


RAWS-News
Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter
December 2013

Note from the Chair

The past few months have been busy in terms of RAWS activities. In August the 6th RAWS Coordination Group meeting was held in Seoul along with the 3rd OIE National Animal Welfare Focal Point meeting. Last month I presented on RAWS activities and achievements to the OIE Regional Commission Conference in Cebu. I'm pleased to announce that our work was unanimously endorsed by the Regional Commission, with the President of the OIE World Assembly of Delegates, Dr Karin Schwabenbauer, expressing her support and admiration of the RAWS.



Governments in our region have been working in partnership with non-government stakeholders to protect and promote the welfare of animals through the delivery of much education, training and support. Examples of this education and training include:

- OIE livestock pre-slaughter and slaughter welfare training in Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey, Thailand and Vietnam.
- Training of trainers on animal welfare for poultry delivered by private animal welfare consultants in Malaysia.
- The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) work on animals in disasters.

With the implementation phase of the RAWS underway, the RAWS CG is considering a variety of projects. For instance, a plan to stocktake animal welfare training and education courses such as those listed above, and the development of a database to be used as a resource. The development of such a resource will facilitate access to information on training and education programs available in our region, which works towards the RAWS goal of promotion and achievement of a high level of understanding and awareness of animal welfare in the region. These matters including work with WSPA on animals in disasters will be discussed at the 7th RAWS CG meeting in Thailand next March.

This year has been a successful one for the RAWS and I look forward to future developments in improving animal welfare in 2014.

Gardner Murray
Chairman
RAWS Coordination Group

Introduction

The RAWS-News November 2013 edition focuses on updating members about country animal welfare activities and initiatives as well as progress of the RAWS. The Secretariat encourages RAWS participants to contribute to future editions of RAWS newsletter. For your contribution to future editions of RAWS newsletter, please provide your input to Ms Lucy King via email at animal.welfare@daff.gov.au.

Outcomes of the 6th RAWS Coordination Group meeting in Seoul, South Korea

The sixth meeting of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy – Asia, the Far East and Oceania Coordination Group (RAWS CG) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on 26 August 2013, in conjunction with the Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare held from 27 to 29 August 2013. At the meeting, RAWS CG members discussed and made recommendations relating to country/organisation progress and regulatory developments, the endorsement and publication of RAWS (edition 2), revisions to the RAWS Action Plan, the preparation of a paper for the Regional Commission meeting in November 2013, the status of existing projects and scope for new projects, and the interaction between the RAWS CG and national focal points for animal welfare. Many of these outcomes are outlined in the news updates below.



Photo: Participants at the 6th RAWS CG meeting

The Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare in Seoul, South Korea

The Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 27 to 29 August 2013. The seminar provided participants with knowledge about the rights, commitments and responsibilities of National Focal Points in the standard-setting process and compliance with OIE international standards. 51 participants attended, comprising National Focal Points from 30 member countries in the region, representatives from OIE Animal Welfare Working Group, OIE Collaborating Centre, an Animal Welfare NGO and livestock Industry from in the region, and observers from the host country, Korea. A number of presentations were made regarding animal welfare activity and achievements in the region, as well as the experience and future direction of the RAWS. These are available at- <http://www.rr-asia.oie.int/activities/regional-programme/good-governance-of-veterinary-services/activities/2013-animal-welfare/presentation/>



Above: Participants at the Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare in Seoul.

Regional Commission meeting, Cebu

The 28th Conference of the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania of the OIE was held in Cebu (Philippines) from 18 to 22 November 2013. The Conference began with an overview of the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania followed by an overview of the activities of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and the activities of the OIE Regional and Sub-Regional Representations located in the Region. Animal welfare was a key issue, with Dr Gardner Murray delivering a paper on RAWS work towards the implementation of OIE standards, as well as the implementation by the OIE of Training of Trainers programs in animal welfare. This work was unanimously endorsed by the Regional Commission. The media release for the meeting can be found at <http://www.oie.int/for-the-media/press-releases/detail/article/28th-conference-of-the-oie-regional-commission-for-asia-the-far-east-and-oceania/>.

Update on the RAWS Action Plan

Minor revisions made to the RAWS Action Plan to make it more user-friendly and reflect the activities and outcomes of meeting 5 have been endorsed by the RAWS CG. Further minor revisions have been made following meeting 6 in Seoul, to make responsibilities under the plan clearer. The RAWS Action Plan continues to be a useful tool, bringing together the activities and outcomes from meetings with the previous RAWS Implementation Plan. The activities are linked to the four RAWS goals and objectives to ensure that the strategy is progressing in line with the regional vision. Regional member countries are encouraged to seek a copy of the RAWS Action Plan from the RAWS Secretariat. Please email animal.welfare@daff.gov.au to obtain a copy.

Update on RAWS edition 2

The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Edition 2 has been printed in English, as is soon to be translated into Thai, Bahasa, Malay, Chinese, and Tagalog. Please email the RAWS Secretariat to request your copies at animal.welfare@daff.gov.au.

