



RAWS NEWS NOVEMBER 2023

GREETING FROM RAWS ADVISORY GROUP

RAWS newsletter for Asia-Pacific is back!

Greetings to all in the region from the WOAHA Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Advisory Group in Asia-Pacific. We're pleased to say that the RAWS newsletter is back. The RAWS News November 2023 edition introduces new styles and ideas, and is the beginning of our journey to communicate and interact with our communities through digital platforms. We also have a new website with up-to-date information on animal welfare events, the RAWS and the Advisory Group. The topics for this month's newsletter are the revitalisation of RAWS in Asia-Pacific, an introduction of RAWS Advisory Group members (both existing and new members), and highlights of our main achievements since 2022. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Introduction

RAWS News is managed by the RAWS Advisory Group (led by the Secretariat), and focuses on updating regional WOAHA Members, WOAHA Partners and the wider community about animal welfare activities, initiatives and progress of the RAWS in Asia and the Pacific. The RAWS Advisory Group Secretariat encourages WOAHA Members and WOAHA Partners to contribute to future editions of RAWS News. Please send contributions to Jacqueline at j.lusat@woah.org and in copy to rr.asiapacific@woah.org.

Note from the Chair

I am pleased to write this note for our first RAWS News since 2020. Like many of you reading this newsletter, the RAWS support team was significantly affected by COVID-19 disrupting normal activities. In 2022, we started revitalising the RAWS Advisory Group and our work programme. You can read about the members below. Please get to know the RAWS and your Advisory Group members, and join us to promote WOAAH animal welfare standards and advance animal welfare in Asia and the Pacific.

- Kate Littin



What is RAWS?

Endorsed in 2008, the RAWS for Asia and the Pacific was developed as a framework for supporting the advancement of animal welfare in the region, alongside socioeconomic development, by WOAAH Members, and WOAAH Partners. It focuses on the development and implementation of animal welfare standards for transport, slaughter and killing; capacity building and education; and communication to promote respect and awareness of animal welfare.



Aims of RAWS Advisory Group

It supports the implementation of the RAWS, providing advice to the Regional Commission, ensuring the RAWS is updated, and supporting collaboration and coordination of regional animal welfare activities and communications.



What have we done?

Highlight of group's activities to date:

- RAWS created as first of WOAAH's regional animal welfare strategies; endorsed in 2008
- Publication and distribution of RAWS (Edition 1 and Edition 2), and its translation
- RAWS newsletters
- WOAAH focal point trainings, up until Bali 2019
- Support for Member initiatives e.g. animal welfare training courses, national animal welfare committees, and legislation
- RAWS Advisory Group reactivated 2022
- Third Action Plan under development, 2023
- First animal welfare webinar 2023
- For more, please visit our website:

<https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/projects/animal-welfare/>



RAWS Advisory Group Members

Country/Organisation	Post	Name
New Zealand	Ex-Manager Animal Welfare Team, Ministry for Primary Industries	Kate Littin
WOAH RRAP	WOAH RRAP Animal Health Information Officer	Jacqueline Lusat
Iran	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare	Atieh Dabaghian
Australia	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare	Emily Orchard-Mills
China	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare	Xiao Xiao
WOAH headquarters	WOAH Chargé de mission	Leopoldo Stuardo Escobar
WOAH SRR SEA	WOAH Capacity Building Coordinator	Ashish Sutar
Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS)	Assistant Professor - National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) Chinese Taipei	Yi-Chun Lin
WOAH RRAP	WOAH Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific	Hirofumi Kugita
Malaysia	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare	Marzuna binti Md Yunus
Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)	Executive Director CVA	S Abdul Rahman
India	Animal Husbandry Commissioner & Chief Veterinary Officer	Abhijit Mitra
New Zealand	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare	Madison Pannett
Fiji (SPC)	Animal, Health and Production Adviser, The Pacific Community (SPC)	Sripad Sosale
International Coalition For Animal Welfare - Four Paws	Director of Disaster Relief Unit and Interim Head Southeast Asia of Four Paws International	Jackson Zee
Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)	Ex-President CVA	Peter Thornber

