



'World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Global Animal Welfare Strategy (GAWS) and WOAHTerrestrial Code Chapter 7.12 Welfare of working equids'

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WOAH Platform on animal welfare for Europe
online event on welfare of working equids.

12th of September 2023

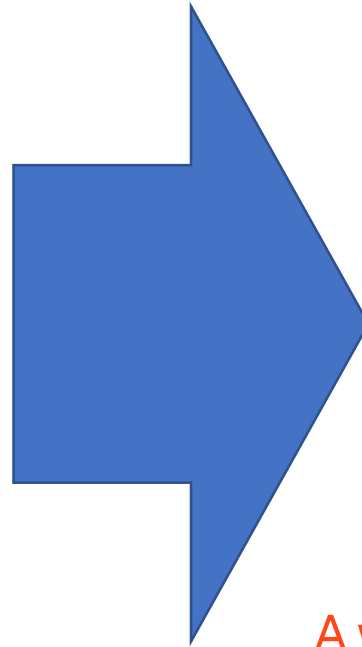


Resolution No. XIV from the 70th WOAAH General Session, 26 - 31 May 2002

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

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

- The WOAAH 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 WOAAH'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



DEVELOPMENT OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

- Historic role of the WOAAH in protecting animal health - Animal health is a key component of animal welfare.
- Texts applicable to all WOAAH 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,
- To date Fourteen Animal Welfare chapters have been published in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Four chapters in the Aquatic Animal Health Code.

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



CAPACITY BUILDING AND EDUCATION

- Active participation of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centers (AWCC Network)
- WOAAH Training Portal (<https://training.oie.int/>)
- National Animal Welfare Focal Point Seminars

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

Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Platforms

- Regional priorities
- Governance
- Action plan

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



IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS AND POLICIES



COMMUNICATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, ORGANISATIONS AND THE PUBLIC

WOAH 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/>

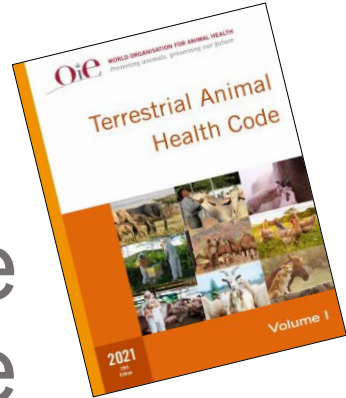


ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY



ANIMAL WELFARE DEFINITION

✓ means the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.



DEVELOPMENT OF
ANIMAL WELFARE
STANDARDS





Terrestrial Animal Health Code: Section 7



DEVELOPMENT OF
ANIMAL WELFARE
STANDARDS

Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare (2003)

Transport of animals by land (1998/2005)

Transport of animals by sea (1998/2005)

Transport of animals by air (1998/2005)

Slaughter of animals for human consumption (2005)

Killing of animals for disease control purposes (2005)

Dog population management (2009)

Use of animals in research and education (2010)

Animal Welfare and Beef Cattle Production Systems (2012)

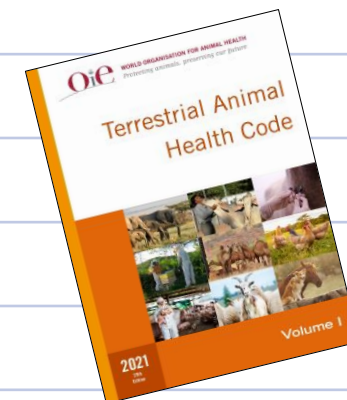
Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production Systems (2013)

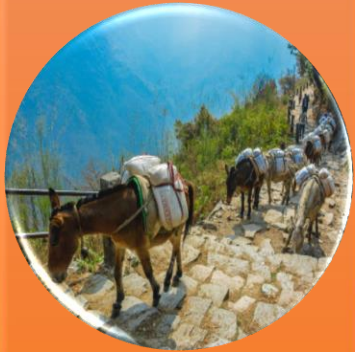
Animal Welfare and Dairy Cattle Production Systems (2015)

Welfare of Working Equids (2016)

Animal Welfare and Pig Production Systems (2018)

Killing of Reptiles for their Skins, Meat and Other Products (2019)





