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Developing training programs: some examples in the field of AW during slaughtering

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

Regional workshop on animal welfare during slaughter
Tirana, Albania, 11-12 February 2025

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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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ROAD TO TWINNING



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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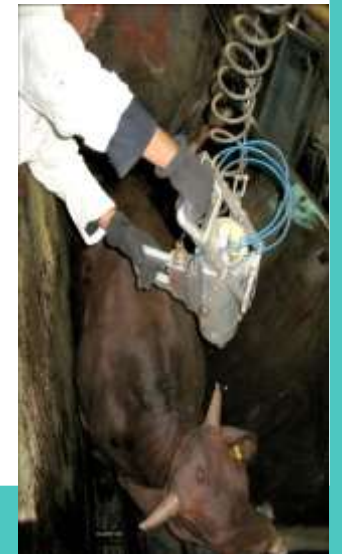
- **Preliminary audit** - May 2017
- Five 5-day **training sessions** in South Africa on the following topics, during October and November 2017:
 - Animal welfare at farm level
 - Animal welfare during transport
 - Animal welfare at slaughter
 - Animal welfare during stray dog control (dog population 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

Training programme on AW at slaughter

- Involvement of different actors at different levels, according to the Train the Trainers principle (University, Food Inspectors, Ministry of Agriculture)
- Classroom lectures, theoretical exercises and on-field exercises
- Direct involvement of stakeholders (NGOs, farms, slaughtering companies, official control)
- Involvement also of other nearby countries (South African Workshop 13-14 November 2018 with AW focal points from Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe)



Follow-up: ERFAN AW WORKING GROUP

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- The **ERFAN initiative** (2018-2024) consisted in 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/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

- ▼ 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

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)

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



How objectives were met: 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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Reference Centre World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded in 1969



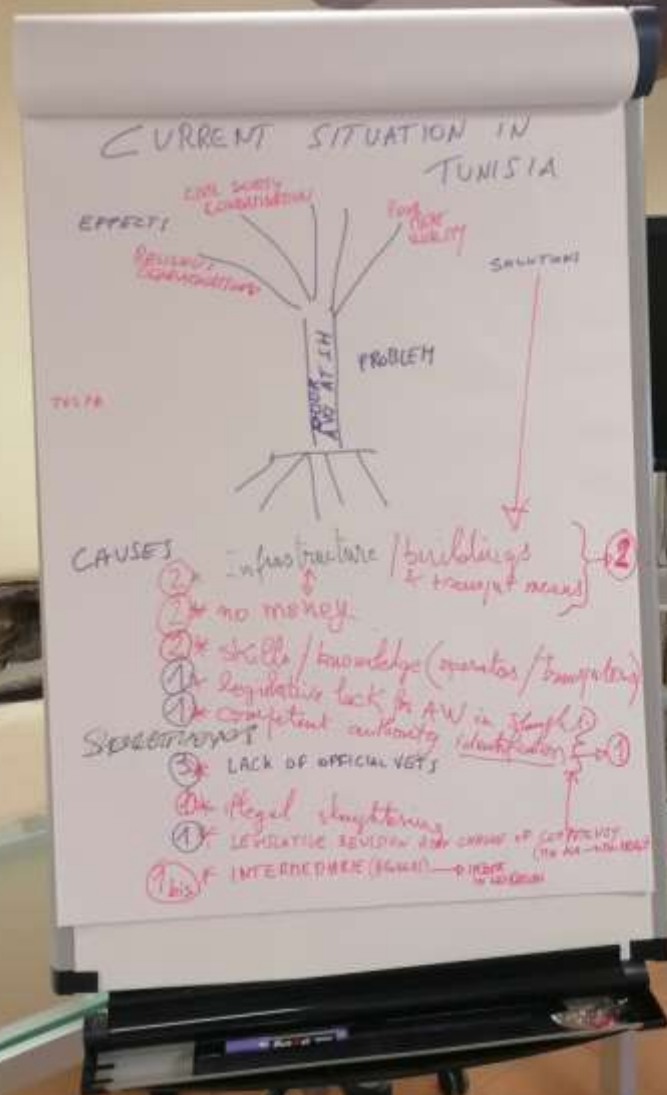
Training programme on AW at slaughter

- Preliminary assessment in Tunisia including visit in slaughterhouses
- Online courses on general principles of AW
- 1-week training in Italy on AW during slaughter, with and without stunning
- 3-day training in Italy (with SLU expertise) on depopulation for disease control/emergencies
- Including theoretical lessons with discussion and on-field visits



Training programme on AW at slaughter

- Looking for problems and causes concerning AW at slaughter in the Tunisian reality



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Training programme on AW at slaughter

- The absence of stunning is generally not seen as a crucial AW problem, if religious slaughtering is carried out correctly, with adequate training/skills, restrain and taking care of the animal
- the Muslim religion attaches great importance to the well-treatment of animals which have often been mentioned in the Koran
- Stunning is often seen as a further violation of animal dignity
- Religious slaughtering is a cultural condition with which is necessary to deal, ensuring the highest possible degree of animal welfare according to WOAHA recommendations
- **Rather, the absence of infrastructures, funds, skilled personnel, legislation have been identified as the real problems that do not allow the implementation of WOAHA AW standards**



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Thank you!