RAWS ADVISORY GROUP OBSERVERS

Country/Organisation	Post	Name
New Zealand	Principal Adviser Animal Welfare at the Ministry for Primary Industries in New Zealand	 <p>Linda Wilkin-Krug</p>
International Coalition For Animal Welfare (ICFAW)	Chair for ICFAW for Asia-Pacific & China Chief representative for Compassion in World Farming (CWF)	 <p>Jeff Zhou</p>
India	Assistant Animal Husbandry Commissioner for Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying	 <p>Adhiraj Mishra</p>
India	Ex-Animal Husbandry Commissioner for Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying	 <p>Praveen Malik</p>
India	Ex-Animal Husbandry Commissioner for Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Ex-Vice Chancellor	 <p>Suresh Honnappagol</p>
India	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare	 <p>O P Chaudhary</p>

PHOTOS AND BIOGRAPHIES FOR RAWS ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

Membership

The WOAAH RAWS Advisory Group for Asia-Pacific supports collaboration between regional Members and animal welfare stakeholders who share the common vision and support the implementation of its activities. The Advisory Group was reactivated in November 2022, and new members endorsed in May 2023. The RAWS Advisory Group consists of **16 members** (including a Chair and Secretariat) and **6 observers**.

A Chair is appointed by vote during the WOAAH regional commission meeting in line with the WOAAH voting cycle for a three-year term; renewable for one additional term. The Secretariat is provided by the WOAAH Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) based in Tokyo, Japan. She/he works closely with the Chair in organising and reporting on meetings and in carrying out a range of RAWS functions including monitoring progress against RAWS, coordination of activities and sharing information, preparation of newsletters, updating the RAWS website.

Members of the advisory group are nominated from WOAAH Members and WOAAH Partners that WOAAH has a relationship agreement with, and by application to the Chair. A final list of advisory group members endorses by President of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, with a term of three years to align with the WOAAH election cycle.

Kate Littin (Chair)



She is an applied animal welfare scientist who is an experienced leader in animal welfare policy and regulation. Until recently, she was New Zealand's WOAAH Animal Welfare Focal Point, and Chair of the Management Board for the WOAAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis: the David Bayvel Consortium (a revolving chair with Australian government). She was also a member of ISO/TC34/WG16 to develop ISO/TS 34700:2016 for animal welfare management. Kate also serves on advisory groups and boards for not-for-profit organisations involved in conservation and animal welfare. Kate will be replaced as Chair in 2024, as her term finishes.

Jacqueline Lusat (Secretariat)

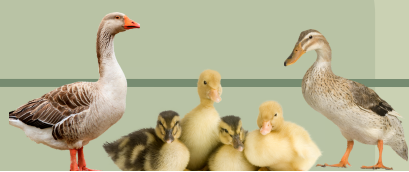
Jacqueline works for WOAAH RRAP in Tokyo. Jacqueline is a pathologist, she has worked in disease surveillance and diagnosis for bio-containment facilities (BSL-2 and BSL-3) for Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in the United Kingdom. Prior to that, she worked with the Department of Veterinary Services for Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries, Malaysia at a regional pathology laboratory. She received her PhD training in veterinary parasitology and epidemiology at the University of Bristol. In her current role, Jacqueline has been supporting WOAAH activities in disease reporting including the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS), animal welfare and official disease status.



Atieh Dabaghian (Member)



She serves as a veterinarian in veterinary medicine at Iran Veterinary Organization since her graduation in 2000. She has an extensive experience in laboratory diagnostic techniques, quarantine and international affairs. She is currently the WOAAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare for Iran. Atieh has participated in compiling and updating the education curriculum for Tehran Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, including the addition of the animal welfare course based on WOAAH Standards, where she was also taught the new introduced course for the first time in Iran.



Emily Orchard-Mills (Member)

She graduated from a Bachelor of Veterinary Science with First Class Honours from the University of Sydney in 2005. After working in private practice in Australia and the United Kingdom, she completed a PhD through the University of Sydney in 2016. Emily joined the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) in 2015 and has primarily worked in animal welfare areas across the department. She is currently the WOA National Focal Point for Animal Welfare for Australia.