Country Highlights

Malaysia holds its second Colloquium on Animal Welfare and Well Being of Animals According to Islamic Perspectives

On July 2, 2013, the Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia (DVS) held its second Colloquium on Animal Welfare and Well Being of Animals According to Islamic Perspectives. A total of 130 people participated representing the DVS, Institution of Higher Education, Department of Islamic Affairs, Local Authorities, NGO's and private companies. The aim of the colloquium was to gather opinions from experts on science and religion related to animal welfare and the well-being of animals. The colloquium was divided into 3 sessions:

1. Use Of Stunning in Slaughter According to Islamic Perspectives;
2. Livestock Rearing and Commercial Animal Husbandry Practices According to Islamic Perspectives; and
3. Ethical Use of Animals in Research & Development According to Islamic Perspectives.

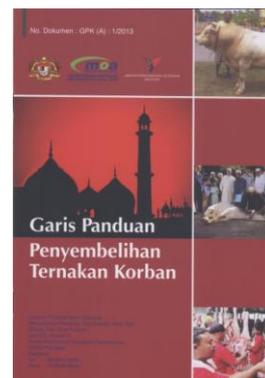
After each presentation there was a panel discussion. The colloquium resulted in nine resolutions which will be translated into an action plan covering aspects of funding, research, education and awareness.



Above: Participants at the Colloquium on Animal Welfare and Well Being of Animals According to Islamic Perspectives

Malaysia's Guideline on Livestock Slaughter for Religious Purposes

The Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia (DVS) prepared a Guideline on Livestock Slaughter for Religious Purposes to serve as a reference to anyone who is involved in the handling and slaughter of livestock for religious purposes. This guideline covers various aspects of the law and regulations on activities involving religious slaughter, slaughter premises and various aspects of animal welfare. Emphasis was given to the proper restraint of cattle, proper slaughter techniques, handling the carcass (food safety) and proper disposal of waste. The guideline was produced in collaboration with the Department of Islamic Development, Selangor Islamic Religious Department, Department of Local Government and industry related stakeholders. It was officially launched by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, YB Dato' Sri Ismail bin Yaakob on October 1, 2013 in Putrajaya.



Malaysia: Training of Trainers on Animal Welfare for White Meat (Poultry)

A Training of Trainers on Animal Welfare for White Meat course has been run for the 8th time in Malaysia by international animal welfare consultant Mr. Paul Whittington. The two day course provides participants, comprising of Department of Veterinary Services staff and industry players, with the necessary knowledge on animal welfare in broiler chicken farms and in poultry slaughter houses.

Amendments to the New Zealand Animal Welfare Act 1999

The Animal Welfare Amendment Bill proposes amendments to Animal Welfare Act 1999 to improve the enforceability, clarity, and transparency of the New Zealand animal welfare system. On 29 August 2013 the Bill had its first 'reading' in the House of Representatives, which is the first step towards eventual issue.

New Zealand hosts an International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) Regional Scientific Seminar

New Zealand has hosted an ISAE Australasia/Africa region one-day seminar for scientists and students, with the theme 'Future solutions for animal behaviour and welfare problems'. Papers covered play behaviour in dairy calves, behaviour of lambs in feedlots, domestic (pet) ferret behaviour and management, aversion training for dogs to prevent predation upon endangered birds (Kiwi), cognitive assessments in sheep, shelter and pet dog behaviour, cow behaviour on feed pads, the response of wild mice to noise from mining operations, links between our understanding of cat behaviour and perceptions of them as unwanted, sheep welfare, 'explorations into the avian mind' and the role of government in advancing science-based animal welfare. Presentations are online at

http://www.applied-ethology.org/australia_new_zealand_phillipines_and_africa.html

Collaborating Centre Management Committee update

The Management Committee for the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare & Bioethical Analysis held their annual meeting in Hamilton, New Zealand recently. Comprising Massey University, AgResearch, CSIRO, Melbourne and Queensland universities, the Centre is chaired by the Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand (currently) and Australia's Department of Agriculture, in turn. The main activities of the centre were updated including:

- The Cooperative project between the Queensland and Putra (Malaysia) universities to promote OIE standards for the welfare of animals being transported and slaughtered in China, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia, is now being finalised for commencement in December.
- A proposed animal welfare science and ethics training course has been postponed until the Cooperative Project above is completed enabling its content and form to be re-evaluated.
- The OIE Scientific and Technical Review Series publication Animal Welfare: Focus on the Future is nearly complete with all but one of the 33 chapters 'in press' for publication in 2014.
- Future opportunities, including a potential animal welfare role in the South Pacific, and joint science meetings with WSPA and the International Society of Applied Ethology were explored and a decision taken to produce a high level map of animal welfare activities within the region.

