



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded in 1924

February 2024

RAWS Newsletter



Special Edition

GREETINGS FROM THE WOAHP REGIONAL
ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY (RAWS)
ADVISORY GROUP FOR ASIA-PACIFIC

WOAH TURNS 100: A
CENTURY OF IMPROVING
ANIMAL HEALTH AND
WELFARE

RAWS NEWS IS BACK!

In 2008, the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) for Asia-Pacific was endorsed, serving as a framework crafted by WOAAH Members and WOAAH Partners to bolster animal welfare alongside socioeconomic development in the region. This strategy centres on the formulation and execution of standards concerning the transport, slaughter, and culling of animals, as well as on capacity building, education initiatives, and communication efforts aimed at fostering respect and awareness for animal welfare.



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Greetings to all in the region from the WOAAH RAWs Advisory Group! We are excited to announce that WOAAH celebrated its 100th anniversary on January 25th, 2024. The February 2024 edition of RAWs News showcases highlights from past activities related to animal welfare, including WOAAH 100th anniversary celebration by the Regional Representation for Asia-Pacific (RRAP). It also includes a special issue featuring success stories from Malaysia in implementing its animal welfare initiatives. For further details on upcoming animal welfare updates, the RAWs, and the advisory group, please visit the WOAAH regional website. We hope you enjoy the newsletter!

Note from the Chair

Welcome to our readers and best wishes for the new year and the Year of the Dragon. We hope you are finding the newsletter useful. We have a positive year ahead, with plans for another webinar and regional forum. We are seeking expressions of interest to join the Advisory Group. This is a great way to form good connections and to support and demonstrate progress in animal welfare. Please see information below. It is also happy birthday to WOAAH this year. I have personally enjoyed seeing the profile of animal welfare being raised within WOAAH and by Members over the years. You might enjoy the new vision statement from WOAAH as much as I did:

<https://www.woah.org/en/document/animal-welfare-a-vital-asset-for-a-more-sustainable-world>

Happy reading, Kate Littin

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE INITIATIVES IN MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA



Figure 1.



Figure 1 showcases promotional posters designed to educate the public about animal welfare legislation in Malaysia. These posters serve as informative tools aimed at raising awareness and understanding of the laws and regulations pertaining to the welfare of animals in the country. Through clear and visually appealing graphics, the posters convey key messages regarding responsible pet ownership, humane treatment of animals, and the legal rights and protections afforded to them under Malaysian law. By disseminating this important information through such promotional materials, efforts are made to empower individuals to play an active role in upholding and advocating for the welfare of animals in their communities.

The enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act 2015 in Malaysia has significantly influenced the advancement of animal welfare practices in the country. Through regulatory activities conducted by veterinary authorities, stringent measures are implemented to ensure that animal management aligns with the prescribed animal welfare practices outlined in the legislation.



Figure 2.

Figure 2 captures the momentous launch event of the National Animal Welfare Strategic Plan 2021-2030, presided over by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry on the 2nd of April 2022. This significant occasion marks the beginning of a comprehensive and forward-thinking strategic framework aimed at enhancing animal welfare standards and practices across Malaysia over the next decade. The presence of key government officials, stakeholders, and representatives from the animal welfare community underscores the commitment and collaborative effort towards safeguarding the well-being of animals nationwide. The launch event signifies a pivotal milestone in Malaysia's journey towards achieving greater compassion, responsibility, and accountability in animal welfare governance and advocacy.

ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2015

Numerous cases concerning animal neglect and cruelty have been prosecuted, setting a benchmark for the effective enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act 2015. Furthermore, four Regulations under the Act have been published to bolster enforcement efforts. These regulations cover licensing, improvement notices, compounding of offences, and the appointment of voluntary animal welfare assistants. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been developed to guide the implementation of these regulations, with SOPs for licensing and improvement notices already in place. The SOP for compounding offences is currently under development, reflecting ongoing efforts to enhance the regulatory framework and ensure the welfare of animals is prioritised and safeguarded.



Figure 3.

