

RAPPORT DE MISSION / MISSION REPORT

Nom du rédacteur / Name:

Xavier Pacholek, Leopoldo Stuardo

Date et lieu du déplacement / Dates of the trip:

6-7 April 2016, Amman, Jordan

Titre de la mission / Title of the mission:

Regional Seminar for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare (Middle East)

Objet de la mission / Aim of the meeting

The seminar hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Jordan in collaboration with the Hashemite Fund for the Development of Jordan Badia, was the 4th training seminar organized in the Middle East region for the OIE National Focal Points (NFP) on Animal Welfare (AW). It aimed at providing NFP with the necessary information, updates and skills to better assume their responsibilities and obligations as advisors to the OIE Delegates in their respective countries. More specifically, the goals were to:

- support the member countries to be involved in the development and to implement OIE animal welfare standards;
- discuss the new work of the OIE on the welfare of working equids and disaster management and risk reduction guidelines;
- discuss the implications of animal welfare for international trade, including international, regional and bilateral trade agreements;
- reiterate the OIE animal welfare standards, in particular those for good handling practices on (international and national) transport and on pre slaughter, and identify the role and responsibility of national Veterinary Services in this field;
- share experience, among member countries and provide practical examples to help Veterinary Services develop and implement veterinary legislation and regulations;
- discuss the draft Action Plan 2016-19 of the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy 2014-19.

Participants du Siègre / Participants from the OIE Headquarters

Leopoldo Stuardo.

Participants des RR/RSR ou experts OIE / Participants from the RR/SRR or OIE experts

- RR ME: Xavier Pacholek, Rita Rizk.
- Experts: Hassan Aidaros (Member of the OIE WG on Animal Welfare), Paolo Dalla Villa (IZSAM Teramo / OIE Collaborating Center for AW).

Résumé / Summary

12 of the 20 National Focal Points on Animal Welfare of the Middle East region (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen) attended the seminar as well as representatives of AW NGOs (World Animal Protection, The Brookes), stakeholders (Meat & Livestock Australia), Research Institute (IRTA), Jordanian institutions (CVO/OIE delegate, FVM of JUST University) and the EU/DG SANTE.

After the welcome addresses of the Jordanian OIE Delegate, Dr. Munther Al-Rifai, and the representative of the OIE RR ME, Xavier Pacholek, the NFP expressed some expectations: establishing an AW network gathering public and private stakeholders to organize the regional AW dialogue on AW; improving communication on AW bad (and good) practices; upgrading the core curriculum of the FVM of the Jordan University of Science & Technology (JUST).



The seminar started (Day 1) with a “basic training” mainly designed for the newly appointed NFP (7/12 did not attend the last meeting in 2014).

Xavier Pacholek presented an overview of the OIE (mandate, governance, strategy, pillars). Commenting the 3th pillar (OIE network of expertise), Yemen called for more OIE reference laboratories in the region (only one present in Dubai for Glanders and Camel Pox). The representative of the OIE Regional Representation for the ME indicated that the OIE was strongly involved in strengthening the laboratory capacities in the region through the implementation of OIE laboratory twinings (e.g. for RVF in Yemen, PPR in Jordan and Kuwait). Besides, he outlined the commitment of the OIE in the ‘One health’ concept in the framework of the tripartite agreement with FAO and WHO (AMR, priority zoonotic diseases such as AI and rabies).

Leopoldo Stuardo detailed the ToR of the Animal Welfare Focal Points and outlined the role and the working programme of the OIE AW WG and the OIE Global AW Strategy (including recommendations of the OIE global conferences on AW). Comments addressed the close relation between animal health and animal welfare, the absence of technical specifications in the standards on transportation by land and sea, and the collaboration between OIE, the World Consumer Organisation and CITES regarding the trade of endangered animal species.

Xavier Pacholek described the OIE standard setting procedure and stressed the importance for the OIE delegates of the region to embark in the process by commenting the OIE draft standards such as the draft new chapter 7.x. on working equids to be presented for adoption during the next GS 84 in May 2016. He added that comments must be sent on time to be taken into account, as well as be concise, clear and rationally justified.

The second part of the seminar (more ‘advanced’ training course) focused on legislation aspects of animal welfare, the recent amendments and additions to the OIE Codes, and gave some practical tools for the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards.

Antonio Velarde shared the rich experience of the IRTA (research institute of the ministry of agriculture of Catalonia, Spain) towards the identification of practical animal base criteria and indicators to be used for assessing good handling practices on transport by land and by sea and on pre slaughter operations.

