Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

OIE Twining Project on Animal Welfare in Tunisia and North Africa.

Pr. Ouajdi Souilem, ENMV Sidi Thabet Tunisia
BiotechPole (CEO)
8 November 2023, Tunis
The three-year twinning project intends to focus on the Section 7 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and - in particular - on the slaughter of animals, killing of animals for disease control purposes, animal transport by land, and stray dog population control.
Intended outcome, objectives

• Technical knowledge and skills of ENMV staff, DGSV staff and delegates from UMA countries (Algeria, Morocco, Lybia, Mauritania) will be improved.

• The improved competence of the staff will strongly support the development of new animal welfare legislation in Tunisia and strategic actions in the UMA Region.

• The staff will be trained on OIE animal welfare standards and they will acquire the capacity to implement them to improve animal welfare at farm level, during transport and slaughter, and within the context of stray dog population control programs.

• Networking in the UMA Region will be improved between ENMV and other organisations to provide and develop the appropriated expertise at regional level.
The Twinning Project

• So far only one WOAH twinning project on animal welfare has been carried out
• It was in South Africa in 2017-2018 with IZS Teramo being the Parent Institute
• The second one is now ongoing in Tunisia between

In tight collaboration with the Tunisian DGSV (General Directorate of Veterinary Services – Ministry of Agriculture)
Strategic objective of the Twinning between IZSAM and ENMV on animal welfare

*Improve the technical knowledge and skills of ENMV in the field of animal welfare, and support it in the process that will eventually lead to acquire the status of WOAH Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare for the North Africa Region*
The Twinning Project so far

Deep interaction between the two twinning teams:

• Kickoff meeting

• Preliminary assessment visit in Tunisia

• 1 Online course

• 4 in presence training courses in Italy

• 1 working group for updating legislation on Animal Welfare (in collaboration with EU Twinning)

• Online and in presence activities for the establishment of a permanent capacity building centre on animal welfare
Online course on animal welfare principles (November 2021)

With the collaboration of University of Pretoria (South Africa) and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden)
Preliminary assessment visit (May 2022)

One week in Tunisia spent by two experts from the parent institute to preliminary assess the existing situation in Tunisia and tailor-made organize next activities:

Meeting with ENMV and DGSV directors

Lecture to ENMV students
Preliminary assessment visit

Visits at farms (Mateur and CFPAB)

Visit at Tunis slaughterhouse
CFPAEB Sidi Thabet
CFPAEB Sidi Thabet
Preliminary assessment visit

La Marsa and Tunis dog sterilisation and vaccination centres

Working group on revision of AW legislation

Visit at CNVZ
Poster presentation at the 30th Conference of the WOAH Regional Commission for Europe (Catania, October 2022)
Training course on animal welfare during transport (Teramo-October 2022)
Training course on animal welfare during slaughtering (Teramo-November 2022).
Training course on depopulation for disease control (Teramo-September 2023)

With the collaboration of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Training course on dog population management (Part I: Italy) (Teramo-September 2023)
Just finished...

• Training course on dog population management (II part): the new WOAH standard and the current situation in Tunisia (9-13 October 2023)
Dog population management

Integrating dog population management for effective rabies control

Dog population management (DPM) is essential to achieve dog-mediated rabies elimination. This multi-faceted approach aims to enhance the health and welfare of dogs and mitigate the public health and safety issues that they can cause to society.

Over 700 million dogs worldwide are running truly

What makes an effective DPM programme?

In the framework of rabies control and elimination, it is imperative to ensure that a sufficient amount of dogs is vaccinated to obtain immunity at population level. To achieve this coverage, key measures include:

1. Vaccination:
   - Ensure mass vaccination coverage
   - Aim for 70% of the dog population in at-risk areas

2. Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return (CNVR):
   - Prevent birth of new unvaccinated dogs
   - Enhance dog welfare and life expectancy

3. Education & outreach:
   - Raise awareness about responsible dog ownership
   - Promote adherence to vaccination schedules

When applied, these measures can avoid

Towards the end of rabies

Investing time and resources in dog population management undeniably supports the end of rabies, by helping obtaining high vaccination coverage amongst the most susceptible to the transmission to humans. Around 58,000 fatalities could be avoided every year, and this approach is leading us towards our commercial goal of zero human rabies deaths by 2030.

Be a responsible dog owner, end rabies now!

Discover key steps for a safer, healthier world, where dogs and humans coexist harmoniously. Rabies, a deadly threat to both, can be curbed through responsible dog ownership.

Learn essential practices for a rabies-free future:

1. Protect your dog from disease:
   - Schedule annual check-ups and vaccinations
   - Keep rabies vaccination up-to-date

2. Ensure the dog’s ownership is clearly identified:
   - Tattoo or microchip your dog for easy identification
   - Register it on a central database if required by law

3. Prevent unwanted reproduction:
   - Spay or neuter your dog
   - If your dog goes to puppies, keep or get them adopted

4. Encourage positive behavioral traits:
   - Socialize and train your dog to reduce fear and aggression
   - Avoid waste disposal from your dog

5. Avail contact with local rabies control centers:
   - Supervise dogs out doors
   - Keep them away from wild life

Spreading the word, end rabies now.

