



Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter

March 2018

Note from the Chair

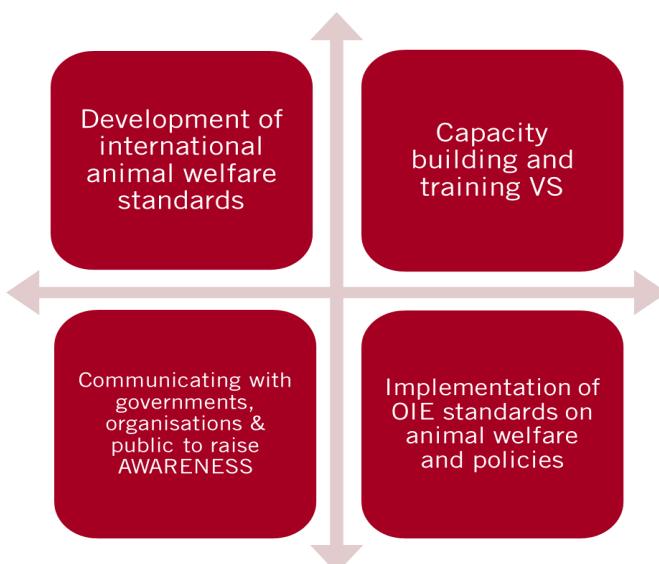
Greetings to all in the region, and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous year, for everyone celebrating the New Year now. Welcome to the first Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter for 2018. In this Newsletter we report on some very exciting events and milestones that happened over the last year across our region. We hope this provides some inspiration for your animal welfare work in your country. The RAWS Advisory Group has work planned for 2018 to support focal points. This includes a survey on animal welfare training, which everyone reading this Newsletter will be asked to take part in. You can read more below. You will also find a list of events below, both for our region and globally. Please let us know if you have events or training, so they can appear in future newsletters. And finally, a big thank you once again to the OIE team in the regional office for another year of support for the Advisory Group. Happy reading!

Dr Kate Littin, Chair OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (Asia, Far East and Oceania) Advisory Group.

Global Animal Welfare Strategy—

The OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy was adopted at the 85th General Session of World Assembly of OIE Delegate in May 2017. The vision of the strategy is :

“A WORLD WHERE THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS IS RESPECTED, PROMOTED AND ADVANCED, IN WAYS THAT COMPLEMENT THE PURSUIT OF ANIMAL HEALTH, HUMAN WELL-BEING, SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.” and recognises that animal welfare is closely linked to animal health, the health and wellbeing of people and the sustainability of socio-economic and ecological systems. There are 4 pillars to the strategy



Regional Animal Welfare Activities for Asia, Far East and Oceania

There have been many initiatives by members and partners in the region over the past year and here are some examples that highlight the work being done to implement OIE Standards on animal welfare.

Promoting Welfare of Animals in the community

Iran's National Veterinary Day was held on October 06, 2017 and with it the first Veterinary Photograph and Film Festival "Baitar" was also held over 4 days. This festival drew community awareness to the significance and impact of animal health and welfare, human and animal interaction, and relationships



Photographer: Mahdi Heidari Nejad- Iran Baitar Festival

One Health and One Welfare – Good welfare practices are good for disease control too.

Bhutan – Response to Rabies Outbreak

In response to a confirmed rabies outbreak in Panbang, Zhemgang district, emergency mass vaccination of dogs and cats including owned and free roaming was undertaken along with a strong public awareness campaign to control the outbreak. Previously vaccinated animal were marked by ear notch. However sporadic cases of rabies continued in dogs and other livestock, causing risk to human and animals. The Department of Livestock decided further measures to control the disease were needed and wanted to ensure humane methods were used. Competent veterinarians began catching susceptible (un-notched, young dogs) and suspect infected animals using tranquilizer dart gun to sedate and then catch with nets. Suspected dogs were then humanely and rapidly euthanized using saturated Magnesium sulphate. Use of tranquilizer dart for capture of suspected animals has proven efficient and rapid with minimal stress or pain to the animal. This method is also safer for the team handling suspected rabies infected dogs as they are sedated before being caught. Rabies suspected animals are sedated in their normal habitat, euthanized rapidly, then the carcass disposed off safely following OIE welfare standards which helps prevent spread to other areas. The outcomes of this approach were effective containment of rabies and prevention of spread to other areas; is safer for staff and causes minimal stress or pain to the animals. The National Rabies Prevention and Control Plan and Standard Operating Procedures have been updated and this method will be adopted if future outbreaks occur.



Animal Welfare a major focus at the 33rd World Veterinary Congress in Korea

A global seminar on Animal Welfare was part of the program during the 33rd World Veterinary Congress this year, which addressed global and regional concerns for animal welfare and involved many sectors to discuss solutions to complex problems. As highlighted in the OIE global welfare strategy, "Mutual recognition and constructive engagement among parties are necessary to achieve sustained improvements to animal welfare."

