap standards. The procedures for the development of the standards are transparent and all steps in the standard setting procedures can be followed through the internet. There is an equivalence mechanism in order to increase practicability around the globe and it is possible to adapt the interpretation of the standards to local use. Attention is paid to concerns of small enterprises, Globalgap has targeted smallholder activities aimed to increase the participation of smallholders in developing and transitional economies.

There are 90 countries working with Globalgap standards at the moment. The goal is to have at least 3 certifying bodies in each country, to have sufficient competition so that the costs of certification can be managed. Besides the transparent standard setting process, Globalgap runs also an unique integrity programme that ensures both producers and consumers that the products are produced according to common food safety standards.

e) Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) – Mrs Catherine Francois

The GFSI vision is to be the global benchmarking organization in private schemes for food safety from farm to fork. The GFSI only deals with food safety and not with animal welfare. GFSI has over 400 members, representing 150 countries on 5 continents.

GFSI benchmarks existing food safety schemes, including pre-farm gate schemes, against the GFSI Guidance Document and determines whether a scheme is equivalent to the Guidance Document requirements. This benchmarking means 'once certified, accepted everywhere'. Six international food safety schemes (BRC, Dutch HACCP, Globalgap, Global Red Meat Standard, IFS, and SQF) are aligned with the GFSI Guidance Document V5 requirements.

The GFSI considers that it provides added value in reducing duplication; promoting continuous improvement in the content and the delivery of private standards; encouraging competition between existing schemes; achieving cost efficiencies in the supply chain; providing a basis for a comparable approach to audits and results; and boosting consumer confidence in food safety.

f) NSF-CMi – Mr David Richardson

NSF International is an independent, non-governmental organization. NSF-CMi is a specialist food and agriculture business, whose primary activity is the provision of independent certification. Specialised activities include:

- Food, agriculture and aquaculture certification
- Organic Certification
- Supply Chain Management
- Consulting & Technical Services
- Risk assessment services
- Training

Annex XXXVII (contd)

Mr Richardson summarized the drivers for private standards as follows. Retailers seek assurance on issues relating to food safety, compliance with legal requirements, and other consumer or stakeholder concerns. Legislation, government policies, NGO pressures, the need to protect brands, shareholder concerns and media attention are all factors driving the development of private standards.

Private certification schemes have developed as a systematic and pragmatic response to the need to assess suppliers' conformity with requirements. Private certification schemes are easier to implement by large-scale producers in developed countries, who are better equipped and can more easily meet the costs. Producers and suppliers in developed countries have had a relatively longer time to modernise systems to comply with the multiple requirements of consumers in developed countries. Private certification may disadvantage small scale producers because the scope and content of standards may be less relevant; certification fees may be relatively costly; and compliance costs may be higher.

g) International Federation for Agricultural Producers (IFAP) – Mr Per Olson

On behalf of IFAP, Mr Olson noted that private standards for animal welfare may offer opportunities to raise farmers' income. However, IFAP also has concerns, primarily: that the multiplicity of private standards may create confusion; private standards may be in conflict with official standards; and private standards could lead to exclusion of small-scale producers in developing countries. IFAP is of the opinion that farmers should be involved in the development of private standards for animal welfare.

h) Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere (SSAFE) – Jean Francois Legrand

SSAFE's mission is to identify, support and facilitate activities that address the association of animal health, wildlife, agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and beverages with food safety, human health, plant health and environmental sustainability on a global basis. The key strategy is to:

- Create and support collaborative platforms that bring stakeholders together to develop science-based strategies to facilitate the production and distribution of safe food
- To support and promote international science-based Harmonization of Standards such as those referenced in the WTO/SPS agreement i.e. CODEX, OIE and IPPC, as well as ISO 22000, that protect both human and animal health
- To seek to improve the global food system through Capacity Building (stimulating education and improving local infrastructures) and promoting Social Responsibility through economic growth that conserves the environment and natural resources as well as provides decent employment opportunities
- To provide a platform whereby there can be alignment of regulators and industry regarding trade issues and food safety on a global basis

i) Comments from the International Meat Secretariat (IMS)

Mr Laurence Wrixon was invited to the meeting but could not attend due to a last minute conflict. However, he provided the following statement for inclusion in the record of the meeting.