Xiao Xiao (Member)

He serves as a Research Fellow at China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) of the China Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA). He is the WOA National Focal Point for Animal Welfare for the People's Republic of China, Vice President of Animal Welfare Branch of the Chinese Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), and Director of the Chinese Association of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine (CAAV). Since 2013, Xiao Xiao has been engaging actively in research on multiple farm animal welfare aspects.

Leopoldo Stuardo Escobar (Member)

Leopoldo is the Scientific Coordinator for Animal Welfare at the Standards Department. He is in charge of the animal welfare activities related to the WOA global animal welfare strategy, based at the WOA headquarters. Leopoldo is a Chilean veterinarian, with broad experience working at national and international levels dealing with sanitary negotiations related to trade and in developing international standards and national regulations on animal welfare.



Ashish Sutar (Member)

Ashish is a Capacity Building Coordinator at WOA, Sub-Regional Representation of Southeast Asia (SRR-SEA) in Bangkok. He is a veterinarian from India specialised in Veterinary Parasitology, with post graduate diploma's in Preparedness & Response and Business Management. He has over two decades of experience managing animal health, animal welfare, disease control, and capacity building programmes working with veterinary services, and international organisations. He has been supporting WOA in planning and implementation of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and other transversal activities including capacity building, emergency preparedness, and animal welfare in Southeast Asia.

Yi-Chun Lin (Member)

She graduated from the Nation Taiwan Univeristy and received her PhD training in farm animal welfare at the University of Bristol, UK. After that she has been dedicating her time in academia and serving as an assistant professor to delivery lectures on animal ethic, animal behaviour, and animal welfare at the Nation Chung Hsing University. She engaged in many researches and conferences related to health and welfare of farm animal species. Currently, she is involving in multiple projects with a focus on improving the welfare status of egg layers, poultry breeders as well as broilers.



Jackson Tzu-ie Zee (Member)

He is the Director of Global Affairs & Disaster Resilience Programmes at FOUR PAWS International. He holds a doctorate in conservation biology and is a veterinarian. He has served as subject matter expert for agencies within and supporting the United Nations and WOA. He also contributes to scientific thinktanks focused on sustainable development, animal welfare, food systems, disaster resilience and conservation. Dr Zee is currently the vice chair of FOUR PAWS Foundation in Thailand.

Peter Thornber (Member)

He has been instrumental in ensuring that Australia plays a pivotal role in animal welfare protection worldwide. He helped establish the World Animal Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics and developed the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. Dr Thornber's initiatives have greatly assisted the delivery of a standard level of care that animals receive both on a local and a global level.



Abhijit Mitra (Member)

Dr Mitra is appointed as the Animal Husbandry Commissioner in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) at the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying since 2022. Before that Dr Mitra was the Director of ICAR - Central Institute for Research on Cattle (CIRC) from 9/2020 to 11/2022 and ICAR-National Research Centre on Mithun from 3/2015 to 9/2020.

S Abdul Rahman (Member)

He is the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, former Dean of Veterinary College, Bangalore and former member of AWBI (Animal Welfare Board of India). Dr Rahman has a Bachelors degree in Veterinary Science from Mysore Veterinary College, a Masters degree from University of Madras and a PhD in Veterinary Parasitology from University of Queensland, Australia.



Sripad Sosale (Member)

Dr Sripad is a veterinarian, graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry in 2012. He is the Animal Health and Production Adviser for The Pacific Community (SPC). Prior to this, Dr Sosale worked as a large animal veterinary adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture in Fiji. He spent three years as the Chief Veterinary Officer for Solomon Islands. He is passionate about animal health and the vital role it plays in safeguarding public health for the people of the Pacific.

Madison Pannett (Member)

Madison Pannett is a senior adviser in the animal welfare sector liaison team at the Ministry for Primary Industries in New Zealand. The sector liaison team works with industry to improve animal welfare across the supply chain. Madison is WOA National Focal Point for Animal Welfare for New Zealand.



Hirofumi Kugita (Member)

He is a veterinarian graduated from the University of Tokyo. Dr Kugita is the WOA Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific based in Tokyo.

