

# Workshop for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare

Beirut, Lebanon,

23 – 25 November 2010

## Report



**Regional Representation  
For the Middle East**

## Proceedings of the Workshop

During the 76th OIE General Session in May 2008, the International Committee of the OIE reiterated the importance of the Focal Points for animal diseases notification and requested Delegates to nominate additional Focal Points for: wildlife, veterinary products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animals.

OIE Focal Points, nominated by OIE Delegates and acting under their supervision, are an important mechanism for countries to satisfy to their OIE obligations and to strengthen communication and collaboration with the OIE.

In the global programme of OIE Focal Points' training, the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East (RR-ME) organized a specific training for OIE Focal Points on Animal Welfare in Beirut, Lebanon, from 23 to 25 November 2010.

The main purpose of this workshop was to increase the understanding of the OIE's roles and mandates. This training workshop aimed also to support the activities of the OIE Animal Welfare Focal Points by giving them guidance to follow and implement their Terms of References.

This training was hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) of Lebanon and the Minister itself, His Excellency Dr H. Hajj Hassan, inaugurated it.

OIE Focal Points on Animal Welfare from the following 10 countries attended this workshop: Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, KSA, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, UAE and Yemen.



The MoA of Lebanon also invited some observers from Veterinary Associations and national NGOs. A total of 44 persons attended this workshop.

*Group photo of attendees*

Facilitated by English – Arabic simultaneous interpretation, discussions were very active and fruitful during this training.

Sightseeing was organized at the end of the meeting with the visit of the Jeita Grotto and Harissa (Notre Dame du Liban) and dinners took place in the touristic area of Beirut and Broumana.

All the Power Point™ presentations made during this workshop are available at the following address: <http://www.rr-middleeast.oie.int/viewpage.asp?ID=624>

## The Inauguration Ceremony

The workshop was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr H. Hajj Hassan, Minister of Agriculture of Lebanon. He welcomed all the participants of the workshop and said that it was a pleasure for Lebanon to host such a meeting. He mentioned that his Ministry is involved in a large programme to renew the legislation and that OIE guidelines on Animal Welfare will be followed and integrated when relevant in the new legislation. He also expressed his gratitude to the OIE for the strong support and assistance provided to the VS of Lebanon. He wished all participants a very good stay in Beirut and a very profitable workshop.



*H. E. Dr H. Hajj Hassan  
Minister of Agriculture – Lebanon surrounded by Dr  
Nabih Gaouche, CVO Lebanon and Dr Ghazi Yehia OIE  
Regional Representative*

Dr Nabih Gaouche, Director of Animal Resources of the MoA and OIE Delegate of Lebanon, welcomed all the attendees and wished them an enjoyable stay in Beirut. He mentioned that animal welfare is not a topic taken into consideration by most of veterinary services of this region, while it is an important issue. He noted that legislative arsenal is weak in this domain, particularly in Lebanon. He informed also the audience that the MoA started an

important programme to review and update its legislation with the support of the OIE and strong consultation of relevant stakeholders. In the domain of

animal welfare a strong collaboration was established with a Lebanese NGO, Animals Lebanon, with very good results and a draft will be soon proposed for approval.

Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, welcomed also all the participant in Lebanon, where the Regional Representation is based since 1998. He thanked them also for their commitment to participate in this meeting and hoped it will be a turning point in the improvement of animal welfare in the Middle East. He reminded the audience the place animals took in the Middle Eastern societies since ancient times. He expressed that the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East will spare no efforts to encourage and assist countries in the region to implement OIE standards on animal welfare. He wished to all participants a very good stay in Beirut and productive work.



*Facing the press*

## The Training of Focal Points on Animal Welfare

The training was facilitated by Dr Hassan Aidaros, Member of the OIE working group on animal welfare, Dr Ghazi Yehia, OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, Dr Mariela Varas, from the OIE International Trade Department in Paris, and Dr Pierre Primot, from the OIE Regional Representation of Beirut.

The first day was dedicated to clarify the role of the OIE and its action in animal welfare. Sessions were chaired respectively by Dr George Khoury, former CVO and OIE Delegate from Syria, and Dr Hassan Aidaros.

After providing general information on the OIE (role, objectives, mandates, structure (at global and regional levels) and management), they described and explained the work of each of the OIE Focal Points, assisting the Delegate in their relevant domain of competencies. A specific focus was made on the Terms of Reference of the OIE Focal Point on Animal Welfare, underlining the needs of national networking and discussion with relevant stakeholders.



It was also the opportunity to present the OIE Regional Representation project to create in this region a relevant and active network of OIE Focal Points. Dedicated pages were created in the OIE regional website to place all documents of regional importance.

*Focal Points listening during sessions*

To this end, Focal Points were invited to send regularly to the OIE Regional Representation updated information on this specific topic.

Facilitators outlined the role and work of the OIE working group on animal welfare, and detailed the relevant OIE guidelines on animal welfare (section 7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code), namely slaughter of animals, killing of animals for disease control purposes, transport of livestock, stray dog population control and laboratory animals.

Some important concepts, such as the Good Governance of Veterinary Services and the concept of Global Public Good, to qualify the work of Veterinary Services worldwide, were underlined with a focus on OIE actions in such areas through the OIE PVS Tool. This Tool was elaborated for the assessment of Veterinary Services through a standardized and recognized procedure in order to identify areas for improvement and additional expertise to enhance the quality of Veterinary Services, in compliance with the OIE Standards, such as the Gap Analysis, the PVS Follow-Up and the Legislation expertise.

