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WOAH Collaborating Centre
for animal welfare



The WOAH CC on AW support to the science-based decision-making process; the African experience

Luigi Iannetti

IZS Teramo & SCAW/SLU – WOAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare

6th regional workshop on Dog Population Management for Balkans countries (DPMB6)

5-7 November 2024 - Montenegro



The WOAHA Collaborating Centres

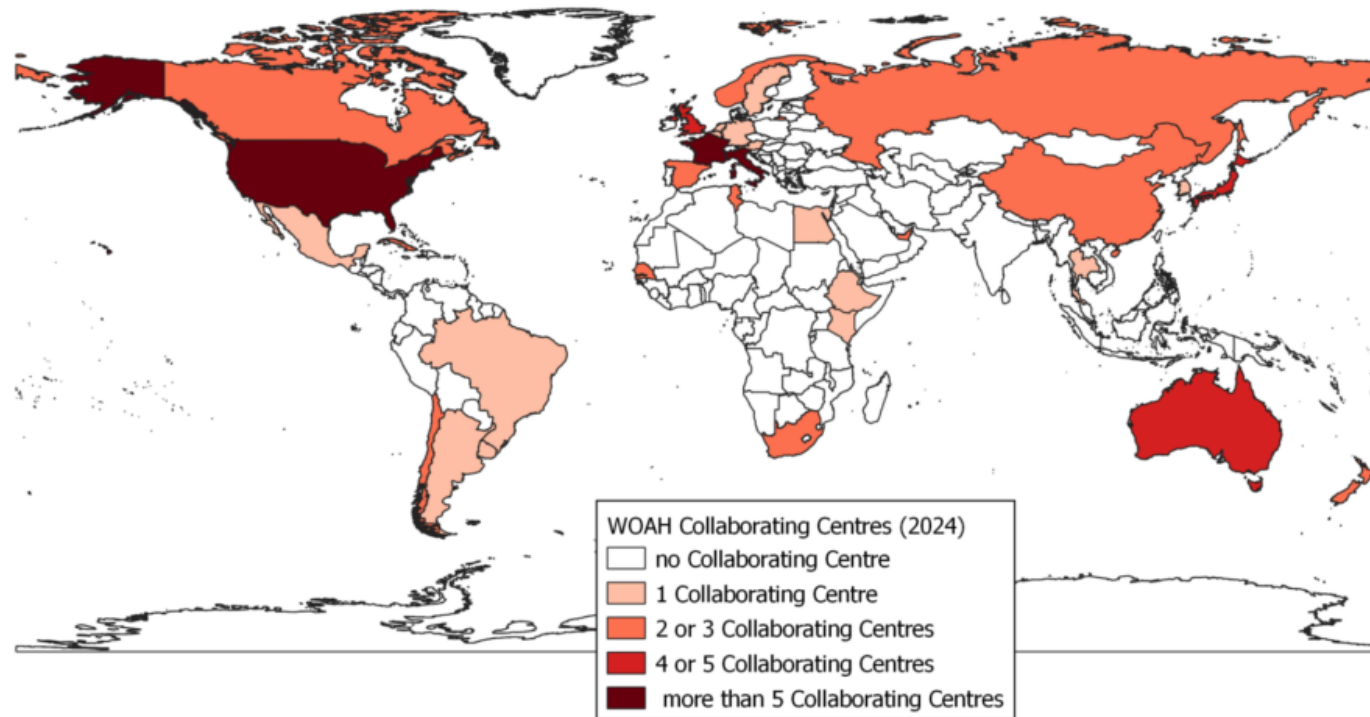
Collaborating Centres are designated for a specific specialty within a focus area relating to the management of general questions on animal health issues. In its designated specialty, they must provide their expertise internationally

Among others, the main duties for WOAHA CC are:

- Facilitate harmonisation of int'l standards
- Networking
- Placement of experts at disposal of WOAHA
- Scientific and technical training
- Organisation of scientific meetings
- Identify and maintain existing expertise in the Region

The WOAH Collaborating Centres

World distribution of WOAH Collaborating Centres



What is a Twinning?

The “Twinning” instrument is defined as a “cross-cultural, reciprocal process where two groups of people work together to achieve joint goals” (Cadée et al. 2016).

- The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) has used this instrument since 2006 to improve global capacity for disease prevention, detection and control, taking advantage of its wide network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (referred as “**Parent**” institutes) to assist “**Candidate**” institutes wishing to improve their capacity and scientific expertise.
- One of the main objectives of the WOAH Twinning Program is to ensure a **better distribution** of the Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres around the world areas
- The benefits from the Twinning project should be **sustainable**, remain long after the project has closed and lead to the maintenance and further development of expertise **in the region**

Why Animal Welfare?

