


RAWS-News
Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter
February 2012

Note from the Chair



Welcome to the RAWS-News February 2012 edition. A number of developments in animal welfare have occurred in our region since the last edition. The second meeting of the RAWS Coordination Group was held in Tokyo on 29 November 2011. This meeting coincided with the OIE's national animal welfare focal points seminar held in Japan from 30 November to 2 December 2011. One of the key themes that emerged from the Tokyo meetings was that in country progress is being made on a number of animal welfare fronts. In addition, the Coordination Group decided to merge and update the current RAWS and RAWS Implementation Plan documents and develop a separate Workplan, and will work towards improving linkages with animal welfare focal points. These and related matters will form the basis for discussion at the RAWS Coordination Group Meeting planned for 3-4 April 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.

I remind you that the RAWS News is a broad based communication tool to inform readers and promote animal welfare initiatives in the region. I urge everyone to contribute so that we can gain a comprehensive picture of animal welfare developments and key issues in the region.

Gardner Murray
Chairman
RAWS Coordination Group

Introduction

The RAWS-News February 2012 edition focuses on updating members about country animal welfare activities and initiatives as well as progress of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS). The Chair of the RAWS Coordination Group, Dr Gardner Murray, encourages members to contribute to future editions of the RAWS-News, for the benefit of all members and other interested parties. Please provide your input to Ms Rhiannon Coulton by email at rhiannon.coulton@daff.gov.au.

RAWS Developments

The second meeting of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group (Coordination Group), which is responsible for guiding the implementation of the RAWS, was held on 29 November 2011 in Tokyo, Japan. In plenary discussions it was agreed there would be merit in combining the RAWS and the RAWS IP into a single document titled "The RAWS and Implementation Framework." The Secretariat is currently working to implement this recommendation, with a view to completion prior to the next Coordination Group meeting. The report of this meeting is available by contacting the RAWS Coordination Group Secretariat at rhiannon.coulton@daff.gov.au.

This second meeting of the Coordination Group was held back to back with the Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare held 30 November to 2 December 2011. Mr Jim Paradise and Dr Gardner Murray gave a presentation on the RAWS AFEO on Day 2 of the meeting, discussing the RAWS Work Plan, roles and responsibilities and direction for the future.

The third meeting of the Coordination Group is scheduled for 3-4 April 2012, to be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

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RAWS Coordination Group Meeting 2 – OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific, University of Tokyo Tokyo, Japan

Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare

The OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific organised the Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare in Tokyo from 30 November to 2 December 2011, back to back with the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group Meeting (RAWS).

A total of 52 participants attended the seminar, including National Focal Points or their proxies from 26 members in the region and a wide range of resource persons, including the President of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group, an OIE Collaborating Centre representative, and representatives of non-governmental industry and animal welfare organisations with which the OIE has cooperation agreements.

The focal point seminar included small working group sessions. Discussions included: engaging government commitment to improve animal health as a first step to improve animal welfare; increasing community awareness of the wide benefits of promoting animal welfare, such as food safety; taking advantage of support offered by OIE Standards and the OIE Collaborating Centre, including training courses and twinning arrangements; developing appropriate domestic laws and regulations consistent with the OIE Standards; and sharing the same goals rather than harmonizing legislation among members.



Working Group 1 with moderator Professor David Mellor

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Working Group 2 with moderator Professor Mohan Raj



Working Group 3 with moderators Dr Alexandre Bouchot and Dr Ian Dacre

OIE Third Global Conference on Animal Welfare

The OIE is organising a Third OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare, to be held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) on 6-8 November 2012. The main objective of the Conference is to support the implementation by Members of OIE Animal Welfare standards, with a focus on addressing regional specificities and expectations.

OIE Collaborating Centre

The Third Meeting of the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis was held on 26-27 October 2011 in Wellington, NZ. Representatives from MAF, DAFF, Massey University, AgResearch, University of Melbourne, CSIRO and the University of Queensland attended.

The Center pledged its continued support for the RAWS and has submitted a twinning application to the OIE with the aim of supporting implementation of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, The Far East and Oceania through 2 work programs focussing on assisting implementing of OIE standards on transport and slaughter.



