Orientation Webinar

Sub-regional Workshop on Operationalising Animal Welfare through Inclusive Public–Private Partnerships and Enabling Legal Frameworks in Southeast Asia

WOAH Standards on Animal Welfare: Update



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WOAH Standards on Animal welfare: Update

Subregional Workshop on Operationalising Animal Welfare through Inclusive Public-Private Partnership and Enabling Legal Framework in Southeast Asia

14th of October 2026,

Online

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WOAH AND ANIMAL WELFARE: A STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT SINCE 2001

Resolution No. XIV from the 70th WOAH General Session, 26 - 31 May 2002

- Animal welfare has been identified as a strategic priority for the WOAH since 2001, under the mandate granted by all Members.

Resolution No. XXXI from 85th General Session, 21–26 May 2017

- The WOAH Global Animal Welfare Strategy was developed from lessons learned from actions taken at national and regional level and aims to be a source of ongoing guidance for the WOAH's activities in this area, and it's based in four main pillars.



VISION

A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.

GAWS STRATEGIC PILLARS

Under a revision process



DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS



CAPACITY BUILDING AND EDUCATION



IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND POLICIES



COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, ORGANISATIONS AND THE PUBLIC

WOAH GLOBAL ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY

CONCEPTS USED ON THE WOAH ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS



14 Animal welfare Chapters on Section 7 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code

4 Animal welfare Chapters on Section 7 of the Aquatic Animal Health Code (Welfare of farmed fish)

INPUT

Resources available
(Resource- based measures)

Management practices
(Management - based measures)

Factors (Hazards)



Animal tries to cope

OUTCOME

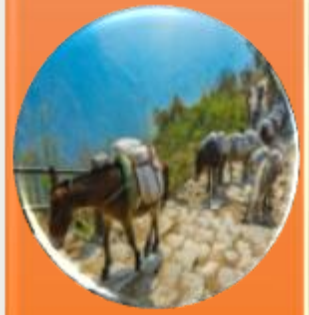
Response of the animal

Effects on the animal

(Animal - based measures)

Indicate the animal's welfare
(welfare indicator)

Consequences (Adverse effects)



DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

Chapter adopted during the 91st WOAH GS in 2024

- Article 7.5.30, Electrical water-bath stunning for poultry of Chapter 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter (electrical parameters, remained as [Under study] in 2024. Finally adopted during the 93rd WOAH GS in 2026

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/development-of-animal-welfare-standards/

GAWS PILLARS ACTIVITIES



- **Chapters 7.2., 7.3. and 7.4. Transport of animals by sea land and air.**
  - Annex 26. Chapter 7.2. Animal welfare during transport (next *ad hoc* Group meet in November 2026).

- **Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes**
  - Annex 27. Chapter 7.6. Animal welfare at the time of killing for purposes other than slaughter (next *ad hoc* Group meet in December 2026).

- **Aquatic Animal Health Code**
  - Section 7 – Welfare of Farmed Fish
  - External review carried out by expert
  - February 2026 three questions circulated for Member responses

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/development-of-animal-welfare-standards/

GAWS PILLARS ACTIVITIES





CAPACITY BUILDING AND EDUCATION

- WOAH Training Portal (https://training.oie.int/)
- Development of e-leaning modules.
  - Chapter 7.14. Killing of Reptiles for their Skins, Meat and Other Products (Finalised);
  - Labelling process of Chapter 7.7. Dog population management (On going);
  - Initial work on Chapters 7.5. Animal welfare during slaughter (Available next);
  - Initial work on 7.6. Animal welfare at the time of killing and 7.13. Animal welfare en pig production systems (On going).
- Global Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres. Work planpresented in 2025

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/capacity-building-and-education/

GAWS PILLARS ACTIVITIES



IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND POLICIES

- **WOAH Observatory project**
  - Thematic study on animal transport by land and sea. 1st and 2nd Phase, finished
    - First phase; Factsheet on WOAH Website; https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/observatory/the-observatorys-thematic-studies/#welfare.
    - Second phase; Interviews and focus groups, to identify success factors and barriers to the implementation of WOAH standards related to animal welfare during transport.