- In May 2012 the Resolution No 22 was approved by the World Assembly of OIE (now WOAH) delegates reiterating the **mandate of the WOAH in improving animal health and welfare worldwide** whilst recognising that animal welfare is a complex issue with important scientific, ethical, cultural and economic dimensions
- In May 2017, all OIE (now WOAH) Member Countries adopted the first **Global Animal Welfare Strategy**, focussing on the development of international standards on animal welfare, supporting Member Countries in the implementation of these standards. This will be done by continuing to promote the use of twinning
- In January 2024, the **WOAH Vision Paper** on animal welfare was published, underlining the relationships between animal welfare, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability

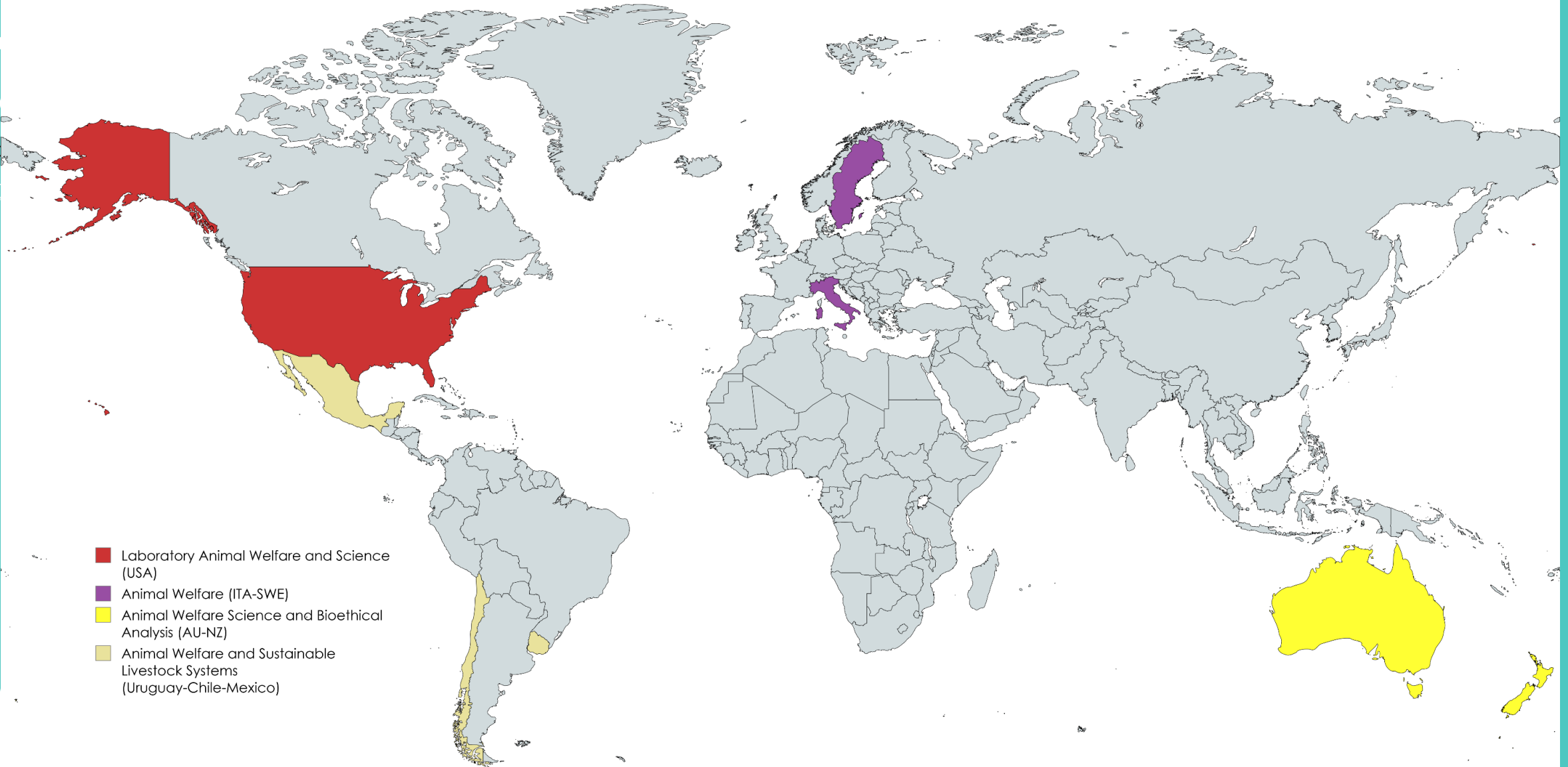
**Animal welfare:
a vital asset for a more
sustainable world**

Vision Paper



WOAH CCs for Animal Welfare

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for
Refer



- Laboratory Animal Welfare and Science (USA)
- Animal Welfare (ITA-SWE)
- Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis (AU-NZ)
- Animal Welfare and Sustainable Livestock Systems (Uruguay-Chile-Mexico)

