



Organisation  
Mondiale  
de la Santé  
Animale

World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal

## Module 35

# The World Organisation for Animal Health and its Role in Animal Welfare

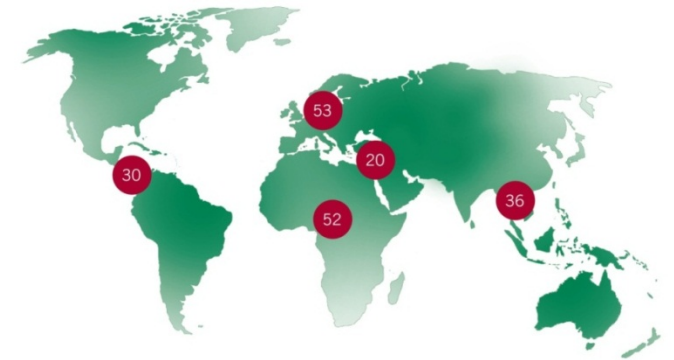
This module was created by the World Organisation for Animal Health with assistance from WSPA.

# In this lecture you will learn

- What the OIE is
- Objectives
- Structure
- OIE Specialist Commissions
- OIE Standard Setting
- OIE Animal Welfare Working Group Mandate



# What is the OIE?



- Established in 1924 to fight animal diseases
- Known as the World Organisation for Animal Health
- Recognised under the World Trade Organization agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) as the standard setting organisation for animal health and zoonoses
- 178 Member Countries in 2012
- Delegates are nominated by the government of the member country they represent, usually the chief veterinary officer

# OIE objectives

- Ensure transparency in global animal health situations
- Collect, analyse and disseminate scientific veterinary information on disease prevention and control
- Provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in animal disease control
- Safeguard world trade by publishing animal health standards
- Improve national veterinary services
- Animal welfare
- Animal production food safety

# Structure of the OIE

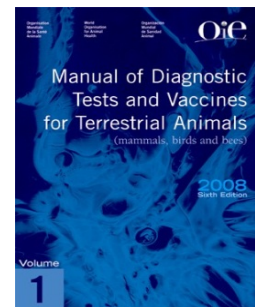
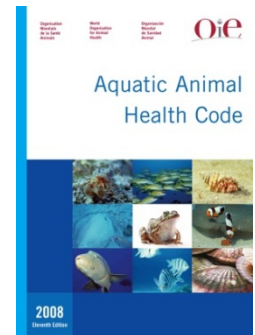
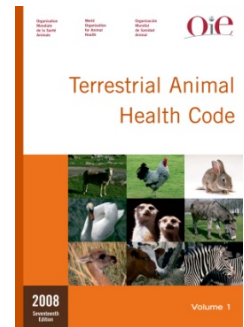
- World Assembly of Delegates – the highest authority of the OIE
- The Council
- Director General (elected by World Assembly) – Dr Bernard Vallat
  - Headquarters – located in Paris and placed under the authority of the director general
  - Specialist Commissions – terrestrial animals, laboratories, aquatic animals, scientific
  - Regional Commissions – Africa, Americas, Europe, Asia-Far East and Oceania, Middle East
- Regional and sub-regional representations – Africa, Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Middle East

# OIE Specialist Commissions

- Four specialists commissions
  - Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission
  - Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission
  - Biological Standards Commission
  - Scientific Commission for Animal Diseases
- Their role is to
  - Study problems of epidemiology and the prevention and control of animal diseases
  - Address scientific and technical issues raised by members
  - Develop and revise OIE's international standards
  - Ensure safe trade of animals and animals products

# Animal Health Codes

- Provide guidance for setting and implementation of efficient animal health, public health, animal welfare and food safety policies at the national level.
- Recommend measures to be used by veterinary authorities to establish health regulations for the safe importation of animals and animal products (i.e. protect animal and human health and guard against zoonotic diseases) while avoiding unjustified trade restrictions.



# Animal Welfare (AW) Standards in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code

- Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare (7.1)
- The transport of animals by land (7.2.)
- The transport of animals by sea (7.3.)
- The transport of animals by air (7.4.)
- The slaughter of animals for human consumption (7.5.)
- The killing of animals for disease control purposes (7.6.)
- The control of stray dog populations (7.7)
- The use of animals in research and education (7.8.)
- Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems (7.9.)



# Animal Welfare Standards in the Aquatic Animal Health Code

- Introduction to recommendations for the welfare of farmed fish (Chapter 7.1)
- Welfare of farmed fish during transport (Chapter 7.2)
- Welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption (Chapter 7.3)
- Killing of farmed fish for disease control purposes (Chapter 7.4)

# Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG)

- Development of draft standards leading to good practices in animal welfare (AW)
- Provide expert advice on AW issues to relevant OIE specialist commissions
- Provide expert advice on AW issues to OIE Members and to stakeholder groups
- Provide reports on AW issues
- Promotion of the inclusion of AW in undergraduate and post-graduate veterinary curricula
- Identification of AW research needs and encouragement of collaboration between centres of research

# OIE Activities in relation to the AW standards

- Development and update of AW standards including broad consultation with industry, NGOs etc.
- Cross-reference AW standards with disease-specific chapters of the terrestrial code (e.g. rabies)
- OIE Collaborating Centres on AW
  - Europe (Italy)
  - Asia Pacific (New Zealand/Australia)
  - Americas (Chile/Uruguay)
  - Others are expected soon
- OIE twinning programmes to enhance AW expertise in OIE regions
- Capacity building programmes for national AW Focal Points in 178 Members Countries

# OIE Activities in Support of the Implementation of the AW standards

- Regional Animal Welfare Strategies and Implementation Plans
  - Currently developed in Asia, the Far East and Oceania
  - Promising developments in other regions
- Animal Welfare National Focal Point Seminars
  - Animal Welfare Focal Points: national government officials responsible for an animal welfare agenda
  - Thematic training with active involvement of representatives from the industry and the NGO sector when relevant.

# Summary

- In this lecture we have covered
- What the OIE is
  - Objectives
  - Structure
  - OIE Specialist Commissions
- OIE codes of practice
- OIE Animal Welfare Working Group