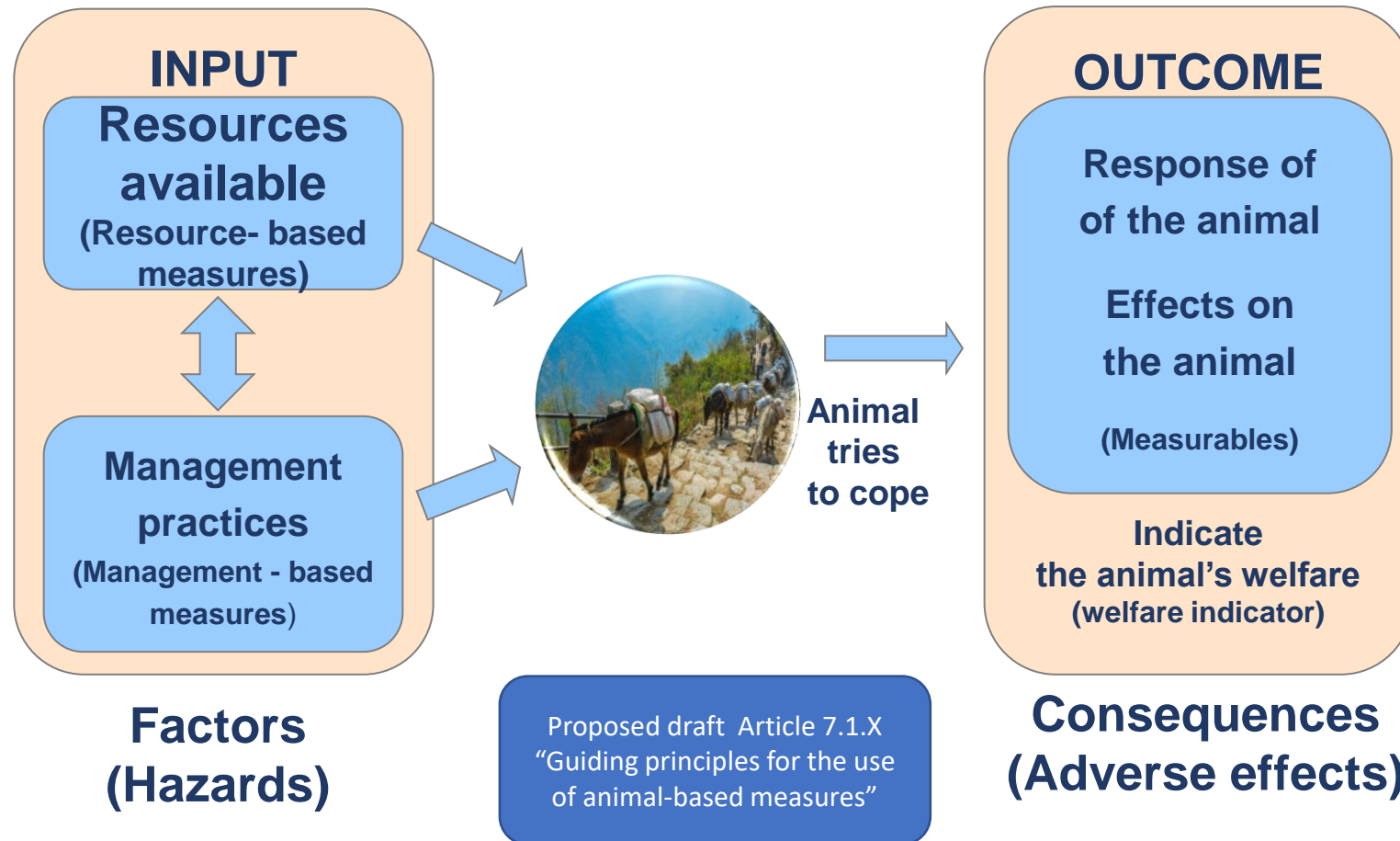
DEVELOPMENT OF
ANIMAL WELFARE
STANDARDS

- ✓ Complexity of Animal Welfare with not only scientific, but also ethical, cultural, religious, economic and political dimensions.
 - ✓ Essential to have a scientific base, but for adoption, many factors must be considered.