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IZS Teramo and AW twinning

- The IZSAM Teramo has been appointed as **OIE Collaborating Centre** on Veterinary Training, Epidemiology, Food safety and Animal Welfare **since 2004**
- **Since 2019** it is part of the **multinational WOAHC for Animal Welfare** together **with SLU/SCAW** (Sweden)
- In **2017** the OIE has twinned IZSAM Teramo with the **Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa (FVS)**
- In **2021** the OIE (then WOAHC) has twinned the IZSAM Teramo with the **Ecole of Medecine Veterinaire of Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV)**
- **Both twinning were successfully concluded, being the only two twinning on AW funded by WOAHC so far**
- FVS and ENMV were capacitated to **eventually qualify as WOAHC Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare**



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Twining with FVS and with ENMV: main common objectives

- **Strengthen network** with neighboring countries on AW (SADC and UMA regions)
- **To improve knowledge and skills** of Candidate Institutes Staff in the field of animal welfare (at farm, during transport, at slaughter, during Dog Population management)
- **To facilitate implementation of WOAHS standards** on AW
- **To develop new animal welfare legislative framework**



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to support the FVS and ENMV in the process that will eventually lead to acquire the WOAHS Collaborating Centre status

How objectives were met: South Africa



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- **Preliminary audit** - May 2017
- Five 5-day **training sessions** in South Africa on the following topics, during October and November 2017:
 - Animal welfare at farm level
 - Animal welfare during transport
 - Animal welfare at slaughter
 - Animal welfare during stray dog control (dog population management)
- Training sessions were also presented in Teramo, Italy as follows:
 - Dog population management (DPM) (December 2017)
- 2 Meeting for Drafting new legislation were also carried out in South Africa and Italy (April and June 2018), including exchanges with competent authorities



Monitoring was carried out on regular basis, to ensure that the project achieves its objectives in the set period

Some of the outcomes

- Improvements at FVS directly: Postgraduate diploma in animal welfare as from 2019
- Disseminate expertise to colleagues in SA
- Direct involvement of stakeholders (NGOs, farms, slaughtering companies, official control)
- Drafting of legislation (draft proposal prepared and sent to government, still in the process of approval in 2024)
- South African Workshop 13-14 November 2018 (AW focal points from Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe)



Dog population management activities in the IZSAM-FVS twinning project

- Training courses on WOAHA standards, with particular focus on Chapter 7.7 on dog population management
- Personnel from University, Ministry of Agriculture, Inspection services, NGOs was trained
- On field visits in South Africa and Italy (dog shelters, Community Veterinary Clinics)
- Presentation and test on the field of the Shelter Quality protocol





- **2012 OIE (WOAH) PVS report** identified gaps in animal welfare legislation and implementation
- **2017-2018 Twinning programme** between IZSAM Teramo and University of Pretoria (Faculty of Veterinary Science)
- **2018-2024 ERFAN** Animal Welfare Working Group, Southern Africa
- **2025 (?) University of Pretoria new WOAHC Collaborating Centre** for Animal Welfare and sustainability of livestock systems and at slaughter

Background: People and dogs in SA

- Big differences in the conditions humans live in
 - Cities & townships
 - Rural areas
 - Informal settlements
- Conditions for humans determine conditions for dogs
- Big variations in conditions dogs live in



Cities & townships



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Cities & townships





The top 0,1%
own 25% of
the wealth



Rural areas



Informal settlements



Large variation in veterinary services

500 Veterinary Practices in South Africa



State of pet homelessness project: Dogs in South Africa (Mars)

- 14,5 million owned dogs (estimated)
- 2 million (15%) are “homeless” (unowned free roaming?)
- 325 000 in animal shelters
- 52% of (owned?) dogs are sterilised
- 20% of (owned?) dogs are microchipped

Italy

Animal welfare falls under
Ministry of Health

- Municipalities are responsible and take responsibility
- The state is ultimately responsible and it is politically recognised as important
- Dogs and dog welfare is increasingly recognised as a public good

Dog population management in South Africa

South Africa

- Animal welfare falls under Agriculture ministry
- Municipalities are responsible but have limited resources and there is huge variation e.g. rural vs urban
- The state is ultimately responsible but there is high reliance on private sector and NGOs, more active now with CCS vets
- Dogs are not a priority and not recognised as a public good

Dog population management: OIE Chapter 7.7

- Promote health and welfare of stray dogs
- Reduce numbers of stray dogs
- Promote responsible dog ownership
- Reduce rabies risk & other zoonoses
- Reduce risks to people and the environment
- Prevent illegal trade and trafficking



