

*Europe for Animal Welfare*



**JOINT COE-EU-OIE WORKSHOP  
“ANIMAL WELFARE IN EUROPE: ACHIEVEMENTS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS”**

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**SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE  
WORKING GROUP III**

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

[www.coe.int/animalwelfare-workshop](http://www.coe.int/animalwelfare-workshop)

E-mail : [Dg1.animalwelfare@coe.int](mailto:Dg1.animalwelfare@coe.int) / Fax : +33 (0)3 88 41 27 64

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## SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE FROM GROUP III COUNTRIES <sup>1</sup>

### OVERVIEW

Overall interest in welfare issues was highest in NGOs and Government and less for local authorities and lowest in the Agricultural, Food processor and Retail sectors (see Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2). One country noted that the situation was dynamic as during this year Veterinary Directorate and NGO's together prepared draft Animal Welfare Law and started with great campaign in order to improve awareness of veterinarian practitioners, veterinary inspectors as well as the owners and keepers of animals. They expect that the degree of concern will be higher. One country had a liaison body for animal shelters and stray dogs and cats. Some countries have advisory Animal Welfare boards or expert councils to advise their Ministers.

### MAJOR ANIMAL WELFARE PROBLEMS

Countries listed as major animal welfare problems as:

- First of all is stray dog control (insufficient budgeted to implement animal welfare law) which is under responsibility of municipalities;
- Animal welfare at slaughter (approval of slaughterhouses in process);
- Animal welfare on farms (some training and education of farmers provided);
- The major problem is the great number of backyard holdings with small number of animals;
- Most of the keepers are old and have financial problems. This represents a problem in educational process and besides that it will be complicated to control all of them;
- Lack of veterinary staff;
- The approximation and application of CoE conventions, EU's legislation and OIE welfare standards to national laws and regulations;
- Education of veterinary specialists, operators of food-feed chain of people;
- Improving of curriculum of the Veterinary Faculty, restrictive measures to prevent the cruelty to animals;
- Transportation of live animals, *route* plans, motivation of general public regarding animal welfare;
- Controls on animal transport are difficult.

### LEGISLATION

In all countries animals were regarded as both goods and sentient but in two countries they were also regarded as moral agents (See Table 2). Some countries were basing recent or new laws on EU, COE and OIE standards. One country's law indicate considerable commitment to animal welfare stating "*knowing that animals are capable of experiencing feelings, suffering and joy, and that their respect and the assurance of their comfort is a moral obligation of mankind*". Some countries legislation also places an obligation to promote welfare on an international basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Contributions were submitted by Albania, Hungary, UNMIK/Kosovo, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia.

Several countries had strong legislation for stray dogs and cats detailing measures for humane catching and putting to death of stray dogs and cats. Several countries had recently introduced new extensive Animal Welfare law. Other countries had recently or were in the process of introducing new extensive Animal Welfare laws in concordance with EU regulations and OIE Guidelines.

Some countries often lacked laws for areas such as killing for disease control, circuses or animals use for sport. Legislation was in place for labelling systems of production such as free range eggs or organic in some countries.

Table 3 summarises the presence of specific legislation. Most countries have legislation on abuse and cruelty and also on the welfare of farmed animals, wild animals, during transport and at slaughter and killing, laboratory animals, pets, strays dangerous dogs and exhibitions. Only a few countries reported on laws for zoos and circuses and sporting animals which were usually not protected.

Legislation for marketing standards such as free range eggs or organic was present in only half the countries reporting.

### **CODES OF PRACTICE**

Neither statutory nor voluntary codes were in place in most countries although some were in process of preparing such codes. The use of statutory or voluntary codes tended to be more common in the non farm sector ie. circuses and zoos. Some were in process of preparing welfare codes for the farmed sector.

### **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**

In all countries Animal Welfare law prohibits killing of an animal without reason. One country limits killing to the following circumstances "*Animals must not be killed unless it is justified by acceptable reasons or conditions. Acceptable reasons are the following: especially food production, fur production, population control, incurable disease, injury, risk of infection, pest control, prevention of an otherwise unavoidable attack and scientific research*".

Regulations of most countries also laid down specific conditions for killing the animal. Animals must not be killed unless it is justified by acceptable reasons or conditions. Acceptable reasons are the following: especially food production, fur production, population control, incurable disease, injury, risk of infection, pest control, prevention of an otherwise unavoidable attack, and scientific research.

### **IMPLEMENTATION BY VETERINARY SERVICES**

Although most countries reported that in general with respect to the provision of veterinary service they had firm legal base and effective organisation, others lacked these requirements. All reported that they needed more finance and training to be fully effective. Most countries had provision for issue of international certificates but some countries their issue was restricted to CVO only.

