

Country report on animal welfare during slaughter

KOSOVO

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WOAH Regional workshop on animal welfare during slaughter

11 - 12 February 2025, Tirana, Albania



World Organisation
for Animal Health



Overview of the country's situation

- Number of slaughterhouses: 66
- Average throughput: 20000 animals/month
- Main species: Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Poultry
- Slaughter methods: Electrical, Mechanical, Halal

Regulatory framework and Competent Authority(ies)

- Law No. 2004/21 on Animal Welfare
- Administrative Instruction No. 02/2017 on Humane Slaughter
- Competent Authority: Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA)
- Regular inspections, licensing, and enforcement actions
- Regulation no.13/2011 laying down specific rules for the organization of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption
- Regulation no.12/2011 of laying down specific rules on hygiene of food of animal origin
- Regulation no.10/2011 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules

National animal welfare standards

- Based on national legislation, Kosovo have this standards:
- Welfare and Environment
- Feed and Water
- Health and Veterinary Care
- Prevention of Pain and Stress
- Animal Transport
- Slaughter and Humane Killing
- Behavior and Freedom of Movement



Training a competency of slaughterhouse/abattoir personnel

- Mandatory training for all employees on humane handling
- Understanding of WOAH standards and national regulations
- Verification of competency in stunning and slaughter techniques
- Preventing unnecessary suffering through best practices



Training and competency Veterinary Services

- Specialized training for veterinary inspectors on animal welfare
- Knowledge of Animal Health and Welfare
- Food Safety and Public Health
- Regulatory Compliance and Inspections
- Certification and Continuous Education
- Crisis Management and Disease Control



Implementation of the standards

- Veterinary services and slaughterhouse personnel must follow legal requirements for animal welfare, food safety, and humane handling.
- Training programs should be conducted regularly to ensure personnel competency in disease control, meat inspection, and humane slaughter techniques.
- Certification processes must be in place to verify that all workers handling animals are adequately trained.



Monitoring and evaluation

- Regular **audits and inspections** by veterinary authorities assess compliance with food safety and animal welfare laws.
- Use of **performance indicators**, such as compliance rates, training completion, and incident reports, to measure effectiveness.
- Feedback mechanisms should be in place to improve training and identify gaps in knowledge or implementation.

Conclusions - gaps/weaknesses or challenges

- Lack of standardized training programs across different slaughterhouses and veterinary services.
- Insufficient resources (funding, personnel, and equipment) for effective monitoring and enforcement.
- Inconsistent compliance due to varying levels of enforcement and awareness among workers.
- Challenges in adopting new technologies for humane slaughter and disease detection.
- Need for continuous education to keep personnel updated on evolving regulations and best practices.

Conclusions - support requirements and next steps

- Financial support from international organizations, develop nationally recognized training programs for slaughterhouse personnel and veterinary services.
- Public awareness campaigns on animal welfare.
- Expand capacity-building programs for slaughterhouse personnel, private veterinarian and veterinary inspectors.

Thank you



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