Dog population management in SA

- No national DPM strategy exists
- Closest is national rabies strategy: Zero by 30
 - Compulsory rabies vaccination for dogs and cats – aim for 70%
 - Education and awareness
 - Proposed veterinary control strategy
 - Many challenges with implementation – especially with trust building in communities
 - Nothing about DPM

Government roleplayers

- Governmental stakeholders
 - National Department of Agriculture (DALRRD)
 - Provincial veterinary services
 - Municipalities

- Fragmented approach, not much alignment between different levels, limited capacity and resources
- CCS vets: Funded by National, employed in Provinces

Compulsory community service: CCS veterinarians

- 150 plus newly graduated veterinarians per year
- Mostly small animal primary animal health care including sterilisations (32%)
- From 2016–2019:

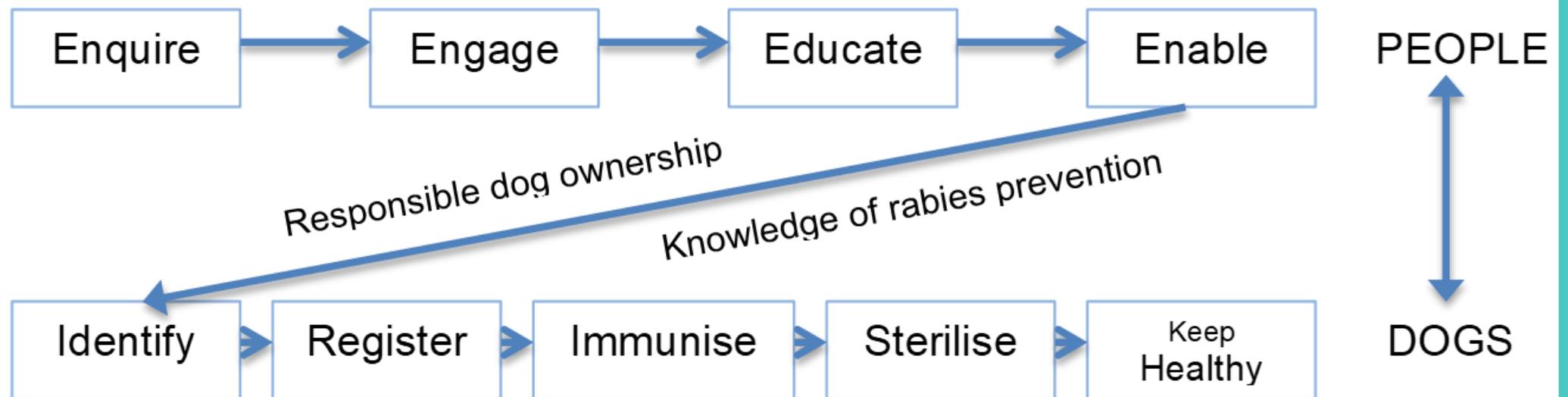
Sick dogs	102 897
Sterilisations	39 972
Rabies vaccinations dogs	244 513
5-in-1 vaccinations dogs	115 877
Euthanasias	12 808
Adoptable euthanasias	3 572

Non-governmental roleplayers in DPM

- Non-profit organisations – sterilisation campaigns, shelters, adoption agencies
- NSPCA – largest animal welfare organisation, law enforcement, fragmented DPM
- Examples of organisations impacting DPM:
 - Humane Society International
 - Funda Nenja project
 - Community Veterinary Clinics (SAVA)
 - Cape Animal Welfare Forum (CAWF)

DPM plan proposed during AW twinning programme

The 4E + IRISH model for dog population management



Reference:

Dog population management: twinning visit in Abruzzo (Dog shelter in Pescara)



Dog population management: twinning visit in Naples – urban hygiene (public veterinary hospital)