Most countries had provision for issue of international certificates for welfare. The provision of detailed operating procedures varied between countries; some having comprehensive procedures and others limited to one or two areas.

### **TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

Many countries lacked training but about half had training for all sectors for farmed animals. Training of central officials planned for transport and slaughter in 2007.

One country had laid down syllabus for animals' welfare consisting of:

1. Behaviour, welfare and protection of animals – I year, I semester
2. Animal protection and animal behaviour – VI year, XII semester
3. Behavioral disorders of farm animals – IV year, VII semester.

This country also had modular postgraduate courses in experimental animals and experimental and experimental patterns of biomedical research; ethics and welfare of experimental animals; assessment of validity of ambient and behavioral principles of transport; and prevention of animal behavioral disorders. Three out of five countries responding had postgraduate course in welfare

### **BARRIERS/OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTATION**

<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>Financial</b>
Lack of inspectors & legal staff; Insufficient financing; Lack of lay staff; Training of veterinary inspectors; Few human resources; For one country an Animal Welfare Law was finalized has to be adopted by the Parliament.	Sufficient inspectors; Fulfilling EU standards; Lack of central budget; Poor financial resources.
<b>Education and training</b>	<b>Practical ability and skills</b>
Video clips, brochures; Practical training; The information of general public; No barriers just a need to organise.	Low level of practical skills; Good veterinary practice.
<b>Effective welfare checks on farm</b>	<b>Motivation of keepers to improve welfare</b>
Ineffective checks due to the lack of inspectors; Not enough farm checks.	Motivation of keepers due to social and cultural reasons; Lack of financial incentives; Motivating keepers by education; No solid motivation to improve welfare.
<b>Advice to Governments</b>	
Advice to government of importance of EU welfare standards; Strategy for solving the problems of stray dogs.	

**BEST PRACTICE**

<b>Education</b>	<b>Practical ability and skills</b>
Education of the veterinary staff.	Good veterinary practice.
<b>Effective welfare checks on farm</b>	<b>Objective welfare indicators</b>
Check lists; Frequency of control.	
<b>Motivation of keepers</b>	<b>Advice to Government</b>
To invite applications.	Animal Welfare advisory board.

**TABLE 1 Summary of reported degrees of public interest or concern related to animal welfare in each country in Group III<sup>2</sup>**

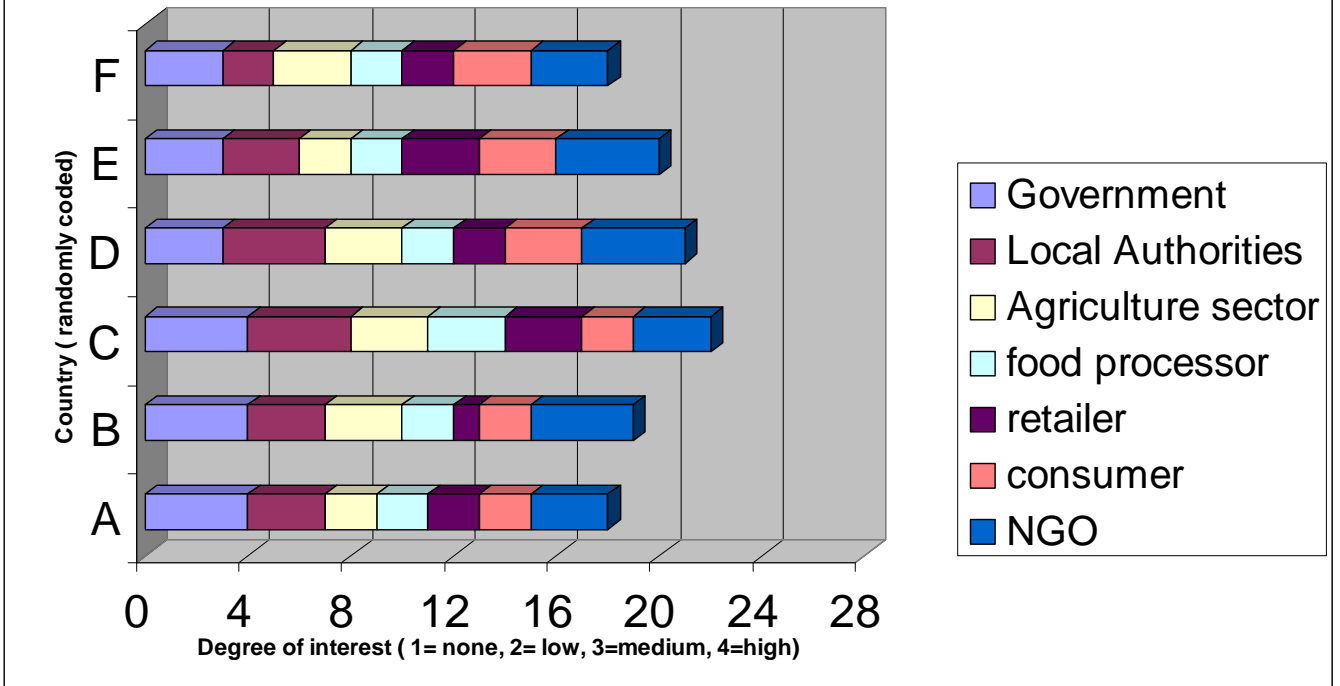
Group III	Question	A*	B	C	D	E	F
<b>Overview</b>	1.10 Government	4**	4	4	3	3	3
	1.20 Local Authorities	3	3	4	4	3	2
	1.30 Agriculture sector	2	3	3	3	2	3
	1.40 food processor	2	2	3	2	2	2
	1.50 Retailer	2	1	3	2	3	2
	1.60 Consumer	2	2	2	3	3	3
	1.70 NGO	3	4	3	4	4	3