World Organisation for Animal Health

www.woah.org/rabies

Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030

09/2023

World Organisation for Animal Health

www.woah.org/rabies

Global Strategic Plan to end human deaths from dog-mediated rabies by 2030

09/2023
Impact assessment

Three workshops/meetings will be held at ENMV to show the achievements by the Candidate Institute:

- A workshop to finalize a proposal for new legislation on AW in Tunisia
- A North African meeting to strengthen the network on AW
- A final meeting to resume the results

A final assessment report will be produced by the Parent Institute

Monitoring will be carried out on regular basis, to ensure that the project achieves its objectives in the set period
Training Center AW at ENMV (2024)

To promote the WOAH Standards on Animal Welfare

https://www.oie.int/infographic/StandardsAW/EN.jpg
AW is an integral part of VS activities in Tunisia (Hajer Kilani et al., DGSV)

In Veterinary Public Hygiene:

Communication and awareness of respect for animal welfare

- before slaughter (especially for the feast of the sacrifice of Aid el Idha)

- specific messages to avoid stressing the animal

Communication tools about the preparation of the animal of aid El Idha
Ouajdi Soulem: Impact de la crise Covid-19 sur le bien-être des animaux d'élevage en Tunisie

Congrès vétérinaire tunisien et bien-être animal

L’École nationale de médecine vétérinaire de Sidi Thabet en Tunisie, qui a fêté récemment son quarantième anniversaire, a tenu les 23 et 24 mars son premier congrès, en présence de personnalités nationales et étrangères.
Effects of livestock practices on animal wellbeing and milk quality in the holstein cow in tunisia

Effets des pratiques d’élevage sur le bien-être animal et la qualité du lait chez la vache Holstein en Tunisie

C. DAREJ¹, N. M’HAMDI¹, K. ATTIA¹, S. HAMZAOUI¹, H. M’HAMDI², K. MRABET³, R. BOURAOUI⁴

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²Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia (MARHP); CRDA of Ben Arous, Tunisia
³Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries, Tunisia (MARHP); CRDA of Sousse
⁴Higher School of Agriculture of Mateur. University of Carthage
Welfare Assessment in Tunisian Dairy Herds by Animal-Linked Parameters and Performance Efficiency

M. Mhamdi\textsuperscript{1*}, C. Darej\textsuperscript{1}, M. Bouallegue\textsuperscript{2}, S. Kaur Brar\textsuperscript{3} and M. Ben Hamouda\textsuperscript{4}

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\textsuperscript{3} Institut National de La Recherche Scientifique, Québec, Canada
\textsuperscript{4} Institution de La Recherche et de l’Enseignement Supérieur Agricole, Ministère de l’Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques, Tunisie
Welfare Assessment in Tunisian Dairy Herds by Animal-Linked Parameters and Performance Efficiency

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⁴ Institution de La Recherche et de l’Enseignement Supérieur Agricole, Ministère de l’Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques, Tunisie
National Tunisian Charter of Animal Experimentation, 2017
To Contribute positively to high animal ethics standards in our continent:

Working Group on Ethical Evaluation of Animal Experiments In Africa

The Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire de Sidi Thabet, Tunisia, 4-8 March 2019.
Development of Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Animal Ethics Committees in Africa

- Initiative of PAN-LASE and the ICLAS Africa Regional Committee
  Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire de Sidi Thabet, Tunisia, Africa, 4-8 March 2019
- Collaborative, democratic process, 5 days - 32 delegates from 14 countries
  - relevant to the African context & experience
  - reference OIE code (WOAH) & CIOMS-ICLAS principles
- Accepted for publication: Laboratory Animals (2023, open access, in press)
Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of Animal Ethics Committees (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees) in Africa

Bert J Mohr, Ouajdi Souilem, Sohair R Fahmy, Francis Fakoya, Khadiga Gaaar, Josiah T Kantiyok, Farida Khammari, Sarrah Mbarek, Lawrence Mugisha, Hany Sleem, Alemayehu Toma, Maricel van Rooyen, Henry Zakumumpa, and David I Lewis

Abstract
Animals are used for scientific purposes across Africa to benefit humans, animals or the environment. Nonetheless, ethical and regulatory oversight remains limited in many parts of the continent. To strengthen this governance framework, the Pan-African Network for Laboratory Animal Science and Ethics brought together experts from 12 African countries to create an Africa-centric practical guide to facilitate the establishment and appropriate functioning of Institutional Animal Ethics Committees across Africa. The Guidelines are based on universal principles for the care and use of sentient animals for scientific purposes, with consideration of the cultural, religious, political and socio-economic diversity in Africa. They focus on 11...
Permanent Training System for AW in NA subregion

The way to build a complex system that works is to build it from very simple systems that work.

Kevin Kelly
AW is a process and not a destination (Ref!)