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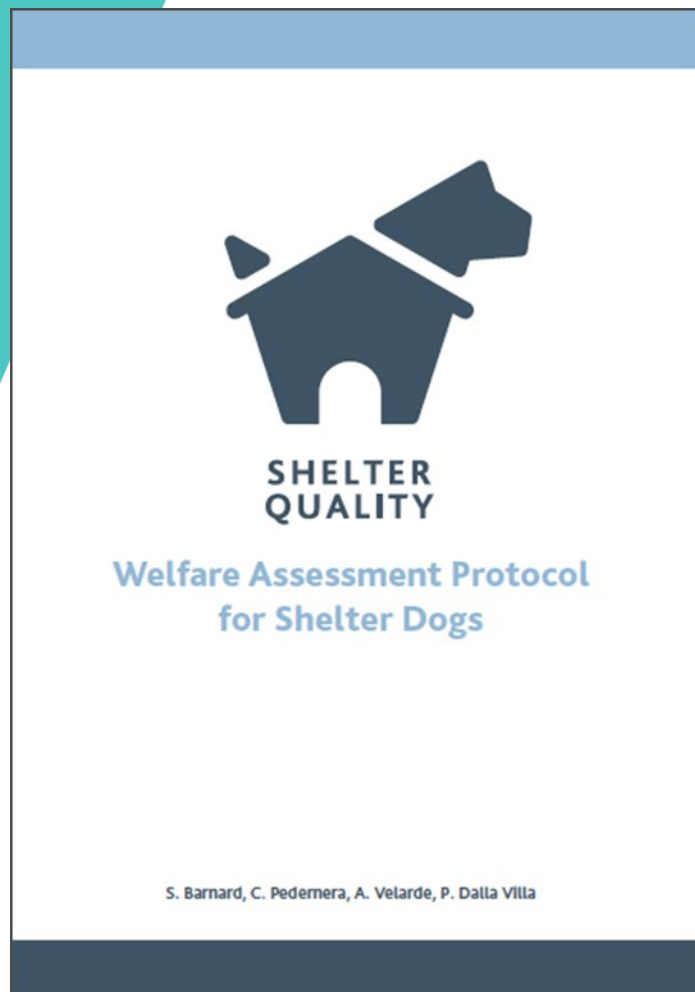
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South Africa: description and application of Shelter Quality protocol



Shelter Quality protocol



- Valid, reliable and practical tool for assessing the dog welfare in shelter long-term confinement
- Emphasis is on animal-based measures (behaviour, health or physical condition)
- Assessment system that is therefore partially independent of the shelter facilities and management parameters
- Freely available at https://www.izs.it/IZS/Engine/RAServeFile.php/f/pdf_publicazioni/ProtocolloShelterQuality_EN_2016-DEF.pdf

Twinning follow-up: ERFAN AW WORKING GROUP

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The **ERFAN initiative** (2018-2024) allowed the creation of a research and training Network supported by WOAHA and Italian Ministry of Health, with the aim to improve scientific collaboration and coordination in the fields of animal health and welfare, food safety and sustainable food production

- Since the South African meeting on animal welfare, that concluded the twinning in 2018, an **ERFAN animal welfare working group** was established, **coordinated by FVS with the collaboration of IZSAM**
- **Training courses and research meetings** have been carried out, involving WOAHA AW focal points from South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Designing and presentation of action plans ("**mini-goals**") per each country, in order to improve animal welfare according to WOAHA AW standards



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ERFAN
The ERFAN logo features a stylized caduceus (a staff with two snakes) and a green and blue wave-like graphic.
Enhancing Research
For Africa Network

ERFAN/FVS online training course

• Training course for SADC OIE Focal Points for Animal Welfare

- March -July 2021
- 5 online modules
- 8 live sessions
- 56 hours
- 17 attendees from 8 SADC countries

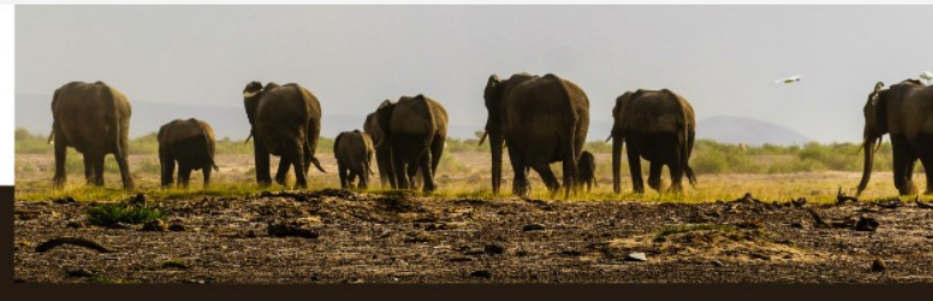
Course Overview



Banner

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**Applying OIE Animal
Welfare Standards in Africa**



Welcome to "Applying OIE Animal Welfare Standards in Africa"

Attached Files:  Information on short course in animal welfare 2021.pdf (381.68 KB)

▼ EUP - Applying OIE
Animal Welfare
Standards in Africa (Feb
2021) ▲

Course Overview

Announcements

Course Content

Discussion Board

Live Sessions

How to access recorded
sessions

My Grades

Evaluation Surveys

E-Learning Support

Results

ERFAN Report submitted to WOAH Representation for Southern Africa

ERFAN Report

ERFAN Survey on the current state of the application of OIE animal welfare standards in Southern Africa – July 2021

By The ERFAN Animal Welfare Working Group for Southern Africa Region

State of the art in:

- South Africa
- Zambia
- Eswatini
- Botswana
- Zimbabwe
- Lesotho

Introduction

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) animal welfare standards present potential barriers to trade for some African countries due to challenges these countries experience in implementing the OIE standards. Compliance with these standards is required for trade with for example the European Union.

