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# OIE Animal Welfare Standards And The Multilateral Trade Policy Framework

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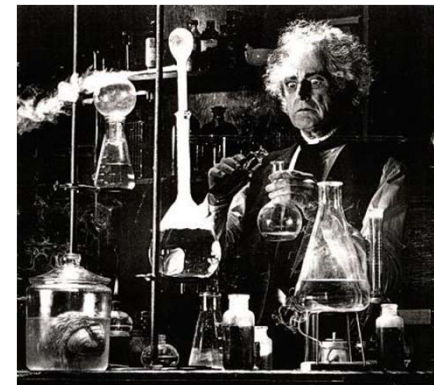
# OIE's International Standard Setting

## OIE develops and publishes

- ✓ standards for the prevention and control of animal diseases as well as for the safe trade of animals and animal products and **standards for animal welfare**  
=> **Codes**
- ✓ biological standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines  
=> **Manuals**

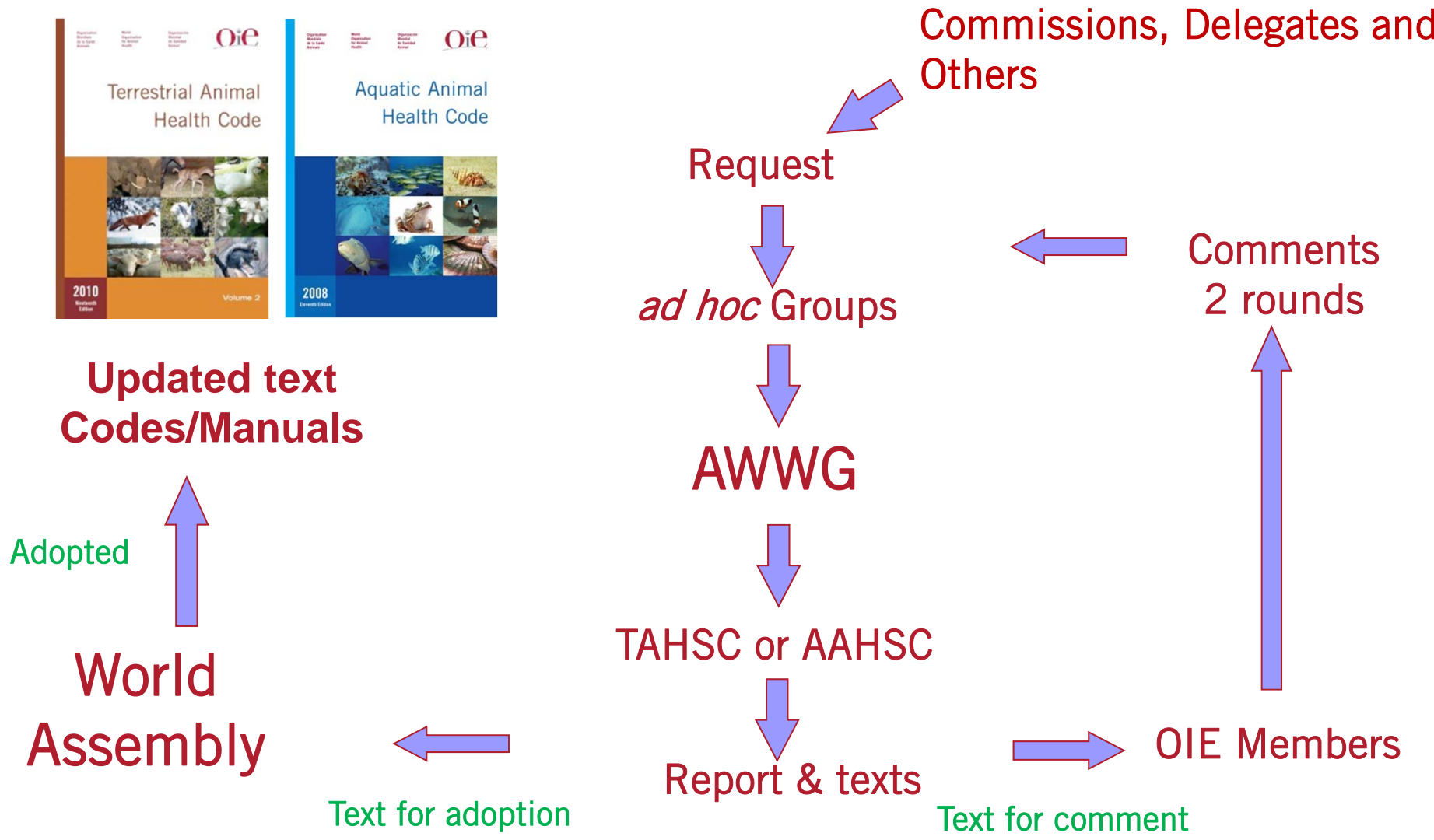
## Adopted by OIE Member Countries

- ✓ during General Session each May by consensus



**Developed using a science-based approach**

# OIE Standards setting procedure



# OIE Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG)

Inaugurated in 2002, and a key driver of the OIE animal welfare standard setting programme.

- Dr Sira Abdul Rahman
- Dr Peter Thornber
- Dr David Bayvel
- Prof Hassan Aidaros
- Mr Luc Mirabito
- Prof David Fraser
- Dr Marosi Molomo
- Dr Vincent Guyonnet
- Dr Andrea Gavinelli

# AWWG Mission

- To advise The Director General and the Aquatic and Terrestrial Commissions concerning OIE priorities and proposed activities in the field of animal welfare.
- Preparation and circulation of educational material to enhance awareness of OIE Members and stakeholders
- Promotion of the inclusion of AW in undergraduate and post-graduate veterinary curricula
- Identification of AW research needs and encouragement of collaboration between centres of research.