Fact sheet: Implementation of Welfare Standards During Transport by Land and Sea: Insights from Animal Welfare Focal Points Across WOAH Regions - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health

Report: Animal Welfare During Transport by Land or Sea: How Members' Veterinary Services Are Implementing Welfare Standards - WOAH - World Organisation for Animal Health

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



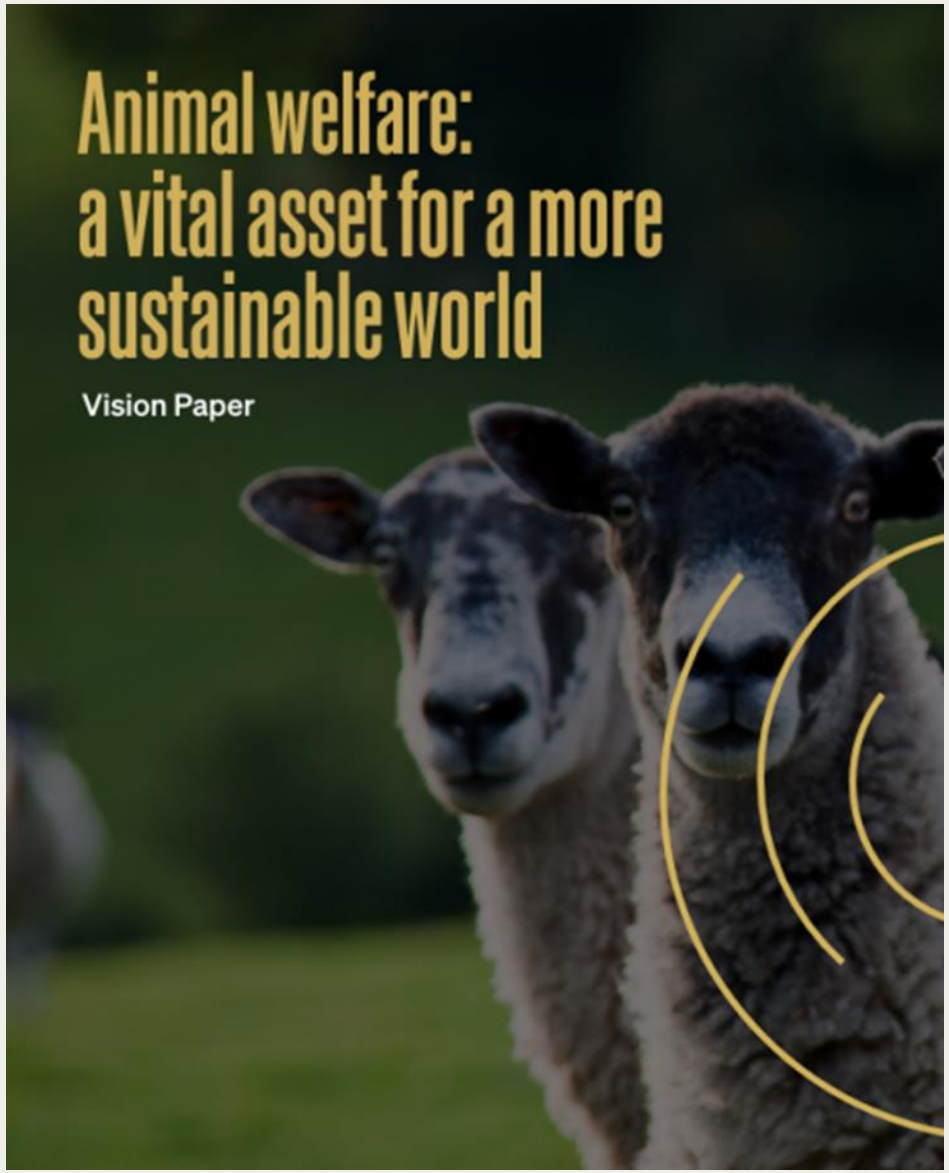
https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/implementation-of-animal-welfare-standards-and-policies/

To learn more about WOAH's Animal Welfare activities:

EN https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2024/01/en-woah-visionpaper-animalwelfare.pdf

ES https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2024/01/es-omsa-visionpaper-bienestaranimal.pdf

FR https://www.woah.org/fr/document/le-bien-etre-animal-un-atout-vital-pour-un-monde-plus-durable/



Thank you!

Merci

Gracias

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