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RAWS-News
Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter
October 2012



Note from the Chair

The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy has been a catalyst for training opportunities, strategy sharing and the development of regional priorities. Now the RAWS is changing in line with progressing national standards, regional priorities and global policy developments through the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Moving into 2013, a revised RAWS (2012-15) will be made available that canvasses the progress that has been made, builds on the strategy's successes and identifies further opportunities for improvements to animal welfare. Although the RAWS is progressing, the strategy's core function of providing an overarching framework and guidance for countries in the Asia, Far East and Oceania region, remains unchanged.

Regional animal welfare improvements will require shared responsibility between governments, the community, welfare organisations, industry, and scientists. To continue constructive and positive engagement, the fourth meeting of the Coordination Group will be held on 9 November 2012. This meeting will focus on issues including the development of RAWS Coordination Group, provide updates in animal welfare activities in the region, review and update the Regional Strategy document and the RAWS Action Plan.

Gardner Murray
Chairman
RAWS Coordination Group

Introduction

The RAWS-News October 2012 edition focuses on updating members about country animal welfare activities and initiatives as well as progress of the RAWS. The Secretariat encourages RAWS participants to contribute to future editions of RAWS newsletter. For your contribution to future editions of RAWS newsletter, please provide your input to Ms Lee-Ann Swift via email at animal.welfare@daff.gov.au.

Country Highlights

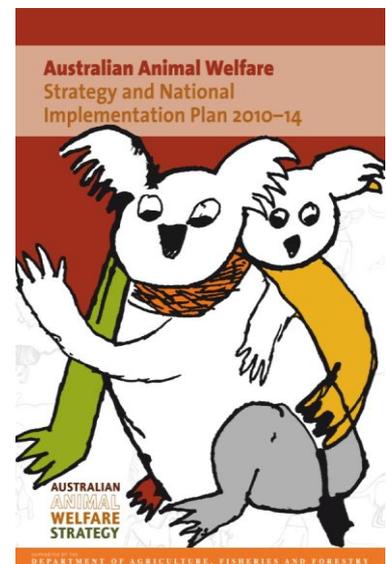
Australia Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) national workshop

The 6th Australian Animal Welfare Strategy national workshop was held in September 2012 in Canberra. Over 130 key stakeholders and experts attended this workshop. The workshop celebrated the good progress in implementing the high standards in animal welfare practice and agreed on the need to produce a 'State of the Nation' report on animal welfare in Australia as a benchmark. This report will allow Australia to measure progress and improve animal welfare in the future. A communiqué from Dr Gardner, Chair of the Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is available at

<http://www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au/news/state-of-the-nation-report-key-to-future-welfare-of-animals>.

Case studies under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy include; the development of national animal welfare zoo standards, caring for dogs in Indigenous communities and the benefits of de-sexing, taking control of feral cats, low stress handling of sheep and Iki Jime technique to humanely kill fish with the added benefit of maintaining the eating quality of caught fish (Iki Jime link; <http://www.fishingworld.com.au/news/aussies-leading-the-way-in-fish-welfare>).

Video clips of the case studies can be found on You Tube at www.youtube.com/user/AusAnimalWelfare



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Australia's new transport standards come into effect

New national standards for the transport of livestock have been developed to protect the welfare of animals, and for the first time these standards will be the same in all States and Territories.

The Australian Standards & Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals – Land Transport of Livestock (LTS) was developed by industry, welfare organisations and government through the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.

The new standards will bring consistency to the way livestock are transported across Australia and they aim to ensure good welfare practices for all livestock journeys.

Brochures explaining the changes have been distributed through industry networks, and detailed information on how the standards apply to different livestock species can be found at www.livestockwelfarestandards.net.au

Thailand's research collaboration with European Union (EU)

A specific request from the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) to the European Commission DG SANCO has been made on the research collaboration project between the EU and Thailand on the welfare of commercial poultry in Thailand. The project objective is to develop the research methods for establishment of poultry welfare standards that are appropriate to the environment and conditions of Thailand and similar countries of ASEAN.

Following the request, the mission of an EU expert (Dr. Mohan Raj) to Thailand was conducted from 10-16 June 2012 to analyse the organisation of poultry production and official controls in Thailand in relation to the animal welfare and to draft the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the EU-Thailand research project on the welfare of commercial poultry in Thailand. The EU expert visited the commercial poultry farm and slaughterhouses. The draft ToR defined the study outlines in respect of transportation of broilers to reduce the incidence of death on arrival at slaughterhouse and pre-slaughter electrical stunning parameters to be complied with the animal welfare and Halal requirements and produce acceptable quality of carcass and meat. It has been proposed to the DG SANCO, EU for consideration of implementation in 2013. The project is regarded as a continuous training on animal welfare in Thailand.

Thailand's legislative developments

The Bill on Cruelty Prevention and Animal Welfare Management has been approved by the cabinet. It is now in the process to be considered for approval by the parliament. Additionally, the legislation for the use of animals in scientific work is being drafted. Meanwhile, the Ethics for Use of Animals in Scientific Work, which is stipulated by the Office of National Research Council of Thailand, is applied in every institution where using animals for research and education.