As part of an OIE twinning programme on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G.Caporale", Teramo, Italy (IZSAM) and the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Pretoria, South Africa (FVS), a workshop was held in November 2018 to which representatives from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) were invited. The aim of the workshop was to disseminate knowledge and expertise gained by the FVS team during the animal welfare twinning programme, and to engage with the international partners about the implementation of OIE animal welfare standards. It emerged from this meeting that there were challenges involved in implementing the OIE

The future for dog population management in (South) Africa?

- Have a vision
- Work on it step by step
- CCS vets – keep database (manual records if not microchips)
- Develop a culture of identification of dogs – names
- Dog and cat shelters – records (legislate)
- Principles
 - Engage with people first (inter-disciplinary)
 - No free veterinary services
 - Focus on vaccination and primary health care before sterilisation
 - Positive reinforcement of people's actions
 - Quality of life for dogs and people – fences?





How objectives were met: Twinning with Tunisia

- **Technical knowledge and skills** of ENMV and DGSV (Directorate General of Veterinary Services) staff were improved
- The improved competence of the ENMV/DGSV staff strongly supported the development of **new animal welfare legislation in Tunisia** and strategic actions in the UMA Region
- The staff was trained on WOA animal welfare standards and they will acquire the capacity to implement them to improve animal welfare at farm level, during transport and slaughter, and within the context of stray dog population control programs.
- A **training center for animal welfare in Northern Africa** was established at ENMV
- **Networking in the UMA Region** (Algeria, Morocco, Lybia, Mauritania) improved through a involvement in research activities and through a “North African Meeting on Animal Welfare”



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How objectives were met: cooperation

- The twinning project was **originally drafted considering only IZS Teramo contribution** as WOAHC for AW
- As since 2019 the **WOAH CC for AW is a Multinational CC** and includes **SCAW/SLU** from Sweden, this institution was actively involved in the twinning, contributing to training courses and participating to workshop and meetings
- A **EU-Funded twinning** started on Animal Health in Tunisia in 2022, with DGSV primary Tunisian partner: a fruitful collaboration between WOAHC and EU twinning was generated, particularly for drafting of new AW legislation
- FSV from **University of Pretoria** was also involved, taking advantage of previous twinning project



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Online course on AW principles (November 2021)

How objectives were met





How objectives were met



Training course on AW during transport (Oct 2022)

30th CONFERENCE OF WOAHP REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Catania, Italy 3-7 October 2022

Implementing WOAHP animal welfare standards in Northern Africa through the twinning instrument

Luigi Iannetti¹, Ousaid Souleim², Michele Podaliri Vulpianti³, Peolo Dalla Villa⁴, Silvia D'Albenzio⁵, Daniela Clavarilli⁶, Francesca Pompei⁷ & Daniela Morelli⁸
¹Università degli Studi di Bari - Dipartimento di Scienze Veterinarie, 70126 Bari, Italy; ²ENMV, 2020 Anania, Tunisia; ³ENMV, 2020 Anania, Tunisia; ⁴ENMV, 2020 Anania, Tunisia; ⁵ENMV, 2020 Anania, Tunisia; ⁶ENMV, 2020 Anania, Tunisia; ⁷ENMV, 2020 Anania, Tunisia; ⁸ENMV, 2020 Anania, Tunisia

Abstract
A WOAHP twinning on animal welfare is being carried out between Italy and Tunisia, in order to facilitate the implementation of OIE standards in that Country and in the whole North African Sub-Region. The project aims to improve the Tunisian animal welfare legislative framework, in accordance with the WOAHP standards, as well as the control activities related to its enforcement. The background aim of the project is to establish a stable and autonomous capacity building system able to plan, manage, monitor, evaluate and further improve animal welfare, in compliance with the WOAHP standards. The final goal of the twinning is to support the ENMV in the process that will eventually lead to acquire the status of new WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare and become a reference institution in the field of animal welfare in the area.

Introduction
The "twinning" instrument is defined as a "cross-cultural, reciprocal process where two groups of people work together to achieve joint goals" (Coble et al. 2016). The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) founded as OIE¹ has used this instrument since 2008 to improve global capacity for disease prevention, detection and control, taking advantage of its wide network of Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres (referred as "Partner" institutions) to assist "Candidate" institutions seeking to improve their capacity and scientific expertise. Animal welfare is considered by WOAHP as closely linked to animal health, the health and well-being of people, and the sustainability of socio-economic and ecological systems. A list of specific standards for animal welfare is provided by the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code, in recognition of the sentence of animals and considering that, in food production systems, attention to animal welfare can improve productivity, quality, food safety, and economic returns, and therefore contribute to food security and economic prosperity. Their implementation and application through the legislative frameworks of the different WOAHP Member Countries is an arduous goal, and the twinning instrument should be a powerful lever to facilitate this target.