Figure 3 illustrates the collaborative efforts between companies and organisations to sponsor animal food for victims affected by floods. This initiative demonstrates a collective response to address the needs of animals impacted by natural disasters, ensuring they receive essential nutrition and care during challenging times. Through partnerships with companies, resources are mobilised to provide timely support to affected communities and their animal companions, reflecting a commitment to compassion and resilience in the face of adversity.

NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2023

In tandem with the development of the Global Animal Welfare Strategy, Malaysia has formulated the National Animal Welfare Strategic Plan 2021-2030. This comprehensive plan spans a decade and serves as a continuation of the preceding strategic framework, which concluded in 2020.

The plan delineates three overarching strategic approaches:

- to enhance the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act 2015 and its associated legislation,
- to establish collaboration with diverse agencies within the country, and
- to champion the ideals of animal welfare and kindness in alignment with the cultural values of local communities.

Each strategy is accompanied by specific objectives and delineated activities aimed at facilitating the advancement of animal welfare initiatives throughout the country. Through these concerted efforts, Malaysia seeks to reinforce its commitment to fostering a society that prioritises the well-being and humane treatment of animals.



IMPROVEMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Strategy 1

To enhance the enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act 2015 and its associated legislation



Figure 4.

Figure 4 depicts one of the public talks conducted to raise awareness about animal welfare. These talks serve as valuable platforms for educating the community on various aspects of animal welfare, including responsible pet ownership, humane treatment of animals, and the importance of adhering to animal welfare laws. Through engaging presentations and interactive discussions, participants are empowered with knowledge and resources to become advocates for animal rights and welfare in their respective communities. These talks play a crucial role in fostering empathy and understanding towards animals, ultimately contributing to the creation of a more compassionate and ethical society.

Strategy 2

To establish collaboration with diverse agencies within the country



Figure 5.

Figure 5 illustrates a collaborative effort between companies and organisations to sponsor animal food for victims affected by floods. This initiative highlights the importance of collective action in providing essential support to animals in times of crisis. By partnering with companies, resources are mobilised to ensure that animals impacted by natural disasters receive the necessary nourishment and care. Such collaborations exemplify a commitment to compassion and solidarity, demonstrating how communities can come together to address the needs of both humans and animals during challenging circumstances.

Strategy 3

To champion the ideals of animal welfare and kindness in alignment with the cultural values of local communities





These photos show various initiatives aimed at promoting the value of welfare and love among children towards animals:

- Colourful and engaging posters featuring cartoon characters of children and animals engaged in activities demonstrating care and compassion.
- Storybooks or educational materials with captivating illustrations and age-appropriate narratives emphasizing the bond between children and animals. These materials were made available to encourage children to develop empathy and understanding towards animals from a young age.
- Community events or workshops designed to provide hands-on experiences and interactive learning opportunities for children to engage with animals in a safe and supervised environment.

Overall, these serve as valuable tools for instilling empathy, compassion, and responsible behaviour towards animals among children, laying the foundation for a more compassionate and ethical society.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Apart from the achievements in the development of legislation, the Malaysian government has taken significant strides in enhancing animal welfare through the establishment of Animal Welfare Codes of Practice (COP) across various animal-related activities. This COP serve as comprehensive guidelines for stakeholders and animal industries, ensuring that animal management aligns with established welfare standards. Currently, 18 COPs covering diverse animal activities, including aquatic animals, have been successfully developed. Additionally, plans are underway to develop several other COPs, primarily focusing on livestock, within the next decade.

To further strengthen animal welfare management, the Malaysian Department of Veterinary Services has established a dedicated Animal Welfare Section tasked with overseeing matters related to animal welfare. At the state level, the establishment of animal welfare units underscores the prioritisation of animal welfare in regulatory activities.

Furthermore, the establishment of the Animal Welfare Board plays a pivotal role in facilitating the effective administration of the Animal Welfare Act 2015 and coordinating all matters pertaining to animal welfare nationwide. Comprising senior government officials from various agencies, the Animal Welfare Board collaborates closely to spearhead the development and implementation of animal welfare initiatives across Malaysia.

CHALLENGES

The enforcement of legislation pertaining to animal welfare poses a significant challenge for Malaysia. Public resistance often arises due to entrenched practices that differ from newly implemented standards. Authorities face the task of bridging this gap by promoting better understanding of animal welfare principles and ensuring compliance with enforced legislation.

