

Country report on national action plans for animal welfare

AZERBAIJAN

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WOAH workshop on developing national action plans for animal welfare

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World Organisation
for Animal Health





What are the main Animal Welfare issues you work on?

1. Stray Animal Population: There is a large population of stray dogs and cats, which often suffer from poor living conditions, lack of food, and limited access to veterinary care.

2. Animal Cruelty and Abuse: Cases of intentional cruelty, including neglect and abuse, are a concern. There are reports of animals being mistreated in various settings, including farms and urban areas.

3. Lack of Animal Welfare Legislation: Although there have been efforts to improve animal protection laws, there is still a lack of comprehensive legislation that ensures the proper treatment of animals. This includes weak enforcement of existing regulations.





Resources – what resources (financial and human) are available to work on Animal Welfare?

- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** Animal welfare NGOs in Azerbaijan often rely on donations and fundraising efforts
- **Volunteers:** Many animal welfare efforts in Azerbaijan rely on volunteers to help with tasks such as rescuing animals, fostering, fundraising, and community education. Volunteer numbers fluctuate, but they are a crucial part of sustaining animal welfare programs.
- **Shelters:** Some shelters exist for stray animals, but many of them are underfunded and overwhelmed by the number of animals they need to care for. Efforts to improve shelter conditions and expand capacity are ongoing.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Animal welfare groups often organize public awareness campaigns, leveraging media (TV, social media, print) to educate the public about the importance of animal care, responsible pet ownership, and animal rights.

While there are some resources available for animal welfare work in Azerbaijan, there is still a significant gap in funding, human resources, and infrastructure. Strengthening these resources, both locally and internationally, will be key to making progress in improving animal welfare in the country.



Stakeholders – Which are involved (government agencies, NGOs, farmers, veterinary professionals) and their role?

- **1. Government Agencies:**
 - **Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR):**
 - **Ministry of Agriculture:**
 - **Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency:**
 - **2. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):**
 - **Animal Protection Organizations:**
 - **3. Farmers and Agricultural Sector:**
 - **Livestock Farmers:**
 - **Poultry and Dairy Farmers:**
 - **4. Veterinary Professionals:**
 - **Veterinarians:**
- **Roles of Stakeholders:**
 - **Government agencies** regulate, enforce laws, and allocate resources for animal welfare. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is responsible for the conservation of wild animals in Azerbaijan.
 - **NGOs and activists** drive public awareness, provide direct care, and advocate for legislative change.
 - **Farmers** manage the welfare of farm animals and can adopt better practices with the right education and support.
 - **Veterinary professionals** provide medical care, education, and advocacy for humane treatment.
 - **Public and volunteers** contribute to animal welfare through actions such as adoption, volunteering, and spreading awareness.
 - Collaboration between all these stakeholders is key to advancing animal welfare in Azerbaijan.



Regulatory framework – What are the legal acts/regulations that you have on Animal Welfare? Do you use WOAH standards and other guidelines and best practices in your work?

- 1. Law on Environmental Protection (1999)
- 2. Law on Veterinary Medicine (1997)
- 3. Law No. 675-IQ on wildlife (fauna) protection (1999)
- 4. European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals
- 5. Penal Code of Azerbaijan (1999)

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5.6 TRANSPORT

5.6.1 Transport of slaughter animals

32. Transport of slaughter animals should be carried out in a manner that does not have an adverse impact on the safety and suitability of meat.³⁸

Slaughter animals require transport facilities to the abattoir that ensure that:

- soiling and cross-contamination with faecal material is minimised;
- new hazards are not introduced during transport;
- animal identification as to the place of origin is maintained; and
- consideration is given to avoiding undue stress that may adversely impact on the safety of meat (such as stress-induced shedding of pathogens).

Transport vehicles should be designed and maintained so that:

- animals can be loaded, unloaded and transported easily and with minimal risk of injury;
- animals of different species, and animals of the same species likely to cause injury to one another, are physically separated during transport;
- use of floor gratings, crates or similar devices limits soiling and cross-contamination with faecal material;
- where the vehicle has more than one deck, animals are protected from cross-contamination as appropriate;
- ventilation is adequate; and
- cleaning and sanitising is readily achieved (refer to Section 10).

33. Transport vehicles, and crates where used should be cleaned and if necessary sanitised as soon as practicable after animals have been unloaded at the establishment.

5.6.2 Transport of killed wild game

34. Following killing and partial dressing in the field, the body and other parts should be transported to an establishment, including a game depot, without delay and in a manner that minimises contamination of edible parts. The use of these vehicles for this purpose should be consistent with good hygienic practice and any specific regulatory requirements.

35. Unless deemed unnecessary due to low environmental ambient temperatures, the temperature of the body should be actively reduced as quickly as possible after partial field dressing and transport.

6. PRESENTATION OF ANIMALS FOR SLAUGHTER

36. Only healthy, clean and appropriately identified animals should be presented for slaughter.

37. All animals should be screened upon arrival at the abattoir. Where abnormalities in behaviour or appearance suggest that an individual animal or a consignment of animals should be segregated, this should occur and the competent person undertaking ante-mortem inspection should be notified.