Marzuna binti Md Yunus (Member)

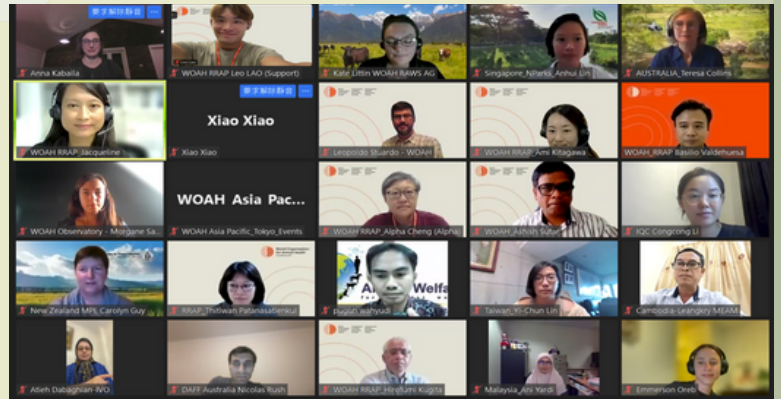
She is the Principal Assistant Director of the Department of Veterinary Services at the Biosecurity and Management Division, Malaysia.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

Our latest achievements

- Reinstated **RAWS advisory group** in Nov 2022
- Endorsed **RAWS Advisory Group members** at the Regional Commission meeting in May 2023
- Resumed **RAWS News**
- Updated **regional webpage** for animal welfare in Asia and the Pacific region
- Organised **animal welfare webinar** 29 Sep 2023

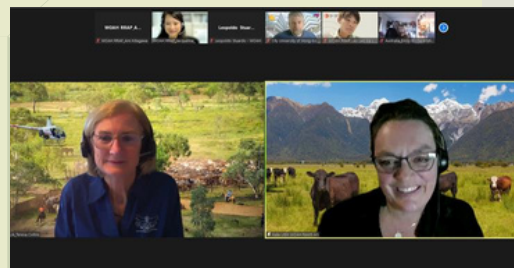


Trap-Neuter-Release/Rehome-Manage (TNRM) Programme:

A Humane Approach to Dog Population Management in Singapore

Dr Anhil Lin
29 Sep 2023
Director, Veterinary Science Programmes
Animal & Veterinary Service
National Parks Board

World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded in 1967



WOAH animal welfare webinar 2023: Using WOH Standards to support good animal welfare in Asia and the Pacific

Topics:

1. Introduction of WOH Standards on animal welfare
2. Transport of animals by sea
3. Dog population management
4. Slaughter of animals
5. Culling of animals for disease control purposes
6. The WOH Observatory: monitoring the implementation of animal welfare standards.

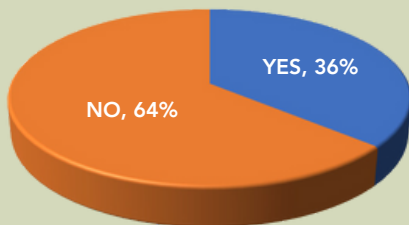
There was a total of 382 registrants for the webinar, and of those 270 (70.7%) attended the live event. The webinar discussed using WOH Standards to support good animal welfare in Asia and the Pacific. It was held on 29 September 2023, broadcasted live from WOH Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) in Tokyo, Japan.

For more about the event, please visit our website at:

<https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/events/using-woah-standards-to-support-good-animal-welfare-in-the-region/>

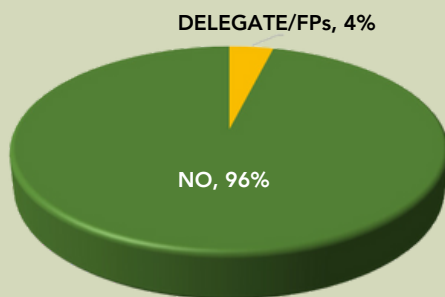
SUMMARY OF WOAHS ANIMAL WELFARE WEBINAR 2023: USING WOAHS STANDARDS TO SUPPORT GOOD ANIMAL WELFARE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

GOVERNMENT SECTOR



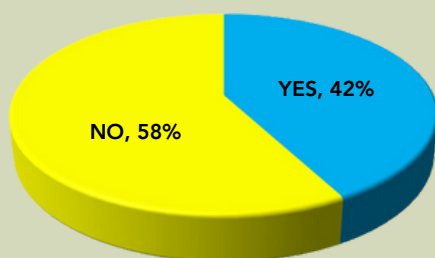
139 registrants represented the government sectors from veterinary, livestock and agriculture backgrounds, while the other 243 registrants were from non-governmental sectors or agencies such as universities, colleges, non-profit organisations (NGOs), veterinary practices, research centres and laboratories.