The following are the points I was intending to make at the meeting:

- Harmonisation of Private Standards may be positive for the meat sector provided the harmonised standards are sensible and they are transparent. The OIE is a suitable organisation for producing harmonised international standards.
- In principle the meat sector welcomes a set of International Standards where these can be used in defence of acceptable practice by the industry.

- In some situations, the meat sector may want to adopt Private Standards at short notice. In that situation, if there are no recognised International Standards, which the sector can immediately adopt, key organisations or companies will need to formulate their own Private Standards. Those Standards may focus on contemporary issues that could affect trade, rather than encompass a broader range of issues that are not immediately pressing.
- In some situations, the meat sector may want to adopt Private Standards that are more connected with the image of the meat and livestock industry than with an underlying animal welfare issue. Where or if this occurs, Private Standards may deviate from conventional International Standards on Animal Welfare.
- In the short term, it is unlikely that Private Standards will become harmonised through a private sector initiative. Private Standards can provide a market lead or edge, and where they are seen as a potential competitive advantage, the incentive for harmonisation is not obvious. In time, the potential market advantage from Private Standards may erode, and at that stage harmonisation through a private sector initiative would be more likely.

10. Discussion

The participants discussed the subject of private standards with reference to the main conclusions of the OIE *ad hoc* group.

It was generally agreed that links between (global) PSSO's and official international standard setting organisations are not sufficiently strong and could be improved to the benefit of trading countries. By informing each other of developments, PSSO's and international standard setting organisations could help to resolve some of the concerns about gaps in official standards and conflicting standards. Moreover, global PSSOs like Globalgap focus on implementation of standards and compliance rather than on standard setting as such. There is some complementarity between the work of PSSO's and international standard setting organisations.

It was generally agreed that private standards should be more transparent (in terms of the procedures for setting standards and their content). In terms of food safety, the PSSOs generally recognise the primary importance of official standards; retailers generally agree that food safety is not a marketing issue and that claims of superior safety on the part of a retailer is likely to have negative effects, including confusing consumers. There was a general view that the global PSSOs have greatly improved the transparency and inclusiveness of the standards development process.

It was generally agreed that the basis for their standards on sanitary safety are the existing international standards of OIE and Codex, as well as national and regional legislation. However, the situation with animal welfare standards is less clear. The importance of encouraging countries to implement the OIE animal welfare standards and promoting consumer confidence in these standards was discussed.

The cost of compliance and certification is frequently raised as a problem with private standards. The representatives of the PSSOs made the point that the costs are probably no higher than those associated with public standards. However, costs associated with certification by government bodies are often not clear. Some PSSOs are making significant efforts to reduce the cost of certification, for example, as outlined in the GFSI statement above.

It was generally agreed that there should be mechanisms for raising concerns about private standards but no consensus on the best way to address this. The representatives of the PSSOs mentioned that direct communication to the PSSOs is one of the mechanisms. The global acting PSSOs have annual public meetings at which also other stakeholders, including governmental bodies and NGOs are invited to speak. These two instruments provide the already possibilities to raise concern.

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It was noted that many of the concerns about PSSO's may be largely a problem of perception. There may be more concerns about private standards that are implemented by single companies and those that are regional or local in scope, as opposed to the truly global private standards.

In relation to certification participants agreed that there is a difference between food safety /animal welfare and animal health on the other. While certification on food safety / animal welfare can be delegated to private certification organisations, under governmental authority, certification for animal health is generally recognised as a responsibility of governments.

11. Conclusions

Dr Vallat proposed that the OIE, Globalgap and GFSI explore the possibilities for future collaboration, bearing in mind the need for the OIE World Assembly of Delegates to approve any proposal for an official agreement. Dr Vallat will report on the next steps to Delegates at the OIE General Session in May 2010.

Appendices/...