Activities
So far only one animal welfare WOAHP twinning has been carried out (South Africa 2017-2018), the IZS Teramo being the Partner Institute as WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare. Now, a second twinning is ongoing in Tunisia, between IZS Teramo and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire de Sidi Thabet (ENMV), in tight collaboration with the Tunisian General Directorate of the Veterinary Services (DGSV). Over a thirteen month period, this twinning project is focusing on the Section 7 of the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Animal Welfare). The activities are being carried out at different levels, also to improve the Tunisian animal welfare legislative framework, in accordance with the WOAHP standards, as well as the control activities related to its enforcement. The background aim of the project is to establish a stable and autonomous capacity building system able to plan, manage, monitor, evaluate and further improve animal welfare, in compliance with the WOAHP standards.

A deep interaction between the two twinning teams has been already generated, through on-site and tele-consultancy activities, including a field visit in Tunisia by two experts from the Partner Institute (Figure 1), to preliminarily assess the existing situation about animal welfare at farm (Figure 2), during slaughter, during transport and in the framework of large animal population control programs (Figure 3). Lectures and activities with the students of the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire de Sidi Thabet have also been carried out (Figure 4).

Road maps have been decided to schedule the activities that will finally lead to a revision of the current animal welfare legislation and establish a training and capacity building centre in the animal welfare field in Tunisia (Figure 5). Training courses both in Italy and in Tunisia, supported and/or on the meetings, have been carried out or scheduled for the next future. An online course on "General Principles of Animal Welfare" has been carried out, addressed to ENMV and DGSV personnel, involving also experts from the Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare (joint with IZS Teramo) of the WOAHP Multinational Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare and from the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences of Pretoria, South Africa (candidate institute in the previous WOAHP twinning on animal welfare). The aim for the next stages of the project is to involve also representatives from other Northern Africa countries, so to create a network of animal welfare expertise and research in the area.

Conclusions
The final goal of the twinning is to support the ENMV in the process that will eventually lead to acquire the status of new WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare, as an excellence centre able to provide scientific support and research coordination to other institutions in neighbouring countries in Northern Africa. A first meeting will be organized in Tunis with the involvement of WOAHP representatives of the other North African countries, in order to describe the results of the twinning and strengthen the role of ENMV as reference institution in the field of animal welfare in the area.

References
¹World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). The state of the art of twinning, a concept analysis of twinning in healthcare. Globalization and health. 12:86. doi:10.1186/s12916-018-0205-5. 2. OIE (2017). OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy. <https://www.oie.int/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/OIE-Global-Animal-Welfare-Strategy.pdf>

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Training course on AW at slaughter (Nov 2022)

Poster presentation at 30° WOAHP Conference (Oct 2022)



How objectives were met



Training courses on Dog Population Management (Sep-Oct 2023)



Training Course on Depopulation for disease control (Sep 2023)
(with SLU/SCAW contribution)





How objectives were met

Workshop on animal welfare (Annual ENMV Congress Oct 2023)





How objectives were met

- The trained staff, guided, assisted and supported by the IZSAM, will be asked **draft/review the national Animal Welfare Law.**
- A **working group** was created and a first meeting was held in May 2022. Online meetings were on December 2022-February 2023, establishing a collaboration with EU funded Twinning on animal health and welfare started on September 2022
- A 2-day **workshop with EU Twinning** was held on May 2024 to **revise the Animal Health and Welfare Law draft** proposal according to WOAH animal welfare standards.





North African Meeting on Animal Welfare and Final assessment (June 2024)

How objectives were met



Dog population management activities during the twinning with Tunisia

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Training courses on DPM with particular focus on the new chapter 7.7 of the WOAHTAHC:

- Dog population management is not only related to stray dogs but to any free roaming dog
- Close relation between DPM and zoonosis
- Human behavior AND governance at the central level are crucial
- Euthanasia alone, is not effective for DPM
- Necessary control the sources of new dogs to reduce turnover





Interactive exercises to highlight the importance of finding the causes of free roaming dogs (roots: origin; branches: problems)



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Field visits in dog shelters and sterilisation centres in Tunisia and Italy





Sustainability of the results after the end of the twinning

- ENMV (with the collaboration of DGSV) will continue its networking work to become a reference centre for animal welfare in the UMA Region. An application as **new Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare during transport and dog population management** in the Region will be sent to **WOAH**
- The position of ENMV as reference institution in the UMA region in the field of Animal Welfare will be strengthened through the institution of the **Permanent Training System on Animal Welfare for Northern Africa** countries
- The collaboration with the UE Twinning will continue in order to get the **draft law on animal health and welfare** approved by the Tunisian government
- The Parent Institute (IZS Teramo-WOAH CC for AW, with the contribution of SCAW/SLU) will continue to collaborate with ENMV through **scientific collaboration**, the involvement in the **network of WOAH CCs** and possibly in a **new ERFAN working group** for AW in North Africa in the framework of ERFAN 2

