



**Office International des Épizooties  
World Organisation for Animal Health**

## Topics for discussion



- background information on the OIE
- OIE's international standards
- animal welfare

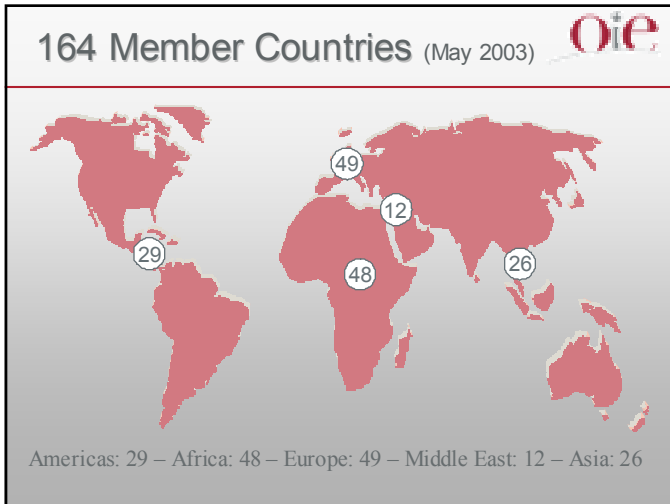


## **The OIE's initiative in animal welfare**

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- background information on the OIE



- ## 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
  - within its WTO mandate, safeguard world trade through animal health standards
  - address new mandates for food safety and animal welfare
  - improve veterinary services

- ## International relationships
- World Health Organization (WHO)
  - FAO
  - World Trade Organization (WTO)
  - Codex Alimentarius Commission
  - IATA
  - World Bank
  - FEI
  - World Veterinary Association
  - regional orgs eg PAHO, IICA, OUA-IBAR



- OIE's international standards

## OIE international standards 2



- *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 international standards



- OIE develops and publishes **health standards for trade** in animals and animal products
- OIE develops and publishes **biological standards**
  
- through Specialist Commissions

## OIE specialist commissions



- Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
- 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, epidemiology



- ### Principles in the Codes
- incorporating WTO rights and obligations
  - scientific basis for recommendations
    - assessment of risk factors
    - evaluation of veterinary services
    - zoning and regionalisation
    - epidemiological surveillance
  - importing country assumed to be free or with control program
  - credible veterinary certification

- ### 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

- ### Animal welfare and the Code
- Part 1 - General provisions
    - Section 1.2 Obligations and Ethics in International Trade
    - Section 1.4 Import/Export Procedures
  - Part 2 - Recommendations for specific diseases
  - Part 3 - Appendices
    - Section 3.7 Transport of animals

- animal welfare

## Animal welfare 2

- importance of standards being relevant to all Member Countries
- importance of involvement of 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 1

- essential linkage between animal health and animal welfare
- OIE Member Countries considered OIE well placed to provide international leadership
  - identified by as high priority for 2001-2005 OIE Strategic Plan
- a complex issue with important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions

## Animal welfare 3

- 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 to be adopted into *Code* by OIE Member Countries in May

## 2003 work programme



- priority given to welfare of animals used in agriculture and aquaculture
- topics addressed through *ad hoc* groups of experts – all met in 2003
  - land transport
  - sea transport
  - killing for disease control purposes
  - slaughter for human consumption
- air transport issues addressed with IATA

## Working group membership



- mixture of government, academia and private sector from all regions
  - Bayvel, Fraser, Gavinelli
  - Rahman, Masiga, Reda
- David Wilkins (ICFAW) as observer
- OIE seeking more industry expertise

## Work programme 2



- 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



## 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 – AATA involved
- discussed
  - global challenges
  - applying science to animal welfare
  - areas of practical application
  - topics raised during conference

## Future work



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

## Conference 2



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



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