



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Third Action Plan

to support the implementation of the
Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS)
for Asia and the Pacific

2024 - 2028

RAWS Advisory Group Asia-Pacific

INTRODUCTION

The Third Action Plan to support the implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) for Asia and the Pacific has been developed by the RAWS Advisory Group (RAWS-AG) to guide the implementation of the RAWS for the period 2024-2028. The Action Plan builds on the achievements of the first and second Action Plans and takes into account the current needs and priorities of the region.

The RAWS-AG is a group of experts from the Asia and the Pacific region that provides technical advice and support to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Sub-Regional Representation for South-East Asia and the WOAH Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific on animal welfare matters. The RAWS-AG was established in 2016 and has been instrumental in driving the implementation of the RAWS.

The Third Action Plan focuses on four key goals:

1. Promotion and achievement of high standards of animal welfare through increased awareness and education.
2. Coordinated implementation of WOAH animal welfare standards, integrated with a One Health/One Welfare approach.
3. Research and development to support evidence-based animal welfare improvements.
4. Sustainable coordination mechanisms to support the long-term implementation of the RAWS.



This photo was taken in Tokyo, Japan, in January 2025 during the in-person RAWS Advisory Group meeting (please note that not all members and observers were present in the photo)

HISTORY OF THE RAWS

2007 - The concept of a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania was first discussed at the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania held in Queenstown, New Zealand.

2008 - A questionnaire was circulated to Members in the region to assess the status of animal welfare.

2009 - The first draft of the RAWs was presented at the 26th Conference of the Regional Commission held in Beijing, China.

2012 - The RAWs was endorsed by the Regional Commission at its 27th Conference held in Terrigal, Australia.

2013 - The First Action Plan (2013-2015) was developed and endorsed.

2014 - The First RAWs Coordination Group meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand.

2015 - The Second Action Plan (2015-2019, later extended to 2023) was developed.

2016 - The RAWs Advisory Group (RAWs-AG) was established; first in-person meeting held in Putrajaya, Malaysia.

2017 - Second RAWs-AG meeting held in Tokyo, Japan. Animal welfare focal point seminar conducted.

2018 - Third RAWs-AG meeting held in Fiji. Regional workshop on animal welfare during disasters.

2019 - Fourth RAWs-AG meeting held in Chiang Mai, Thailand. OIE became WOA. H.

2020-2021 - Virtual meetings and webinars conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

2022 - Fifth RAWs-AG meeting held. Planning for the Third Action Plan commenced.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SECOND ACTION PLAN (2015–2023)

The Second Action Plan achieved significant progress in advancing animal welfare across the Asia and Pacific region. Key achievements include:

- Malaysia enacted the Animal Welfare Act 2015, providing a comprehensive legal framework for animal welfare.
- China developed and implemented national welfare standards for laboratory animals, farm animals, and companion animals.
- Regional workshops on animal welfare during disasters were conducted in Fiji (2018) and other Pacific Island nations.
- Multiple webinars and virtual training sessions were delivered during 2020–2021, reaching a wider audience across the region.
- Animal welfare focal point seminars were conducted to build capacity among WOAAH Delegates and focal points.
- The RAWs website was established and maintained as a key communication platform.
- Collaborative research initiatives were supported between academic institutions and veterinary services.



PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Purpose of this Document

This Action Plan is a living document that outlines the activities to be undertaken to support the implementation of the RAWs for Asia and the Pacific for the period 2024–2028. It is aligned with the Regional Commission’s Third Regional Work Plan Framework (2021–2025) and will be updated annually based on available resources and progress achieved.

The Action Plan provides a framework for coordinated action by WOA, the RAWs-AG, Members, and partners to advance animal welfare in the region. Progress against the Action Plan will be reported to the Regional Commission at its biennial conferences.

Scope

The Third Action Plan covers all sentient species, with a primary focus on farm animals including during handling, transport, and slaughter. The plan is aligned with the WOA Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the Aquatic Animal Health Code.

The scope encompasses:

- Implementation of WOA international standards on animal welfare
- Capacity building for veterinary services and stakeholders
- Communication and awareness raising
- Research and evidence-based improvements
- Integration with One Health and One Welfare approaches

The plan promotes sustainable, ethical, and science-based improvements to animal welfare that also contribute to food safety, food security, and socioeconomic development in the region.