38. Ante-mortem inspection is an important pre-slaughter activity, and all relevant information on animals presented for slaughter should be utilised in meat hygiene systems.

³⁸ OIE: International Animal Health Code (chapter on transport); Report of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare, October 2002.



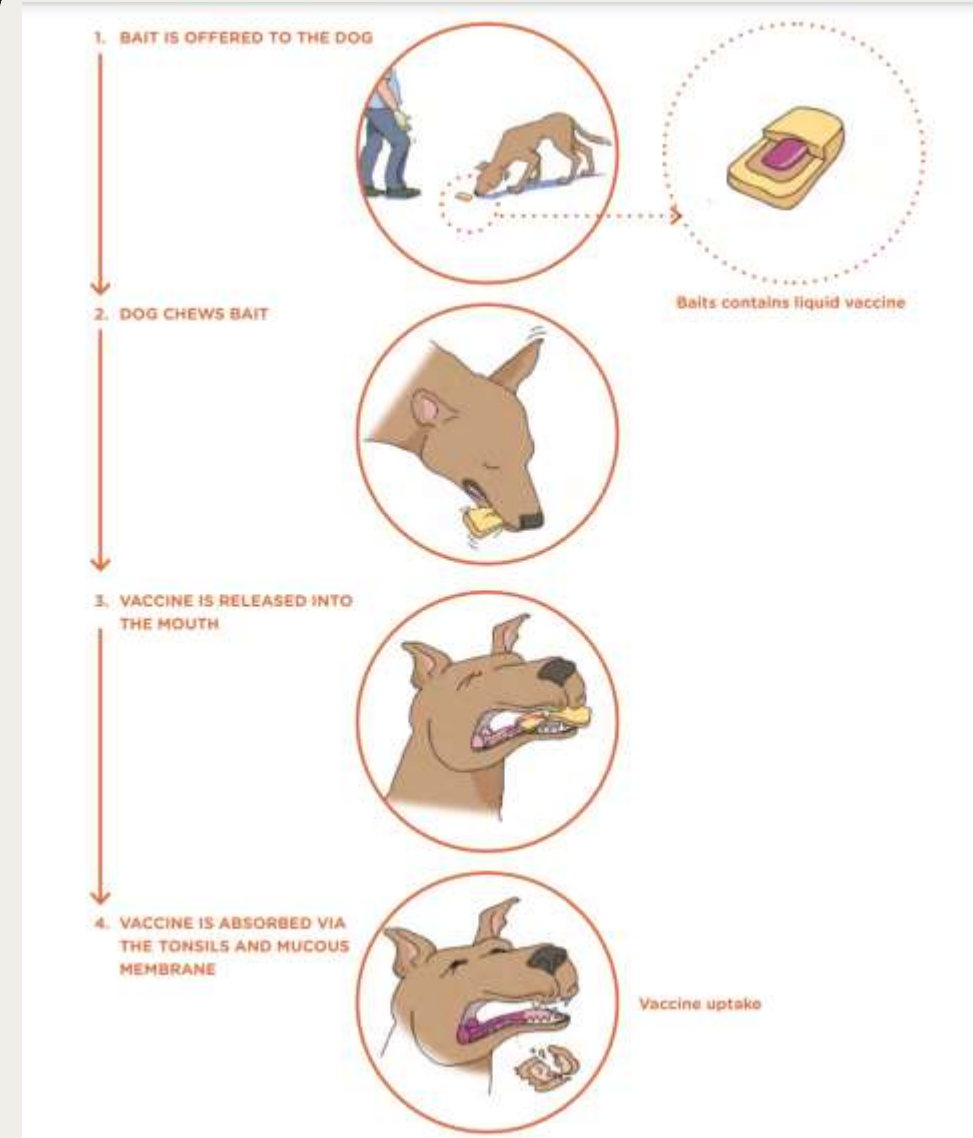
Implementation and enforcement – what are the main actions taken to implement and enforce your regulatory framework?

1. Stray Animal Management Programs - Sterilization and Vaccination Campaigns:
2. Veterinary Services and Inspections - Regulation of Veterinary Practices:
3. Public Awareness and Education Campaigns / Media Campaigns:
4. Legislative Advocacy and Reform Efforts Drafting and Advocating for Animal Protection Laws
5. Animal Welfare Inspections and Reporting Systems Animal Cruelty Reporting:
6. Collaboration with International Organizations International Partnerships:



Data – what data you collect and how?

1. *VACCINATION DATA*
2. *VETERINARY CLINICS ACTIVITY RECORDS*





Barriers and challenges – What barriers and challenges do you face to implement Animal Welfare regulation (cultural, economical, political, ...) ?

- 1. Lack of Comprehensive Legislation*
- 2. Weak Enforcement of Existing Laws*
- 3. Public Awareness and Education*
- 4. Cultural Attitudes Toward Animals Cultural Practices:*
- 5. Stray Animal Overpopulation*
- 6. Lack of Financial and Human Resources*

Thank you



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