JOINT COE-EU-OIE WORKSHOP
"ANIMAL WELFARE IN EUROPE: ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS"

STRASBOURG, 23-24 NOVEMBER 2006

SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE

WORKING GROUP I

Document prepared by Steering Group
responsible for the preparation of the Workshop

SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE FROM GROUP I COUNTRIES[1]

OVERVIEW

Degree of interest in animal welfare varied across countries and across different stakeholders (see Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2). Most countries in Group I reported medium to high interest in welfare by Government, local authorities, agricultural and food processing sectors. Interest by retailers was generally lowest. One country reported that neither Government nor consumer had interest despite its agriculture and food processing sector having medium interest. Two countries reported high interest in all sectors. Interest by NGOs was usually medium or high.

MAJOR ANIMAL WELFARE PROBLEMS

A wide variety of welfare problems were reported tending to focus on animal health issues rather than animal needs. Absence of effective control of major identifiable diseases, such as foot and mouth, anthrax, tuberculosis and brucellosis, seen by some states as major problems. Others identified the lack of movement controls, including stray dogs and cats, and the lack of effective identification systems as major welfare problems. Some noted the absence of strategy and tactics for animal welfare as well as low quality drugs, lack of vaccines, low quality of feeding and low process for farmed animals. Some countries saw shortage of forage protein and overexploitation of animals as major problems. Others saw lack of legislation a major problem and some saw improvement of legislation to EU level as a means to improve welfare.

Formal structures for discussing welfare issues were in the main limited to official bodies but at least one country used relevant Commissions.

LEGISLATION

In law animals were most commonly regarded as goods and/or as sentient beings. No countries regarded animals as moral agents. (See Table 2) Others noted the importance of respecting Sharia "law". Other countries classed animals as neither goods nor sentient beings nor moral agents but had animal protection legislation. Some countries had recently or were in the process of introducing new extensive Animal welfare laws. Table 3 summarises the presence of specific legislation. Most countries have legislation on abuse and cruelty and also on the welfare farmed animals, wild animals, zoos, circuses, during transport and at slaughter and killing. Fewer countries had legislation on laboratory animals, pets, strays dangerous dogs and exhibitions. In some countries welfare legislation for farmed animals was limited to provisions for feed and water.

Some countries legislation for pets including those kept in vivariums. Legislation for sport animals was variable but often linked to Amateur associations.

Legislation for marketing standards such as free range eggs or organic was common but not for other welfare standards.

CODES OF PRACTICE

The use of statutory or voluntary codes tended to me more common in the non farm sector. Some were in process of preparing welfare codes for the farmed sector.

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[1] Contributions were submitted by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus. Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Legislation to protect the public from captive wild animals, dangerous dogs, strays and animal exhibitions were in place in some countries.

KILLING OF ANIMALS

Regulations of most countries required a specific reason for the killing of an animal and also laid down specific conditions for killing the animal. Some countries noted that killing was regulated according to the provisions of Sharia.

IMPLEMENTATION BY VETERINARY SERVICES

In general with respect to the provision of veterinary service they had firm legal base and effective organisation but needed more finance and training to be fully effective. Most countries had provision for issue of international certificates for welfare. The provision of detailed operating procedures varied between areas being most common for killing for disease control.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Although almost all countries reported some provision for animal welfare training at veterinary undergraduate level, post graduate courses were less frequent. Some countries taught veterinary ethics but others lacked facilities for training in practical skills in veterinary faculties. Many planned training for all sectors for farmed animals.

BARRIERS/OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTATION

Human Resources	Financial
Lack of inspectors & legal staff; Personnel have no training in animal welfare; Long processes to attribute budget; Indifferent attitude by administrations; Lack of legal base.	Insufficient finance for staff; Low salary for veterinarians.
Education and training	**Practical ability and skills**
Training of Veterinary Inspectors.	Low level practical skills.
Effective welfare checks on farm	**Motivation of keepers to improve welfare**
Some countries had no training for last 20 years due to lack of funds; Lack of checks recognised as barrier to improving welfare; Some recorded an absence of effective control; Others noted that checks may be ineffective because of lack of inspectors, or due to climatic conditions.	Social, financial and cultural barriers to motivation keepers to improve welfare; Low motivation of keepers due to social, culture and lack of financial incentives; Absence of financial trigger.
Advice to Governments	
Need to balance conflicting views.	