The second day was focused on regional specificities and experiences, strategies implemented in other part of the world and work of NGOs. Sessions were chaired respectively by Dr Yehia and Dr Gaouche.

Sheikh Amin Kurdi, secretary of Fatwa in Lebanon, exposed the vision of religious Authorities on the halal slaughtering of animals. This presentation was followed by an active and intense discussion. All participants agreed on the necessity to harmonized practices throughout the region, notably by improving skills and knowledge of slaughterhouse' workers and to tackle

important issues such as traditional practices of slaughtering animals in the street without any hygiene.



Dr Saeb N. El-Sukon from the Jordan University of Science and Technology and Member of the OIE Ad Hoc Group on Veterinary Education, exposed how the concept of animal welfare is implemented in the veterinary education in the Middle East. He underlined that, as this concept is very new in the region, little information is available and that animal welfare is not perceived as a full subject but taught within others subjects such as animal husbandry and production. He exposed also guidelines set up in his University by a relevant group of experts to the use of animal in research and education. Those guidelines could be shared and used within the region.

Dr Mariela Varas presented also the regional animal welfare strategy implemented in the Asia, Far East and Pacific region. Such a model could be adapted in the Middle East according to regional specificities.

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*Dr Saeb El Sukon, from the OIE Ad Hoc group on Education and  
Dr Ghazi Yehia OIE Regional Representative*

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Dr David Wilkins, Chief Veterinary adviser of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and Mrs Lana Basha, Chairwoman of Animals Lebanon, presented the work of their respective organisation providing clear overview of actions implemented.

Mrs Thouweiba Mohama Ahli, Acting Director of Animal Wealth Development Department from UAE exposed the condition of animal transport applied in her country, underlining that countries from the Gulf Cooperation Council cooperate actively in terms of laws and regulation process. A draft is in the pipeline on animal welfare and will be presented during the next meeting of GCC CVOs in January.

Dr Hassan Aidaros explained the conditions implemented in Egypt to control stray dogs' populations. This presentation was followed by a large and constructive discussion on this subject particularly on the recognized means to kill animals, neutralization programmes, management of garbage, free roaming population census, awareness programmes and rabies control.

Dr Jean Paul Girot, Chairman of Livestock Risk Management Services in Dubai (UAE), exposed the equestrian code of conduct as set up by the *Federation Equestre Internationale* (FEI).

Concluding the day, Dr Pierre Primot exposed the result of the preliminary questionnaire sent to each OIE Focal Point before this workshop. The purpose of this questionnaire was to obtain current information regarding the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards, including the difficulties faced by regional Members, with a view to provide assistance within the OIE mandate. An analysis of the results is annexed to the present report (Annex 3).

The main conclusions of this analysis are that:

- The transport of animals and the control of stray dog population are underlined as the main issues in this region;
- Countries are fully aware that the implementation of OIE guidelines on animal welfare at regional level needs continuous efforts to strengthen Veterinary Services, to update and adapt the current legislative framework, to improve skills and knowledge

of concerned staffs and professionals and to develop relevant communication mechanisms.

The third day was dedicated to a forum of discussion resuming all the different subjects discussed during the previous sessions, which are summarized below:

- In Arabic, there are several terms for translating "Animal Welfare". Participants agreed to use now: الرفق بالحيوان
- 3 main problems common in the entire region could be a good start to establish the basis of a regional strategy: the control of stray dogs' populations, the movement and transport of animals and the slaughter of animals.
- Harmonized tools should be developed such as legislation and regulation, procedures, sanitary certification for import purposes, education, training, awareness programmes.
- Focal points proposed the creation of a dedicated working group to set up the roadmap of a relevant regional strategy to improve the implementation of OIE standards on animal welfare in the countries of this region. A proposal will be presented to the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East for approval during its next meeting, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May in Paris, France. This proposal will be written by the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East with the collaboration of Dr Lora Sawalha (Jordan), Maggie Shaarawi (Animals Lebanon) and Dr Hassan Aidaros (OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare).
- It was also highlighted that the first step to implement a regional strategy goes by the application of OIE Focal Points Terms of Reference, particularly those on establishment or consolidation of national networks on animal welfare.



*After work.....*

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## Conclusions

This workshop for OIE Focal Points on Animal Welfare is part of the OIE global programme, providing information and training to each nominated Focal Point in order to improve collaboration and communication of each country with the OIE.

The main purpose of this workshop was to increase the understanding of the OIE's roles and mandates and to support the activities of the OIE Focal Points on Animal Welfare by giving them guidance to follow and implement their Terms of References.

The proposal to build a network of regional OIE Focal Points on Animal Welfare would provide a good start in improving collaboration and exchange of information between all regional countries, playing a large part in improving knowledge with respect to standards. Participants supported the idea to build such a network at the regional level in order to discuss particular issues they are facing.

Participants expressed also their wishes to benefit from regular follow-up workshops on this topic.

The main areas of improvement, as underlined by the results of the preliminary questionnaire and by discussion occurred during this training, are the transport and slaughter of animals and the control of stray dog population. Both could be a good start for the establishment of a regional animal welfare strategy because every country is facing such a situation and both are of regional concern. To this end a proposal will be made to the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East.