OIE MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS**Tuesday 16 February 2010****List of participants****MEMBERS**

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OIE MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS**Tuesday 16 February 2010**

Agenda

Morning session (Salon Oval)

- 10:00 – 10:20: Welcome Mr Michael Scannel (Chair) and introduction of the participants
- 10:20 – 11:00: Presentations from participating organisations (10 minutes each)
- 10:20 – 10:30: OIE (Dr Sarah Kahn)
- 10:30 – 10:40: WTO (Dr Gretchen Stanton)
- 10:40 – 10:50: EC (Mr Michael Scannell)
- 10:50 – 11:00: Globalgap (Mr. Bert Urlings)
- 11:00 – 11:10: time for questions
- 11:10 – 11:20: Coffee break
- 11:20 – 12:00: Presentations from participating organisations (10 minutes each)
- 11:20 – 11:30: GFSI (Mrs Catherine Francois)
- 11:30 – 11:40: NSF-CMi Certification Ltd (Mr David Richardson)
- 11:40 – 11:50: IFAP (Mr Per Olson)
- 11:50 – 12:00: time for question
- 12:00 – 12:30: Conclusions of morning session
- 12:30 – 13:30: Lunch (in Salon Ramon)

Afternoon session (Salon Oval)

- 13:30 – 14:45: Discussion on next steps
- 14:45 – 15:00: Coffee break (Dr Vallat joins meeting)
- 15:00 – 16:00: Conclusions
- 16:00: Close of meeting
-

REPORT OF THE MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS

Paris, 10 September 2010

The OIE hosted a meeting with selected private standard setting organisations with a global scope. The participants in the meeting are listed at [Appendix I](#). The adopted Agenda is at [Appendix II](#) and the adopted terms of reference in [Appendix III](#).

The following documents were distributed electronically to the participants prior to the meeting:

- OIE Resolution No. 26, 78th General Session, May 2010
- Technical Item General Session 2010 '*The private sector's point of view on the use of public and private standards*'
- Report of meeting of ad hoc Group on Private Standards, February 2010
- Extract of the report of the Codex Alimentarius Commission June 2010.

1. Welcome (Dr Vallat, Dr Correa Messuti)

Dr Carlos Correa Messuti, the current President of the OIE and the Chair of the meeting, welcomed all participants and thanked them for their participation to discuss this important topic. He gave a brief summary of the history of the topic of private standards and reminded the participants of the differences in opinion between developed and developing countries. Especially in SPS context these differences become clear.

Dr Bernard Vallat joined the meeting and welcomed the participants also. He updated the meeting on the last developments in the OIE: the presentation of '*the private sector's point of view on the use of public and private standards*' and the adoption of resolution 26 during the OIE General Session 2010. He recalled the differences between sanitary safety and animal welfare standards in the context of international trade and the SPS agreement.

Dr Vallat asked the participants to follow up the recommendations of the February meeting and explore the possibilities of agreements between the OIE and GlobalGAP and between OIE and GFSI. He explained that there exist formal procedures within the OIE that should be followed before an agreement can be signed. First the board of the OIE should be consulted and as a second step the General assembly should also endorse the agreement. He asked the participants if they could help the OIE identifying other relevant global organisations in the field of private standards dealing with international trade, sanitary safety and animal welfare.

2. Update on recent developments – OIE (Sarah Kahn)

Dr Kahn, head of the International Trade Department also highlighted the differences between international and private standards for sanitary safety and animal welfare. She informed the participants that OIE Members still have concerns about private standards but some of them recognize that at the same time private standards can create benefits. She underlined the importance of communication, which was recognised also in the last OIE resolution on private standards.

Annex XXXVII (contd)**3. 4. & 5. Update on recent developments – GlobalGAP, – GFSI, – SSAFE and European Union**

The participants of the meeting, Professor Urlings of GlobalGAP, Mrs Catherine Francois of GFSI, Mr Jean Francois Legrand of SSAFE and Mrs Sylvie Coulon of the European Commission introduced themselves briefly and referred for an extensive description of the activities of their organisations to the report of the previous February meeting.

6. 7. Discussion of next steps and future work

The chair of the meeting, Dr Correa Messuti proposed to take the OIE resolution 26, 2010 as a starting point of the discussion. The other participants agreed.