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Education of animal welfare in Chinese Universities

To strengthen awareness of animal welfare, the undergraduate Nanjing Agricultural University edited the textbook 'An Introduction to Animal Protection' (Edited by Lu Chengping). By now, several universities, including China's Agricultural University, Nanjing Agricultural University and Shandong Agricultural University, have set up animal welfare curriculums or have added the content of animal welfare in the continuous education.

Capacity building for animal welfare in Indonesia

The directorate of Veterinary Public Health and Post-Harvest along with the Indonesian Council of Ulama/MUI organised Halal slaughter training in February 2012. Workshop for animal welfare auditor and animal welfare officer in supply chain slaughter houses were held in May 2012.

New Zealand's revised code of welfare for meat chickens

A new code of welfare has been issued for meat (broiler) chickens in July 2012, to replace the previous 2003 code. Unlike the previous code, this code includes standards for chickens with access to the outdoors, whereas the old code only covered fully-housed chickens. Also, it now requires farmers to manage stocking density on the basis of the environment where the chickens are kept in (eg. air temperature and quality, humidity, litter quality) as well as the need for space and access to food and water. The chickens still have to stay within a maximum stocking density.

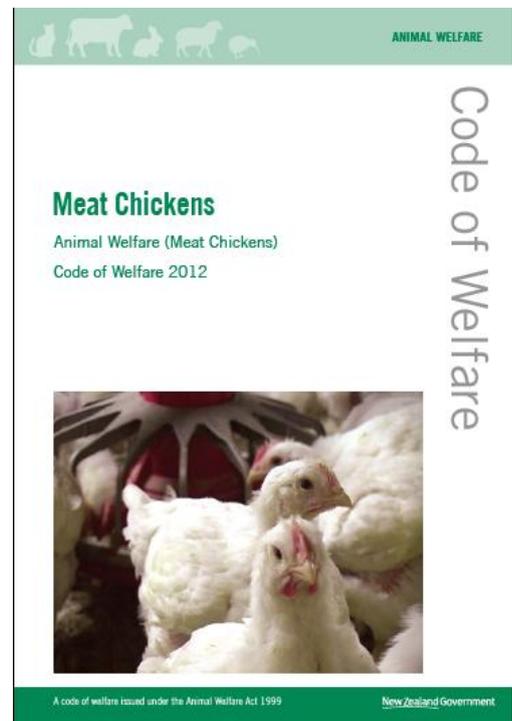
The minimum standards in the code cover stockmanship, food and water, shelter for chickens outdoors, housing and equipment, contingency planning, lighting, ventilation, temperature, litter management, stocking densities, meeting behavioural needs, physical handling, catching, loading, transport, managing health and injury and emergency humane destruction. The code also suggests indicators that farmers and inspectors can use to determine whether the standards have been met, and recommendations for best practice.

The code is available online at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regqs/animal-welfare/req/codes/meat-chickens or by request to animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz.

Toolkit for New Zealand farmers involved in animal welfare investigations

A 'Farmer Representative Toolkit' has been published for people within the farming community who may be asked by their industry body, by the Ministry for Primary Industry (the animal welfare regulator), or directly by a farmer, to help improve animal welfare conditions on a farm. The toolkit was developed by the Ministry for Primary Industries along with several industry organisations and farmer representatives. It encourages leaders in agriculture to help identify, refer and resolve situations of poor animal welfare. It gives basic information to help them decide on how to deal with a case, what to take to a farm visit and what to look for. It highlights potential causes of animal welfare problems, and gives some guidance on how to deal with farmers to help them in the short and long term.

Copies are available from www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regqs/animal-welfare/pubs/other-useful-resources





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Appointments

New Delegate confirmed for New Zealand

Matthew Stone, Director Animal and Animal Products in the Ministry for Primary Industries, has been appointed as New Zealand's permanent delegate to the OIE, replacing Barry O'Neil. He has also been appointed as Secretary General for the Asia, Far East and Oceania Regional Commission.

Appointments to the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group

Dr Sira Abdul Rahman has been appointed by the OIE as chair of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare. The RAWs thanks Dr David Bayvel for his time in this position and congratulates Dr Rahman on his new position. The RAWs looks forward to continuing the strong ties between the RAWs and the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare.



Congratulations to the delegates (name in Bold) appointed to the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare.
Back Row: **Prof. David Fraser**; **Dr Derek Betton**; Dr Alex Thiermann (OIE staff); **Prof Hassan Aidaros**;
Dr Peter Thornber; **Dr Vincent Guyonnet**; **Dr Andrea Gavinelli**
Front Row: Dr Mariela Varas (OIE staff); **Dr Sira Abdul Rahman (Chair)**; **Dr David Bayvel (new WSPA member)**;
Dr Marosi Molomi; Dr David Wilkins (retiring WSPA member)
Absent from the photo: **Mr Luc Mirabito**



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Key Dates

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

Newsletter Contacts

Jim Paradise

RAWS Secretary

Manager, International Animal Welfare

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

jim.paradice@daff.gov.au

+61 2 6272 5532

Lee-Ann Swift

RAWS secretariat

Policy Officer, Animal Welfare

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

animal.welfare@daff.gov.au

+61 2 6272 3484