Joffrid Mackett, from Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) presented the Australian requirements regarding AW application in the importing country¹ which are based on 6 supply chain elements and 88 performance check points consistent with the OIE standards. To meet these conditions, MLA provides technical assistance (in terms of gap analysis, risk analysis to mitigate and technical advice) and provides education and training tools (SOP manual, work instruction, feedlot manual, livestock handling DVD for sheep & cattle, livestock handling guide, livestock handling note cards, sheep talker goad, people on the ground). Lessons learned from MLA concern the importance of adopting the correct attitude from all public and private stakeholders; identifying key staff; providing management support; demonstrating the benefit of the action; and, in absence of the right attitude, developing improved infrastructures (easy and safer for workers, reduced morbidity and mortality,

¹ The Australian government authorizes the export of livestock complying with animal health importing conditions provided that the exporter agreed with the importer on a process guaranteeing the respect of Australian AW provisions in the importing country. (NB: Leopoldo Stuardo indicated that in 2015, a jurisprudence of the EU court of justice imposes the same respect of the EU AW requirements to the countries importing EU livestock).

better public perception – hygiene). He added that legislation and regulation must be in place and enforced; training must be specific to the facility and livestock; and that preparation and planning for the transport event is important (sufficient transport means available, infrastructure in place at the port, avoidance of traffic and curfews, prearrangements for the border crossing).

A working session focused on the major gaps on the handling practices on transport in the Middle East:

- AW Legislations & regulations are unequally available in ME (GCC animal Welfare law in place, drafts in Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine...), comprehensive (absence for transport in Egypt, exist only for transport by air in the UAE), updated (penalties too low) and barely disseminated to and implemented by the stakeholders and the public, nor enforced (e.g. at slaughter points in Egypt in small market) or sanctioned (Lebanon) by the competent authorities;
- There is globally a deficient attitude of the stakeholders and the public (even if progresses exist) and a lack of political involvement (AW is not a priority in ME countries).
- Iraq and Oman called for more technical assistance, extension/trainings, awareness campaigns for the stakeholders (transporters, breeders, abattoirs...) and in some extent for the public;
- Need of improved infrastructures (Lack of large quarantine stations at importation in Iraq).

Leopoldo Stuardo described the draft ISO technical specification (DTS) on 'Animal welfare management – General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain' (ISO TC 34 WG 16). OIE has signed a cooperation agreement with ISO in 2012 and participated as an observer in the WG to promote the consistency of this DTS with the OIE provisions (chapter 7.1). The DTS describes 4 steps: gap analysis, AW planning, implementation of the AW plan, evaluation and review of the AW plan. It is currently submitted for adoption to the standardization organizations. The voting countries (and standardization organizations) of the region are: Egypt (EOS), Iraq (COSQC), Iran (ISIRI), Sudan (SSMO) and Turkey (TSE). The observer countries having the possibility to send comments are: Lebanon (LIBNOR), Oman (DGSM), Saudi Arabia (SASO), Syria (SASMO) and Qatar (QS). Their comments are requested by May 2016 for a potential adoption in July 2016. This technical specification might respond to the raising attention of the multinational food companies for AW (private standards).

Alistair Findlay presented the activities of World Animal Protection (WAP) regarding the stray Dog Population Management (DPM) based on the OIE standard (article 7.7 of the TAHC). He promoted the International Companion Animal Management coalition (ICAM) and its 'Humane dog population management guide' used by WAP for DPM (5 step process, 8 components). In ME, WAP has developed the DPM program in UAE, is currently part of a national WG in Lebanon and expects to intervene in Palestine. He announced that WAP will provide e-trainings on DPM as of July 2016 which will include the presentation of the OIE standard, the ICAM methodology and tools and courses on catching, surgical sterilization/healthcare, and transportation of dogs. He highlighted critical aspects for DPM such as the adoption of an AW legislation (cf. the Model AW Act available on www.worldanimal.net), the availability of resources, the knowledge of the dynamic of population, the identification and registration of dogs, the availability of holding facilities, the control of food waste... Finally he advised building pilot DPM programmes (start small/scale-up) and reminded that the killing of dogs (poison, gunshot) use as a sole method is not efficient nor cost-effective as demonstrated by many available case studies. Leopoldo Stuardo reminded that methods of euthanasia are listed in the article 7.7 of the TAHC.

Paolo Dalla Villa (IZSAM Teramo/OIE collaborating center on AW) presented the OIE work on disaster management and risk reduction in relation to animal health and welfare and veterinary public health. A retrospective study made in Europe on Animal Health and Welfare on disaster and bioterrorism management (mainly floods) had demonstrated the critical role of the NGOs and a large incorporation of the VS into recent disaster responses. However, even if this response was considered 'good', there was a weak incorporation of the VS into national and regional preparedness and response networks which limited the coordination between the VS and the Competent Authorities. The need for dedicated guidelines and standards led the OIE to set up a AHG which analyzed the lessons learned (planning, training, equipping, exercising, be organized and flexible) at each phase of the disaster management cycle (response, recovery/build back better approach, mitigation/prevention, preparedness / contingency planning). In this domain, preparedness and coordination is key and "the value of planning decreases with the complexity of the facts". Yemen and Iraq invited the AHG to consider the consequences of armed conflicts which induce lack of resources, difficulties of access to the animals, and deficient vaccination (production included) and health care. They added that in this context, the

impact of the NGOs is insufficient and support must be provided to the Veterinary Authorities. Dr Villa indicated that the guidelines were also addressing non-natural/manmade disaster).