Professor Urlings explained that GlobalGAP developed several additional standards. Mrs. Coulon asked what exactly an additional standard is. Professor Urlings explained that an additional standard means a standard that is based on international standards and on science. He added that GlobalGAP focuses on safety issues (safe for human consumption, environment and animal welfare). Mrs. Francois stated that in this context animal welfare is considered by the private sector as a competitive issue, unlike food safety. She explained that her organisation is only working on food safety and that GFSI is applying for an observer status with Codex at the moment. Dr Correa Messuti underlined that for animal health the OIE standards are the only international reference.

Mrs. Francois considered that there was a need for clear and uniform definitions of concepts used in relation to private standards. She estimated that ten years ago there were about 200 private food safety standards, according to work conducted within the EU Commission, and these standards should not be confused with quality, country of origin labeling standards, animal welfare etc. Through the work of GFSI, these schemes have been harmonized and now the food industry generally uses twelve food safety schemes worldwide. Now there are many more. She also asked the OIE about the Resolution considerations 6 and 7, which state that some private standards potentially conflict with OIE standards or create doubts or confusions on the part of consumers. Dr Correa Messuti explained that there are private standards that exceed international standards, for example in relation to BSE and listeriosis. One of the reasons for diverging official and private standards could be a lack of communication between the private sector and government. Mr. Legrand confirmed and added that sometimes the developments in industry go faster than in governments. Mrs. Coulon agreed that there should be an ongoing communication between private sector and government.

Professor Urlings explained that GlobalGAP has regional working groups to develop regional interpretations for the GlobalGAP standards. In his view, OIE and GlobalGAP standards are complementary. The OIE sets international standards directed to governments and GlobalGAP focuses on translating international standards into standards that can be used at the farm level. To reduce costs GlobalGAP promotes the use of a 'one stop' certification.

Finally the group discussed potential next steps and suggested the following:

- *Identify relevant global standard setting organisations with which the OIE could strengthen appropriate links*
- *Identifying mechanisms for collaboration.*
- *Define common terminology, define recognised private standard and marketing standard and schemes, official or public sanitary standards, animal welfare standards and the rest (social, environmental)*
- *Giving OIE standards to a working group to translate it into benchmarking requirements (GFSI)*
- *Explore complementarity of OIE and global private standard setting organisations in standard setting and implementation and compliance*
- *We need a communication strategy (identify responsible persons)*
- *Important international certification bodies include: ISO, the International Accreditation Forum, FSSP, IFIA, IIOC*
- *Assess the state of the problem with certification associated costs*
- *Explore collaboration in capacity building*

- *Working level collaboration in the standard setting process of agricultural practices (GlobalGAP)*
- *Input at advisory board level*
- *Sharing of information for a better transparency*
- *Harmonisation with public standards and possible collaboration at regional level*
- *Aquaculture products, food safety and environmental impact*
- *Continue to pursue the development of official agreements, starting with GlobalGAP and GFSI, using as a starting model the agreement between OIE and SSAFE*

8. Closure

Dr Correa Messuti thanked the participants for their efforts and wished them a safe journey home.

.../Appendices

OIE MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS**Friday 10 September 2010**

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OIE MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS**Friday 10 September 2010**

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Agenda

1. Welcome (Carlos Messuti and Bernard Vallat)
2. Update on recent developments – OIE (Sarah Kahn)
3. Update on recent developments - GlobalGAP
4. Update on recent developments - GFSI
5. Update on recent developments - SSAFE
6. Discussion of next steps
7. Future work
8. Closure

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OIE MEETING ON PRIVATE STANDARDS**Friday 10 September 2010**

Terms of reference

The meeting will discuss possible steps towards the implementation of the Resolution passed at the OIE General Assembly in May 2010, based on the following considerations.

