

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 II

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

SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO QUESTIONNAIRE FROM GROUP II COUNTRIES¹

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). The consumer interest was in average medium or high in two cases, while one country stated that consumers are not interested. It was found difficult to estimate the level of interest for certain sectors.

One country states that there is frustration about the low importance of pet animal welfare in Europe.

MAJOR ANIMAL WELFARE PROBLEMS

Countries listed as major animal welfare problems as:

- Enforcements of existing rules
- Harmonised implementation of rules on the entire territory
- Harmonisation of welfare rules with health provision and economic issue
- Consumers' interest in animal welfare decreases with the increase of products price
- Non compliance with animal welfare requirements due to economical reasons
- Pet animal welfare, in particular in relation to dogs (socialization of breeding dogs).
- Ritual slaughter
- Abandoned animals in animal shelters
- Rabbit welfare
- Circus animals
- Animals kept outside
- Castration of piglets
- Fur animal welfare
- Sheep and goats
- Dairy cows
- Animal welfare in slaughter houses
- Stocking densities in holdings and during transport (pigs and laying hens in cages)
- Farming facilities

LEGISLATION

In all countries animals were regarded sentient beings. In three countries animals are not regarded as goods (See Table 2). In all countries legislation on the abuse of and cruelty against animals exists. Specific legislation on farm animals (keeping, transport and slaughter) exists in all countries, as well as on sporting animals, pet and laboratory animals. Most countries have also specific legislation for killing for disease control, stray animals as well as for wild and zoo animals. Circuses are covered in 3 countries. Three countries have legislation on labelling. Legislation on organic production was present in all countries reporting, on labelling standards only in two countries.

Table 3 summarises the presence of specific legislation.

¹ Contributions were submitted by Belgium, Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta and Spain.

CODES OF PRACTICE

The questions concerning the existence of voluntary codes were only replied by few countries. Only country indicated that such codes are in place for certain specific categories and specific use of animals (see Table 3).

PUBLIC SAFETY

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

KILLING OF ANIMALS

In all countries Animal Welfare law prohibits killing of an animal without reason. Two countries specify that an infringement is covered by the criminal law.

Regulations of all countries also laid down specific conditions for killing the animal. The killing of an animal for convenience is forbidden. In one country the person performing the killing must be skilled. In one country euthanasia can be performed only by veterinarians or by trained personnel under the responsibility of a veterinarian. The obligation to use stunning or anesthesia is mentioned by two countries. In another one the Animal Welfare Act specifies the permitted killing methods.

IMPLEMENTATION BY VETERINARY SERVICES

With regard to the quality of veterinary service four countries replied that they consider it sufficient to judge on animal welfare. One country considers the capacities as insufficient while another country claims a lack of technical qualification a practical experience. Three countries describe the financial resources as insufficient and one country indicates that there is no effective organization of the veterinary service in this regard. One country indicates the need to enhance training.

Five of the reporting countries have operating procedures for animal welfare on the farm, during transport and at the time of slaughter in place. One of these countries does not have procedures for the killing for disease control and one of them has procedures only for the killing for Avian Influenza.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

While the in most countries replying to this question there are specific training courses available for official veterinarians this is rarely the case for private practitioners. One country indicated that veterinary colleges organize training courses and that the administration provides for such courses when private veterinarians collaborate with the administration in animal welfare related tasks.

While two countries replied that animal welfare is not specifically included in veterinary studies, two other countries replied that ethology and animal welfare (at least in relation to farm animals) is included in the curriculum. In these countries also postgraduate specialisation is available. For two other countries this question is not applicable since veterinary studies are not offered in these countries.

BARRIERS/OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTATION

Human Resources	Financial
Limited veterinary and lay staff; Animal owners and Keeper afraid of costs; Insufficient controls on non-farm animals.	Poor financial resources, in particular for training.
Education and training	Practical ability and skills
High level of illiteracy among farmers, low education level of animal keepers; Only little training available.	Low level of practical skills; Good veterinary practice; Little understanding of welfare indicators; More information, also in schools.
Effective welfare checks on farm	Motivation of keepers to improve welfare
Lack of inspectors; Inspections follow a rather subjective approach; Excessive bureaucracy; Insufficient welfare indicators and difficult to determine.	Motivation of keepers due to social and cultural reasons; Lack of financial incentives; Restrictive environmental rules.
Advice to Governments	Others
Science-based welfare indicators; Consideration of socio-economic impact; Difficulty to ensure coherence with health and environmental provisions; Split competencies.	Pressure from NGOs can disturb conciliation process.