Countries are also fully aware that the implementation of OIE guidelines on animal welfare at regional level needs continuous efforts to strengthen Veterinary Services, to update and adapt the current legislative framework, to improve skills and knowledge of concerned staffs and professionals and to develop relevant communication mechanisms.

In such a context, Members are encouraged to follow the OIE strategy to strengthen Veterinary Services using the OIE – PVS pathway.

## Annexes

1. Agenda
2. Terms of References of the workshop
3. Results of the questionnaire on the implementation of animal welfare standards
4. List of participants

# Annex 1: Agenda



**Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare  
Beirut Lebanon 23-25 November 2010  
Hotel "Coral Suites"**

**Day-1: Tuesday 23 November 2010**

| <b>Time</b>          | <b>Theme</b>   |  |
|----------------------|--|--|
| <b>08:00–09:00</b>   | Registration of participants<br>Inauguration and Opening   |  |
| <b>09:00–09:30</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Representative from the Ministry</li> <li>– OIE Delegate Lebanon</li> <li>– OIE Regional Representative, Dr Yehia</li> </ul>                                  |  |
| <b>9:30–10:00</b>    | Morning break – Coffee/Tea   |  |
| <b>Session 1</b>     | <b>The OIE and its programmes in Animal Welfare - Chairman Dr George Khoury</b>  |  |
| <b>10:00–10:30</b>   | General presentation on the OIE  | Dr Ghazi Yehia<br>OIE Regional Representative        |
| <b>10:30–11:00</b>   | Good governance and the evaluation of Veterinary Services (OIE-PVS tool / PVS gap analysis)  | Dr Primot<br>OIE Regional Representation             |
| <b>11:00–11:30</b>   | Activities of the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare  | Dr. Aidaros<br>(OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare) |
| <b>11:30–11:45</b>   | Responsibilities of the OIE Animal Welfare Focal Point   |  |
| <b>11:45–12:30</b>   | Discussion   |  |
| <b>12:30 - 14:00</b> | Lunch  |  |
| <b>Session 2</b>     | <b>OIE Standards and regional specificities - Chairman Dr Mustapha Mestom</b>  |  |
| <b>14:00 -14:30</b>  | Halal slaughtering   | Sheikh Ussama Hadad                                  |
| <b>14:30- 15:00</b>  | International trade: Rights and obligations of OIE Members   | Dr Varas<br>OIE International Trade Department       |
| <b>15:00– 15:30</b>  | The OIE Animal Welfare Standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slaughter of animals</li> <li>• Killing of animals for disease control purposes</li> <li>• Transport of livestock</li> </ul> | Dr. Varas  |
| <b>16:30 - 16:00</b> | Afternoon Break Tea/Coffee   |  |
| <b>16:00–16:30</b>   | The OIE Animal Welfare Standards (cont) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stray dog population control</li> <li>• Laboratory animals</li> <li>• Future work</li> </ul>                          | Dr. Varas  |
| <b>16:30- 17:00</b>  | General Discussion   |  |
| <b>17:00</b>         | <b>End of day 1</b>  |  |
| <b>19:30</b>         | <b>OIE Reception – Downtown Beirut</b>   |  |

## Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare (contd)

### Day 2: 24 of November 2010

| Time             | Theme  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>Session 3</b> | <b>Animal Welfare regional strategies, education and work of NGOs - Dr Hassan Aidaros</b>  |  |
| 09:00–09:30      | OIE Regional AW Strategies - example of the RAWs for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (AFEO)   | Dr Varas   |
| 09:30 - 10:00    | Animal Welfare in Veterinary Schools in the Middle East  | Saeb N. El-Sukon Dean, Jordan University of Science and Technology (member of the OIE AHG on Veterinary Education) |
| 10.00 - 10:30    | Work of Non-Governmental Organisations in support of the implementation of the OIE Animal Welfare Standards  | David Wilkins<br>WSPA  |
| 10:30–11:00      | Morning Break Tea/Coffee   |  |
| <b>Session 4</b> | <b>Animal Welfare regional experiences (1) Dr Nabih Gaouche</b>  |  |
| 11:00–11:30      | Work of the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East Regional Animal Welfare strategies   | Dr Yehia   |
| 11:30–11:45      | Proposal for a regional Focal Point networking   | Dr Primot  |
| 11:45–12:30      | Implementation of the OIE standards in the countries of the Region<br>Practical Experience – Animal Welfare legislation model                        | Animals Lebanon  |
| 12:30–13:00      | General Discussion   |  |
| 13:00–14:00      | Lunch  |  |
| <b>Session 5</b> | <b>Animal Welfare regional experiences (2) - Dr Ghazi Yehia</b>  |  |
| 14:00–14:20      | Implementation of the OIE standards in the countries of the Region<br>Practical Experience – Transport of animals                                    | UAE  |
| 14:20–14:30      | Implementation of the OIE standards in the countries of the Region<br>Practical Experience – Killing Animals for Disease Control Purposes (glanders) | Dr Yehia   |
| 14:30- 15:00     | Implementation of the OIE standards in the countries of the Region:<br>Practical Experience – Stray Dog Population Control Measures in Egypt         | Dr Aidaros   |
| 15:00–15:30      | Animal Welfare – Equestrian code of conduct  | Dr Jean Paul Girot   |
| 15:30–15:45      | Analyse of questionnaire answers   | Dr Primot  |
| 15:45-16:00      | General Discussion   |  |
| 16:00            | <b>End of day 2</b>  |  |
| 20:00            | <b>Diner at La Paillotte - Zeitouneh</b>   |  |

