



Joint CoE-EU-OIE Workshop
“Animal Welfare in Europe: achievements and future prospects”
23 – 24 November 2006

Questionnaire completed by :

Country	
Family Name / First Name	
Position	
Contact Phone Number	
E-mail address	
Date	

As soon as the questionnaire has been completed by the Delegate, it should be returned, preferably by e-mail to Dg1.animalwelfare@coe.int or by fax to the COE (+33 3 88 41 27 64), at the latest by 3 November 2006. Any response received after that date will not be taken into consideration in the preparation of the discussion groups during the workshop. Should it not be possible to complete it by **3 November** please provide a copy at the workshop.

INTRODUCTION

The development of standards for animal welfare through the Council of Europe conventions, European Union's legislation and its support for these Conventions as well as the more recent adoption of welfare standards by OIE provide an opportunity to establish further cooperation between these institutions. This meeting of European OIE member countries provides an opportunity to share best practice in developing and implementing standards of animal welfare and to discuss and coordinate the various animal welfare issues to be discussed in Plenary of OIE in May 2007.

This workshop is to share experiences and best practice. There are considerable variations in the approach to animal welfare between countries for complex legal, socio-economic, political and cultural reasons. To focus the discussions at the workshop this questionnaire has been prepared by the steering group. It aims to provide a high level summary of current attitudes and approaches to animal welfare in each country. In addition, the completion of the questionnaire should assist delegates in the consideration of their welfare issues prior to the workshop. The questionnaire will also be used as a record of current views. It is proposed to publish the responses and the proceedings of the workshop as a report.

The purpose of this questionnaire, and the report to follow, is to establish the extent that legislation and codes of practice are in place for the welfare of farmed animals, companion animals, laboratory animals, the killing of animals, their transport and public safety. Using the definitions in the OIE terrestrial animal code, the implementation of welfare rules is addressed, taking account of the quality of veterinary services, their organisation and training and education. Examples of barriers to implementation of welfare standards as well as examples of best practice are requested. This should allow the discussions to gain an understanding of current welfare standards, what actions individual countries take, what more can be done. This questionnaire will be helpful to evaluate how the Council of Europe, the European Union and the OIE can support Member Countries in the future to ensure that animals actually receive the appropriate protection and care.

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Please complete all sections of the Questionnaire

CURRENT POSITION OVERVIEW

1. To what degree do you believe animal welfare is a matter of public interest or concern in your country for the following stakeholders?

Degree of interest	None	Low	Medium	High
Government				
Local Authorities				
Agriculture Sector				
Food processors				
Food retailers				
Consumers				
Non Governmental Organisations				

Comment:

2. From the perspective of your administration, what are the major animal welfare problems your country?

Comment:

3. In your country, do formal structures exist to discuss animal welfare issues in the following contexts and with relevant stakeholders?

Discussion structure (Yes/No)	Explanation (type of structure and stakeholder groups involved)

LEGISLATION/ CODES OF PRACTICE

4. What is the legal status of animals kept by man in your country?

Status	Yes/No	Comments
Classed as goods/commodities		
Classed as sentient beings		
Classed as moral agents (i.e. animals can be blamed for their actions)		
Other (please specify)		

5. For the following animal welfare issues please indicate whether specific legislation or voluntary codes of practice exist in your country to address these issues?

General Welfare Issues	Covered by specific legislation (Yes/No)	Covered by voluntary codes of practice (Yes/No)	Comments
Recognition of animals as sentient beings			
Prohibition of animal abuse-cruelty			
Licensing or registration of animal keepers			
Training of animal handlers or keepers			
Other (please specify)			

Specific Welfare Issues	Covered by specific legislation (Yes/No)	Covered by voluntary codes of practice (Yes/No)	Comments
Keeping of farmed animals			(please specify species covered)
Transport of animals			(please specify species covered)
Slaughter of animals for human consumption			(please specify species covered, specific rules for slaughter under religious rites)
Emergency killing (e.g. injured animal)			
Killing of animals for disease control purposes			
Laboratory animals			(please specify issues covered, e.g. accommodation, use, ban on the use of certain species...)
Protection of pet animals			(please specify issues covered, e.g. keeping, breeding...)
Control of stray / free-roaming animals			
Protection of wild			

animals			
Protection of zoo animals			
Protection of circus animals			
Protection of animals used in sporting or cultural events (e.g. hunting)			
Other (please specify)			