BEST PRACTICE

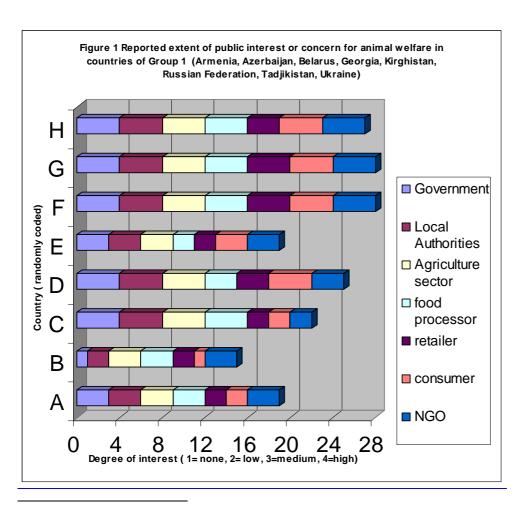| Education	Practical ability and skills
International workshops, such as those run by FAO, and NGOs giving practical training were welcomed as were training visits to EU countries; Regular meetings of specialists; Video clips, brochures; Motivating keepers by education and cooperation of veterinary specialists with staff of farm; Opening new veterinary faculty for specialists, veterinary education.	Provision of advanced training at faculties for staff.
Effective welfare checks on farm	**Objective welfare indicators**
Lack of checks recognised as barrier to improving welfare; Sufficient number of inspectors; Checks by federal inspectors on surveillance; Linking veterinary checks with zoo technical and health and safety checks; Fulfilling EU standards.	Levels of productivity; Levels of mortality and morbidity; Reconstruction of large pig and poultry farms.
Motivation of keepers	**Advice to Government**
High costs of construction of enclosures and forage; Need for reward system to recognise achievements such as increases in salary;	Creation of relevant commissions; Advice to government of the importance of EU welfare standards; Government proposals for amelioration of development of animal farming industry.

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TABLE 1 Summary of reported degrees of public interest or concern related to animal welfare in each country in Group 1[2]

Question		A*	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1.1	Government	3**	1	4	4	3	4	4	4
1.2	Local Authorities	3	2	4	4	3	4	4	4
1.3	Agriculture sector	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	4
1.4	food processor	3	3	4	3	2	4	4	4
1.5	retailer	2	2	2	3	2	4	4	3
1.6	consumer	2	1	2	4	3	4	4	4
1.7	NGO	3	3	2	3	3	4	4	4

* Countries randomly coded
** code as 0= no reply, 1= no interest, 2=low interest, 3= medium interest, 4 = high interest

Figure 1 Reported extent of public interest or concern for animal welfare in countries of Group 1 (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kirghistan, Russian Federation, Tadjikistan, Ukraine)

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[2] Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Кyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Ukraine.

Figure 2 Relative interest or concerns in animal welfare by sector in Group 1 (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kirghistan, Russian Federation, Tadjikistan, Ukraine) countries

TABLE 2 Summary of reported legal status of animals in Group I countries expressed as proportion of countries which responded to that question.

Group I	Question		Number of Reponses	Per Cent yes
Legal status	4.01	Goods	5	40%
	4.02	sentient beings	8	63%
	4.03	moral agents	6	0%
	4.04	Other	3	33%

TABLE 3 Summary of reported legislation relating to protection of animals and codes of practice for welfare issues in Group I countries expressed as proportion of countries which responded to that question