WOAH DELEGATES OR WOAHS FOCAL POINTS



Only 4% (15/382) registrants were WOAHS Delegates and WOAHS National Focal Points for Animal Welfare and the other 96% were neither delegates nor focal points for WOAHS (they consist of university students, university professors, government officers, researchers, technicians, representatives from NGOs and local communities).

HAVE HEARD OF RAWS?



When asked, have the registrants heard of RAWS, 161 registrants (42%) replied yes, they have heard of RAWS and 221 (58%) said they had never heard of RAWS.

Recommendations

1. Organise a series of similar webinars because of the popular demand of this webinar and further speakers have already been nominated who could not present this time due to available time in the webinar
2. Encourage verbal discussion during question-and-answer session, instead of writing questions in the chat box (as important points could easily be missed by attendees),
3. Contact or follow up with the registrants who shared stories, as the stories could be included in RAWS newsletters,
4. Conduct a regional forum for animal welfare, either in-person or online depending on funding availability,
5. Promote participation and support from WOAHS Delegates and WOAHS National Focal Points for Animal Welfare as only 4% of the registrants were from this group,
6. Obtain more feedback from attendees on the organisation of the webinar for future improvements.

REVIEW OF ASIA PACIFIC RAWS ACTION PLAN

Background

- The reactivated of the advisory group has developed a new 5-year Action Plan to define and track activities that support the implementation of the RAWs.
- This is the third action plan since the RAWs was released.
- The 5-year Action Plan builds on achievements under the previous two plans, addressing gaps and updating actions according to current priorities, knowledge and activities.
- The Action Plan will be circulated to WOAHP Delegates and focal points for further comment before it is finalised in early 2024.

Impact (long-term objective)

The intended impact of this Action Plan is enhanced animal welfare alongside progress and socioeconomic development in the region, through a focus on the development and implementation of animal welfare standards for transport, slaughter and killing; capacity building and education; and communication to promote respect and awareness of animal welfare.

Outcome (short-mid-term objectives)

1. Promotion and achievement of a high level of understanding and awareness of animal welfare in the region through effective coordination, communication, education, and training.
2. Coordinated regional approach to the implementation of WOAHP animal welfare standards.
3. Sustainable improvements in animal welfare, based on regional and international research and development.
4. Sustainable mechanisms to coordinate and promote animal welfare programs and priorities.

Priority activities 2023-24

1. Restart RAWs News, our newsletter for updates on activities and events under RAWs.
2. WOAHP National Focal Point for Animal Welfare training.
3. Planning for regional animal welfare forum.
4. Social media communications to enhance awareness of the RAWs.
5. Support WOAHP Members to raise awareness of the RAWs through conferences and meetings.
6. Support WOAHP/ICFAW-OPP Pig management project.
7. Promote understanding of and connection on One Health/Welfare nexus.

Newsletter Contact

Jacqueline Lusat
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WOAH RRAP, Tokyo Japan
j.lusat@woah.org

For more information about the RAWS and other WOAHA animal welfare activities in Asia and the Pacific, follow the link: <https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/projects/animal-welfare>.

For questions & comments, contact: rr.asiapacific@woah.org.

News and highlights available on WOAHA RRAP website

Preventing rabies and improving animal welfare thanks to technologies in Singapore: <https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/news/preventing-rabies-and-improving-animal-welfare-thanks-to-technologies/>

Joining forces to raise awareness in the Philippines: <https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/news/joining-forces-to-raise-awareness/>

Philippines: the impact of emergencies on animal health: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JDr0HHT7ww>

Check out our next issue featuring stories from Malaysia and various other animal welfare activities in Asia and the Pacific region.

Edited by Kate Littin, Jacqueline Lusat and Ka Long Lao

(A special thanks to Leo @ Ka Long Lao for designing this's month newsletter. Leo is the secondment officer at WOAHA RRAP from the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, HKSAR)