1. The OIE World Assembly of Delegates has adopted and continues to adopt international standards covering animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety.
 2. OIE Members adopted, at the 76th General Session in 2008, Resolution No. XXXII 'Implications of private standards in international trade of animals and animal products' and OIE Members adopted, at the 78th General Session in 2010, Resolution No.26 'Roles of public and private standards in animal health and animal welfare'.
 3. The World Trade Organization (WTO), under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), formally recognises the OIE as the reference organisation for establishing international standards on animal diseases, including zoonoses.
 4. GlobalGAP and GFSI are global private standard setting organisations that are involved in setting and implementing private standards.
 5. SSAFE is a public private partnership to integrate food safety, animal health and plant health in order to improve public health and wellbeing.
 6. SSAFE recognises that respectful dialogue amongst the public, private and academic stakeholders is necessary for continuous improvement within global food systems that serve to nourish the public.
 7. While private standards can be beneficial in promoting good practice and supporting Producers to meet public standards, it is of major concern to OIE Members that some private standards for sanitary safety and animal welfare relating to animal products have the potential to conflict with OIE standards.
 8. Formal linkages and channels of communication between private standard setting organisations and the OIE have so far been limited and could be strengthened.
 9. The global private standard setting bodies, such as GFSI and GlobalGAP, are well placed to foster and facilitate collaborative undertakings.
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**FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE
TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION**

Topic		
Action	How to be managed	Status (September 2010)
Restructuring of the <i>Terrestrial Code</i> Harmonisation of <i>Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes</i>		
1. Work with AAHSC towards harmonisation, as appropriate, of the Codes 2. Chapters / references of non listed disease 3. CH rename by disease agents	TAHSC & ITD	1. Ongoing 2. Deletion proposed for MC 3. Ongoing
Listed disease		
criteria for listing	TAHSC & SCAD & AHG	On going
CWD		
new CH	TAHSC & SCAD	propose CH
PRRS		
new CH	SCAD	Propose CH
Evaluation of VS and OIE PVS pathway		
inclusion of legislation aspect	TAHSC & ITD	New CH proposed for MC
Surveillance articles on AI, ND, CSF		
Modify for consistency	SCAD	Revised CSF CH for MC
AHS		
Official recognition	SCAD&TAHSC	Revised CH & Q for MC
FMD		
Official recognition of national programme	SCAD&TAHSC	Revised CH & Q for MC
Other <i>Terrestrial Code</i> texts in need of revision		
Pet food CH	AHG&TAHSC	new CH for MC
Update CH on Brucellosis	SCAD;	AHG in July11 under SCAD
Update CH on Rabies	SCAD&TAHSC	Revised CH for MC
Update CH on Bee diseases	SCAD&TAHSC	Revised CH for MC
Update CH on PPR	SCAD	AHG under SCAD
CH on EHD	SCAD	AHG in March 11
Update CH on scrapie	TAHSC&SCAD	Revised CH for MC
Update CH on SVD	SCAD&TAHSC	Revised CH for MC
Update CH on ASF(inactivation + SURV)	SCAD	
CH on Paratuberculosis	BSC (diagnostic test) & STD (guidance document)	On hold pending further development in diagnostics

Annex XXXVIII (contd)

Animal Production Food Safety		
1. Salmonellosis a. Revised CH on salmonella control. b. Update biosecurity procedures CH 2. Campylobacteriosis drafting articles	APFSWG & AHG	1. Modified draft CH proposed for MC 2. On going
Zoonotic parasitic diseases	AHG	To be discussed in Oct10
Animal welfare		
New texts: 1. Dog populations 2. Lab animals 3. Livestock production systems	AWWG & AHGs TAHSC supervision	1. Modified draft CH proposed for MC 2. Modified draft CH proposed for MC 3. Ongoing
Alternative approaches to providing OIE advice		
Develop alternative mechanism for providing guidance to Members on managing certain animal health and welfare issues outside the Code framework	TAHSC, AWWG, APFSWG & ITD	Ongoing
Commodity-based measures for trade		
1. Reviewing code text 2. Research projects	TAHSC, SCAD, AHG, ITD / S&T Dept	ongoing
Role of wildlife as disease reservoirs		
Definition of wildlife	TAHSC with WG on Wildlife & SCAD	Modified text for MC
Compartmentalisation		
FMD	TAHSC&SCAD	checklist to be drafted
Aujeszky's disease	TAHSC	On hold
Communication		
Develop new CH	TAHSC & AHG	Draft CH proposed for MC

Note: MC; Member comments, CH: chapter, Q: questionnaire, SURV: surveillance, ITD: International Trade Department, S&T Dept: Scientific & Technical Department