BEST PRACTICE

Education	Practical ability and skills
Training for all parties involved; Haemoglobin self-control, adequate colostrums feeding; Surgery (castration, docking).	Training and involvement of producer organizations; Database for dogs.
Effective welfare checks on farm	Objective welfare indicators
Adequate planning ; Check lists; Frequency of control; Legal measure.	Changes of behaviour; Alteration of physiological parameters; Stocking densities, mortality, keeping conditions
Motivation of keepers	Advice to Government
Awareness that animal welfare leads to increased productivity; Economic incentives; Education, also for consumers; Voluntary labeling.	Advisory body on animal welfare; Training courses; Bringing together all groups concerned; Promote animal on political agenda.
Others	
Research budget for animal welfare	

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

Question		A*	B	C	D	E	F
1.10	Government	4**	4	3	3	4	3
1.20	Local Authorities	4	4	3	3	3	2
1.30	Agriculture sector	3	3	2	3	2	2
1.40	food processor	2	3	2	3	2	1
1.50	retailer	3	2	1	3	2	2
1.60	consumer	0	4	3	3	3	3
1.70	NGO	4	4	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 II
9 Belgium,Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Spain)**

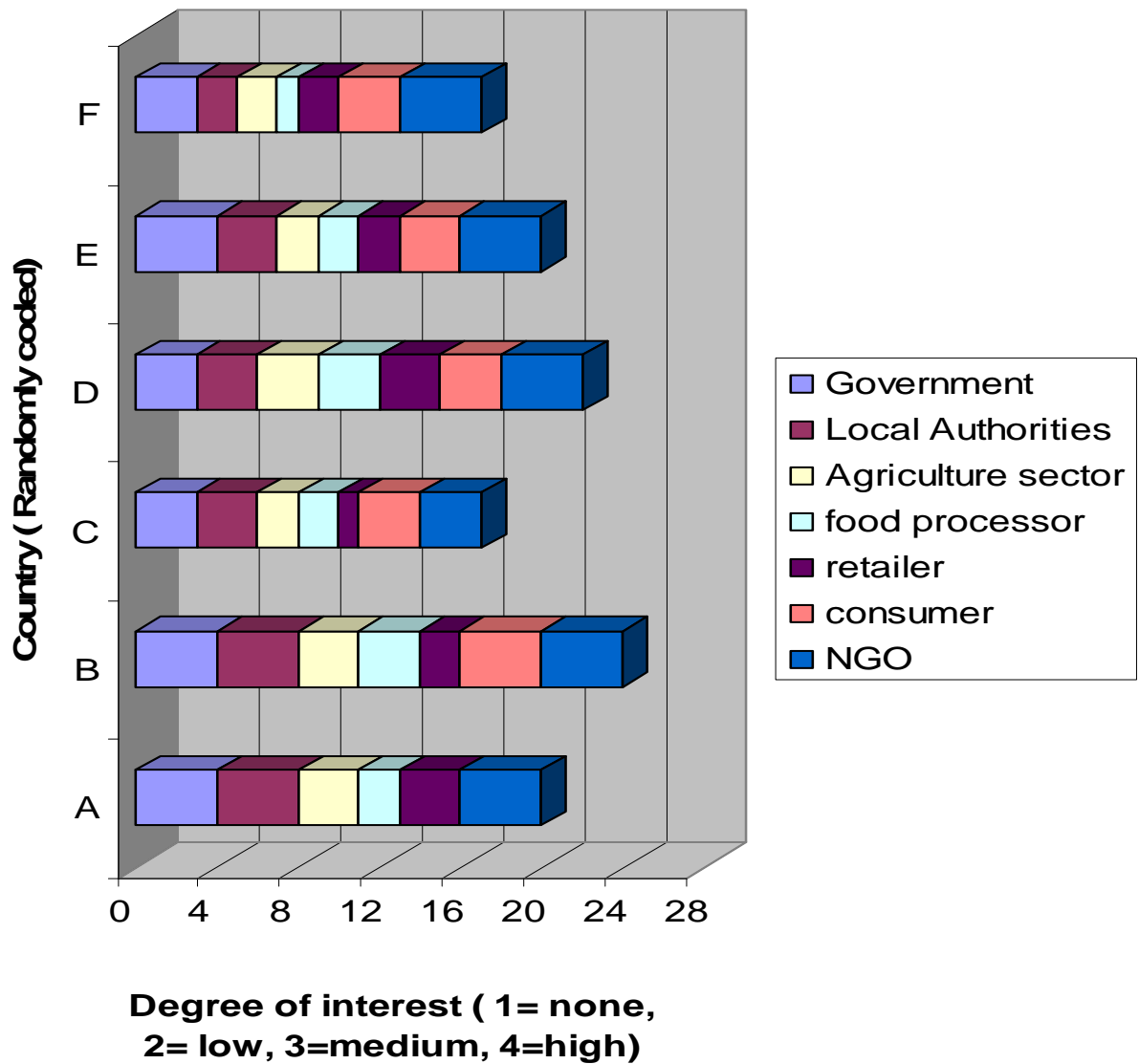


Figure 2 Relative interest or concerns in animal welfare by sector in Group II countries (Belgium, Cyprus, France , Italy, Malta, Spain)