\* Countries randomly coded

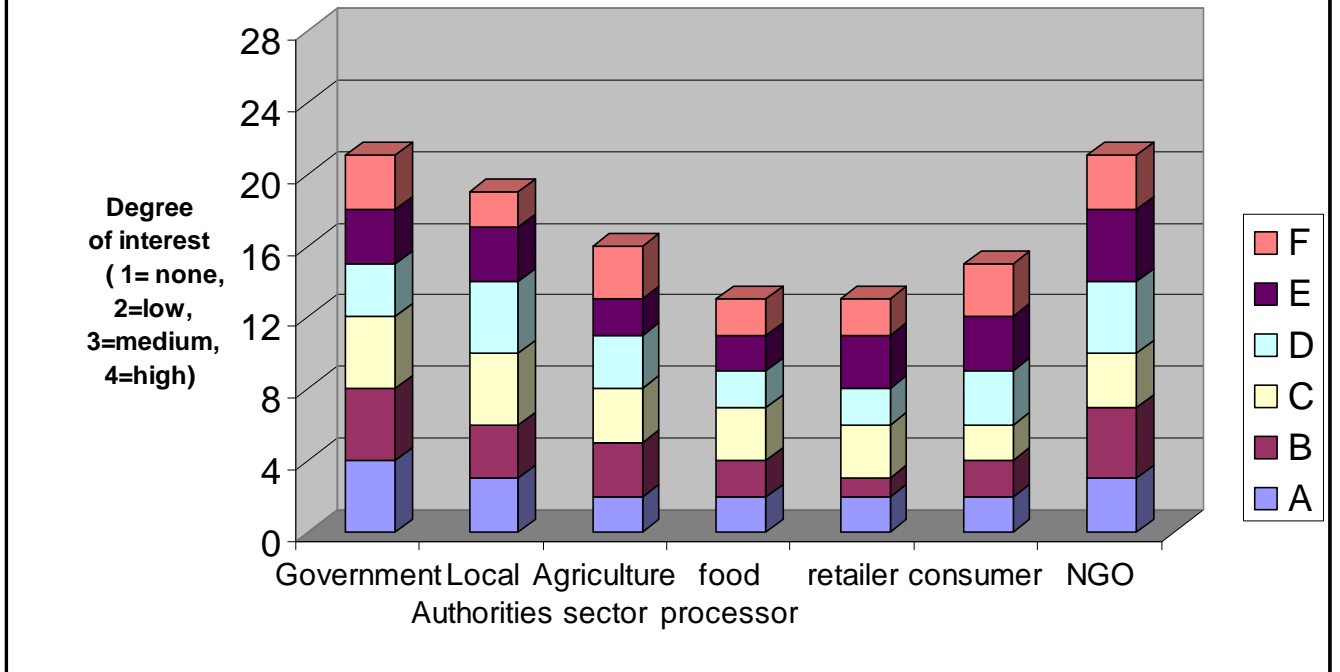
\*\* code as 0= no reply, 1= no interest, 2=low interest, 3= medium interest, 4 = high interest

<sup>2</sup> Albania, Hungary, UNMIK/Kosovo, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia.