Furthermore, the implementation of animal welfare practices affects various industries within the country. Compliance requirements, such as upgrading premises to meet specified standards, can pose financial burdens on relevant bodies and companies. Additionally, exporters and importers must adhere to international regulations, further impacting trade relations and economic activities.

Addressing these challenges necessitates concerted efforts from individuals across all sectors. Management and regulatory teams play a crucial role in monitoring progress and addressing obstacles related to animal welfare initiatives. By fostering support and collaboration at all levels, Malaysia can work towards improving the implementation of animal welfare practices and creating a more compassionate society.



These figures depict one of the initiatives aimed at providing animal welfare training to livestock farmers. Workshops or seminars conducted by veterinary authorities or animal welfare organisations to educate livestock farmers about best practices in animal welfare. In addition, on-farm training sessions where experts provide hands-on guidance to livestock farmers on implementing animal welfare practices in their daily operations (such as proper animal handling techniques, facility improvements, and disease management strategies directly applicable to the farm environment). Finally, educational materials or resources distributed to livestock farmers to supplement training sessions and provide ongoing support (these materials may include manuals, brochures, videos, or online resources covering a wide range of topics related to animal welfare and husbandry, allowing farmers to access information at their convenience).

Through these initiatives, livestock farmers are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to improve animal welfare standards on their farms, ultimately leading to better outcomes for both animals and farmers alike.

SUGGESTIONS

Indeed, raising awareness about animal welfare from an early age is crucial for fostering a culture of compassion and responsibility towards animals. Tailoring information to different age groups helps simplify complex concepts and ensures better understanding, particularly in countries where animal welfare legislation is still in its early stages of implementation.

In addition to educating the public, it's imperative to provide ongoing training and support to veterinary authorities responsible for enforcing animal welfare regulations. Seminars, workshops, and conferences, both domestically and internationally, offer valuable opportunities for veterinarians to enhance their knowledge and skills in regulatory activities and the implementation of welfare practices. By investing in continuous education and professional development for veterinary authorities, countries can ensure they have the necessary expertise to effectively enforce animal welfare laws and promote the well-being of animals nationwide.

The update on activities for animal welfare in Malaysia was submitted to the Secretariat for WOAHS RAWs Advisory Group in 2023. Special thanks were extended to Dr. Marzuna binti Md Yunus for providing the RAWs Advisory Group with comprehensive information and insights into the initiatives implemented by the country. Dr. Marzuna holds the position of Section Head of Animal Welfare at the Veterinary Regulatory Unit within the Malaysian Department of Veterinary Services. Additionally, she serves as the WOAHS National Focal Point for Animal Welfare in Malaysia and is a member of the WOAHS RAWs Advisory Group. Dr. Marzuna's expertise and dedication play a pivotal role in advancing animal welfare initiatives both domestically and internationally.

The WOAH Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) in Tokyo celebrated the 100th anniversary of WOAH

25 January 2024

UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO



A group photo of guests attending the celebration ceremony

RRAP Tokyo held a modest gathering of local partners, supporters and former staff in Japan at the University of Tokyo, commemorating the 100th anniversary of WOAH.



DR HIROFUMI KUGITA

WOAH Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific welcomed guests to the celebration.



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health
Founded in 1924

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en 1924

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal
Fundada en 1924

WOAH turns 100: A century of improving animal health and welfare



Message from the Director General, Dr. Monique Éloit to WOAH RRAP, Tokyo

Dear friends, thank you for taking part in WOAH's centennial celebration. This is an important milestone in the history of our organization, which has grown in many ways since it was founded on January 25, 1924. At the time, OIE was established as an effort to control livestock diseases in the context of trade. Over the years, WOAH has expanded to include new areas, such as aquatic animal health, animal welfare, and wildlife health. The relevance of our work is now recognized internationally as we have adopted a more holistic approach towards global changes.

