



Oie

REGIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY

Asia, the Far East and Oceania
2013–2015

EDITION 2

PREFACE

Animal welfare is a shared responsibility between governments, the community, welfare organisations, industry, educational institutions, veterinary associations and scientists. There must be a constructive and positive engagement between all parties to ensure sustained improvements to animal welfare. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) has played a significant part in improving animal welfare globally through the development of science-based internationally agreed standards.

A key initiative to support implementation of the OIE Animal Welfare Standards was the development of a Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) for Asia, the Far East and Oceania in 2008, the aim of which was to provide an overarching, agreed framework and guidance for countries in the Region when implementing OIE Standards, and to serve as the basis for the development of Action Plans.

The RAWS (Edition 2) updates the first edition but does not change its basic and endorsed OIE policies, principles and agreed vision of; 'A region where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and incrementally advanced, simultaneously with the pursuit of progress and socioeconomic development'. This vision presents both significant challenges and opportunities. These are reflected in the priority goals and their supporting objectives and specific activities.

The Strategy is a 'living document' and will be amended as appropriate in the light of experience.



Dr Gardner Murray

Chair

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group

FOREWORD

The inclusion of animal welfare in the third strategic plan for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), for the period 2001–05, recognised the ever-increasing public, political and scientific attention being given to the topic and the need for intergovernmental leadership in the development of science-based animal welfare policies and guidelines.

Given the importance of animal welfare, OIE organised and managed three OIE Global Animal Welfare Conferences in Paris (February 2004), Cairo (October 2008) and Kuala Lumpur (November 2012) to, inter alia, gain agreement and advice on how animal welfare could best be progressed and OIE animal welfare standards implemented at the global and regional levels. OIE's leadership and initiatives have led to the development of eight animal welfare standards in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and three animal welfare standards in the Aquatic Animal Health Standards Code that have been agreed by the World Assembly. New standards are under development.

With the support of its members, OIE has established in-country National Animal Welfare Focal Points. Focal Points are responsible for establishing and maintaining a dialogue with the competent authority for animal welfare in the country, and/or facilitating cooperation and communication among authorities where responsibilities are shared.

Complementing these activities was endorsement by the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and the OIE General Assembly to the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS Edition 1), to help support the implementation of OIE Standards and improve knowledge and understanding of animal welfare in a region comprising more than half the world population of people and animals.

While retaining OIE endorsed policies and principles, the RAWS (Edition 2) builds on developments over recent years and is particularly timely given the need for regional implementation and the outcomes of the Kuala Lumpur Global Animal Welfare Conference.

I commend the document to you, and in doing so would like to thank the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry for its ongoing support for the RAWS Coordination Group established by myself to progress the implementation of OIE Global Animal Welfare Standards.



Dr Bernard Vallat
Director General, OIE

INTRODUCTION

The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy – Asia, the Far East and Oceania, 2013–15 builds on the achievements of the first edition of the RAWs.

The RAWs (Edition 1) was endorsed by the World Assembly of OIE Delegates in May 2008. The RAWs initiative is the first OIE regional welfare strategy and is used as a reference model for World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) animal welfare strategies in other OIE regions.

The OIE agreed to include an animal welfare initiative in its third strategic plan for the period 2001–05, and established an ad hoc group to review all animal welfare issues. This group prepared an options paper in late 2001 which led to the establishment of the permanent Animal Welfare Working Group in 2002. The first priorities of the working group were to draft an OIE animal welfare mission statement and animal welfare guiding principles, and to plan for the first OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare in Paris in 2004.

The OIE convened a first global conference on animal welfare in February 2004. As well as the veterinary services in OIE member countries, the conference targeted livestock producers and various industry sectors, veterinary practitioners and international non-government organisations (NGOs) working in the field of animal welfare. The main objectives of the conference were to improve animal welfare awareness and to gain views as to how best OIE could progress its animal welfare agenda.

Since May 2005, the World Assembly of OIE Delegates (representing the 178 Members and Territories) has adopted eight animal welfare standards in the Terrestrial Code and three animal welfare standards in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Standards Code (Aquatic Code).