## Workshop for OIE National Focal Points for Animal Welfare (contd)

### Day 3: Thursday, 25 of November 2010

| Time        | Theme  |   |
|-------------|--|---|
| 09:00– 9:15 | Working Group Session: How to develop and implement a Regional Strategy  | Dr Varas<br>Explain Working Group procedure               |
| 09:15–10:30 | 2 working groups   |   |
| 10:30–11:00 | Morning Break Tea/Coffee   |   |
| 11:00–12:15 | Working Group reports and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report of working groups (20 min each)</li><li>• General discussion (35 min)</li></ul> | Chair: Dr Aidaros<br>Facilitators: Dr Varas and Dr Primot |
| 12:15–12:45 | Conclusions of the meeting   |   |
| 12:45–13h15 | <b>Closing Ceremony – Certificates</b>   |   |
| 13:15       | <b>End of the meeting</b>  |   |
| 13:30       | <b>Lunch</b>   |   |

## Annex 2: Terms of References of the training workshop



## **Training workshop for OIE national focal points on 'Animal welfare'**

**Beirut Lebanon 23-25 November 2010**

### **Background**

Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted public policy issue that includes important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions. Because of its growing importance in society, animal welfare must today be addressed in a scientifically credible manner. Due to the multi-faceted nature of the topic, it is essential to include all stakeholders in deliberations, to ensure cultural and religious sensibilities are addressed, as well as the economic issues. A science-based approach to animal welfare particularly oriented to animals in agriculture and aquaculture is essential to preserve its value and credibility.

Animal welfare was first identified as a priority in the OIE Strategic Plan 2001-2005. OIE Member Countries and Territories mandated the organization to take the lead internationally on animal welfare and, as the international reference organization for animal health, to elaborate recommendations and guidelines covering animal welfare practices, reaffirming that animal health is a key component of animal welfare.

The OIE convened a First Global Conference on Animal Welfare in February 2004. As well as the Veterinary Services in OIE Member Countries and Territories, the Conference targeted livestock producers and actors in the meat sector, veterinary practitioners and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working in animal welfare. The main objective of the Conference was to raise awareness of, and to explain, the OIE's animal welfare initiative.

Since May 2005, the World Assembly of OIE Delegates (representing the 177 Member Countries and Territories) has adopted seven animal welfare standards in the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and two animal welfare standards in the OIE *Aquatic Code*. These standards cover:

- The transport of animals by land
- The transport of animals by sea
- The transport of animals by air
- The slaughter of animals for human consumption
- The killing of animals for disease control purposes
- The control of stray dog populations.
- The use of animals in research and education



- The welfare of farmed fish during transport
- Welfare aspects of stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption

These standards are regularly updated to take account of latest scientific findings.

The recently adopted chapter on the Control of Stray Dog Population falls within the OIE mandates for animal health, public health and animal welfare, as it addresses humane methods for the control of dog populations and the prevention of important zoonotic diseases, such as rabies and hydatidosis, in communities.

The 2nd OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare entitled "Putting the OIE Standards to Work" was held in October 2008 in Cairo (Egypt). More than 400 participants, who came from all OIE regions and from all relevant sectors, including government, industry, academia, research and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), strongly endorsed the fundamental importance of the active involvement of Veterinary Services and veterinarians for improving animal welfare. The most important outcome of the conference was the identification of key needs and tools to help OIE Members to strengthen their capacities, including good governance and relevant infrastructure, to implement the OIE standards.

Notwithstanding the progress made to date, there are still many challenges and the OIE is continuing with the development of standards and recommendations in new areas of importance to animal welfare.

In 2009-2010 the OIE is convening an *ad hoc* Group on Laboratory Animal Welfare and two *ad hoc* Groups on Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems, with the first priorities being beef cattle and broiler chicken production systems. These *ad hoc* Groups develop draft new chapters for the *Terrestrial Code*. The draft texts are reviewed by the OIE's permanent Animal Welfare Working Group and the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Code Commission (Code Commission) before transmission to Members for comment. After two rounds of comment, the draft chapters may be proposed for adoption, in accordance with the democratic and transparent standard setting procedures of the OIE.

## **Terms of reference for OIE National focal points on 'Animal welfare'**

During the 76th General Session in May 2008 the importance of the focal point for information on animal diseases was re-iterated and Delegates were also requested to nominate additional focal points for wildlife, veterinary products, animal production food safety, animal welfare and aquatic animals.

As detailed in the final report of the 76th OIE General Session in May 2008, the responsibilities of the focal points are under the authority of the OIE Delegate. Any information transmitted to the OIE from the different focal points needs to be transmitted under the designated authority of the OIE Delegate. This practice would equally apply, if focal points are



located in other Departments or Ministries not under jurisdiction of the Veterinary Authority, as from a legal perspective, the OIE considers the official OIE Delegate, to be the unique representative of the country.