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More information can be found at: <http://animalwelfare.massey.ac.nz/oie.html> and a flyer is available from DAFF by contacting animal.welfare@daff.gov.au

Developments under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) is a government program that draws together a wide range of stakeholders to achieve sustainable national animal welfare outcomes.

The AAWS is overseen by a newly appointed, skills-based Advisory Committee charged with driving the implementation of the AAWS.

The 15-person committee is chaired by Dr Gardner Murray and comprised of a mixture of stakeholder representatives and experts in various fields of animal welfare.

Members of the new Australian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AAWAC) were selected because of their skills, knowledge and experience across a wide range of stakeholder groups, and their ability to steer complex animal welfare issues and policy development to a successful conclusion.

The inaugural meeting of the AAWAC was held on 13-14 October 2011 in Sydney and met again on 14-15 February 2012 in Melbourne. It will report annually on its progress and achievements against the National Implementation Plan.

Welfare Standards and Guidelines

The development of national animal welfare standards and guidelines continues to be a priority activity under the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS), and is an important step towards achieving nationally consistent animal welfare regulation. The Land Transport Standards and Guidelines have been endorsed and are expected to be implemented into legislation during 2012. Sheep, cattle, horses and standards and guidelines are currently in the drafting phase.

The Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Exhibit Animals (Zoos) has been drafted and a Regulatory Impact Analysis is in the process of being developed. Because of the complexity of the operations, situations and animals involved in the zoo industry, the standards and guidelines have been organised into two parts: a general set of standards applying to all facilities keeping animals for display purposes, and a series of taxon-specific standards for the particular welfare requirements of different species. The first of the taxon standards covers koalas, wombats, crocodylians, macropods (kangaroos and wallabies) and ratites (ostriches, emus, cassowaries and rheas).

Once a Regulatory Impact Analysis has been completed the standards will be sent to the Primary Industries Ministerial Council for endorsement. It is anticipated that these standards and guidelines will be ready to be referenced in state and territory legislation late 2012.

Australia's Livestock Exports

To ensure animals are being treated in line with international standards, animal welfare has been put front and centre through the implementation of the export supply chain assurance system (ESCAS). This is the single biggest reform in the history of the live export trade and the Australian Government is supporting exporters to implement these important changes.



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The government accepted all of the independent Farmer review recommendations as well as the findings of the Industry-Government Working Groups (IGWGs). The Farmer review recommends that the ESCAS apply to all existing Australian markets for the export of animals for slaughter by the end of 2012.

Improved Animal Welfare Program

On 21 October 2011, as part of the regulatory reforms for the live export trade, the Australian Government announced the Improved Animal Welfare Program (IAWP), a \$10 million funding allocation over four years ending in June 2015.

The funding is available in order to improve animal welfare outcomes in Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries that import livestock from Australia. The details of any programs delivered through this assistance program will be settled with eligible nations. ODA eligible countries include Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Jordan, Turkey, Mauritius and others.

Windows SharePoint Tool

Mr Jim Paradise provided RAWS Coordination Group members with a PowerPoint presentation on SharePoint at their second meeting in November 2011. All Coordination Group members should by now have received their login details. Please login to SharePoint at your earliest convenience and refer to the PowerPoint presentation for guidance on how to access relevant RAWS documents. If you have any problems please contact Ms Rhiannon Coulton at Rhiannon.coulton@daff.gov.au.

Animal welfare contribution recognised in New Zealand's New Year's Honours

Dr David Bayvel has been made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order in recognition of services to the state, in the New Zealand New Year's Honours list 2012. David has made a significant contribution domestically and internationally, including through his part in developing animal welfare policy and practice in New Zealand, fostering international relationships and involvement with the OIE in its global leadership role in animal welfare.

David retired from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in 2011 and has been succeeded by Dr Mark Fisher. He continues to chair the OIE's animal welfare working group but has handed over responsibilities as New Zealand's national focal point for animal welfare to Dr Kate Littin (MAF). Dr Andrew McKenzie, former Chief Executive of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, and likewise well known and highly respected on the domestic and international fronts, was similarly recognised as a Companion of the Queen's Service Order.