OBJECTIVES OF THE THIRD ACTION PLAN (2024–2028)

Impact (long-term) objective:

Enhanced animal welfare contributing to improved socioeconomic development in Asia and the Pacific through the implementation of international standards, capacity building, and effective communication.

Outcome (short/mid-term) objectives:

Increased awareness, knowledge, and skills among WOAHP Members, stakeholders, and the public to support the implementation of WOAHP animal welfare standards in the region.

GOAL 1

Promotion and achievement of high standards of animal welfare through increased awareness and education.

GOAL 2

Coordinated implementation of WOAHP animal welfare standards, integrated with a One Health/One Welfare approach.

GOAL 3

Research and development to support evidence-based and sustainable animal welfare improvements.

GOAL 4

Sustainable coordination mechanisms to support the long-term implementation of the RAWS.

GOAL 1: AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Promotion and achievement of high standards of animal welfare through increased awareness and education.

Specific Actions	Key Performance Indicators
Conduct at least two webinars per year for animal welfare focal points on priority topics.	Number of webinars conducted; number of participants.
Develop and disseminate educational materials on WOA animal welfare standards.	Number of materials developed and distributed.
Support national awareness campaigns on animal welfare in Member countries.	Number of countries conducting campaigns; reach of campaigns.
Promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary and agricultural curricula.	Number of institutions incorporating animal welfare content.
Facilitate knowledge sharing through the RAWS platform and networks.	Number of knowledge-sharing activities; website traffic metrics.

GOAL 2: COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION

Coordinated implementation of WOAAH animal welfare standards, integrated with a One Health/One Welfare approach.

Specific Actions	Key Performance Indicators
Promote the use of WOAAH animal welfare standards through targeted training and technical support to Members.	Number of training sessions; number of Members receiving support.
Support the integration of animal welfare with One Health and One Welfare initiatives at national and regional levels.	Number of integrated initiatives; policy documents referencing One Welfare.
Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and twinning arrangements between Members with varying levels of implementation.	Number of twinning arrangements established; outcomes reported.
Encourage Members to conduct self-assessments using the WOAAH PVS Pathway and animal welfare module.	Number of Members completing self-assessments.



GOAL 3: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Research and development to support evidence-based and sustainable animal welfare improvements.

Specific Actions	Key Performance Indicators
Support collaborative research projects between academic institutions and veterinary services on priority animal welfare topics.	Number of collaborative research projects initiated; publications produced.
Encourage and support student participation in animal welfare research and conferences.	Number of students supported; presentations delivered.
Promote the development and sharing of welfare assessment tools and protocols.	Number of tools developed or adapted for regional use.
Facilitate access to current scientific literature and evidence on animal welfare.	Number of resources shared through RAWs platforms.



Kowsar Ahmed (Shaon)

GOAL 4: SUSTAINABLE COORDINATION

Sustainable coordination mechanisms to support the long-term implementation of the RAWS.

Specific Actions	Key Performance Indicators
Engage with policymakers and senior officials at regional conferences to advocate for animal welfare priorities.	Number of conferences attended; presentations delivered to policymakers.
Maintain and strengthen the RAWS-AG as the primary advisory mechanism for RAWS implementation.	Regular RAWS-AG meetings held; action items completed.
Develop sustainable funding mechanisms to support RAWS activities beyond project-based funding.	Funding proposals developed; resources secured.
Strengthen partnerships with international organisations, NGOs, and the private sector.	Number of active partnerships; joint activities conducted.



CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES

The following activities apply across all four goals and support the overall implementation of the Third Action Plan.

- Restart the RAWS News publication to share updates, achievements, and upcoming activities with Members and stakeholders across the region.
- Update and distribute the RAWS-AG induction pack for new members to ensure continuity and effective onboarding.
- Maintain and regularly update the RAWS website (<https://rr-asia.woah.org/en/projects/animal-welfare>) with current information, resources, and event details.
- Promote social media engagement to raise awareness of RAWS activities and animal welfare issues in the region.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of all RAWS documents by December 2024 to ensure alignment with current priorities and organisational changes.
- Report progress against the Action Plan to the Regional Commission at its biennial conferences.
- Coordinate with WOAHP Headquarters and other Regional Representations to ensure alignment with global animal welfare initiatives.