The responsibilities of the national OIE focal points for animal welfare are:

- to establish a network of animal welfare experts within the country or to communicate with the existing network;
- to establish and maintain a dialogue with the Competent Authority for animal welfare in the country and to facilitate cooperation and communication among several authorities where responsibility is shared;
- to receive from the OIE Headquarters copies of the reports of the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (Code Commission), including reports of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and other relevant reports;
- to conduct the in-country consultation process with recognized animal welfare experts on draft texts proposed in those reports as well as draft standards proposed by the Code Commission when dealing with animal welfare; and
- to prepare comments for the Delegate on each of the relevant meeting reports reflecting the scientific view and position of the individual OIE Member Country or Territory and/or the region, notably on proposals for new or revised OIE standards related to animal welfare.

## **Objectives of the training workshop**

This training workshop, aims to support the activities of the OIE animal welfare focal points by giving them:

- general knowledge on the OIE and the role of focal points within the OIE framework
- basic scientific knowledge on animal welfare
- an update on the progress of the OIE work program on animal welfare
- an appreciation of the growing importance of animal welfare for society and trade
- guidance on establishing networks between OIE national focal points and key contacts/ stakeholders in the region.

This training workshop will be held in Beirut, Lebanon, from 23 to 25 November 2010. The OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East team is preparing the logistic of the event.



## Annex 3: Results of the questionnaire on implementation of OIE Animal Welfare Standards





## Workshop for OIE National Focal Points on Animal Welfare Beirut, LEBANON, 23-25 November 2010

### RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

The purpose of this questionnaire was to obtain current information regarding the implementation of the OIE animal welfare standards, including the difficulties faced by regional Members, with a view to provide assistance within the OIE mandate.

12 countries answered the questionnaire namely Afghanistan, Cyprus, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, KSA, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Syria, UAE and Yemen.

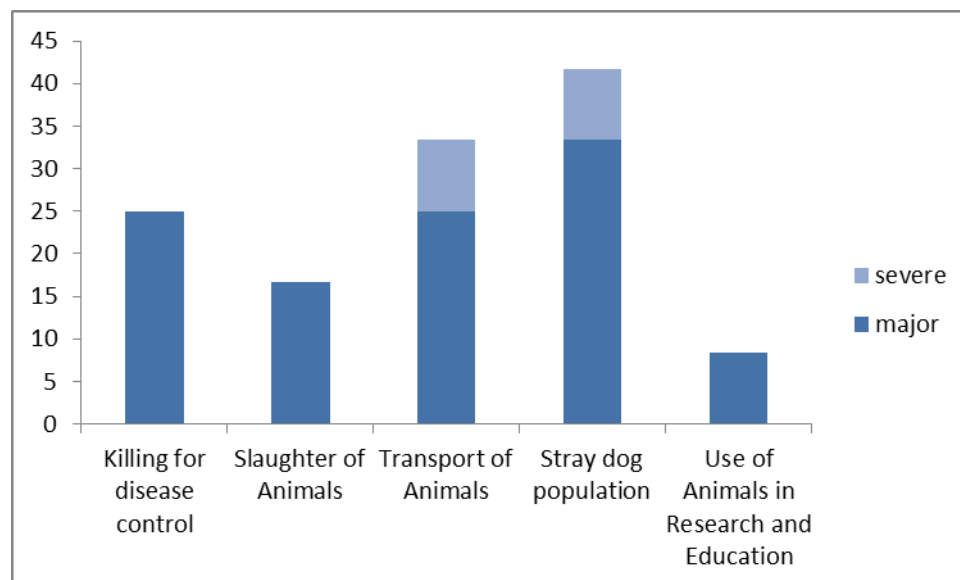
#### 1- MAJOR WELFARE PROBLEMS, NEEDS OR TOOLS

##### 1.1. major animal welfare problems likely to occur in the region

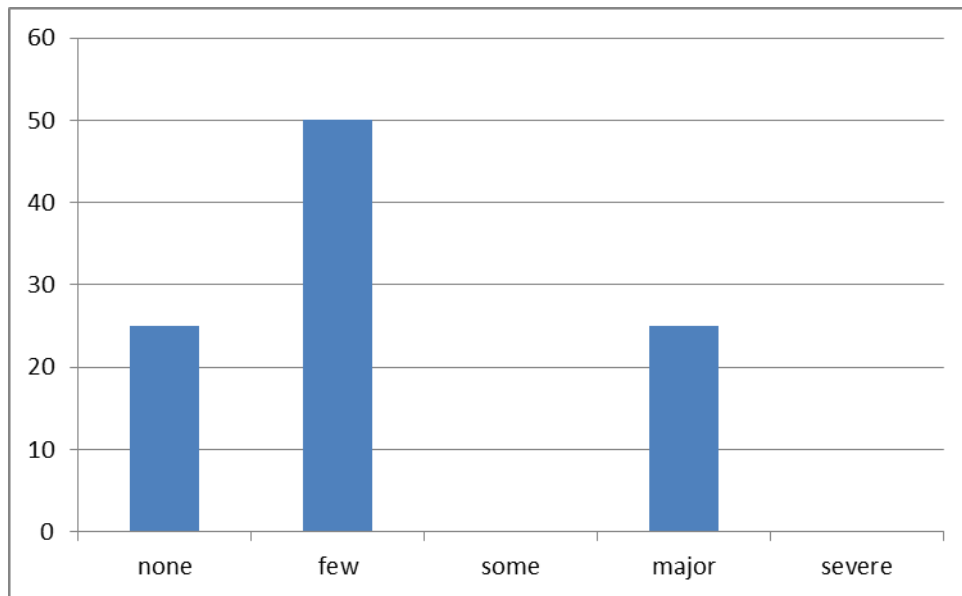
Countries were invited to exposed problems they have in implementing OIE guidelines on animal welfare (killing for disease control, slaughter of animals, transport of animals, stray dog population and use of animals in research and education).