# OIE AWWG Key Work Areas

- Draft reviews and amendments to adopted standards in the Aquatic and Terrestrial Codes
  - New scientific evidence
  - Standard setting procedure
- Regional support and engagement
  - Regional Animal Welfare Strategies (RAWS)
  - National Focal Point Seminars

# Definition of Animal Welfare for the Purpose of the *Terrestrial Code*

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**Animal welfare** means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress.

Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing.

Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.



# Animal Welfare Standards in the *Terrestrial Code*

- Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare (7.1)
- The transport of animals by land (7.2.)
- The transport of animals by sea (7.3.)
- The transport of animals by air (7.4.)
- The slaughter of animals for human consumption (7.5.)
- The killing of animals for disease control purposes (7.6.)
- The control of stray dog populations (7.7)
- The use of animals in research and education (7.8.)
- Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems (7.9.)



# Animal Welfare Standards in the *Aquatic Code*



- Introduction to recommendations for the welfare of farmed fish (Chapter 7.1)
- Welfare of farmed fish during transport (Chapter 7.2)
- Welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption (Chapter 7.3)
- Killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes (Chapter 7.4)

# Control of Stray Dog Populations (Chapter 7.7.)



- This chapter addresses animal welfare, animal health and public health mandates of the OIE
  - More than 50,000 people die each year from rabies. A majority are children and in many cases the source of infection is a stray dog.
- Guiding principles

Programmes for dog population control have the following objectives:

Improve health and welfare, reduce numbers, promote responsible ownership, create and maintain a rabies free dog population, reduce the risk of other zoonotic diseases, manage other human health risks, prevent harm to the environment, prevent illegal trade.

# Animal welfare related provisions of Islamic Law – OIE Discussion Paper

- Draws attention to Islamic law requirements for humane handling of animals, including during transport and at slaughter.
- Aims to stimulate dialogue between National Veterinary Services and Religious Authorities to achieve mutually acceptable animal welfare outcomes.



# Use of Animals for Research and Education (Chapter 7.8.)

- Recognises the significant contribution laboratory animals make to advancing medical and veterinary research, and respects the internationally accepted three R's (replace, reduce, refine)
- New article 7.8.10 on transportation and the Official Agreement with IATA aim to provide appropriate safeguards for animal health and welfare, and public safety.



# Engagement of OIE Member Countries

- Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Implementation Plans
  - Currently developed in the Asia, the Far East and Oceania region
  - Promising developments in other regions
- Animal Welfare National Focal Point Seminars
  - Organised for the Animal Welfare Focal Points – national government officials responsible for an animal welfare agenda
  - Thematic training with active involvement of representatives from the industry and the NGO sector when relevant.





# Animal Welfare and the multilateral trade policy framework

- The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, (GATT)
- The World Trade Organisation Agreements
  - The SPS Agreement
  - The TBT Agreement



# Coverage of Animal Welfare by the GATT

- Provides for equal opportunity amongst WTO member countries
- Prohibits discriminatory treatment of like products
- Are animal products from different animal welfare systems like products?
- WTO appellate body found that likeness is fundamentally a determination about the nature and extent of the competitive relationship between products



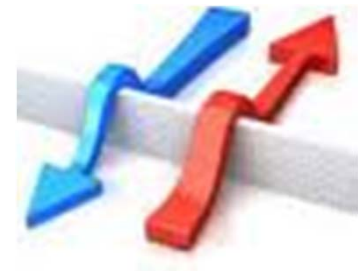
# Animal Welfare Remains Outside The SPS Agreement

- Animal health is a significant determinant of animal welfare
- Evidence that better animal welfare leads to better animal health and food safety is equivocal
- WTO internet website states that animal welfare measures are not covered by the SPS Agreement



# Coverage of animal welfare by the TBT Agreement

- TBT requires:
  - identical treatment of like products regardless of the processing and production methods of the country of origin.
  - Imported products are not treated less favourably than like domestic products.
- Pending Disputes DS 400 and DS 401
  - Rulings and subsequent developments should provide clarification on the consistency of animal welfare measures with GATT and TBT rules.



# Private Standards & Specifications

- Animal welfare has become a focus of attention for multinational food companies
- Market power of large multinationals increasingly drives producer practice.
- OIE World Assembly 2008, Resolution XXXII
- 2012 Cooperation Agreement between OIE & ISO
- ISO TC 34 working group

# Future Challenges

- Public interest and concern about animal welfare is likely to increase.
- WTO members are likely to remain hesitant about including animal welfare in WTO negotiations.
- Private sector specifications that provide competitive advantage will continue to evolve.
- Recognition of alternate systems in developing countries that produce equivalent animal welfare outcomes will probably need more attention.



# Conclusions

- OIE science based standards developed through an inclusive and democratic process are a well established and powerful tool to establish globally acceptable animal welfare standards.
- For effective implementation of OIE standards many countries need:
  - Support to update legislation
  - Capacity building assistance and budget support for their veterinary services

# Conclusions

- Regional strategies provide a valuable guide for local implementation of OIE standards
- Pilot and twinning and programmes also offer excellent opportunities to tailor implementation choices to fit local needs
- Governments, international organisations and donors are urged to give their full support to OIE in this important area of work (inclusive standard setting and implementation).

# Thank you for your attention!

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