- ✓ Need to address AW on a global basis.
 - ✓ OIE standards need to be relevant to all Members;
 - ✓ Livestock production systems are extremely diverse, even within the same country,



CONCEPTS USED ON THE WOAAH ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS





WHY WORKING
ANIMALS.....EQUIDS



BACKGROUND (1)

- ✓ The relationship between humans and working animals is an important part of the history of mankind.
- ✓ Working animals are kept as a source of valuable products, services, financial security and capital.
- ✓ A wide range of animal species is used in a very wide range of activities.
- ✓ Approximately 1 billion people, including many of the world's poorest, depend directly on animals for their livelihoods.
- ✓ The recognition of the 'renewable' nature of animal-derived energy may in future provide an impetus for promoting the use of working animals, and their welfare.



BACKGROUND (2)

- ✓ The welfare of animals used in transport and traction in poor communities, including in rural and urban settings, should be addressed as a matter of high priority due to the contribution that these animals can make to livelihoods and in light of the urgent need to improve the welfare of these animals.
- ✓ WOAHA should identify actions to promote the welfare of working animals and, with this objective, to secure engagement not only of Veterinary Services but also of government agencies responsible for social and economic development, and of donor organisations”.
- ✓ WOAHA should promote research that could demonstrate the economic contribution of working animals and the cost/benefit of programs to improve animal health and welfare.



WOAH AD HOC GROUPS

- ✓ Convened to develop texts on specific topics, as the basis for WOAH standards
- ✓ Membership: Academia, government and private sector
- ✓ More than a hundred experts have participated developing WOAH animal welfare standards.

Welfare of working equids *ad hoc* Group





INTRODUCTION TO CHAPTER 7.12. WELFARE OF WORKING EQUIDS



ARTICLE 7.12.2.

SCOPE

- ✓ This chapter applies to **horses, donkeys and mules** that are destined, used for or retired from traction, transport and generation of income. Equids used in sports or competitions, leisure activities, research or kept solely for the production of meat or biopharmaceuticals, are excluded.



ARTICLE 7.12.3.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ Should have personnel with the requisite knowledge and skill to perform their duties.

- Veterinary Authority
- Other government agencies
- Local government authorities
- Private veterinarians
- Non-governmental organisations
- Working equid owners and users



ARTICLE 7.12.4.

CRITERIA

- ✓ 1. Behaviour
- ✓ 2. Morbidity and mortality
- ✓ 3. Body condition and physical appearance
- ✓ 4. Handling responses
- ✓ 5. Complications due to management practices
- ✓ 6. Lameness
- ✓ 7. Fitness to work

Fitness to work is the state or condition of being physically sound and healthy, especially as a result of exercise and proper nutrition, to perform work well. Various factors such as the animal's age, breed or physiological state (e.g. pregnancy) may influence its fitness to work.

Indicators of an equid's inability to carry out the work demanded of it include the presence of heat stress, lameness, poor body condition or weight loss, harness related wounds and aversive behavioural responses to, for example, harness or equipment fitting.



7.12.5

RECOMMENDATION

Articles 7.12.6 to 7.12.13:

- ✓ Feeding and provision of water
- ✓ Shelter
- ✓ Management of disease and injuries
- ✓ Handling and management practice
- ✓ Behaviour
- ✓ End of working life
- ✓ Appropriate workloads
- ✓ Farriery and harnessing

Equids continue to develop until over the age of five years so consideration should be given, according to workload, as to when working life commences. **In general this should be three years of age or more but never less than two years of age.** Animals that are subjected to excessive work too young in life will usually suffer from leg and back injuries in later life, resulting in a much-reduced working life.

Consideration should be given to the animal's overall condition, and other factors such as climate, and the work load should be adjusted accordingly. In particular, special considerations should be given to old animals and to mares three months before and after foaling, in order to not jeopardise pregnancy and allow the foal sufficient suckling access and resting time.

In general, animals should **work a maximum of six hours per day** and should be given at least one, preferably two, full day's rest in every seven-day period.

Consideration should be given to the weather conditions (work should be reduced in very hot weather). **Breaks should be given at least every two hours and drinkable water should be provided.**

All animals should receive sufficient good quality feed corresponding to their individual requirements. Drinkable water and roughage should be available to aid digestion.

Sick or injured animals should not be worked. Any animal that has been under veterinary treatment should not be returned to work until advised by the veterinarian.

Outcome-based measurables: behaviour, body condition and physical appearance, handling response, lameness and fitness to work.



Thank you

Gracias

Merci beaucoup

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