We could not have made this journey without the unwavering support of our members and staff, experts and partners who have contributed to the success of our projects. I would like to recognize Japan's contribution to our efforts in developing strategic improvements in aquatic animal health, coordinating avian influenza, and building stronger animal health information systems. In particular, I would like to recognize the current delegate of Japan, Dr. Masatsugu Okita, and the Chair of our Working Group on AMR, Dr. Tomoko Ishibashi, who have been important facilitators to WOAH's Code Commission which carries out our core and historic missions in the development of international standards on animal health and welfare. I also wish to send great thanks to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for continuously standing with WOAH and granting a diplomatic status for our regional representation in Tokyo. I am convinced that this regional office will continue to grow.

In the coming years, WOAH will face great challenges to consolidate its credibility in the changing environments and will strive to enhance its political influence. I am confident that Japan's support will be instrumental in helping us successfully navigate this change. The fact that WOAH's regional office is hosted on the campus of the University of Tokyo is a great symbol. As we celebrate the centenary of the organization, we embrace younger generations who will help us build the future of WOAH's legacy. Thank you, and let us make this celebration a great memory.



Highlights

PAST ACTIVITIES

Nov 2023 - Jan 2024

WOAH 5th Animal Welfare Global Forum
'Developing national animal welfare legislation; different paths for the same destination',
2 - 3 November 2023, WOAH Headquarters, Paris.

Asia-Pacific was represented by two speakers: Dr. Marie Shella Ordinario from the Philippines and Dr. Xiao Xiao from China, both serving as WOAH National Focal Points for Animal Welfare. Dr. Ordinario delivered a presentation titled "Animal welfare in pig production systems in the Philippines: a national perspective," while Dr. Xiao Xiao presented on "Achievements of legislation development on animal welfare in China." Moving forward, WOAH Members in the Asia-Pacific will continue to share and promote the efforts made by Members in the region to advance animal welfare.

Forty specifically invited participants convened at WOAH headquarters in Paris for the forum. The discussions were highly engaging, providing an overview of various options available to WOAH Members for leveraging the WOAH animal welfare chapters to develop their national legislation across all levels.

Several key outcomes emerged from the forum:

- Emphasised the importance of refining the vocabulary used when addressing topics related to animal welfare, cruelty, and conservation.
- Explored potential avenues to enhance the Capacity Building Department's Veterinary Legislation Program, focusing specifically on legislation pertaining to animal welfare.
- Agreed to prioritise this theme in upcoming national animal welfare focal point trainings to further deepen understanding and collaboration.
- Received a presentation from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on the utilisation of Scan Tool for policy, particularly highlighting the potential synergies between organisations in the development of animal welfare policies.

Overall, the forum served as a platform for meaningful discussions and exchange of ideas, paving the way for enhanced collaboration and progress in advancing animal welfare initiatives within the region.



Dr. Marie Shella Ordinario, the WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare of the Philippines, delivered a presentation.



Dr. Xiao Xiao, serving as both the WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare of the People's Republic of China and a member of the RAWS Advisory Group for Asia-Pacific, delivered a presentation.



Representatives from Asia-Pacific joined Dr. Leopoldo Stuardo, the Scientific Coordinator of Animal Welfare at WOAH Headquarters, Dr. Stuardo also serves as a member of the RAWS Advisory Group for Asia-Pacific.

Highlights

PAST ACTIVITIES

Nov 2023 - Jan 2024

WOAH 33rd Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific, New Delhi, India, 13 - 16 November 2023

A total of 81 participants attended the Conference, including WOAHA Delegates, representatives from 24 Member countries of the region, and senior officers from 10 national, regional, and international organisations and institutions. Additionally, representatives from the private sector and private veterinary organisations from the region and the host country were in attendance. The Conference was graced by the presence of Honourable Dr. Loganathan Murugan and Honourable Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, during the official opening and closing ceremonies. Special gratitude was extended to the Government of India for hosting the conference, particularly to the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.

Animal welfare was on the agenda, and Dr. Kate Littin, the Chair of WOAHA RAWS Advisory Group for Asia-Pacific, providing an overview of the RAWS. She discussed its history, highlighted achievements, and presented details on RAWS Membership and the proposed Action Plan for 2023-2027, as well as upcoming events.