The first five sets of OIE animal welfare standards were developed by specific ad hoc groups and unanimously adopted at the 73rd Annual General Session of the International Committee of the OIE in 2005. These standards covered slaughter for human consumption, land transport, sea transport, air transport and humane killing of animals for disease control purposes. Since then further standards have been adopted, covering the control of stray dog populations, the use of animals in research and education, animal welfare in beef cattle production systems, and welfare aspects relating to farmed fish. The farmed fish standards include the welfare of farmed fish during transport, the welfare aspects of stunning and killing farmed fish for human consumption and the killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes.

The OIE is now focusing on developing standards for broiler production and dairy production.

The fifth OIE strategic plan covers the period 2011–15. The fifth strategic plan follows on from previous plans and in particular seeks to sustain and build upon the achievements of the fourth strategic plan, which covered the period 2006–10. The previous OIE strategic plan emphasised animal welfare. Formal resolutions passed at the 74th and 75th General Sessions in 2006 and 2007 further emphasised the important role to be played by OIE members and Regional Commissions. These resolutions influenced the decision to hold a Regional Animal Welfare Workshop in Bangkok in November 2007 and to include animal welfare presentations in the 25th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, which was held in Queenstown, New Zealand, in late November 2007.



The Bangkok workshop recognised the need to prepare a broad-based regional strategy that would engage all key stakeholders and recognise the cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences influencing animal welfare practices within the region. The workshop led to the timely development of the RAWS (Edition 1).

Implementation of the OIE standards was the theme for the second OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, in Cairo, Egypt, in October 2008. The OIE's third global conference on animal welfare was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6–8 November 2012. The theme of the conference, 'Implementing the OIE standards – addressing regional expectations' demonstrated the OIE's recognition of the challenges faced by members when implementing the adopted animal welfare standards and the willingness of the OIE, working in collaboration with governments and donors, to provide support within the framework of its global capacity building initiatives.

Following the publication of the RAWS (Edition 1), the Director General of the OIE agreed to establish a RAWS coordination group (RAWS CG) and nominated OIE regional representatives, industry, and an animal welfare international non-government organisation as its members.

The first meeting of the RAWS coordination group was held in Bangkok, Thailand in April 2011. The first coordination group meeting involved country representatives from Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Republic of Korea and Thailand, industry representatives from Australia and Thailand, a non-government organisation representative from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), OIE representatives from the Regional Representation (Tokyo), the Sub-Regional Representation (Bangkok) and the OIE's Animal Welfare Working Group.

The function of the RAWS CG is:

- ◆ To provide strategic advice and guidance to OIE through the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on the further development and implementation of the RAWS.
- ◆ To review the performance of the RAWS, to enable the assessment of improvements in animal welfare in the region.
- ◆ To identify issues/new research/scientific knowledge of relevance to the RAWS and to seek independent scientific advice as necessary.

The RAWS – AFEO is seen as a reference model for other OIE regions and for improving animal welfare on a regional basis. It provides an agreed overarching framework that the members can adapt to achieve animal welfare improvements in line with their national priorities.



RAWS ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The coordination group has been supported in undertaking its activities by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The terms of reference and modus operandi for the coordination group are provided in Appendix 1.

The coordination group developed and monitored the RAWS implementation, in consultation with key stakeholders, and has explored constructive working relationships with regional groupings such as ASEAN, SAARC and SPC. The group provides regular reports on meetings and activities to the AFEO Regional Commission with the Regional Commission report being subsequently tabled at the OIE's World Assembly of Delegates.

Since being established in April 2011, the coordination group has held four meetings (as at January 2013) resulting in a number of recommendations being provided to OIE Paris for endorsement through the Regional Commission. Other activities include;

- ◆ The establishment of a secretariat within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to support the activities of the coordination group.
- ◆ Translation of the RAWS (Edition 1) into four regional languages with copies provided to the relevant countries for further distribution.
- ◆ Ensuring the RAWS (Edition 1) is available on websites including the OIE site (www.oie.int), the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific site (www.rr-asia.oie.int), and the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy site (www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au/news/regional-strategy-asia-the-far-east).
- ◆ Establishing a RAWS newsletter which is circulated on a quarterly basis and includes short information contributions from countries, NGOs and industry. The RAWS–News is available from the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific site (www.rr-asia.oie.int).
- ◆ Development of an Action Plan to define and track activities under the RAWS.
- ◆ Establishing a secure dedicated website (Sharepoint) for RAWS CG members and participants to share information.
- ◆ Undertaking a 'proof of concept' questionnaire of national animal welfare focal points.
- ◆ Providing support and impetus for the delivery of an initial practical animal welfare training course in the region. The first course was held in Malaysia in 2011.
- ◆ Supporting the establishment of national animal welfare committees in the region.
- ◆ Supporting (through the Terrestrial Animal Health Code Commission and the Animal Welfare Working Group) a review of the current OIE standard for the commercial slaughter of poultry for human consumption by addressing feedback from Thailand arising from an EU fact finding mission.
- ◆ Actively working with the OIE's national animal welfare focal points to promote RAWS initiatives.
- ◆ Supporting the developments and arrangements being made by the Malaysian Government and other governments in the region on animal welfare.
- ◆ Supporting OIE's implementation of the Australian Government-funded Improving Animal Welfare Program in Indonesia.
- ◆ Networking with OIE collaborating centres and supporting initiatives relating to the twinning of regional universities and research centres.

