

Recommendation of the 3rd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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One of the important activities in the OIE Global Initiative on Animal Welfare is the convening of global conferences. These events provide national OIE Delegates and representatives of international organisations, industry sectors, NGOs and civil society an opportunity to engage with the OIE in its activities to further improve animal welfare globally. The recommendations developed at the OIE global conferences are formally discussed and adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates at the annual OIE General Session and where relevant recommendations may be adopted as the basis for the development of new standards and guidelines.

The first global animal welfare conference took place in Paris, in 2004. The main objective was to raise awareness of the expansion of the OIE mandate and to prepare the way for the adoption of new animal welfare standards. The conference was very successful: in 2005, the OIE adopted four standards covering animal transport and livestock slaughter. Since the Kuala Lumpur Conference, three new animal welfare standards have been adopted by the General Assembly of Delegates.

The third global conference took place in Kuala Lumpur in 2012. This conference introduced the concept of a regional focus on the OIE animal welfare standards. To respond to this challenge, four Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (RAWS) have been developed and adopted, with three of four going on to develop specific action plans to implement these strategies. Efforts have also been made to develop such a strategy in the African Region. The implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards has been furthered significantly by the development of the RAWS.

Member countries have been active in designating their animal welfare focal points and efforts have been made to develop twinning projects under the PVS pathway. Also, training activities for the animal welfare focal points have taken place along with "train the trainer" sessions, which use the successful model of the Improve Animal Welfare Program.

Another key recommendation of the 2012 conference was the promotion of collaboration between interested parties. Subsequently, as a result of the collaboration with the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO), a new ISO Animal Welfare Technical Specification, to be published in December 2016, was developed. This Technical Specification considers the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* as the reference document.

Key words: animal welfare - RAWS - Regional Animal Welfare Strategy - OIE Global Conference