Karen Reed (from The Brooke) presented the new OIE standard on the welfare of working equids which will be put forward for approval at OIE GA in May 2016. 113 M equids live worldwide, certainly under estimated (58 M horses, 11 M mules and 43 M donkeys, 95% of donkeys living in lower/middle income countries). Welfare issues include wounds, feeding practices and diseases. The standard sets responsibilities, measurable criteria and recommendations with a list of relevant measurable outcomes. For its implementation, capacity building methods and resources are available at The Brooke. NB: 'the working equid veterinary manual' will be available online (in English) by 2016 as well as e-learning. Translation in Arabic is foreseen. Afghanistan and Iraq highlighted the difficulties of implementing the standard when owners lack resources to compensate the veterinarians and/or barely if never consult the veterinary services or private vets. Karen Reed reminded that the role of The Brooke is educational.

Paolo Dalla Villa presented the activities of IZSAM Teramo / OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Center which (i) provides AW technical assistance and supports projects, primarily at national and European levels², (ii) organizes trainings in its facilities³, (iii) proposes e-learning (on AW at slaughter...) and (iv) and contributes to the www.carodog.eu dedicated to the responsible ownership of dogs. Dr Villa mentioned that an article on AW on 'Disaster Management: from theory to practice' will be published in the next bulletin of the Journal of IZS Teramo (in English).

Hassan Aidaros, presented the draft Action Plan 2016-19 of the ME RAW Strategy 2014-16 based on 3 priorities (Transport by land; transport by sea; Stray dog control management) and 8 activities. The following proposals were made during the discussion:

- Adding 'AW at slaughter' as a fourth regional priority (chapter 7.5 Of the Terrestrial Code),
- Using (social) media for raising public and stakeholders' awareness on AW,
- Establishing Public Private Partnerships to implement specific AW actions,
- Using complete projects cycle for AW actions: gap analysis, planning, implementation, evaluation, review;
- Organizing the workshop on stray dog management before the awareness campaign for dog ownership;
- Including WAP, MLA and donors as permanent members of the Coordination Group, other stakeholders being potential invited observers.

A final questionnaire was distributed in order to assess the training seminar.

Commentaires / Comments

The absence of 8/20 NFP can be significative of the lack of priority in the region for AW challenges.

However, the seminar was very interactive and participants were keen to contribute to the consolidation of the Regional Action Plan.

NB: the Action Plan was developed thanks to the model and experience of the European platform on AW.

Personnalité(s) rencontrée(s) et sujet des entretiens / Key person(s) met and subjects of discussion

- IZSAM Teramo/OIE CC on AW: Paolo Dalla Villa
- IRTA: Antonio Velarde
- WAP: Alistair Findley
- The Brooke: Karen Reed

² Member of the EU platform on AW; contribution to TAIEX, task force for emergency management AW assessment protocols; transport guides project (WG of national stakeholders to develop species specific guidelines); use of animal based measures for the assessment of dairy cow welfare; effect of on-farm and pre-slaughtering stress on biological contamination of poultry meat; AW standards in dog shelters and the role of stray dogs in transmission of zoonotic diseases (Welfare assessment protocol for shelter dogs); welfare of pets involved in commercial practices; dogs and cats traceability systems.

³ EU 'Better Training for Safer Food' on quality transport and control post; AW in killing for disease control; AW during transport.

- MLA: Joffrid Mackett
- EU/DG Santé: Moritz Klemm.
- Italian CVO

Suites à donner / Follow-up

- **Regional Action Plan:** Comments on the draft Action Plan 2016-19 for the ME RAWs 2014-19 were requested before the 21 April 2016. A final draft will be submitted for adoption during the next meeting of the ME Regional Commission for ME to be held in Paris on 23 May 2016, and then to the endorsement of the AW AHG on 30 May 2016. Next step will consist, during the beginning of the second semester 2016 to;
 - Estimate the cost of the activities;
 - Edit an advocacy document and lobby to embark donors and stakeholders in the regional activities.
- Regarding the translation in Arabic, The Brooke might contact the RR ME for translating the 'the working equid veterinary manual' if the standard on working equids is adopted in May 2016.

Documents joints / Enclosed documents

- Agenda
- List of participants

Diffusion : Directrice générale, Directeurs généraux adjoints, Coordonnateur du Fonds mondial, Chefs de service et adjoints, Représentants régionaux et sous-régionaux, SALP (Chef du Service, Adjointe en charge des publications, Secrétaire, Documentaliste).