Pig pre-slaughter and slaughter welfare training in Thailand

Thailand's Department of Livestock Development (DLD) has cooperated with the OIE to deliver pig pre-slaughter and slaughter welfare training to DLD officials. From 30 August to 6 September 2013 the DLD officials received training from an OIE expert, and can now pass on their knowledge to industry and members of the public to enhance welfare practices



Above: DLD officials undertaking pig pre-slaughter and slaughter welfare training, and posing with their certificated and OIE trainer Rastislav Kolesar.

Update on International Organization for Standardization (ISO) activities

The ISO is working to develop 'harmonising' technical specifications for animal welfare in international trade. The specifications will be informed by the internationally accepted advice provided in the OIE Code chapters on animal welfare. After an initial draft of the specifications was withdrawn this year, members of an ISO working group (ISO/TC34/WG16 "Animal welfare") are currently in the process of deciding what type of document should be devised so that animal care practices can be improved according to local conditions in all regions of the world.

Update on Improved Animal Welfare Program

The Training of Trainers Program, which is run by the OIE's Improved Animal Welfare Program (IAWP), educates the academic community, governmental officers and other interested parties on pre-slaughter and slaughter welfare. The training syllabus covers knowledge, values and skills, and over a 10 week period comprises visits and practical sessions, distance learning, and presentations by trainers. Training has been completed in Indonesia, the Philippines and Turkey with training being progressed in Vietnam and planned for Jordan. The program is run in Official Development Assistance eligible countries (as determined by the OECD) who also import Australian livestock for feeder/slaughter purposes. For further information contact Dr Rastislav Kolesar at email r.kolesar@oie.int

Australia Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) National Workshop

The 7th AAWS National Workshop was held in July 2013. Over 125 key stakeholders and experts attended this workshop. AAWS members presented on their activities and chartered a roadmap for ongoing improvements in animal welfare. The then Federal Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP, and the chair of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group, delivered presentations on the future delivery of animal welfare standards. A communiqué outlining the outcomes of the workshop is available at <http://www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au/news-m/aaws-7th-national-workshop-communique>

Disaster management planning in Australia

WSPA and the Department of Agriculture/Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) have established an interim National Advisory Committee for Animals in Emergencies which brings together many leading stakeholders and experts who are working towards integrating animals into disaster management planning. The Committee have drafted a set of 'National Planning Principles', which were formally endorsed by the Committee at a workshop in September. Further information and a copy of the Draft National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters can be found here:

<http://www.australiananimalwelfare.com.au/content/pets-and-companion-animals/national-planning-principles-for-animals-in-disastersPCA>



Photo: Delegates at the Advisory Committee for Animals in Emergencies.

MoU signed between WSPA and the Chinese Veterinary Medical Association

At the 4th China Veterinary Conference (CVC) in Guilin, China, WSPA signed a MoU with Chinese Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to work together on animal welfare issues across the country. This MoU is part of the wider WSPA Global Veterinary Engagement Strategy led by David Bayvel, Chief Veterinary Adviser. The CVMA is the first national veterinary association to sign an MoU with WSPA.

WSPA's Concepts in Animal Welfare Training Program

The Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS) has just endorsed WSPA's 3rd edition of Concepts in Animal Welfare (CAW) syllabus. Formed in 2001, the AAVS currently has members from twelve Asian countries and exists in our region to collaborate amongst its members, to advance education, research and public services in veterinary sciences. The new edition of the CAW syllabus, which has been supported by the OIE, is available at http://www.animalmosaic.org/Images/_User_guide_tcm46-36261.pdf for more information.


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WSPA's rabies vaccination work

WSPA has been working in several countries to promote humane rabies management through vaccinations as an alternate to the mass culling of dogs. Partnering with the China Animal Disease Control Centre (CADCC), WSPA has commenced a pilot rabies vaccination project in three provinces to demonstrate the effectiveness of mass vaccination without mass culling of dogs, and to build a business case to support the Chinese Government to adopt this approach nationally.

To celebrate World Rabies Day on the 28th September, with their partner the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) and local authorities, WSPA offered free rabies vaccination, de-sexing and registration of dogs to highlight the importance of humane rabies management and dog population management in the Cainta municipality of Metro Manila, Philippines.

WSPA continues to work with Bangladesh authorities towards the planned commencement of blanket mass dog vaccination for rabies control this year. As well as support from WSPA, the program will utilize a donation of 200,000 anti-rabies dog vaccines from the OIE's regional vaccine bank.

The Indonesian Government has given approval to launch a new humane rabies control project that WSPA will co-fund, with GARC and local authorities, on the island of Nias, in northern Indonesia. Planning for the project is underway. Government approval has also been received for the project that WSPA will be supporting with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) on the island of Flores in Indonesia.

Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location
European Commission (EC) training workshop will be held alongside a RAWS CG meeting	24-28 March 2014	Bangkok (Thailand)
An enriched National Animal Welfare Focal Point and RAWS CG meeting	11-14 November 2014	Canberra (Australia)

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