Other activities of WOAHC for Animal Welfare to support AW policies in WOAHC Member Countries

The WOAHC for Animal Welfare (IZS Teramo and SCAW-SLU) is engaged in a **number of other activities that can support AW policies**, particularly at the Mediterranean and European Level:

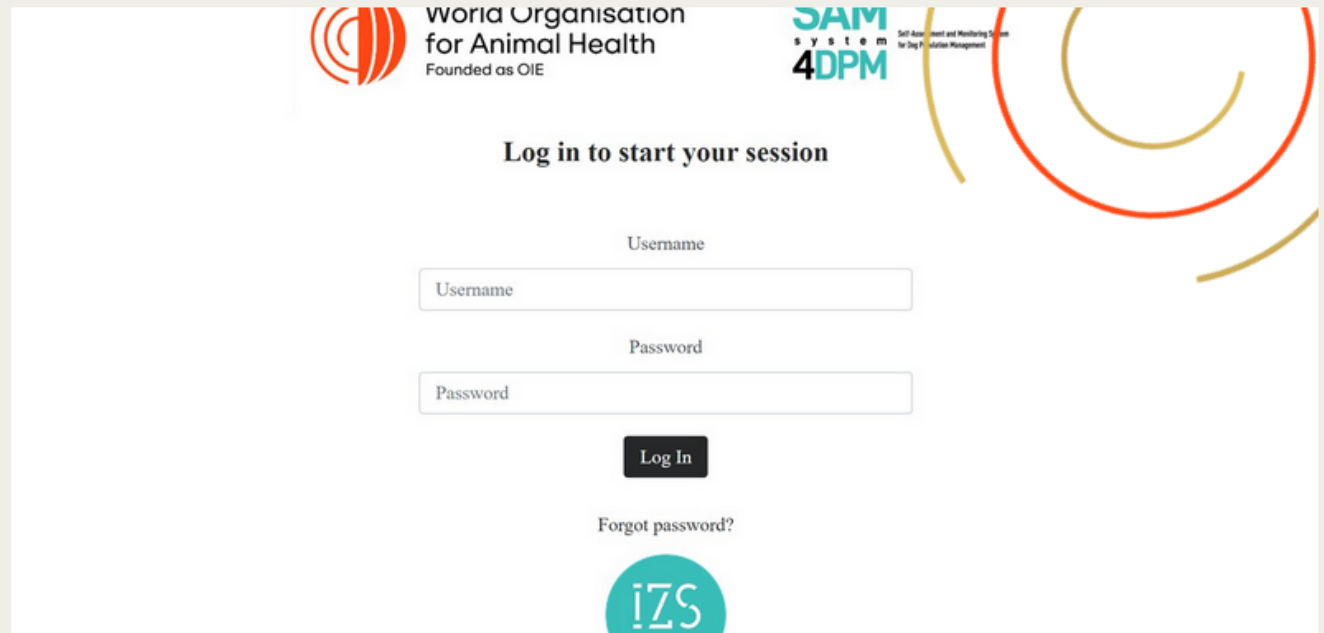
- STOR-REMESA training courses on AW During Transport aimed to Central Competent Authorities and official control personnel of Mediterranean and Middle East countries. ENMV has been involved
- Research Projects on animal welfare **EU-funded** in collaboration with other Research Performing Organisations around Europe (EFSA, EUPAHW)
- Full support to WOAHC SRRs in case of need of Specific expertise (e.g. WOAHC Platform for Animal Welfare in Europe)



Competent authority for Dog Population Management: the S.A.M. Tool

- According to the new WOAHA standard Competent authority should regularly monitor the efficacy of the **national action plan** for (and DPM programmes) **through the use of monitoring data**
- The WOAHA provides a **tool** that can be useful for all member countries developed by WOAHA-CC (IZS-Teramo)

Self-Assessment and Monitoring System for Dog Population Management



The screenshot shows the login interface for the SAM 4DPM system. At the top left is the logo for the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), founded as OIE. To its right is the SAM 4DPM logo, which includes the text 'Self-Assessment and Monitoring System for Dog Population Management'. The main heading is 'Log in to start your session'. Below this are two input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. A 'Log In' button is positioned below the password field. At the bottom of the form is a link for 'Forgot password?'. The IZS logo is visible at the bottom center of the page.

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Conclusions

- WOAHCs can support the development of **national, science-based AW policies** in Member Countries in different ways
- **WOAH Twinning** are powerful instruments for that but also **other WOAHC activities** can be fully effective
- **Networking and cooperation** are crucial for an effective action of WOAHC
- It is crucial to **continue collaboration and support to AW policies after the end of the twinning**
- **Next step: new AW WOAHCs for the Africa Region**



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Thank you!

