INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: WORLD ANIMAL HEALTH ORGANISATION [OIE]

Presented By:

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Overview

1. Introduction: The World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE)
3. Guiding principles for animal welfare
4. Scientific basis for OIE recommended welfare standards
5. Existing OIE Recommended Welfare Standards
6. Welfare responsibilities of the Competent Authority

- It consists of members states;

- The OIE develops various standards for improvement of animal health, welfare and veterinary public health through member states participation

- The developed standards are recommended to member states in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (hereafter Terrestrial Code)

- These recommended standards are science-based or evidence-based

- OIE Terrestrial Code standards are recognised by the World Trade Organisation for trade purposes

- Adoption of these recommended standards is therefore an enabler for trade and market access
2. Overview: Terrestrial Code on Animal Welfare (Chapter 7)

❖ Animal Welfare Definition:

❖ *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 behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress.

❖ Good animal welfare:

❖ *requires disease prevention and appropriate veterinary treatment, shelter, management and nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter or 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.

3. Guiding principles for animal welfare

a) *The state of an animal’s welfare* is a determinant of it’s health

b) The ‘five freedoms’ provide valuable guidance in *animal welfare*:
   - Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition;
   - Freedom from fear and distress;
   - Freedom from physical and thermal discomfort;
   - Freedom from pain, injury and disease; and
   - Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour

c) The ‘three Rs’ provide valuable guidance for the use of animals in science
   - Reduction in numbers of animals,
   - Refinement of experimental methods and
   - Replacement of animals with non-animal techniques
3. Guiding principles for animal welfare (continued)

d) The scientific assessment of animal welfare involves diverse elements which often involves value-based assumptions. Assumptions must be explicit.

e) The use of animals by man makes a major contribution to ‘his’ wellbeing.

f) Animal use carries an ethical responsibility to ensure their welfare to the greatest extent practicable.

g) Improvements in farm animal welfare can improve productivity, food safety and economic benefits.

h) When comparing animal welfare standards and recommendations, rather use equivalent animal-based outcomes than use of identical systems design.
4. Scientific basis for OIE recommended welfare standards

1) Welfare is a broad term which includes the many elements that contribute to an animal’s quality of life, including those referred to in the ‘five freedoms’ listed above.

2) The scientific assessment of animal welfare has progressed rapidly in recent years and forms the basis of these recommendations.

3) Some measures of animal welfare involve assessing the degree of impaired functioning associated with injury, disease, and malnutrition. Other measures provide information on animals’ needs and affective states such as hunger, pain and fear, often by measuring the strength of animals’ preferences, motivations and aversions. Others assess the physiological, behavioural and immunological changes or effects that animals show in response to various challenges.

4) Such measures can lead to criteria and indicators that help to evaluate how different methods of managing animals influence their welfare.
5. Existing OIE Recommended Welfare Standards

1. Transport of Animal by Sea

2. Transport of Animals by Land

3. Transport of Animals by Air

- These recommendations apply to the following live domesticated animals: cattle, buffaloes, camels, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and equines. They will also be largely applicable to some other animals, e.g. deer, other camelids and ratites.
4. Slaughter of Animals

- These address the welfare of food animals during pre-slaughter and slaughter processes, until they are dead.

- They apply to abattoir slaughter of domestic animals

- All other animals slaughtered outside abattoirs should be managed to ensure that their transport, lairage, restraint and slaughter is carried out without undue stress
5. Existing OIE Recommended Welfare Standards (continued)

5. Killing of Animals for Disease Control Purposes
   ▪ When a decision to kill the animals has been made, ensure the welfare of the animals until they are dead.

6. Stray Dog Population Control
   ▪ Promotion of responsible dog ownership can significantly reduce the numbers of stray dogs and the incidence of zoonotic diseases.
   ▪ Control of stray dog populations has to be accompanied by changes in human behaviour to be effective (dog ecology is linked with human activities).
7. Use of Animals in Research and Education
   - Emphasis on Three Rs where animals are used.

8. Beef Cattle Production Systems
   - These apply to all commercial cattle production systems (except veal) where the purpose of the operation includes some or all of the breeding, rearing and finishing of cattle intended for beef consumption.

9. Broiler Chicken Production Systems
   - Apply for species *Gallus gallus* kept for commercial meat production, excluding village or backyard
5. Existing OIE Recommended Welfare Standards (continued)

10. Dairy Cattle Production Systems
   - Applies for all commercial cattle production systems where the purpose of the operation includes breeding, rearing and management of cattle intended for production of milk.

11. Welfare of Working Equids
   - Applies to equids:
     » used for transport and traction in production and commercial activities.
     » providing draught power, manure, milk, meat and hides for household use.
6. Welfare responsibilities of the Competent Authority

1. Establishing minimum standards for *animal welfare*, including requirements for inspection of animals before, during and after their travel, defining ‘fitness to travel’ and appropriate certification and record keeping;

2. Setting standards for facilities, *containers* and *vehicles* for the transport of animals;

3. Setting standards for the competence of *animal handlers*, drivers and managers of facilities in relevant issues in *animal welfare*;

4. Ensuring appropriate awareness and training of *animal handlers*, drivers and managers of facilities in relevant issues in *animal welfare*;

5. Implementation of the standards, including through accreditation of / interaction with other organisations;

6. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of standards of health and other aspects of welfare;

7. Monitoring and evaluating the use of veterinary medications;

8. Giving animal consignments priority at frontiers in order to allow them to pass without unnecessary delays