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RAWS-News

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter
July 2012

Note from the Chair



I had the opportunity to attend the OIE's 80th General Session OIE Delegates in Paris in May. On 21 May 2012 the Regional Commission endorsed the development of a revised welfare strategy and action plan to guide on the ground activities in the region. The Regional Commission noted and agreed to the thrust of the recommendations arising from the RAWS Coordination Group meetings 2 and 3 and encourages Members to provide summary reports on animal welfare developments to the RAWS CG.

The General Session also adopted new generic guiding principles on animal welfare relating to livestock production systems and a new chapter on the welfare of cattle bred for meat production. Following the Session OIE Director General, Dr Vallat said "In 2011 the Delegates of the OIE did not reach a consensus on a text on animal welfare of broiler chickens and this year's consensus on livestock is a huge step forward This is a historical event that opens way to the adoption of animal welfare standards of other farm animal production."

The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) continues to lead the way in assisting regional member countries to address local priorities for the improvement of animal welfare. The success of the RAWS is being monitored by all OIE member countries with a view to implementing similar strategies in the OIE's other four global regions – Europe, the Americas, Africa and the Middle East.

Gardner Murray
Chairman
RAWS Coordination Group

Introduction

The RAWS-News May 2012 edition focuses on updating members about country animal welfare activities and initiatives as well as progress of the RAWS. The Chair of the RAWS Coordination Group, Dr Gardner Murray, encourages members to contribute to future editions of the RAWS-News, for the benefit of all members and other interested parties. Please provide your input to Ms Lee-Ann Swift via email at lee-ann.swift@daff.gov.au.

RAWS Developments

The third meeting of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy – Asia, the Far East and Oceania Coordination Group (RAWS CG) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on 3 and 4 April 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to examine how the RAWS CG can best work with and support the OIE, as well as improving understanding of OIE policies and priorities and gain the views of members on current and future welfare matters; review the draft RAWS Implementation Framework and make recommendations on future priority actions; and prepare a report of outcomes for the Regional Commission and OIE. The fourth meeting of the Coordination Group is scheduled for the 9th of November 2012.




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Country Highlights

Australian Veterinary Association Conference.

RAWS delegates presented at the Australian Veterinary Association Conference which was held from 20 to 25 May 2012. Over 1250 veterinarians, government delegates and industry representatives attended. The conference included a range of animal health and welfare topics such as animal welfare during disaster management presented by Ian Dacre from the World Society for the Protection of Animals and an introduction to phase two of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy presented by Jim Paradise.

Australia's new Exporter Supply Chain Assurance program (ESCAS).

In October 2011 the Australian Government announced a range of livestock export trade reforms. A key focus of these reforms was that Australian Exporters must now submit an ESCAS plan to demonstrate that:

- animals will be handled and processed through specified supply chains in accordance with the internationally accepted requirements for animal welfare established by the OIE right through to the point of slaughter;
- the exporter has control of the movement of animals within their supply chain;
- that the exporter can track or account for animals throughout the supply chain; and
- that independent audits have been conducted of the supply chain, both prior to export and of performance afterwards, to assess compliance with these new requirements.

The Improved Animal Welfare, and Approved Supply Chain Improvements Programs have been established by the Australian Government to assist with the implementation of the ESCAS. The Improved Animal Welfare Program has been allocated \$10 million the Australia's Official Development Assistance for eligible countries that import Australian animals to improve their animal welfare outcomes. The details of this assistance are being settled with eligible nations. The Approved Supply Chain Improvements program is available to approved Australian exporters who have an ESCAS approved chain in place for improvements to their supply chains through to the point of slaughter available on a 3:1 investment ration from the exporter and the government.



Election to the OIE animal welfare working group

Australia's expertise and commitment to animal welfare has been internationally recognised with the appointment of Dr Peter Thornber, Director of Animal Welfare Policy, to the OIE's Animal Welfare Working Group. Dr Thornber's appointment was announced at the OIE's conclusion to its 80th General Session of the World Assembly in Paris on 25 May 2012. Australian representation will provide a valuable perspective from the Asia—Oceania region.

Thailand's Animal Welfare Sub-committee

The Animal Welfare Sub-committee was set up in February 2012 under the Agricultural Standards Act 2008 with the objectives to establish the animal welfare strategy of Thailand, to communicate and cooperate with stakeholders on animal welfare standards and to monitor the operation on animal welfare. It is composed of a mixture of stakeholder representatives and chaired by the Director General of the Department of Livestock Development (DLD). The preliminary activities performed by the Animal Welfare Sub-committee will be continued by the Animal Welfare Committee under the Bill of Cruelty Prevention and Animal Welfare Management Bill which is now in the process to be adopted by the parliament.



