

REGIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY (RAWS) ADVISORY GROUP (AG)

TERMS OF REFERENCE MAY 2022

Mission statement

We work towards a region where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and incrementally advanced, simultaneously with the pursuit of progress and socioeconomic development.

Purpose

To support the implementation of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and ensure it remains up to date.

Objectives

- To provide strategic advice and guidance to World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) through the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania for further development and implementation of the RAWS.
- To review the performance of the RAWS and maintain and update the RAWS and Action Plan as appropriate.
- To support the development of sustainable mechanisms for coordination and communication by developing and supporting linkages for sharing information and assisting with the implementation of the RAWS.
- To promote and support awareness of animal welfare through identifying, reporting and advising on animal welfare activities & emerging issues in the Region.

Membership

- A Chair is appointed by vote (during the OIE regional commission meeting in line with the OIE voting cycle) for a three-year term, renewable for one additional term. The Regional Commission will vote for the Chair from nominated candidates who may be OIE Delegates or Animal Welfare focal points from the Asia Far East and Oceania region.
- Members of the RAWS AG are nominated from Members and parties that the OIE has a relationship agreement with, and by application to the Chair with final list of members endorsed by President of the of the regional commission, with a term of three years to align with the OIE election cycle. Members have no limit on the number of terms.
- The members of the RAWS AG may include:
 - o The Chair (elected by the Regional Commission after self-nomination by OIE Delegate or Animal Welfare Focal Point of a Member from AFEO region)
 - o One or more OIE Member representatives (OIE Delegates or National Focal Points) from each sub-region (East Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, Pacific), up to a recommended maximum of 10 persons
 - o A representative from OIE HQ, RRAP and SRR-SEA.
 - o Representative from SPC, SAARC or ASEAN secretariat
 - o Representatives from International Coalition For Animal Welfare (ICFAW)
 - o Representatives from regional Veterinary Associations such as Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS), Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA).
 - o Representatives from the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare and Bioethical Analysis in the region.

- Secretariat to the AG
- There is no limit to the number of the members.
- Decisions are made by majority vote. If there is no agreement, decisions are deferred.

Activities

- To develop and maintain a 5-year RAWs Action Plan, updated annually, to support implementation of the RAWs.
- To update the RAWs as necessary
- To produce an annual report to the Regional Committee for the OIE Regional commission meeting.
- To produce communications materials that promote the RAWs and special projects, to encourage funding and ensure awareness of RAWs, RAWs AG and Member activities including meetings, working group activities, and projects.
- To provide advice to OIE on Animal Welfare Focal Point training in the Region.
- To suggest project activities to support the RAWs.

Modus Operandi

- AG members are individually responsible for leading & coordinating RAWs activities & special projects, with the support of the Secretariat.
- RAWs AG works with OIE Members, the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare and Bioethical Analysis in the region and regional partners to form specific collaborations for each agreed activity.
- Special activities are funded by agreement from contributing AG and OIE Members and parties involved with the activities.

Administration

- The Secretariat is provided by the OIE RRAP and works closely with the Chair in organizing and reporting on meetings and in carrying out a range of RAWs functions including monitoring progress against RAWs, coordination of activities & sharing information, preparation of Newsletters, updating the RAWs website, and the like.
- The RAWs AG meets virtually, usually twice a year, and communicates via e-mail and teleconference as necessary.
- Any face-to-face meeting will be subject to funding availability, self-funded or otherwise, or held in conjunction with other opportunities (e.g. Focal Point training, Regional Commission conferences).