The main conclusions drawn from the discussion were:

1. Ensuring RAWS financial sustainability is crucial, with Members support being essential. Significant input from Australia was acknowledged for establishing the first RAWS AFEO,
2. Three initiatives currently in progress by WOAHA are expected to provide valuable inputs to attract support from resource partners or donors for animal welfare-related activities. These initiatives include:

- o an observatory survey to assess constraints for implementing WOAHA standards regarding animal welfare,
- o an advocacy paper on animal welfare, addressing global discussions on transforming livestock practices into more sustainable ones, including a focus on animal welfare, and
- o work on long-distance transport of animals, aiming to address concerns expressed by Members regarding this aspect.

Overall, these initiatives aim to advance animal welfare standards and practices while ensuring financial sustainability and garnering support from stakeholders and donors.



Highlights

PAST ACTIVITIES

Nov 2023 - Jan 2024

WOAH National Focal Points for Animal Welfare 'Flash information meeting', via Zoom, 16 - 17 November 2023

The 'Flash information meeting' session was designed to provide an update on the pillars of the WOAH Global Animal Welfare Strategy and to enhance the involvement of focal points for animal welfare in the WOAH standard-setting process. The goal was to inform focal points about any relevant activities related to animal welfare discussed during the Code Commission meeting in September 2023.

During the session, the WOAH Observatory, in collaboration with the WOAH Standards Department, distributed a survey and invited Focal Points to participate. The survey aimed to assess the level of implementation by Members' Veterinary Services of WOAH standards relevant to animal welfare during transport. Specifically, the focus was on transport by sea and land, as described in Chapters 7.2. and 7.3. of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code, respectively.

The study targeted National Animal Welfare Focal Points from all WOAH Members. The results will be published on the WOAH website, with the report summarising the main findings, identifying areas for improvement, and suggesting future work for WOAH. It's important to note that data will only be presented in aggregate in the report, with countries' names kept confidential.

Instructions for completing the survey "Animal welfare during transport by land and sea: level of implementation of standards by Members' Veterinary Services"

General information:

- Using a questionnaire-based approach, the scope of the study is:
 - Species or group of species covered: cattle, small ruminants, buffaloes, camelids
 - Mode of transport: land and sea
 - Types of transport: only transport using a vehicle or vessel are included from this study
 - Time frame: situation as in 2022
- This study, which is intended for all WOAH Members (countries), will result in a publicly available report that will aggregate and summarise the findings and suggest future work for WOAH. Only one

To discover the results of the WOAH standard monitoring analysis, access the Observatory Annual Report on the implementation of standards at <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/observatory/implementation-of-standards-the-observatory-annual-report>



Monitoring animal welfare standards

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) develops international standards for **animal welfare** to support Members 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 stray dog management. Monitoring animal welfare standards can bring valuable insights for both WOAH and WOAH Members.

Highlights

PAST ACTIVITIES

Nov 2023 - Jan 2024

**Technical Committees
ISO/TC 34 Food products
(Secretariat: AFNOR), 18 - 19
January 2024, Saitama, Japan**

ISO and WOAAH have had an official signed agreement since 2011. The aim of this agreement is to facilitate and strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the two organisations across all their areas of interest. Notably, one significant area of collaboration is in the field of animal welfare.

As part of this collaboration, WOAAH was invited to provide updates on its animal welfare activities to the technical committees. The meeting took place in Saitama, Japan, where WOAAH was represented by Dr. Jacqueline Lusat from the WOAAH Regional Representation for Asia-Pacific (RRAP). Dr. Lusat presented updates on WOAAH's ongoing initiatives and projects related to animal welfare, fostering further collaboration and exchange of information between ISO and WOAAH.