As shows in the graph 1, transport of animals and the control of stray dog population are perceived as the main problems they have to deal with in this region.

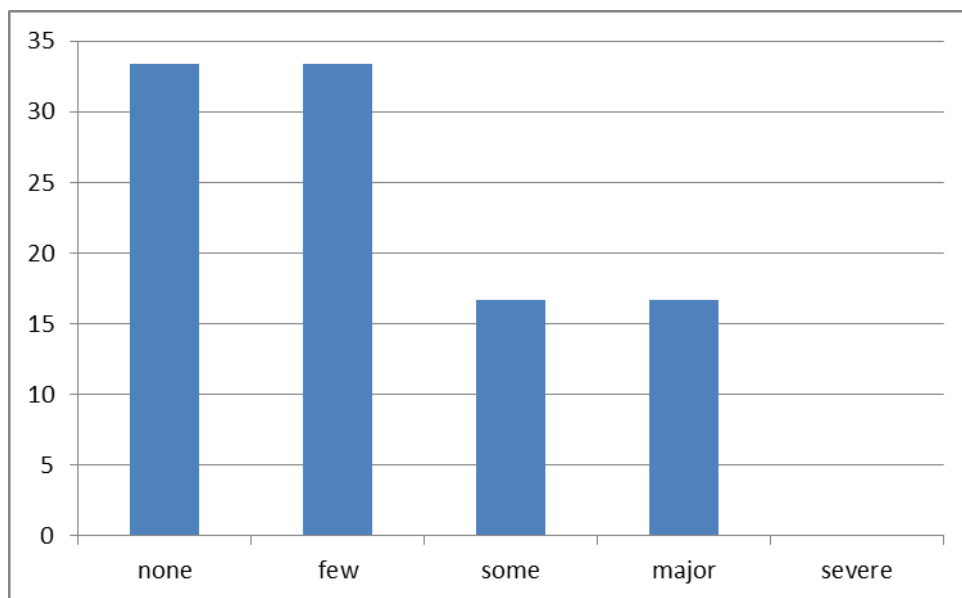
Graphs 2 to 6 detail countries' answers on each specific topic of OIE guidelines on Animal Welfare.



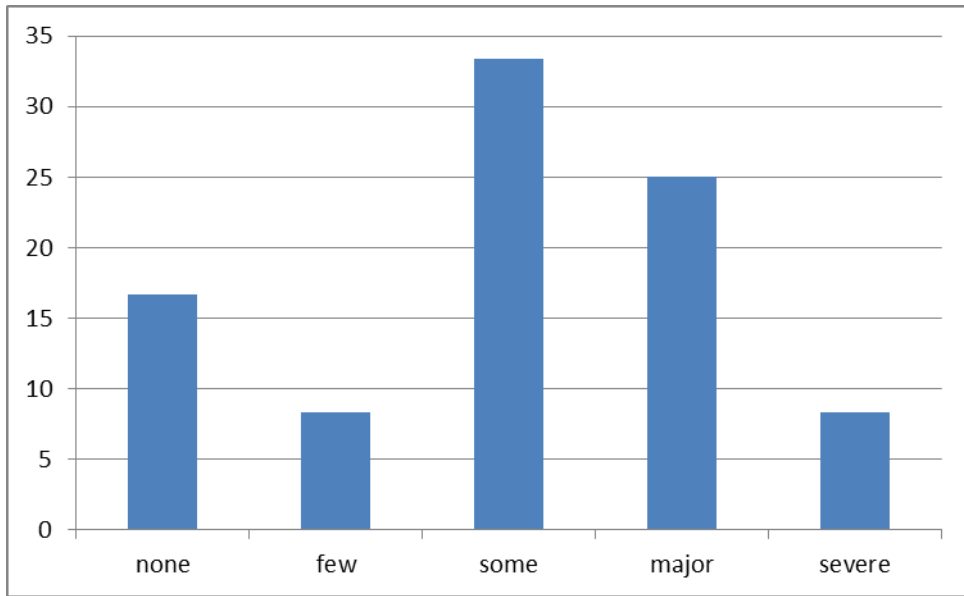
*Graph 1: major and severe problems faced by regional countries in implementing OIE Guidelines on Animal Welfare*