Progressing Animal Welfare in Pig Production and collaboration across sectors

World Animal Protection is working to improve the welfare of farm animals and building a global movement for higher pig welfare. In 2017, significant pig producers in Asia publicly committed to moving to enriched sow group housing and farrowing pens, allowing sows to turn around, move and perform important natural behaviours. In addition, they are all working to improve growing pig welfare by ensuring effective enrichment and towards avoiding painful procedures to demonstrate that higher pig welfare at scale is commercially possible and responds to global consumer interest. Together, we know good animal welfare is good for animals, good for business, and good for people.



Image from BETAGRO PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED

Legislation to support Animal Welfare

Strong legislation is vital to give government the legal power to implement OIE standards.

Malaysia—Animal Welfare Act 2015 has been enforced in 2017. Animal welfare officers have been appointed by the minister after the commencement date of the Animal Welfare Act and these officers will conduct regulatory activities involving licensing, investigation and prosecution of any cases related to animal welfare.

Disaster Risk Management Planning and strengthening veterinary services

A workshop was held in Fiji back to back with a subregional meeting for the Global Frameworks for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS) with the Pacific Community , OIE and FAO for the Pacific Islands and Territories in November 2017 on emergency preparedness and disaster response. This multi-sector workshop involved government, NGOs, private sector as well as military to discuss the challenges, possible solutions and ways forward for the region to be prepared for a variety of emergency situations affecting animals and communities such as natural disasters like cyclones or volcano eruptions or disease outbreaks of livestock, aquatic animals and zoonotic diseases. An introductory training on Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) was also given.

OIE has guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction and FAO has Good Emergency Management Practice to assist members. Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) is an independent initiative that provides training and has a freely available handbook available at

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Advisory Group for Asia, Far East and

Oceania

There have been some changes at the Global level with the closing of the Animal Welfare Working Group and start of the Animal Welfare Forum. As a result the structure and membership of the RAWS AG will be modified. There have also been some changes in individual members dues to changing positions and there are some places that need to be filled.

Current members of RAWS AG are:

Chair: Dr Kate Littin (New Zealand)

Country National Animal Welfare Focal Points representatives

- ◆ Dr Amy Little (Australia)
- ◆ Dr MD Abdur Rashid (Bangladesh)
- ◆ Dr Atieh Dabaghian (Iran)
- ◆ Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Bin Hassan Nizam (Malaysia)
- ◆ Dr Engly Ioanis (Micronesia)
- ◆ Dr Purevkhu Tsedenkhuu (Mongolia)
- ◆ 3 places to be filled

Other members

- ◆ OIE rep; Dr Leopoldo Stuardo
- ◆ OIE AWWG; Dr Abdul Rahman
- ◆ Dr Kate Blaszak (World Animal Protection)
- ◆ Ms Sharon Dundon (MLA)
- ◆ Ms Caroline Lee (Animal Welfare Collaborating Centre)
- ◆ Representative from Regional Veterinary Association—to be filled.
- ◆ Secretariat – Caitlin Holley, OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (Tokyo office)
- ◆ Observer – OIE Sub-regional Representation for South East Asia (Bangkok office)

The Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, Far East and Oceania was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia in November 2017 where an update on RAWS was given for 2017. The report can be found on the OIE Regional Website:

<http://www.rr-asia.oie.int стратегии/regional-animal-welfare-strategy/>

Key Priorities for 2018

The Group will focus on these key priorities in 2018:

1. A survey of training in the region, to identify what is available and what else may be needed;
2. To ensure focal points have information that they need to take part in the OIE's standard setting processes, including commenting on draft chapters;
3. To continue to focus on the implementation OIE standards for transport and slaughter;
4. To continue to support the collaborating centre in its work, as necessary.

To register interest or to take part in the training survey, please email

animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz

Awards & Events for your calendar

Please email rr.asiapacific@oie.int if you have training courses or events to list here.

- RSPCA Australia Animal Welfare Science Seminar, Ensuring a humane death for farm animals, Thursday 22 February 2018 <https://www.rspca.org.au/facts/science/animal-welfare-seminar-2018>
- Animal Welfare Across Borders UFAW Conference, City University of Hong Kong, 25 & 26 October 2018, email animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz • Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science annual UFAW conference <https://www.ufaw.org.uk/ufaw-events/recent-advances-in-animal-welfare-science-vi>
- ISAE 2018 Ethology for Health and Welfare <http://isae2018.com/>
- 34th World Vet Association Congress, Global Seminar on Animal Welfare: One Welfare May 7, 2018 in Barcelona, Spain <http://wvac2018.org/>
- Ruminant Well-Being Research Award and Ruminant Well-Being Achievement Award To be presented at the next World Buiatrics Congress to be held in Sapporo, Japan (28 Aug - 1 Sept 2018): the World Association for Buiatrics (WAB) and Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health aim to raise public awareness of the important role veterinarians play in overseeing and improving ruminant well-being. <https://farmanimalwellbeing.com/pagina.php?tipo=pagina&url=the-wab-is-acceptingnominations-for-the-ruminant-well-being-awards>