Since 2017, WOAAH's activities in the field of animal welfare have been guided by its Global Animal Welfare Strategy (GAWS). This strategy encompasses various activities grouped into four strategic pillars:

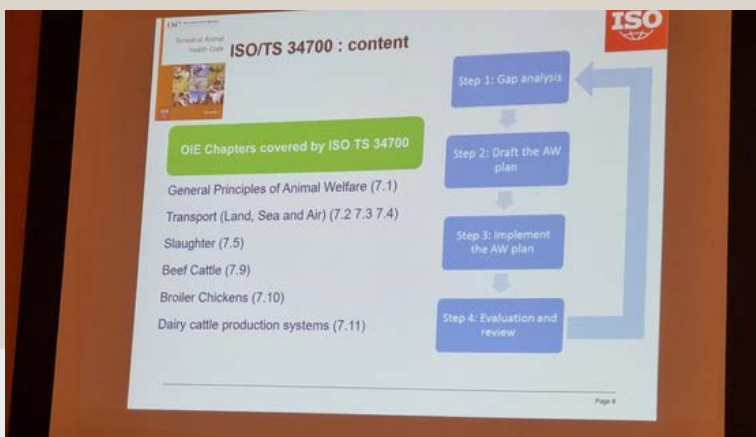
1. Development of animal welfare standards
2. Capacity-building and education
3. Communication with governments, organizations, and the public
4. Implementation of animal welfare standards and policies

Within WOAAH, ongoing work of interest to the ISO/TC 34 includes:

- Promoting and supporting WOAAH Members in utilising ISO/TS 34700:2016, which outlines general requirements and guidance for organisations in the food supply chain regarding animal welfare management.
- Participation in meetings of the ISO/TC 34/SC 6 when relevant, to ensure alignment and collaboration between ISO standards and WOAAH initiatives in the field of animal welfare.

ISO/TS 34700:2016 provides requirements and guidance for the implementation of the animal welfare principles as described in the introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare of the WOAAH TAHC (Chapter 7.1).

Information on the ISO/TS 34700:2016 Animal welfare management (General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain) document is available at <https://www.iso.org/standard/64749.html>



Key Dates 2024

REMINDERS

1. The draft of the RAWs Advisory Group Third Action Plan will soon be circulated to regional WOAHA Members for final comments. It will be officially endorsed at the Regional Commission meeting in May 2024 (please note, the draft Action Plan will serve as a default workplan until the final version is agreed upon by regional WOAHA Members).
2. Expressions of interest for members and the new chair of the RAWs Advisory Group will be circulated before the Regional Commission meeting in May.
3. Planning is underway for an animal welfare webinar in 2024 for Asia and the Pacific. The proposed theme is the 'relationship between animal health, sustainable production, socioeconomic progress, and animal welfare' (the One Health/One Welfare nexus). The details and date for the webinar are yet to be confirmed.
4. There are plans for in-person regional training for WOAHA National Focal Points for Animal Welfare in 2024. The details are to be confirmed at a later date.

EVENTS

1. Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) (<https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea6>) will be held from 26 February – 1 March 2024 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, under the theme: Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.
2. Global Synergy for Animal Welfare: From Research to Impact, 19- 20 June 2024, free online workshop (<https://global-synergy-for-animal-welfare-7b0991.webflow.io>)
3. Seventy-seventh World Health Assembly, 27 May – 1 June 2024 (<https://www.who.int/about/accountability/governance/world-health-assembly>)
4. AfA Connect, a quarterly series (March, June, August, November 2024) of free online events designed to connect to what's happening in the network (<https://www.asiaforanimals.com/connect>)
5. Asia Farm Animal Day (AFAD), 9 - 11 October 2024, Viet Nam
6. UFAW International Animal Welfare Conference 2024 (10 – 11 July 2024), Portugal (<https://www.ufaw.org.uk/ufaw-events/ufaw-international-animal-welfare-conference-2024-port>)

Please note that the WOAHA RAWs Advisory Group for Asia-Pacific is not directly affiliated with or responsible for the events listed above. Any changes to the dates or details of these events should be verified online independently. We encourage you to check and confirm the information through reliable sources.

RAWS ASIA-PACIFIC

NEXT EDITION

CHECK OUT OUR NEXT ISSUE, FEATURING MANY MORE EXCITING STORIES AND ACTIVITIES FROM MEMBERS AND PARTNERS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

INFORMATION

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

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(A special thanks to Leo @ Ka Long Lao for preparing the article from Malaysia. Leo, based at the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, HKSAR, served as the secondment officer at WOAHH RRAP)