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Malaysian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (MAWAC)

Malaysia has formed a Technical Advisory Committee on Animal Welfare which aims to provide advice to the government in addressing issues related to animal welfare. This committee has been set up while waiting for the parliament to pass the Animal Welfare Bill 2012. The second committee meeting will be held in June 2012.

Malaysian Animal Welfare Policy & Strategy (MAWePS)

Malaysia is in the process of preparing the Animal Welfare Policy & Strategy. The first workshop was held in Selangor in February 2012, this workshop outlined the Malaysian Animal Welfare Vision, Mission and Strategies. The second workshop was held in April and brought together stakeholders and non-government organisations to plan the national activities pertaining to animal welfare.

Malaysian Standards, Guidelines and Codes of Practice

Malaysia is in the process of preparing the National Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. In the 1st workshop held in Jan 2012, seven drafts on the Malaysian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines were prepared. Malaysia also in the process to develop an Accreditation System for Animal Welfare Codes of Practice for Abattoirs, Pet Shop and Animal Breeders with the objectives to ensure and encourage the establishments continuously adopt the Animal Welfare Codes of Practice.

Indonesia

The Indonesian Government currently is increasing its effort in implementing animal welfare practices as an integrated part of food safety and quality to ensure human health, these practices are not only for imported cattle, but also for local cattle and other species. Increasing participation and support for this effort also came from professionals association, non-government organisations, private sector organisations, and universities.

Indonesia's development of National Provisions on Animal Welfare

A draft of Government Regulation Concerning Veterinary Public Health has been prepared, where Animal Welfare issues will be part of the regulation. The proposed regulation consists of provisions for housing and caging, raising and nursing, transporting, usage and use, slaughtering and killing, proper treatment and caring of animals by humans, and disasters management. In general, basic provision concerning issues on animal welfare is contained in Law 18 of 2009 regarding Livestock and Animal Health.

Indonesian Standards, Guidelines and Codes of Practice

Indonesia's standards work includes development of Guidelines for Animal Welfare implementation in Ruminant and Poultry Slaughter House (2011-2012). Initial priorities will focus on farmed animals, pet animals, and wildlife and will be formed in cooperation with concerned non-government organisations and other government agencies such as the Ministry of Agriculture.

Indonesia's National Animal Welfare Expert Sub-Committee

An expert subcommittee will be established as part of the existing expert committee under the Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services and Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Expert committee as a result from a national animal welfare meeting with stakeholders in March 2012. This expert sub-committee will include animal welfare expert representatives from professionals associations, universities and non-government organisations. The sub-committee will provide advice related to animal welfare problems for the Indonesian Government.



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World Society for the Protection of Animals' (WSPA) emergency guidelines and disaster management

During 29 January 2012-3 February 2012, World Society for the Protection of animals (WSPA) has hosted Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS): Training of Trainers in Manila and the Philippines. Participants including WSPA staff were invited from 5 different countries in the region- India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines. The training was to equip participants to be able to conduct a 3-day LEGS training in their own countries aimed at building capacity to support the saving of lives and livelihoods among livestock owning communities affected by disasters.

In June 2011 a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam and WSPA was signed that agreed on the framework of cooperation for the period of 2011 to 2015. WSPA's work in Vietnam is focused on the national roll-out of LEGS training to Department of Livestock Production staff under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The first LEGS training in Vietnam under the cooperation took place in April 2012. WSPA supported translation of the LEGS documents into Vietnamese and will be reviewed and finalised by the end of 2012.

WSPA held a stakeholder meeting on 13 February 2012 gathering various sectors working with animals and in disaster management in Thailand to improve disaster interventions for animals and better animal welfare in the country. The next step is for the stakeholders to fill in their roles in the Incident Command System adjusted by WSPA and then the working group will investigate setting up a committee and work plan.

WSPA held a session on "Disaster Management for Animals" at the 37th International Conference on Veterinary Science in Bangkok, Thailand to share knowledge in animal management in disasters. WSPA also took this occasion to receive comments for the Incident Command System proposed by WSPA.

Development of the 'Concepts in Animal Welfare' training syllabus by WSPA.

