



World Organisation for Animal Health



***International developments
in animal welfare***

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2004 IDF World Dairy Summit

Topics for discussion



- the OIE's work
 - background
 - OIE's international standards
 - animal welfare mandate
- other international activities
 - WSPA's Declaration for Animal Welfare
 - private sector



The OIE

The OIE

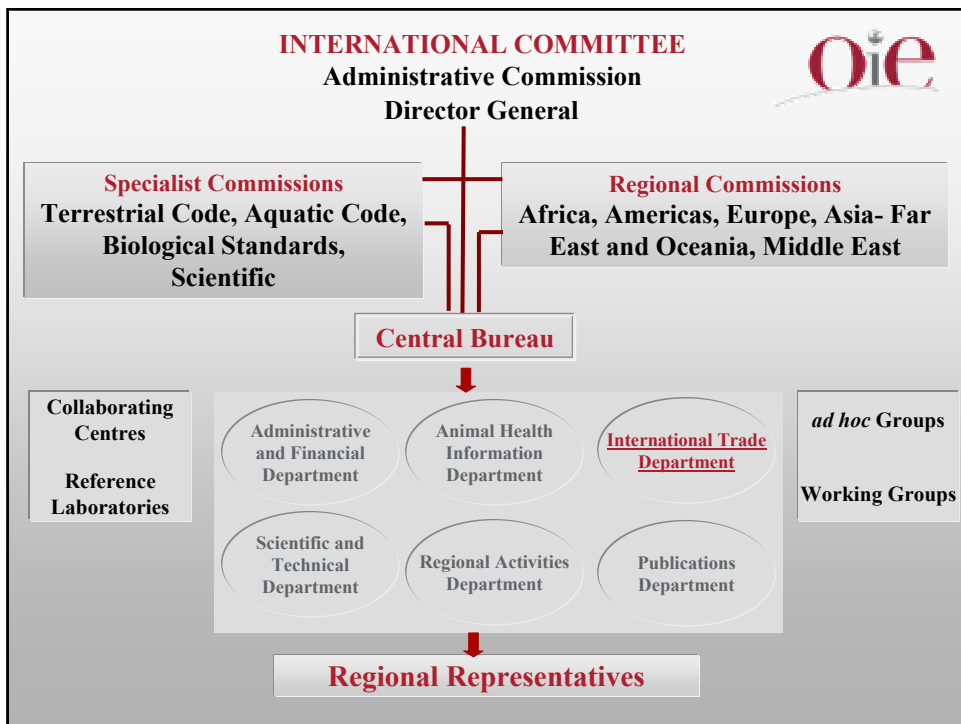


- World Organisation for Animal Health
- an intergovernmental organisation
- founded in 1924 – predates the UN
- currently 167 Member Countries
 - operating expenses paid by contributions
- headquarters in Paris
- 5 regional offices
- Reference Labs and Collaborating Centres

The OIE's objectives



- ensure transparency in global animal health situation
- collect, analyse and disseminate veterinary information
- contribute expertise and encourage coordinated approach to disease outbreaks
- improve veterinary services
- within its WTO mandate, safeguard world trade through animal health standards
- animal welfare and animal production food safety



International relationships



- WHO and FAO
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- Codex Alimentarius Commission
- World Veterinary Association
- IATA
- World Bank
- International Equestrian Federation (FEI)
- IDF
- International Meat Secretariat (IMS)
- International Federation of Animal Producers
- regional orgs eg PAHO, IICA, UA-IBAR

OIE's international standards

OIE international standards

- OIE develops and publishes health standards for trade in animals and animal products and biological standards
- through elected Specialist Commissions of 4-6 members each
- adopted by OIE Member Countries during General Session each May by consensus
 - no other pathway

OIE international standards

- *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*
- *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*
- *Aquatic Animal Health Code*
- *Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals*

OIE specialist commissions

- Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission – responsible for AW
- Biological Standards Commission
- Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
- Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
- using working groups and *ad hoc* groups for specialist tasks eg animal welfare, BSE, disease surveillance, sea transport

Updating OIE standards



- issue / problem identified by Delegate, OIE Commission, scientist, organisation, industry
 - new scientific information eg from research or outbreak
 - new disease - emerging
 - new approaches eg vaccination
- addressed by appropriate Commission
 - using advice from expert, *ad hoc* group, other Commission or OIE Reference Lab

Updating OIE standards



- proposal circulated for comment by experts, Member Countries and organisations
 - Commission may revise proposal on basis of comments received
- discussed by Delegates at General Session
 - may be discussed only and returned for further work, or
 - may be adopted as OIE international standard

OIE trade standards



- *OIE Codes* recommend health measures to be used by veterinary authorities or other competent authorities
 - to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products
- now expanding into animal welfare



OIE and animal welfare

Animal welfare and the Code



- some animal welfare provisions already in *OIE Terrestrial Code*
- General provisions
 - Section 1.2 Obligations and Ethics in International Trade
 - Section 1.4 Import/Export Procedures
- Appendices
 - Section 3.7 Transport of animals
- new section on guiding principles (2004)

Why?



