



RAWS-News
Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter
November 2011

Note from the Chair

This RAWS update is provided for information and comment. It was agreed that updates on a regular basis would be valuable and could be used not only to inform of developments, but be used a more broad based communication tool. It is most important that countries provide information that can be included in future updates so that a comprehensive picture of developments and key issues in the region is available. The Secretariat is seeking the views of RAWS Coordination Group members on the nature, content, and timing of updates.

Gardner Murray

Chairman
RAWS Coordination Group

Introduction

The RAWS-News is designed to keep countries in the OIE Asia, Far East and Oceania Region fully informed of OIE animal welfare developments in general, and progress of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) in particular. The Chair of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group, Dr David Bayvel from New Zealand, confirms that the Working Group and OIE Headquarters in Paris fully supports the initiative and leadership being shown by the Region and that the RAWS is providing a valuable model for other OIE Regions to follow in drawing up similar strategies. This second issue includes details of current animal welfare developments in Australia, and other countries are invited to submit similar updates for inclusion in future issues.

At the first meeting of the RAWS Coordination Group in April 2011, members recognised the importance of effective communication and agreed to the Secretariat circulating a quarterly newsletter to help achieve this. The Secretariat would appreciate feedback from member countries on the format and content of this newsletter, as well as suggestions and updates on animal welfare developments for inclusion in future issues. Your input should be provided to Ms Rhiannon Coulton by email at rhiannon.coulton@daff.gov.au.

RAWS Developments

The OIE Regional Commission endorsed the establishment of a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group (Coordination Group), responsible for guiding the implementation of the RAWS. The first meeting of the Coordination Group was held on 19-20 April 2011 in Bangkok, Thailand, and the report of this meeting is available on request. Australia agreed to provide initial funding and secretariat support to the Coordination Group and is currently assisting in the organisation of a second meeting, scheduled for 29 November 2011 in Tokyo, Japan. The Coordination Group will use this opportunity to endorse a revised RAWS Implementation Plan. This document will be printed and available online and in hard copy. A further meeting of the Coordination Group is tentatively scheduled for April 2012.

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RAWS Coordination Group participants

In addition, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has organised for the RAWS to be translated into Indonesian, Malay, Thai and Tagalog. Hardcopies of these translations were distributed at the April 2010 RAWS Workshop and are available upon request. The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (English version) can be downloaded from: http://www.daff.gov.au/animal-plant-health/welfare/regional_animal_welfare_strategy_for_asia_the_far_east_and_oceania

If you would like to request a copy of any of the above mentioned documents, please direct your request to Rhiannon Coulton at rhiannon.coulton@daff.gov.au.

A course in practical animal handling and welfare in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania (AFEO) region was supported at the RAWS meeting in April 2010. The Pilot course took place on 5-6 October 2011 in the Malaysian district of Kluang. The pilot course was a great success, with the 13 participants participating in interactive demonstrations, classroom activities and practical animal handling sessions. Feedback was positive and indicated that holding similar courses in other AFEO countries may be of benefit in promoting OIE welfare concepts within the region.



Course participants and trainers



Training with sheep



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OIE Welfare Guidelines

The 178 Member countries of the OIE have endorsed and published animal welfare guidelines for land/sea/air transport, slaughter for human consumption and killing for disease control, on humane dog control (in support of efforts to control rabies), the welfare of farmed fish during transport and slaughter and the use of animals in research and education. These guidelines were adopted over the period 2005 - 2010 and are available on the OIE website (www.oie.int).

The OIE Third Global Animal Welfare Conference

The OIE Third Global Animal Welfare Conference entitled 'Implementing the OIE standards – addressing regional perspectives' is to be held on 5-9 November 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Up to 400 participants are anticipated and will include OIE representatives, animal welfare NGOs, international industry organisations, veterinarians and research institutes. The conference aims to support the implementation by Members of OIE animal welfare standards, with particular attention to relevant strategies and tools, including at the regional level.

OIE Collaborating Centre

The joint New Zealand-Australia proposal to expand the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis at Massey University in New Zealand was endorsed at the OIE General Session in May 2009.

The primary role of the centre is the provision of expert scientific, bioethical and educational advice for the OIE. Other roles will include the provision of scientific and technical training, the organisation of appropriate scientific meetings, and the coordination of scientific and technical studies in collaboration with other organisations and other animal welfare experts in Australia and New Zealand where relevant.

The third face to face meeting of the Collaborating Centre Management Committee was held in Wellington, NZ on 26-27 October 2011. Representatives from MAF, DAFF, Massey University, AgResearch, University of Melbourne, CSIRO and the University of Queensland attended.