ITEM, ANNEX, CHAPTER NUMBERS AND CUURENT STATUS

Item	Annex	Chapter	Title	Provided for comments	GS79
2	III		Glossary		
3	IV	1.1. 1.2. 10.6. 10.7. 10.9. 10.12 15.5.	Notification of diseases and epidemiological information Criteria for listing diseases Avian tuberculosis Duck virus enteritis Fowl cholera Marek's disease Teschovirus encephalomyelitis		
7	V	3.1. 3.2. new	Veterinary services Evaluation of veterinary services Veterinary legislation		
8	VI	4.2.	Design and implementation of systems to achieve animal traceability		
9	VII	4.3. 4.4.	Zoning and compartmentalisation Application of compartmentalisation		
10	VIII	4.6.	Collection and processing of bovine, small ruminant and porcine semen		
12	IX	5.2.	Certification procedures		
13	X	6.3.	Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed		
14	XI	new	Control of OIE listed diseases in heat treated, shelf stable pet food	Sep 09	
15	XII	6.4.	Biosecurity procedures in poultry production	Mar08 / Sep09	
		6.5.	Prevention, detection and control of Salmonella in poultry		
17	XIII	7.3. 7.4. 7.5. 7.6. 7.7. 7.8.	Transport of animals by land Transport of animals by air Slaughter of animals Killing of animals for disease control purposes Stray dog population control Use of animals in research and education		
18	XIV	8.1.	Anthrax		
19	XV	8.2.	Aujeszky's disease		
20	XVI	8.3.	Bluetongue		
21	XVII	8.5.	Foot and mouth disease		
		1.6.	Questionnaire on foot and mouth disease (Article 1.6.3.)		
22	XVIII	8.10. 5.11.	Rabies Rabies model international veterinary certificate for domestic dogs (<i>Canis familiaris</i>), cats (<i>Felis catus</i>) and ferrets (<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>)		
23	XIX	8.15.	Vesicular stomatitis		
24	XX	4.14.	Hygiene and disease security procedures in apiaries		
		9.1.	Acarapisosis of honey bees	Sep09	
		9.2.	American foulbrood of honey bees		
		9.3.	European foulbrood of honey bees		
		9.4.	Small hive beetle infestation (<i>Aethina tumida</i>)		
		9.5.	Tropilae laps infestation of honey bees		
9.6.	Varroosis of honey bees				
25	XXI	10.4.	Avian influenza		
26	XXII	10.13.	Newcastle disease		
30	XXIII	1.6.	Questionnaire on contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (Article 1.6.5.)		
31	XXIV	11.12.	Lumpy skin disease		

Annex XXXVIII (contd)

Item	Annex	Chapter	Title	Provided for comments	GS79
32	XXV	12.1	African horse sickness		
		1.6.	Questionnaire on African horse sickness (Article 1.6.6.)		
		12.6.	Equine influenza		
		12.10.	Equine viral arteritis		
33	XXVI	14.5.	<i>Chlamydophila abortus</i> infection (enzootic abortion of ewes, ovine chlamydiosis)		
34	XXVII	14.9.	Scrapie		
35	XXVIII	15.2.	Classical swine fever		
36	XXIX	15.4.	Swine vesicular disease	Mar 09	
37	XXX	new	Communications	Sep 08/09	
27		11.3.	Bovine brucellosis		E
41			Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome		E

A: decided for adoption at 79GS, E: under experts consultation (ad hoc Group/SCAD/BSC etc.), D: deferred at Sep10

List of abbreviations	
AAHSC	Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
AHS	African horse sickness
APFSWG	Animal Production Food Safety Working Group
AWWG	Animal Welfare Working Group
BSE	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
CAMEVET	the Committee of the Americas for the Harmonisation of the Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicines
CBPP	Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
CVP	Comité Veterinario Permanente del CONOSUR
EHD	Epizootic haemorrhagic disease
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMD	Foot and mouth disease
PPR	Peste des petits ruminants
PRRS	Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome
SCAD	Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
TAHSC	Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
USA	United States of America
VEE	Veterinary education establishments
VICH	the International Cooperation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products
VS	Veterinary services
WHO	World Health Organization

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