- why did the OIE take up animal welfare?
- OIE Member Countries considered OIE to be well placed to provide international leadership
 - identified as high priority for 2001-2005 OIE Strategic Plan

Animal welfare



- essential linkage between animal health and animal welfare
- a complex issue with important scientific, ethical, cultural, religious and political dimensions
 - essential to have a scientific base but account must be taken of other dimensions

Animal welfare



- essential for OIE standards to be relevant to all Member Countries
- essential to involve broad range of stakeholders, inside & outside government
 - OIE committed to use all available expertise – academia, research community, industry, relevant NGOs – to ensure best outcomes

Animal welfare

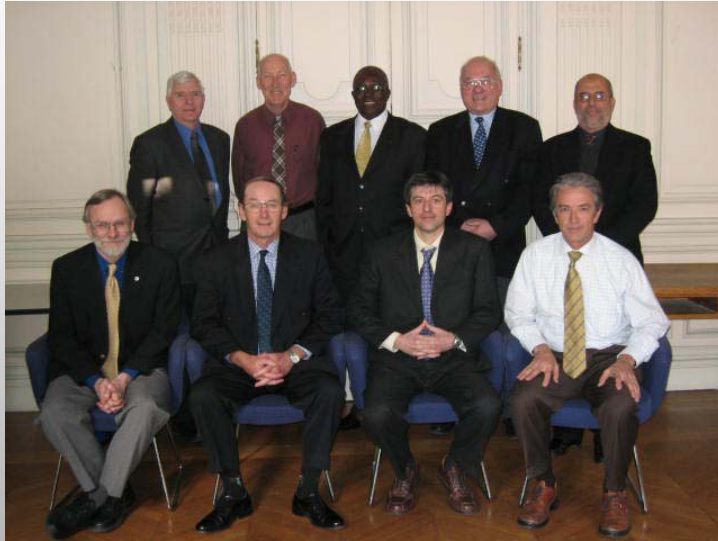


- permanent Working Group manages OIE animal welfare activities
- as first task, WG developed mission statement, policies and guiding principles
 - to provide sound foundation from which to develop specific guidelines and standards
- guiding principles were adopted into the OIE *Code* at May 2004 General Session

Working group membership



- mixture of government, academia and private sector from all regions
 - Bayvel (Chair), Fraser, Håstein, Gavinelli, Wilkins, Rahman, Masiga, Aidaros
- OIE seeking more industry expertise
 - production
 - transformation



Work programme



- priority given to welfare of animals used in agriculture and aquaculture
- topics addressed through expert groups
 - land transport
 - sea transport
 - killing for disease control purposes
 - slaughter for human consumption
- air transport issues addressed with IATA
- to be followed by housing and management

Work programme



- other identified tasks include
 - identifying animal welfare research needs and encouraging collaboration among research centres
 - improving awareness of animal welfare in veterinary curricula
 - providing expertise on specific issues to OIE stakeholder groups, other international organisations, industry and consumer groups
- communications

Expert groups



- outcomes oriented - what does an animal need and what options achieve those needs
- need for competent animal handlers
- land and sea transport
 - need to allocate responsibilities over entire journey
- slaughter for human consumption
 - addressing cultural and religious issues
- killing for disease control purposes
 - assumed decision to kill animals already made

OIE animal welfare conference

Animal welfare conference

- February 2004 – 430 attendees
- explained OIE's initiatives, particularly to those outside government
- sought NGO proposals on how they could best work with the OIE
- discussed
 - global challenges
 - applying science to animal welfare
 - areas of practical application
 - topics raised during conference

Animal welfare conference



- strong endorsement of OIE's leadership role
- better appreciation of challenges of AW as a global issue
- necessary for OIE Delegates to be involved
- importance of training
 - competence of animal handlers
 - veterinary curricula
- necessary to identify and coordinate research needs



WSPA Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare

Universal Declaration



- absence of a government-level international forum to discuss and rule upon AW issues
 - contrasts with CBD and CITES
- WSPA has launched an initiative for a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare
 - via a conference in Manila in March 2003
 - a 5-nation government steering committee
 - inter-governmental conference in 2005

Universal Declaration



- with ultimate aim of a UN Convention on Animal Welfare to
 - assess problems in detail
 - identify common goals
 - pass legally binding resolutions as per CITES
 - encourage international cooperation
- would be complementary to work of the OIE in developing AW standards

Private sector

Social values

- in many countries, social values are changing re use of animals in science and agriculture
 - AW is major issue in correspondence to Govt
- FAO now including AW guidelines in its approach to good agricultural practice
- but WTO rules do not allow discrimination on basis of how a commodity is produced
 - ie on AW grounds associated with processing and production methods

Commercial sector



- in many countries, retailers are moving to address consumer concerns
 - K-Mart, McDonalds
 - have become a potent force in setting AW standards and influencing change
- can move quickly by exerting commercial pressure on suppliers
 - ignoring international agreements
 - started in Europe, then North America
- recent PETA activities in Australia

Commercial sector



- in banking sector, 26 major international financial institutions have adopted the 'Equator Principles'
 - take environmental and social risks into account in project financing
- in North America, NGOs have criticised veterinary associations for failing to address AW abuses in industry

Future OIE work

Future OIE work

- cooperation and coordination with NGOs
 - better utilisation of their welfare expertise
- communications
- finalisation of specific guidelines on 4 prioritised topics
 - for adoption in May 2005
- commence work on animal housing and management
- commence work on aquatic animal welfare



Thank you



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