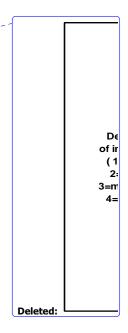| Group I	Question		Number of Reponses	Per Cent yes
Legal status	4.01	Goods	5	40%
	4.02	sentient beings	8	63%
	4.03	moral agents	6	0%
	4.04	Other	3	33%
Legislation	5.01	sentient beings	6	33%
General	5.02	abuse cruelty	8	88%
	5.03	Licensing	7	57%
	5.04	animal trainer	6	33%
	5.05	Other	2	0%
Specific	5.06	farm animals	8	75%
	5.07	Transport	8	75%
	5.08	Slaughter	8	75%
	5.09	emergency killing	7	71%
	5.10	killing for disease control	8	100%
	5.11	laboratory animals	8	63%
	5.12	Pets	7	57%
	5.13	stray or free roaming animals	7	71%
	5.14	wild aniamals	8	100%
	5.15	zoo animals	8	88%
	5.16	circus animals	8	88%
	5.17	sporting animals	6	50%
	5.18	Other	0	0
Legal Standards	5.19	Free Range organic	8	88%
	5.20	Labelling	8	38%
	5.21	Other	0	0
Codes General	5.22	sentient beings	7	29%
	5.23	abuse cruelty	7	43%
	5.24	Licensing	6	17%
	5.25	animal trainer	6	17%
	5.26	Other	2	0%
Codes Specific	5.27	farm animals	6	33%
	5.28	Transport	6	17%
	5.29	Slaughter	5	20%
	5.30	emergency killing	6	33%
	5.31	killing for disease control	5	20%
	5.32	laboratory animals	5	20%
	5.33	stray or free roaming animals	7	57%
	5.34	wild aniamals	6	50%
	5.35	zoo animals	6	50%
	5.36	circus animals	6	50%
	5.37	sporting animals	6	67%
	5.38	Other	1	0%
Standards	5.39	Free Range organic	7	57%
	5.40	Labelling	7	43%
	5.41	Other	0	0

Legislation	6.01	captive wild		8	50%
Public safety	6.02	Dangerous dogs		8	50%
	6.03	stray animals		8	38%
	6.04	Exhibitions		8	63%
	6.05	Other		1	0%
Killing	7.10	without reason		8	13%
	7.20	conditions to kill		8	75%

TABLE 4   Summary of information on Veterinary services and Education related to welfare issues reported by Group I countries expressed as proportion of countries which responded to that question

Group II	Question			Number of Reponses	Per Cent yes
Veterinary	8.10	Technical Qualifications		8	100%
Services	8.20	Training & Capacity		8	100%
	8.30	Independence		8	50%
	8.40	Practical experience		8	75%
	8.50	Other		0	0
Organisation	9.10	Law		8	100%
	9.20	Finance		7	71%
	9.30	Effective		6	67%
	9.40	International cert		8	75%
	9.50	Other		0	0
Procedures	10.10	on farm		8	88%
	10.20	Transport		8	100%
	10.30	Slaughter		8	63%
	10.40	kill disease control		8	100%
	10.50	Other		0	0
Training	11.01	on farm central		8	63%
	11.02	Transport Central		8	50%
	11.03	slaughter central		8	38%
	11.04	killing central		8	63%
	11.05	other central		0	0
	11.06	on farm OVS		8	50%
	11.07	transport OVS		8	50%
	11.08	slaughter OVS		8	50%
	11.09	kill disease OVS		8	63%
	11.10	other OVS		0	0
	11.11	on farm PVS		8	75%
	11.12	transport PVS		8	63%
	11.13	slaughter PVS		8	63%
	11.14	kill disease PVS		8	88%
	11.15	other PVS		0	0
	11.16	on farm farmers		8	50%
	11.17	transport farmers		8	50%
	11.18	slaughter farmers		8	50%
	11.19	kill disease farmers		8	63%
	11.20	other farmers		1	100%
Veterinary	12.00	undergrad welfare course		8	88%
Education	13.00	post grad welfare course		8	63%

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Question		A*	B	C	D	F	E	G	H	I	J	K	L
1.10	Government	3**	1	4	4	3	4	4	4	0	0	0	0
1.20	Local Authority	3	2	4	4	3	4	4	4	0	0	0	0
1.30	Agriculture sector	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	0	0	0	0
1.40	food processor	3	3	4	3	2	4	4	4	0	0	0	0
1.50	Retailer	2	2	2	3	2	4	4	3	0	0	0	0
1.60	Consumer	2	1	2	4	3	4	4	4	0	0	0	0
1.70	Non Government Organisations	3	3	2	3	3	4	4	4	0	0	0	0