More information can be found at: <http://animalwelfare.massey.ac.nz/oie.html> and a flyer is available from DAFF by contacting animal.welfare@daff.gov.au

Developments under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

AAWS 5th National Workshop

The 5th Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) National Workshop was held at the Menzies Hotel, Sydney on 2-4 August 2011. There were approximately 120 attendees representing stakeholders from industry, government and animal welfare bodies.

The Workshop was a valuable opportunity for AAWS stakeholders to engage in the launch and delivery of Phase 2 of the AAWS and the revised National Implementation Plan. DAFF Secretary, Dr Conall O'Connell attended the Workshop on Day 1 to formally launch the Strategy. The revised Strategy includes a 4th goal around engagement in international partnerships to improve animal welfare.

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AAWS 5th National Workshop participants holding revised AAWS

Animal welfare research, development and extension (R,D&E) strategy

Through the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC), the Australian, state and Northern Territory governments, rural R&D corporations, CSIRO, and universities are jointly developing the National Primary Industries Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Framework to encourage greater collaboration and promote continuous improvement in the investment of RD&E resources nationally.

Australia has recently developed the Animal Welfare RD&E Strategy (the Strategy), which is a component of the National Primary Industries RD&E Framework. The purpose of the Strategy is to develop national arrangements to deliver strong collaboration amongst existing RD&E provider groups, and effective partnerships between investors and providers.

At this stage, the Strategy is confined to the welfare of farm and production animals. However, it provides a flexible framework to enable RD&E interests and objectives of other animal groups to be incorporated in the future.

Welfare Standards and Guidelines

The development of national animal welfare standards and guidelines is a priority activity under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS), and an important step towards achieving nationally consistent animal welfare regulation. Government, animal use industries, and animal welfare groups support the development of standards that are underpinned by national consistency, scientific soundness, appropriate consultation and legal enforceability.

The Land Transport Standards and Guidelines have been endorsed and are awaiting implementation into legislation. Sheep, cattle, horses and exhibited animals (zoos) standards and guidelines are currently in the drafting phase. Once draft standards and guidelines have been developed a Regulatory Impact Analysis will be undertaken which will ensure that the economic and social costs and benefits of the regulatory proposals are examined fully. Public consultation will then be undertaken. Comments from this process will be considered and adjustments to the standards and guidelines made prior to seeking endorsement by the Commonwealth, and state and territories governments.

Livestock exports

The Australian Government has accepted all recommendations made by the Farmer Review into the Live Export Industry, including adapting and implementing a supply chain assurance framework to all markets for the export of Australian livestock to improve traceability through the supply chain. Reforms will be implemented on both a domestic and international level to ensure Australian livestock exported for slaughter are treated at or above internationally accepted animal welfare standards.



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Windows SharePoint Tool

This online collaborative service, launched under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and known as SharePoint, is now available for RAWs members. This tool facilitates easy distribution of announcements and materials, a calendar to advise of upcoming meetings, seminars, workshops, conferences and events, discussion areas and much more.

EU-Australia Animal Welfare Cooperation Forum

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry signed a formal cooperation agreement with the EC in September 2008 under the high level Australia-EU Partnership Framework.

A meeting of the EU-Australia Animal Welfare Cooperation Forum was held via video-conference on 15 April 2010. The meeting discussed European Commission and DAFF welfare activity and priority updates, strategic issues and trends including the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, the EU Compliance and Enforcement Strategy and recent animal welfare research, and cooperation opportunities including natural disaster planning and international capacity building.

The forum provides a regular platform for information exchange and cooperation on animal welfare issues of operational and strategic importance to both participants.

New Zealand Animal Welfare Publication

Issued three times a year, Welfare Pulse is of special relevance to those with an interest in domestic and international animal welfare developments. The ninth issue included articles on: The Code of Welfare for Transport issued within in New Zealand, Pest control for the 21st century, Animals in research - a scientists' perspective and the Launch of the veterinary toolkit. Electronic copies are available at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regis/animal-welfare/pubs/welfare-pulse>

Key Events

Event	Date	Location
RAWS Coordination Group Second Meeting	29 November 2011	Tokyo, Japan
RAWS Coordination Group Third Meeting	TBC April 2012	TBC
Australian Animal Welfare Strategy Annual Workshop	TBC August 2012	TBC
OIE Collaborating Centre Management Committee Meeting	TBC October 2012	Melbourne, Australia
OIE 3 rd Global Animal Welfare Conference	5-9 November 2012	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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