Addressing the animal welfare Challenges – What society expects, how the industry reacts

WOAH's animal welfare activities:

a strategic commitment

Leopoldo Stuardo Escobar

Scientific Coordinator-Animal Welfare

World Meat Conference

12th of October 2023

Maastricht, The Netherlands

World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

1924
Creation:
Office International des Epizooties
(OIE)

1945
Creation of the United Nations

2003
New comon name:
World Organisation for Animal Health
(OIE)

2022
New common acronym:
WOAH

World Organisation for Animal Health
Founded as OIE



THE WOAH AND ANIMAL WELFARE: A STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

Resolution No. XIV from the 70th WOAH General Session, 26 - 31 May 2002

- Animal welfare has been identified as a strategic priority for the WOAH since 2001, under the mandate granted by all Members.

Resolution No. XXXI from 85th General Session, 21–26 May 2017

- The WOAH Global Animal Welfare Strategy was developed from lessons learned from actions taken at national and regional level and aims to be a source of ongoing guidance for the WOAH's activities in this area, and it's based in four main pillars.



VISION

A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.

STRATEGIC PILLARS



DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS



CAPACITY BUILDING AND EDUCATION

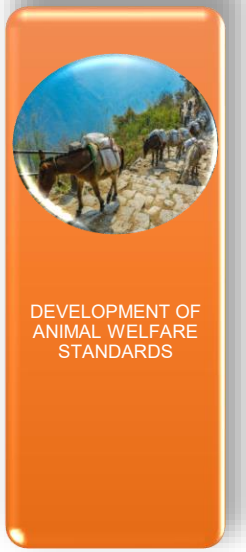


IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND POLICIES



COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, ORGANISATIONS AND THE PUBLIC

PILLARS ACTIVITIES



- Historic role of the WOAH in protecting animal health - Animal health is a key component of animal welfare;
- Texts applicable to all WOAH Members with diverse socio-economic, agroecological, cultural and religious contexts;
- Guiding principles and recommendations rather a piece of regulation;
- The important support to peoples' livelihoods and agriculture output.

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/development-of-animal-welfare-standards/



- Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Platforms:
  - Regional priorities;
  - Governance;
  - Action plan.
- **Technical Specification ISO TS 34700**, Animal welfare management - General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain.



https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/implementation-of-animal-welfare-standards-and-policies/

PILLARS ACTIVITIES



CAPACITY BUILDING AND EDUCATION

- WOAH Training Portal (https://training.oie.int/);
- Development of e-leaning modules.

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/capacity-building-and-education/



COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, ORGANISATIONS AND THE PUBLIC

- WOAH ANIMAL WELFARE GLOBAL FORUM

ANIMAL WELFARE GLOBAL FORUM

To bring together members of the animal welfare research community, the global animal welfare movement and the global animal-source food sector to debate openly on topics relevant to animal welfare

https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/communication-with-stakeholders/

ANIMAL WELFARE CHALLENGES FOR WOAH

- **Complexity of AW with important scientific, ethical, cultural, religious, economic and political dimensions.**
  - essential to have a scientific base, but for adoption, account must be taken of other dimensions.

- **Need to address AW on a global basis.**
  - WOAH standards need to be relevant to all Members.



Thank you!

Merci!

Gracias!

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