Specific Standards related to Welfare Issues	Covered by specific legislation (Yes/No)	Covered by voluntary codes of practice (Yes/No)	Comments
Welfare aspects of certain farming systems (e.g. free-range or organic farming)			
Labelling of food products to show the welfare status of the animals from which the food was derived			
Other (please specify)			

Public Safety

6. Is there legislation in your country to protect public safety in relation to animals?

Category of animals	Yes/No	Comments
Wild animals in captivity		
Dangerous dogs		
Stray or free-roaming animals		
Animal exhibitions		
Other (please specify)		

Killing of Animals

7. How is the killing of animals regulated in your country?

Issue	Yes/No	Comment
Can an animal be killed without any specific reason ?		
Do owners have to respect certain conditions to kill an animal ?		(please specify)

IMPLEMENTATION – VETERINARY SERVICES

Quality of Veterinary Services

8. Do you believe that the Veterinary Services of your country have sufficient relevant qualifications, scientific expertise and experience to enable them to make sound professional judgments on animal welfare?

Issue	Yes/No	Comment
Sufficient technical qualifications		
Sufficient training and capacity		
Sufficient technical independence		
Sufficient practical experience		
Other (please specify)		

Organisation of Veterinary Services

9. Is there provision in the organisation of Veterinary Services of your country for the following tools to facilitate implementation of welfare measures?

Issue	Yes/No	Comment
Appropriate Legislation		
Financial Resources		
Effective Organisation		
Provision of International Veterinary Certification on animal welfare issues		
Other (please specify)		

Procedures and Standards

10. Do you have documented operating procedures for implementing and conducting checks on the following welfare standards?

Issues	Yes/No	Comment
Welfare of Animals on farm		
Welfare of Animals during transport and on markets		
Welfare of Animals at the time of Slaughter		
Welfare of Animals being killed for disease control		
Other (please specify)		

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

11. For each of these issues please indicate whether training has been organised at the various indicated levels for implementing the following welfare standards?

Issues	Provision of training (Yes/No)				Comment
	For official veterinarians and other staff at central level	For official veterinarians and other staff at local level	For private veterinarians	For farmers, animal handlers or keepers	
Welfare of animals on farm					
Welfare of animals during transport					
Welfare of animals at the time of slaughter for human consumption					
Welfare of animals being killed for disease control					
Other (please specify)					

12. Is animal welfare specifically included in the curriculum of veterinary undergraduate training in universities in your country?

(Yes/No)	Comments

13. Are postgraduate specialisations in animal welfare available in universities or other awarding bodies (e.g. RCVS) in your country?

(Yes/No)	Comments

BARRIERS/ OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTATION

This section provides the opportunity to provide the examples of barriers or obstacles to the implementation and improvements of standards of welfare.

14. Can you please provide examples of barriers/obstacles you have found in improving the welfare of animals or implementing existing welfare standards related to the following issues?

Issue	Barriers/ Obstacles	Comment
Human resources (e.g. veterinary staff, lay staff, legal staff)	1. 2. 3.	
Financial resources	1. 2. 3.	
Education and training (e.g. on veterinary inspection, surgical procedures)	1. 2. 3.	
Practical ability and skills	1. 2. 3.	
Effective welfare checks on farm	1. 2. 3.	
Motivation of keepers to improve welfare (social, cultural, lack of financial incentives)	1. 2. 3.	
Advice to Government (e.g. scientific or socio-economic justification for policies)	1. 2. 3.	
Others (please specify)		

BEST PRACTICE

This section provides the opportunity to provide the examples of best practice in implementing and improving standards of welfare.

15. For each of the issues listed below can you please provide examples of useful practices you have found in improving the welfare of animals or implementing existing welfare standards in your country?

Issue	Best practices	Comment
Education (e.g. on veterinary inspection, surgical procedures such as castration)	1. 2. 3.	
Practical ability and skills	1. 2. 3.	
Effective welfare checks on farm	1. 2. 3.	

Objective animal welfare indicators (animal-based measures)	1. 2. 3.	
Motivation of keepers to improve welfare	1. 2. 3.	
Advice to Government (balancing conflicting views from major stakeholders)	1. 2. 3.	
Others (please specify)		