**Figure 1 Reported extent of public interest or concern for animal welfare in Huountries of Group III ( Albania, Croatia, Hungary, Unmik/Kosovo, Romaina, Serbia and Slovenia)**



**Figure 2 Relative interest or concerns in animal welfare by sector in Group III countries**



**TABLE 2 Summary of reported legal status of animals in Group III countries<sup>3</sup> expressed as proportion of countries which responded to that question**

Group III	Question		Number of Reponses	Per Cent yes
<b>Legal status</b>	4.01	goods	6	100%
	4.02	sentient beings	4	100%
	4.03	moral agents	4	25%
	4.04	other	1	0%

**TABLE 3 Summary of reported legislation relating to protection of animals and codes of practice for welfare issues in Group III countries<sup>4</sup> expressed as proportion of countries which responded to that question**

Group III	Question		Number of Reponses	Per Cent yes
<b>Legislation</b>	5.01	sentient beings	5	100%
General	5.02	abuse cruelty	6	100%
	5.03	licensing	6	67%
	5.04	animal trainer	5	40%
	5.05	other	1	100%
Specific	5.06	farm animals	6	100%
	5.07	transport	6	100%
	5.08	slaughter	6	100%
	5.09	emergency killing	6	100%
	5.10	killing for disease control	5	100%
	5.11	laboratory animals	5	100%
	5.12	pets	6	67%
	5.13	stray or free roaming animals	6	100%
	5.14	wild animals	6	67%
	5.15	zoo animals	5	40%
	5.16	circus animals	6	0%
	5.17	sporting animals	5	20%
	5.18	other	1	0%
Legal Standards	5.19	Free Range organic	5	40%
	5.20	labelling	5	40%
	5.21	other	1	100%
<b>Codes General</b>	5.22	sentient beings	3	67%
	5.23	abuse cruelty	2	100%
	5.24	licensing	2	100%
	5.25	animal trainer	4	75%
	5.26	other	0	0
<b>Codes Specific</b>	5.27	farm animals	4	50%
	5.28	transport	4	0%
	5.29	slaughter	4	25%
	5.30	emergency killing	4	0%
	5.31	killing for disease control	4	25%

<sup>3</sup> Albania, Hungary, UNMIK/Kosovo, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia

<sup>4</sup> Albania, Hungary, UNMIK/Kosovo, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia

	5.32	laboratory animals	4	25%
	5.33	stray or free roaming animals	3	33%
	5.34	wild animals	4	0%
	5.35	zoo animals	3	33%
	5.36	circus animals	3	33%
	5.37	sporting animals	4	50%
	5.38	other	1	0%
<b>Code Standards</b>	5.39	FR organic	4	50%
	5.40	labelling	4	25%
	5.41	other	1	0%
<b>Legislation</b>	6.01	captive wild	6	83%
Public safety	6.02	dangerous dogs	6	83%
	6.03	stray animals	6	100%
	6.04	exhibitions	6	83%
	6.05	other	1	0%
Killing	7.10	without reason	5	0%
	7.20	conditions to kill	6	100%

**TABLE 4 Summary of information on Veterinary services and Education related to welfare issues reported by countries in Group III<sup>5</sup> expressed as proportion of countries which responded to that question.**

Group III	Question		Number of Responses	Per Cent yes
<b>Veterinary Services</b>	8.10	technical qualifications	6	83%
	8.20	training & capacity	5	20%
	8.30	independence	5	60%
	8.40	practical experience	5	80%
	8.50	other	0	0
<b>Organisation</b>	9.10	Law	6	83%
	9.20	finance	5	20%
	9.30	effective	6	83%
	9.40	international cert	6	50%
	9.50	other	0	0
<b>Procedures</b>	10.10	on farm	5	60%
	10.20	transport	5	80%
	10.30	slaughter	5	60%
	10.40	kill disease control	5	40%
	10.50	other	1	0%
<b>Training</b>	11.01	on farm central	6	50%
	11.02	transport central	6	50%
	11.03	slaughter central	6	50%
	11.04	killing central	5	40%
	11.05	other central	1	0%
	11.06	on farm OVS	6	50%
	11.07	transport OVS	5	60%
	11.08	slaughter OVS	5	60%
	11.09	kill disease OVS	5	40%
	11.10	other OVS	1	0%

<sup>5</sup> Albania, Hungary, UNMIK/Kosovo, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia



	11.11	on farm PVS	6	50%
	11.12	transport PVS	5	40%
	11.13	slaughter PVS	5	40%
	11.14	kill disease PVS	5	40%
	11.15	other PVS	1	0%
	11.16	on farm farmers	6	50%
	11.17	transport farmers	5	40%
	11.18	slaughter farmers	5	40%
	11.19	kill disease farmers	5	40%
	11.20	other farmers	1	0%
<b>Veterinary</b>	12.00	undergrad welfare course	5	80%
<b>Education</b>	13.00	post grad welfare course	5	60%