THE REGIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY

This regional strategy aims to facilitate the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards, provide a framework for the coordination of animal welfare activities, and address emerging issues. The strategy includes a commitment for governments to work in partnership with non government stakeholders from industry and animal welfare organisations to protect and promote the welfare of animals in a sustainable manner. The strategy also reflects the agreed OIE guiding principles for animal welfare contained in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and includes a regional mission statement modelled on that adopted by the International Committee.

The strategy has allowed members to explore opportunities for the dissemination and use of research results from regional OIE collaborating centres. This has included networking with OIE collaborating centres and exploring outreach through the 'twinning' process.

Animals have played an important role in the history and development of the region (Asia, the Far East and Oceania) and continue to contribute significantly to the region's progress and sustainable socioeconomic development. The RAWS (Edition 2) builds on the first strategy, which was in place 2008 to 2012, by providing member countries with a direction for future improvements to the welfare of animals. It also recognises activities being undertaken by governments, industry and other organisations to improve animal welfare and develop sustainable production systems. The RAWS (Edition 2) continues the connection between climate change and animal health and welfare, "one health" and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The RAWS (Edition 2) strengthens the region's commitment to:

- focus on ensuring the health and welfare of animals by promoting the development and adoption of sound animal welfare standards and handling practices
- address farm animal welfare in the first instance and address other emerging issues on the basis of priorities set by the OIE
- recognise the interrelationship between animal welfare, health, production and food safety
- facilitate a regional consultative approach to animal welfare that welcomes the involvement of the government sector and NGOs
- seek to develop regional support for the implementation of the OIE guidelines
- establish a framework for sustainable animal welfare outcomes based on, or informed by, scientific evidence and knowledge
- recognise the importance of education and training, and animal welfare research and development, areas in which the OIE collaborating centres play an important role.

The development and implementation of animal welfare standards is a complex public policy issue that involves science, evidence-based outcomes and ethics and is influenced by cultural, religious, social, economic and food safety considerations. Engagement of all the stakeholders in the region is important for the pursuit of the strategy's common vision and mission.

The following diagram depicts the components, drivers and expected outcomes that support a sustainable animal welfare strategy in the region.

Key elements of the strategy

- ◆ OIE guidelines
- ◆ Legislation
- ◆ Codes of practice
- ◆ Education and training
- ◆ Research and development
- ◆ Regional and international developments
- ◆ Regional expectations
- ◆ Stakeholders

Scope of the strategy

- ◆ All sentient animals, with initial emphasis on farm animals

Areas addressed by the strategy

- ◆ Understanding and behavioural change
- ◆ Awareness
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Technical skills
- ◆ Coordination
- ◆ Cooperation
- ◆ Sustainable mechanisms



Factors driving the region's approach to improving animal welfare:

- ◆ Science
- ◆ Values
- ◆ Ethics
- ◆ Culture
- ◆ Education and awareness
- ◆ Economics and livelihood
- ◆ Research and development
- ◆ Regional and international developments



Outcome: Cohesive regional strategy, including an action plan



I. Vision

A region where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and incrementally advanced, simultaneously with the pursuit of progress and socioeconomic development.

II. Purpose

The RAWS (Edition 2):

- ◆ provides direction for the development of action plans for member countries to implement existing OIE guidelines and standards
- ◆ provides a roadmap for the development of future animal welfare policies, based on a regional consultative approach
- ◆ facilitates the establishment of priorities that are consistent with agreed strategic goals
- ◆ provides a framework for cooperation among member countries and stakeholders in promoting and advancing animal welfare in the region.