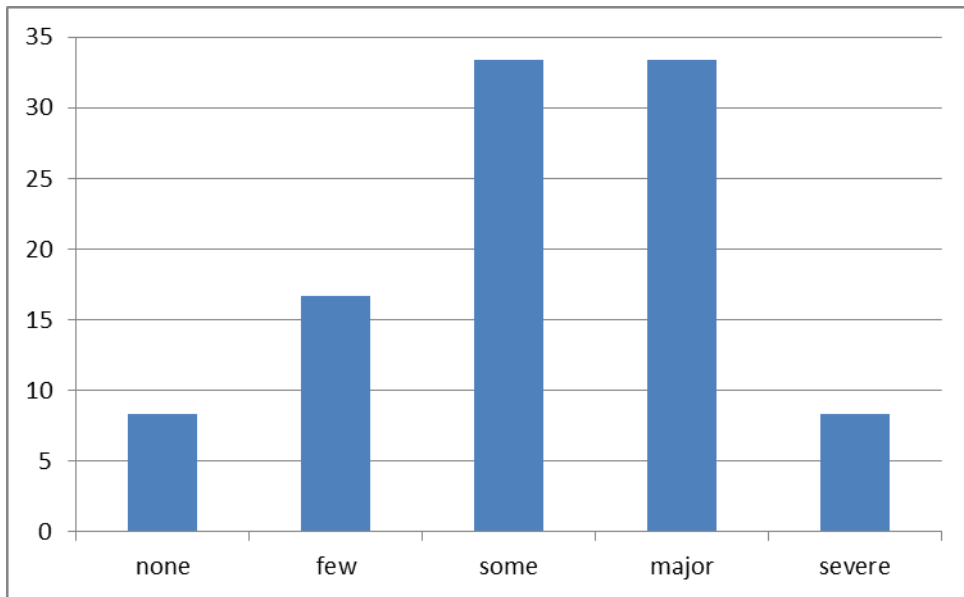
*Graph 2: Problems faced by country for the implementation of OIE guidelines for the killing of animals for disease control*



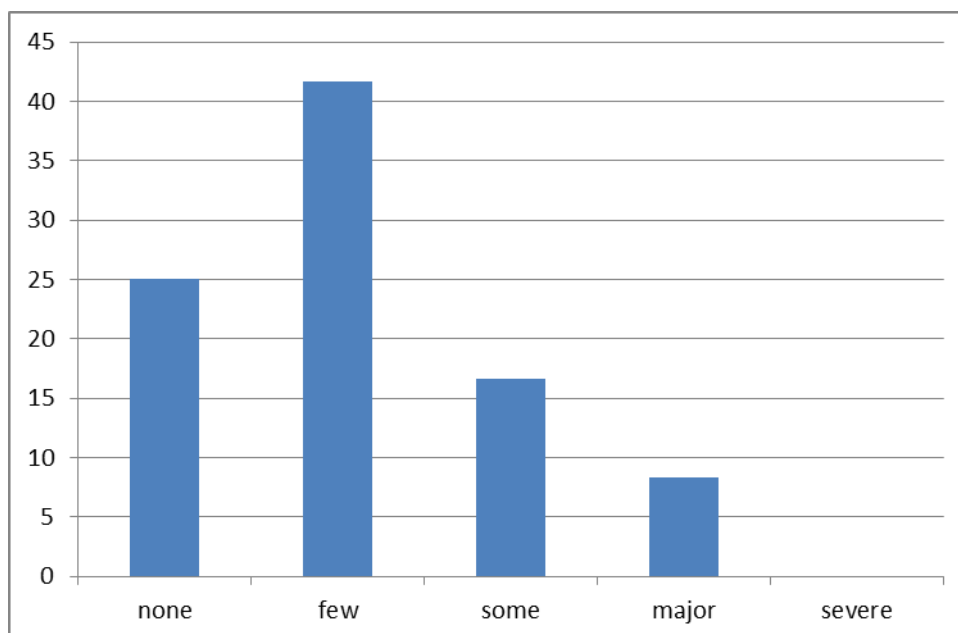
*Graph 3: Problems faced by country for the implementation of OIE guidelines for animal slaughter*



*Graph 4: Problems faced by country for the implementation of OIE guidelines for transport of animals*



*Graph 5: Problems faced by country for the implementation of OIE guidelines for stray dog population control*



*Graph 6: Problems faced by country for the implementation of OIE guidelines for animals in research and education*

Comments:

Rabies is a severe issue in the Middle East, with human cases regularly reported. Bites, dog attacks and rabies are the main problems associated with free-roaming dogs.

The Middle East is also characterized by large movement of animals particularly during Muslim events, such as Hajj and Ramadan. Huge numbers of ruminants are imported every year by Middle East countries, most of them by sea transport and animal handling at the disembarkation point is an important issue. In the entire region also animal transport by road is poorly control.

Countries mentioned also that they have few or none programme in place of killing animals for disease control. This weak experience in this domain explains probably the level of their answers (75 % of countries reported none or few problems in implementing OIE guidelines for the killing of animals for disease control).

In the same line, very few programmes are also conducted by the Veterinary Services to control the use of animals in research and education.