The 'Concepts in Animal Welfare' (CAW) is a training syllabus that comprises of thirty four teaching modules covering a wide range of animal welfare topics, produced in 2003 and revised in 2008, as a result of collaboration between WSPA and the School of Clinical Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in England. CAW syllabus has now been translated into Korean and will be distributed to all Korean vet schools, followed by a training workshop in autumn 2012. WSPA has also developed the 'First Concepts in Animal Welfare' Program which aims to integrate animal welfare education into the curricula for primary and secondary schools and ensure that teachers in target countries (Thailand, Vietnam and India) are teaching animal welfare effectively.

WSPA overview meeting

WSPA held an Asia-Pacific Regional Overview Meeting early on 23 February 2012 to share and discuss the organisation's animal welfare work in the region which covers 38 countries.

New name and strategy for New Zealand Ministry responsible for Animal Welfare

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is now the Ministry for Primary Industries, Manatu Ahu Matua (MPI). The name links in with the Ministry's strategy "Growing and protecting New Zealand" and covers its work across the agricultural, horticultural, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry and food sectors, and the protection of our primary industries from biological risk. Staff email addresses are now firstname.lastname@mpi.govt.nz but all existing email addresses will continue to work. The main Ministry website is www.mpi.govt.nz but visitors to the old site will automatically be redirected to the new site.



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New Zealand animal welfare strategy update

The Ministry for Primary Industries is leading the development of a national strategy for animal welfare to set the future direction of animal welfare in New Zealand and outline the Government's key priorities over the next few years. The *Animal Welfare Act 1999* is being reviewed at the same time, with changes expected to be considered by parliament in 2013.

Proposals have been developed with input from key stakeholders such as vets, animal industries, animal advocacy groups, and users of animals in research and teaching, and a specially-convened stakeholder advisory group. The draft strategy is likely to focus on the integrity of our animal welfare system and ensuring that animals' welfare needs are met. The legislation proposals aim to create a wider range of ways to ensure compliance with the Act, providing greater flexibility for managing animal welfare risks and allowing the animal welfare system to evolve as societal expectations shift. Some technical amendments will also be proposed. See www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity-animal-welfare/animal-welfare for more information.

Code of welfare for goats issued

A new code of welfare for goats has been issued under New Zealand's *Animal Welfare Act 1999*. Goats are kept in a variety of situations in New Zealand, including being farmed for milk, meat and fibre, or kept in safari parks, as pets, or for controlling pest plants. The code of welfare supports people to meet their responsibilities under the Act to look after goats appropriately, no matter how or why they are kept. It has practical information and 19 minimum standards relating to all aspects of goat ownership and care, including water, food and shelter, breeding, and handling.

Codes of welfare set minimum standards and promote best practice for the care and management of animals. There are currently fifteen codes of welfare, with revised codes for meat chickens and layer hens expected this year, and further codes for llamas and alpacas, equines and temporary housing of companion animals under development. See www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity-animal-welfare/animal-welfare for more information.

Animal welfare advice for vets on-farm

As part of the programme to improve animal welfare compliance in New Zealand, 'Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation', the Ministry for Primary Industries is working alongside representatives of the farming, transport, and processing industries and the veterinary profession to improve compliance. The major focus for 2012 relates to the Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare especially fitness for transport of bobby calves (unweaned calves for slaughter) and cattle likely to become recumbent. A "toolkit" to provide practical guidance for veterinarians involved in addressing animal welfare issues on farms was launched in August 2011 and a similar one for representatives in the farming community is to be published this year.

Regional meeting of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)

The Australasia & Africa region of the ISAE is holding a meeting on 'Our animals, our issues: applying animal behaviour science to regional issues'. The meeting will be held at the Animal Welfare Science Centre, Melbourne on Friday 26 October. Dr Carol Petherick is giving a keynote address 'The changing face of ethology in the management of rangeland beef cattle.' The ISAE is the international, professional association for the scientific study of applied animal behaviour. It acts to encourage and support the teaching of animal behaviour, to provide a pool of expertise to governments, international bodies, industry and animal welfare organisations dealing with problems involving animal behaviour, and to encourage the uptake of scientific knowledge to solve practical problems in animal care and use. See http://www.applied-ethology.org/australia_new_zealand_phillipines_and_africa.html for more information.



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Key Dates

Event	Date	Location
RAWS coordination group and focal point meeting	8-9 November 2012	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare	6-8 November 2012	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)

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