

# WOAH Observatory:

thematic study on animal welfare during transport

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**29 September 2023**

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World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded as OIE

One key mandate of WOAHA is to develop international standards for its Members.

Members are encouraged to participate in the standard-setting process and adopt the new or revised standards.

**But do we know if and how Members implement standards once they are adopted?**

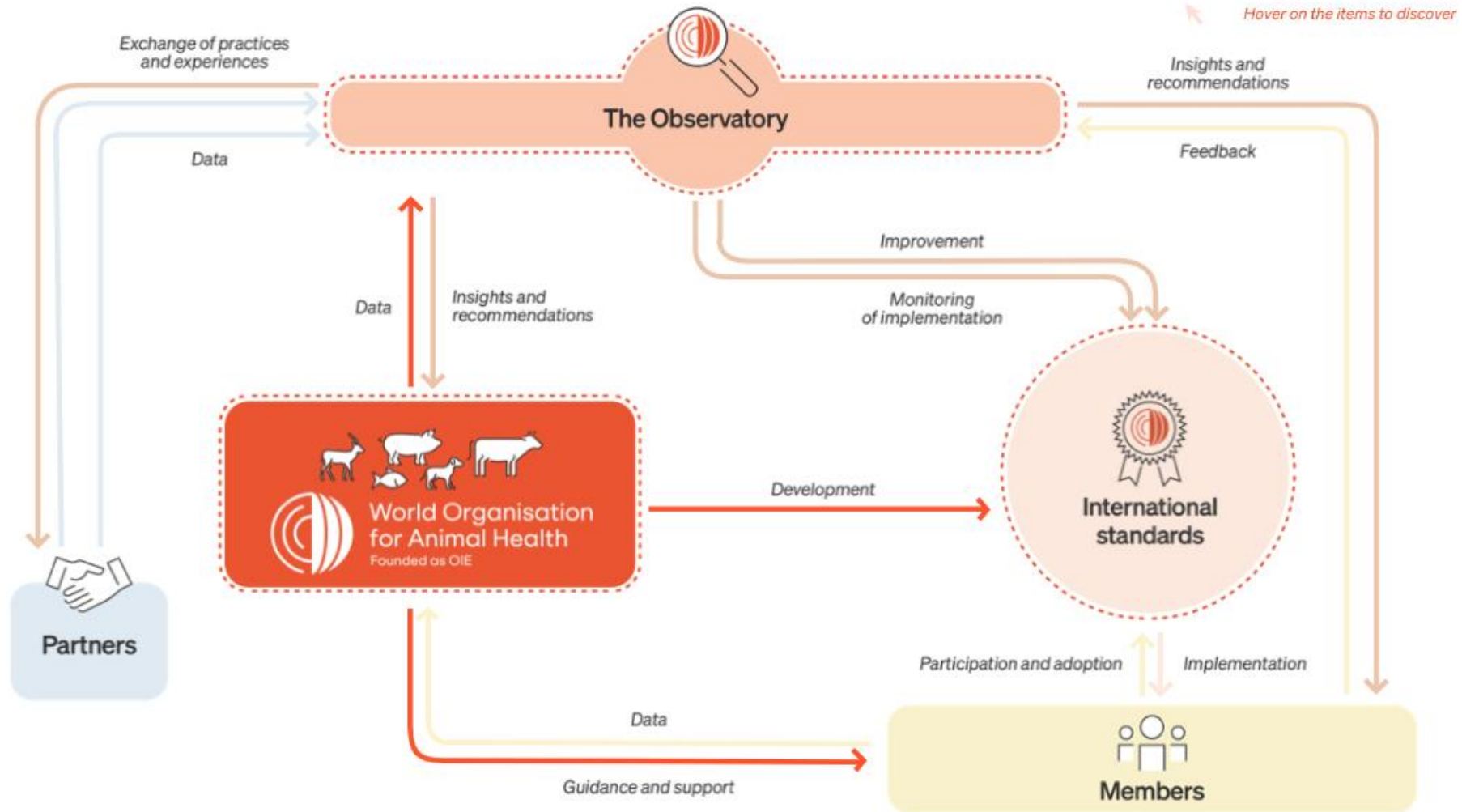
The adoption of the **Resolution N°36** by the World Assembly of Delegates at the 2018 General Session.

The Assembly recommends that:

*“The OIE develop an Observatory to monitor the implementation of its international standards, to increase transparency and to identify constraints and difficulties faced by Members”*



## THE OBSERVATORY: MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WOAH STANDARDS



## What it is...



**Review of the implementation of Standards at global/regional level**



**Data collection, analysis and visualisation (aggregated)**



**Contributing to the on-going improvement of:**

In-house data collection, management, services...

