

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 28

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE includes the improvement of terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, health being a key component of animal welfare,
2. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, and political and trade policy dimensions,
3. The Director General has established a permanent Animal Welfare Working Group, which proposes and provides guidance for the implementation of a detailed annual work programme and provide regular updates to the Assembly,
4. Additional work is underway on the development of animal welfare standards for pig and layer hen production systems,
5. A new standard on the welfare of working equids is proposed for adoption,
6. Guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health have been prepared,
7. Regional animal welfare strategies, animal welfare platforms and associated implementation plans, can make an important contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Delegates take steps to ensure that their national animal welfare focal points be nominated, if this has not already been done, and participate in regional training programmes.
2. Within the framework of an OIE agreed strategy and implementation plan, OIE Members play an active role in their regions with institutions, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and other international organisations in promoting the OIE animal welfare mandate.
3. Veterinary Services of each Member Country continue to take steps to implement the OIE animal welfare standards, including, as appropriate, the possible need to strengthen the regulatory framework for animal welfare.
4. Veterinary Services of each Member Country take steps to engage with governmental and non-governmental organisations to apply the guidelines on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health including, as appropriate, the possible need to strengthen the relevant regulatory frameworks, and improve their capacity to respond to any kind of disaster.

5. The Working Group continues to provide recommendations to the Director General to be considered in the development of the future work programme of it relates to animal welfare.
 6. The OIE Regional Commissions and their respective Member Countries continue to support the OIE animal welfare mandate through the development and implementation of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Animal Welfare Platforms, with the assistance of OIE Animal Welfare Working Group members from their respective regions.
 7. The OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres are encouraged to identify “OIE twinning project” opportunities in accordance with OIE policy, and that further applications to be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be assessed according to the criteria agreed by the OIE Council.
 8. The OIE continues to monitor the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare and its recognition of OIE’s international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.
 9. The Director General continue to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.
 10. The Director General continue dialogue with the International Standardisation Organisation (ISO) to ensure awareness of OIE science-based animal welfare standards.
 11. The Director General continue to organise seminars for the national animal welfare focal points designated by Delegates.
 12. The Director General continue to consult widely on the draft OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy proposed by the Animal Welfare Working Group.
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