III. Scope

This strategy relates to the care of, use of, and direct impact of human activity on all sentient species of animals in the region. The emphasis of RAWS (Edition 2) remains the welfare of farm animals during handling, transportation and slaughter according to OIE standards and guidelines.

The strategy embraces a broad vision for the humane treatment of animals, including during emergency situations, and provides a framework for sustainable improvements in animal welfare outcomes based on scientific evidence and social, economic and ethical considerations.

The RAWS (Edition 2) is aimed at people and organisations throughout the entire region, including:

- ◆ people in charge of animals
- ◆ animal users
- ◆ the veterinary, animal science and agricultural professions
- ◆ livestock producers, processors and transporters
- ◆ animal welfare bodies
- ◆ researchers and animal technicians
- ◆ educational facilities and teachers
- ◆ consumers
- ◆ government agencies and allied entities.

IV. Benefits

The expected benefits from the RAWS (Edition 2) include:

- ◆ a clear regional direction on animal welfare
- ◆ optimum sustainable welfare outcomes and indicators
- ◆ readily identifiable and clearly defined regional standards and guidelines
- ◆ focus and guidance on future resource decisions to protect and promote sustainable animal welfare
- ◆ reinforced societal values and sustainable livelihoods
- ◆ improved identification of research priorities for the region, taking into account relevant international developments
- ◆ improved animal health
- ◆ improved animal handling and care by animal owners
- ◆ recognised animal welfare-friendly products
- ◆ exploration of previously unavailable international marketing opportunities as a result of investment in animal welfare (eg niche markets, accreditation/certification schemes).

V. Goals

Four goals aim to provide the fundamental and critical achievements that will steer action plans towards attainment of the strategy's vision:

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. Ensuring a coordinated regional approach and ongoing commitment to the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards and guidelines.
3. Achievement of sustainable improvements in animal welfare, based on regional and international research and development.
4. Development of sustainable mechanisms to coordinate and promote animal welfare programs and priorities.

VI. Objectives and activities

Each goal is associated with specific objectives and activities.

Goal 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.

Objective 1

To promote ownership of the strategy by all member countries of the region.

Activities

- 1.1 Publicising the existence of the strategy, and of welfare legislation, codes, standards, etc, using appropriate tools and mass media. Where necessary, these should be translated into national languages for clarity and understanding.
- 1.2 Involving religious leaders and authorities, as well as leading public personalities, in the implementation of animal welfare programs.

Objective 2

To improve attitudes, skills and knowledge of all animal carers and handlers, with initial emphasis on farm animals.

Activities

- 2.1 Developing appropriate education and training tools based on customised needs of members.
- 2.2 Promoting and facilitating the inclusion of animal welfare concepts and applications in veterinary and animal science-related courses and curricula.

Objective 3

To raise the profile of animal welfare with stakeholders, including decision makers, legislators and educators.

Activities

- 3.1 Exploring different ways of consulting with the general community, including decision makers and legislators, on animal welfare issues of regional and national importance.
- 3.2 Incorporating animal welfare issues and programs into public awareness campaigns related to animal health, food safety and production.

Goal 2

Ensuring a coordinated regional approach and ongoing commitment to the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards and guidelines.

Objective 1

To facilitate the development or improvement of legislation within member countries.

Activities

- 1.1 Reviewing existing and new animal welfare laws with reference to OIE guidelines.
- 1.2 Promoting a harmonised approach to the development or improvement of animal welfare codes of practice across all member countries.

Objective 2

To obtain high-level support for the implementation of the strategy in each member country in the region.

Activities

- 2.1 Regularly informing and updating department/ministry heads on animal welfare developments.
- 2.2 Seeking the support and endorsement of key decision makers for the implementation of programs.

Objective 3

To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the strategy.

Activities

- 3.1 Maintaining the Regional Animal Welfare coordination group, comprising key stakeholders responsible for monitoring, reviewing and reporting on the progress of implementation.
- 3.2 Coordinating between the OIE focal points of member countries to facilitate implementation of agreed programs and attainment of set goals.

Goal 3

Achievement of sustainable improvements in animal welfare based on regional and international research and development.

Objective 1

To ensure that new knowledge and developments in animal welfare are broadly communicated and adopted into the OIE standards.