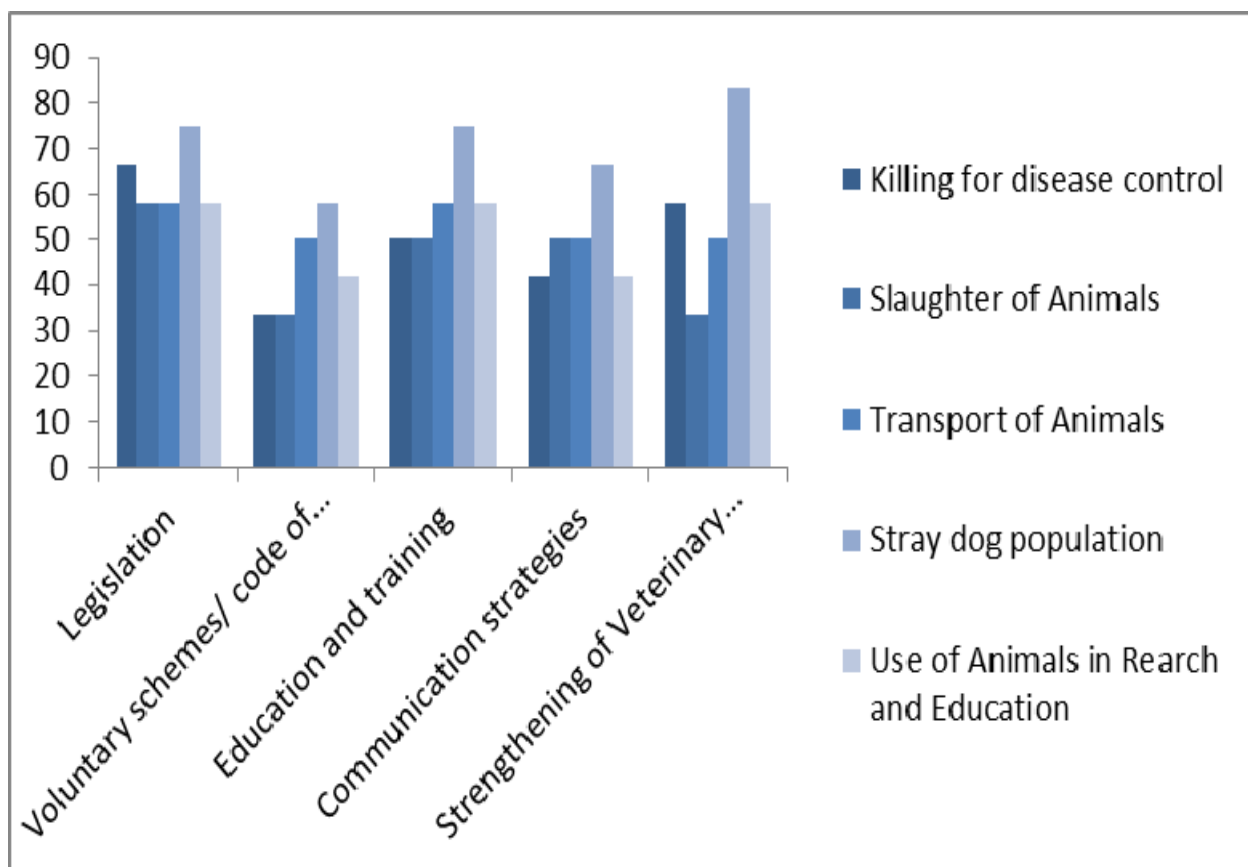
Some countries mentioned also that in some areas animals are used for transport and plough. This could represent an issue in terms of animal welfare all the more since they are used in remote areas by farmers with poor skill or knowledge in animal welfare.

It was also highlighted that insufficient awareness of workers, absence of regulations and the insufficient funds dedicate to the care of animals put a brake on the implementation of OIE guidelines on animal welfare in this region.

## 1.2 Relevant tools helping to resolve these problems

In this questionnaire, 5 proposals of tools to resolve problems, faced by regional Members to implement OIE guidelines on animal welfare, were made: legislation, voluntary schemes or code of practice, education and training, communication strategies and strengthening of Veterinary Services. Every country was also free to suggest other tools.

As showed by the graph 7, countries agreed that the improvement of all these different parts is important to make progress in implementing OIE animal welfare guidelines.



*Graph 7: proposed Tools to improve the situation*

This is particularly true for the improvement of countries legislation and for the strengthening of Veterinary Services. This is completely in line with the OIE strategy to improve the quality of Veterinary Services worldwide and its dedicated programme, the OIE-PVS pathway.

Based on a preliminary standardized assessment of the situation of the Veterinary Services of a given country, this programme offers different specialized tools to improve the quality of the Veterinary Services, namely the Gap Analysis (participative study aiming to establish a strategic plan), the Legislation assistance (specific assistance by OIE expert on country's legislation), the PVS Follow up (evaluation of progress achieved by the Veterinary Services after a certain period of time).

Education and communication strategies are also perceived as important tools to improve animal welfare in this region.

Countries mentioned also the need to share experiences at regional level and to establish strong networking throughout the region to well implement OIE guidelines on animal welfare, taking into account regional specificities.

A proposal was made for implementing an action plan to control stray dog populations in the Middle East.

## **2. FUTURE ACTIVITIES PROPOSED TO THE OIE**

Countries were also invited to propose additional areas that, in their own perspective, should be undertaken by the OIE in the field of animal welfare.

Most of the proposals concerned staff training and skill improvement not only in this specific topic but also in some horizontal competencies, such as awareness and communication.

Some countries would like for establishing recommendations and guidelines for animal production food safety and another one related to wild captive and circus animals.

## **CONCLUSION**

Even if this questionnaire was very simple and basic, it gave a clear overview of the situation faced by the Middle Eastern countries for the implementation of the OIE guidelines on animal welfare.

The transport of animals and the control of stray dog population are underlined as the main issues in this region. Both could be a good start for the establishment of a regional animal welfare strategy because every country is facing such a situation and both are of regional concern.

Countries are fully aware that the implementation of OIE guidelines on animal welfare at regional level needs continuous efforts to strengthen Veterinary Services, to update and adapt the current legislative framework, to improve skills and knowledge of concerned staffs and professionals and to develop relevant communication mechanisms.

In such a context, Members are encouraged to follow the OIE strategy to strengthen Veterinary Services using the OIE – PVS pathway.

## Annex 4: List of participants



**WORKSHOP FOR OIE NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE  
BEIRUT, LEBANON, 23-25 NOVEMBER 2010**

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