Standard-setting process

Capacity building activities

Advocacy activities

## What it is not...

**A mechanism to show individual countries' compliance  
« *naming, blaming and shaming* »**

**A mechanism to solve bilateral trade concerns**

**WOAH Observatory**

**Global overview of the level of implementation of WOAHS standards: monitoring report, dashboards, intermediate reports**



**In-depth analysis of the barriers faced to implement WOAHS standards: thematic studies**

**Data portal**

Observatory Annual Report 2022 | Key findings

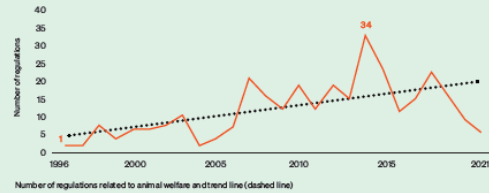
## Animal welfare

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards on animal welfare to support Members to improve how they handle terrestrial and aquatic animals on farm, during transport, slaughter, killing for disease control purposes, as well as in research and for specific topics such as dog population management. Through its Annual Report, the **Observatory** intends to assess the uptake of these standards.

An increasing number of national animal welfare regulations are being passed

**336** regulations on animal welfare

originating from 58 Members were recorded between 1996 and 2021. More than 75% of them came from the European region.



Source: FAO Legislative database (FAOLEX), 1996-2021

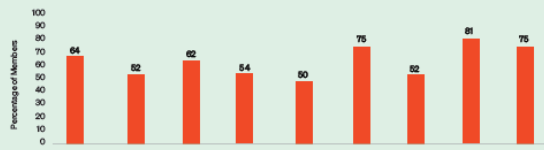
The implementation of standards on dog population management can be strengthened

**70%** of Members did not estimate the number of stray dogs according to surveys carried out in the European region and North Africa

**68%** of responding Members had dog population control programmes in place

**69%** of these programmes were monitored and evaluated

There is variability in the implementation of the different components of the standard on dog population management.



Percentage of Members implementing WOAH's recommendations related to stray dog management. Source: stray dog surveys from WOAH Animal Welfare Platform for Europe, 2019-2021; 13 participating Members from the European region and North Africa

The capacity of Veterinary Services regarding animal welfare needs to be further improved

Based on recent Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway missions, **26%** of Members have reached or exceeded the minimal capacity for the Critical Competency related to animal welfare

Source: PVS Evaluation or Follow-up missions for 43 Members, 2019-2021 - Analysis of the Level of Achievement for Critical Competency 3.3 from the 6th edition of the DUG-2020

### Recommendations

#### World Organisation for Animal Health

- Intensify efforts to collect animal welfare-related information to accurately assess Members' compliance with international standards.
- Understand the issues faced by Members when legislating and implementing animal welfare standards.
- Monitor Members' progress with Critical Competencies over time as an indicator of the impact of WOAH's support.

#### Members

- Address the issues that prevent the regulation and implementation of animal welfare standards.
- Establish and/or strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of dog population control programmes.

[Access the full information here](#)

Please consider the data limitations outlined in the full Annual Report when consulting this document.

# 2023 report about the monitoring of the level of implementation of WOAH standards

→ One chapter on animal welfare



### Stray dog population

← Back to intro

**80%**  
of Members estimate the number of owned dogs

**30%**  
of Members estimate the number of stray dogs

There is a significant gap between the percentage of Members that estimate the number of owned dogs (80%) and those that estimate the number of stray dogs (30%).

Overall, nine Members (47% of those that participated in the survey) reported having a dog population control programme that was monitored and evaluated.

This exercise is not yet far reaching enough as, at the moment, it has only been launched in a reduced number of countries/territories. The findings from this questionnaire could lead to more general conclusions if it were further extended in Europe and rolled out to other WOAH regions.