Activities

- 1.1 Establishing a process whereby animal welfare research is continually monitored so that, where appropriate, sustainable standards can be updated.
- 1.2 Identifying possible research and development needs and priorities.

Objective 2

To explore opportunities for the dissemination and use of research outcomes from regional OIE collaborating centres.

Activities

- 2.1 Networking with OIE collaborating centres and achieving outreach through the 'twinning' process.

Objective 3

To explore mechanisms for community involvement in the development and implementation of welfare standards.

Activities

- 3.1 Encouraging effective inputs from industry, member governments, regional bodies, animal welfare NGOs, national veterinary associations and veterinary practitioners, and other stakeholders across the spectrum of humane treatment of animals.

Objective 4

To continuously learn from regional and international experiences and best practices.

Activities

- 4.1 Developing close working relationships with, and obtaining effective inputs from, animal welfare NGOs and institutions that undertake animal welfare programs.

Goal 4

Development of sustainable mechanisms to coordinate and promote animal welfare programs and priorities.

Objective 1

To seek and maintain cooperation and support from regional and international organisations, key trading partners and NGOs.

Activities

- 1.1 Identifying program needs and priorities and, if necessary, preparing project proposals for funding and assistance.
- 1.2 Undertaking joint initiatives with relevant partners to implement programs and animal welfare campaigns.
- 1.3 Coordinating animal welfare activities of member countries with assistance from the OIE Regional Commission.

VII. Roles and responsibilities

All people who have animals in their care have a responsibility to ensure that they have adequate knowledge, training and skills to protect the welfare of animals. More specifically, the following groups, organisations and institutions will play an important role in the implementation of the strategy:

- ◆ member countries (the main implementers)
- ◆ animal industry groups
- ◆ animal welfare NGOs (eg WSPA)
- ◆ academic and educational institutions
- ◆ national and regional veterinary associations (eg FAVA)
- ◆ regional groupings (ASEAN, SAARC, SPC, etc)
- ◆ international organisations (OIE, FAO, WVA, WB-IFC, ADB, CVA etc).



VIII. Implementation and evaluation

This strategy sets broad regional goals on animal welfare and provides a framework for sustainable, scientifically based and acceptable animal welfare outcomes. It recommends (Goal 2, Objective 3) maintaining the Regional Animal Welfare coordination group which is under the aegis of the OIE Regional Commission. The group will formulate and monitor an action plan under the strategy developed in consultation with key stakeholders, and explore constructive working relationships with regional groupings such as ASEAN, SAARC and SPC. The coordination group will aim to encourage establishment of a small number of subregional national animal welfare groups on a pilot basis.

This strategy is a living document and will be examined again in three years. A process of ongoing review, to ensure that the activities are focused on achieving its set goals, will be developed.

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFEO	Asia, the Far East and Oceania
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CVA	Commonwealth Veterinary Association
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAVA	Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations
NGO	non-government organisation
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
RAWS	Regional Animal Welfare Strategy
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
WB-IFC	World Bank – International Finance Corporation
WVA	World Veterinary Association

APPENDIX 1

REGIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY COORDINATION GROUP

Terms of Reference and Guiding Principles

The implementation of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) and the activities of the Secretariat are to be guided by a small Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group (Coordination Group) which has appropriate representation from the OIE, from regional governments (including South Asia and the Pacific) as well as industry, and non-government organisations.

Terms of Reference

- ◆ To provide strategic advice and guidance to OIE through the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on the further development and implementation of the RAWS.
- ◆ To review the performance of the RAWS, to enable assessment of improvements in animal welfare in the region.
- ◆ To identify issues/new research/scientific knowledge of relevance to the RAWS and to seek independent scientific advice as necessary.

Guiding Principles

- ◆ The chairperson and members of the Coordination Group will be appointed by the Director General of the OIE.
- ◆ The Coordination Group will operate predominantly by email and/or teleconference. It is envisaged that one face-to-face meeting a year will be required.
- ◆ The Coordination Group will invite observers when appropriate to participate in the activities of the group, for the purpose of informing and engaging other stakeholders, including OIE regional representatives, OIE Collaborating Centre representatives, European Commission, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Bank.
- ◆ DAFF will provide secretariat support for the Coordination Group for the initial period of two years.
- ◆ The Coordination Group is initially established for two years, followed by a review at the end of this period.