Country Highlights

The following information has been taken from the Final Report of the RAWS Coordination Group's 2nd Meeting.

The Malaysia Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (MAWAC)

This committee with advisory roles is now officially formed with the Minister of Agriculture and Agrobased Industry as Chair and his deputy as Vice Chair. Members include the Town council, Professional registered body, NGO's and the University. The Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia will provide the secretariat support. The



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MAWAC will advise on animal welfare issue, initiate efforts in responsible pet ownership and mediate on animal welfare issue during the interim period to the new Animal Welfare Act. The first meeting of MAWAC was held on 18 December 2011.

Training in Thailand

Animal welfare training was delivered to both public and private sectors. Four training courses were conducted for the DLD officers; one for the officers responsible for poultry farm inspection (155 persons), one for the veterinary meat inspectors (56 persons) to inspect poultry welfare at slaughterhouses and the other two for the officers responsible for certification of local abattoirs (200 persons).

Three training courses were conducted for private personnel; one for veterinarians (95 persons) who will be poultry farm veterinarians, one for personnel of broiler farms (83 persons) who will be Poultry Welfare Officers at the farm and the other one for quality control personnel of poultry slaughterhouses (26 persons) who will be Poultry Welfare Officers at the slaughterhouse.

Standards for Animal Welfare in China

In 2011, China animal welfare working group edited the Good Practice for the Welfare of Farm Animals including animal production model code for the welfare of animal (pig, dairy cattle, poultry), the land transport and slaughter of pig/poultry/cattle transportation and culling for the purpose of disease control.

In 2012, animal welfare working group will draft the animal welfare standard with the reference of Good Practice for the welfare of Farm Animals.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

Government Initiatives in Thailand

WSPA has held a stakeholder meeting on 13 February 2012 gathering various sectors working with animals and in disaster management in Thailand. The objective of the meeting is to form a working group aimed to improve disaster interventions for animals and better animal welfare in the country. The organizations aimed to be in the working group include Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Thai Red Cross, a representative from all 6 accredited veterinary schools in Thailand, Thai Veterinary Council, Thai Veterinary Medical Association (TVMA), and Veterinary Practitioner Association of Thailand (VPAT). The feedback of the meeting was well received. The next step is for the stakeholders to fill in their roles in the Incident Command System (ICS) adjusted by WSPA and then the working group will be discussing towards setting up a committee and work plan.

Training in the Philippines

During 29 January 2012-3 February 2012, World Society for the Protection of animals (WSPA) has hosted Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS): Training of Trainers in Manila, Philippines. Participants including WSPA staff were invited from 5 different countries in the region- India, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand and Philippines. The training was to equip participants to be able to conduct a 3-day LEGS training in their own countries aimed to build capacity to support the saving of lives and livelihoods among livestock owning communities affected by disasters.

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Collars Not Cruelty Campaign

WSPA launched its global 'Collars Not Cruelty' campaign, to promote the control of rabies through mass vaccination of dogs without culling, on World Rabies Day (28 September) 2011. The five-year programme will include working with governments and other stakeholders in the Asia Pacific region, to promote and implement this scientifically proven and economically viable, humane alternative for rabies control. The programme couples sound animal welfare principles with a holistic approach to ensure a humane and sustainable outcome, consistent with the OIE's Regional Animal Welfare Strategy. Further updates about specific initiatives planned will be provided in a future issue of the Update.

Key Events

Event	Date	Location
WSPA - Asia-Pacific Regional Overview Meeting	Early March 2012	Sydney, Australia
RAWS Coordination Group Third Meeting	3-4 April 2012	Bangkok, Thailand
Australian Animal Welfare Strategy Annual Workshop	TBC August 2012	TBC
OIE Collaborating Centre Management Committee Meeting	TBC October 2012	Melbourne, Australia
OIE 3 rd Global Animal Welfare Conference	5-9 November 2012	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Contacts

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