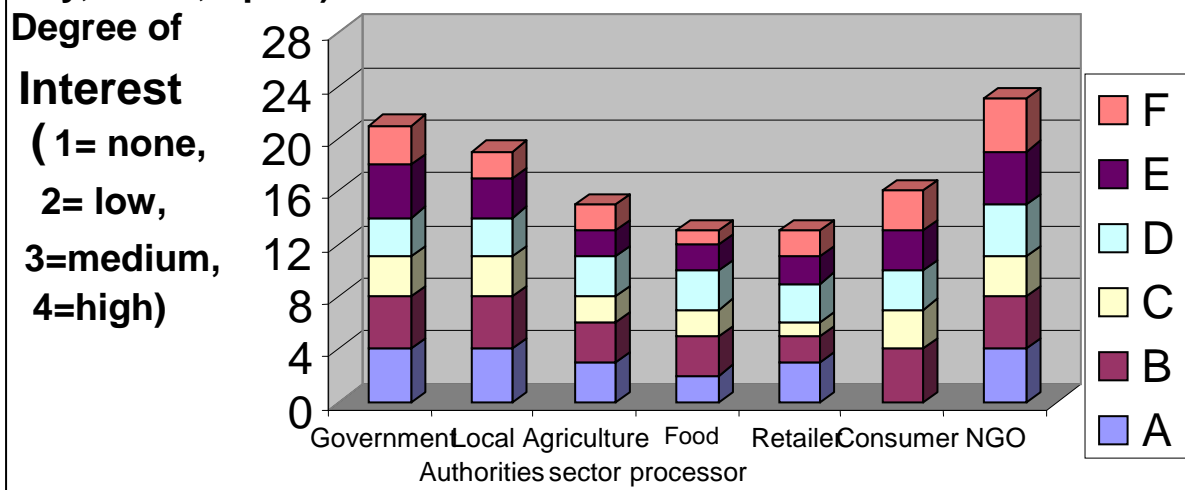


TABLE 2 Summary of reported legal status of animals in countries of Group II expressed as proportion of countries which responded to that question

Group II	Question		Number of Reponses	Per Cent yes
Legal status	4.01	goods	6	67%
	4.02	sentient beings	6	100%
	4.03	moral agents	6	0%
	4.04	other	0	0

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

Group II	Question		Number of Reponses	Per Cent yes
Legislation	5.01	sentient beings	6	100%
General	5.02	abuse cruelty	6	100%
	5.03	licensing	6	100%
	5.04	animal trainer	6	67%
	5.05	other	0	0
Specific	5.06	farm animals	6	100%
	5.07	transport	6	100%
	5.08	slaughter	6	100%
	5.09	emergency killing	6	100%
	5.1	kill disease control	6	83%
	5.11	laboratory animals	6	100%
	5.12	pets	6	100%
	5.13	strays	5	80%
	5.14	wild	5	80%
	5.15	zoo	6	83%
	5.16	circus	6	50%
	5.17	sporting animals	4	100%
	5.18	other	1	100%
	5.19	FR organic	6	100%
Standards	5.2	labelling	6	33%
	5.21	other	0	0
Codes	5.22	sentient beings	3	33%
General	5.23	abuse cruelty	2	50%
	5.24	licensing	2	0%
	5.25	animal trainer	2	50%
	5.26	other	0	0
Specific	5.27	farm animals	2	50%
	5.28	transport	2	0%
	5.29	slaughter	3	33%
	5.3	emergency killing	1	0%
	5.31	kill disease control	2	50%
	5.32	laboratory animals	1	0%
	5.33	strays	2	0%
	5.34	wild	1	0%
	5.35	zoo	1	100%
	5.36	circus	1	100%

	5.37	sporting animals	1	100%
	5.38	other	0	0
Standards	5.39	FR organic	3	100%
	5.4	labelling	3	67%
	5.41	other	0	0
Legislation	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	100%
	7.1	without reason	6	17%
Killing	7.2	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 expressed as proportion of countries which responded to that question

Group II	Question		Number of Reponses	Per Cent yes
Veterinary Services	8.1	Technical Qualifications	6	50%
	8.2	Training & Capacity	5	60%
	8.3	Independence	5	80%
	8.4	Practical experience	4	75%
	8.5	other	1	100%
Organisation	9.1	LAW	6	100%
	9.2	Finance	6	67%
	9.3	Effective	5	80%
	9.4	international cert	5	60%
	9.5	Other	0	0
Procedures	10.1	on farm	5	100%
	10.2	transport	4	75%
	10.3	slaughter	5	100%
	10.4	kill disease control	5	80%
	10.5	other	0	0
Training	11.01	on farm central	4	75%
	11.02	Transport Central	4	50%
	11.03	slaughter central	4	25%
	11.04	killing central	4	75%
	11.05	other central	0	0
	11.06	on farm OVS	3	100%
	11.07	transport OVS	3	100%
	11.08	slaughter OVS	3	67%
	11.09	kill disease OVS	3	67%
	11.1	other OVS	0	0
	11.11	on farm PVS	4	50%
	11.12	transport PVS	4	50%
	11.13	slaughter PVS	4	25%
	11.14	kill disease PVS	4	25%
	11.15	other PVS	0	0
	11.16	on farm farmers	4	75%
	11.17	transport farmers	4	50%
	11.18	slaughter farmers	4	25%

	11.19	kill disease farmers	4	25%
	11.2	other farmers	0	0
Veterinary	12	undergrad welfare course	5	40%
Education	13	post grad welfare course	5	60%