**Percentage of Members that apply control measures on various issues**

Issue	Yes	No	N/A
Dog identification and registration	64%	32%	
Reproductive control	52%	48%	
Dog removal	62%	38%	
Capture and return, rehoming or release	54%	38%	
Environmental control	50%	50%	
Dog movement control	75%	25%	
Regulation on commercial dog dealers	52%	48%	
Reducing dog bite incidence	81%	19%	
Stray dog euthanasia	75%	25%	

**Percentage of Members that apply a regulatory framework on various issues**

Issue	Yes	No	N/A
Registration and identification	71%	29%	
Vaccination	100%		
Veterinary procedures	91%		
Control of dog movement	71%	21%	
Control of dangerous dogs	65%	30%	
Regulation on dog breeding and sales	52%	43%	
Environment controls	68%	32%	

**Are there dog population control programmes in your country?**

● Yes ● No

6 (32%)

13 (68%)

**If yes, do you monitor and evaluate your national dog population control programme?**

● Yes ● No

4 (31%)

9 (69%)

← Revenir en arrière | Stray dog population | Microsoft Power BI | 4 sur 4



## Animal welfare during transport by land and sea: level of implementation of WOAH standards and challenges faced

### Context

- **Transport** **impact on**  
The 2019 WOAH Animal Welfare Global Forum, noted the need to revise the Terrestrial Code chapters on the welfare of animals during transport by land, sea and air (Chapters 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4). In February 2021, the Code Commission included the revision of these chapters in the work programme, and has requested the WOAH secretariat to initiate this work. Details on the planned revision can be found in the Code Commissions reports, available on the WOAH website.
- **governance**  
making





### Animal welfare during transport by land and sea: level of implementation of WOAH standards and challenges faced

#### Objectives and methods

- Assess to what extent the standards related to transport of live animals are implemented in WOAH Members → **Survey**
- Seek for feedback on Members' overall experience with these standards (what factors facilitate their implementation versus what barriers prevent their implementation) → **Focus groups or interviews**
- Inform standard revision process of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Code commission.

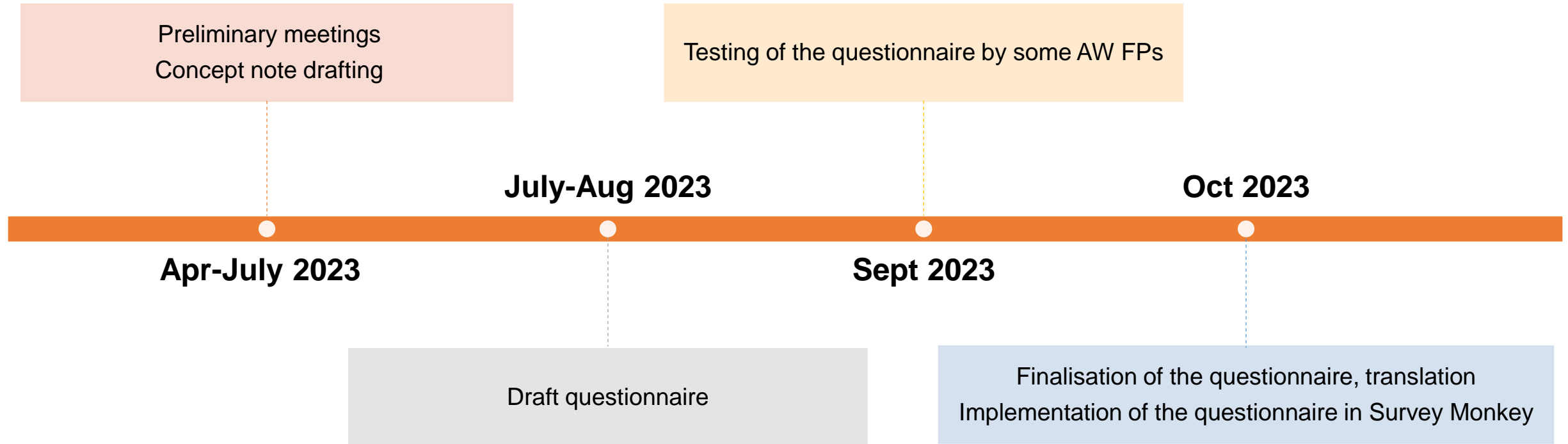




## Animal welfare during transport by land and sea: level of implementation of WOAH standards and challenges faced

### Scope

- Transport by land and sea only;
- Species covered by Chapters 7.2. and 7.3, i.e. cattle, small ruminants, pigs, poultry, buffaloes, camelids;
- Global scale;
- Time frame: current situation.





## Please contribute!

**Survey open!**

**Interviews/focus groups**

Publication of the deliverables

**Jan 2024**

**July-Nov 2024**

**Nov-Dec 2023**

**Feb-June 2024**

**Dec 2024**

Data analysis

Data analysis  
Drafting of the deliverables

# Thank you!

<https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/observatory/>

A person with white hair, wearing a brown tweed cap and a green jacket, stands on a rocky outcrop looking out over a vast green landscape. In the distance, there are rolling hills and a flock of sheep grazing in a field. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A large, semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'We need your input!' in orange.

**We need  
your input!**