RESOLUTION No. 28

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The mandate of the OIE includes the improvement of terrestrial and aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide, health being a key component of animal welfare,

2. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, and political and trade policy dimensions,

3. The Director General has established a permanent Animal Welfare Working Group, which draws up and implements a detailed annual work programme,

4. Successful Global Conferences on Animal Welfare were held in 2004, 2008 and 2012 confirming the OIE’s international leadership role in animal welfare,

5. Animal welfare standards were adopted at the 2005, and subsequent World Assemblies and are regularly updated,

6. More work is underway on the development of animal welfare standards concerning animal welfare in livestock production systems, with animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems proposed for adoption,

7. The active involvement of all OIE Member Countries is essential to the successful global implementation of the OIE animal welfare mandate,

8. Animal welfare is included in the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services, the OIE Veterinary Legislation and Veterinary Education initiatives,

9. The Director General has asked Delegates to nominate national focal points for animal welfare according to established terms of reference and the OIE regularly organises seminars for national focal points to provide information and contribute to capacity building of veterinary services,

10. Regional animal welfare strategies, and associated implementation plans, can make an important contribution to the OIE mandate of improving animal health and welfare worldwide.

THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Working Group and OIE Headquarters 2015/2016 work programmes be the basis for the OIE’s activities on animal welfare for the next 12 months and that the necessary resources be provided to address the agreed priorities.

2. Delegates take steps to ensure that their national animal welfare focal points be nominated, if this has not already been done, and participate in regional training programmes.
3. Within the framework of an agreed strategy and implementation plan, OIE Members play an active role in their regions with institutions, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and other international organisations in promoting the OIE international animal welfare mandate.

4. Veterinary Services of each Member Countries continue to take steps to implement the OIE animal welfare standards, including, as appropriate, the strengthening of the regulatory framework for animal welfare.

5. OIE Regional Commissions and Regional Representations continue to support the OIE animal welfare mandate through the development and implementation of Regional Animal Welfare Strategies, with the assistance of OIE Animal Welfare Working Group members from their respective regions.

6. The Director General continue to take the necessary steps to ensure that the final text of the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare explicitly recognises, and confirms, the OIE’s international leadership role in setting animal welfare standards.

7. OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be encouraged to identify “twinning” opportunities in accordance with OIE policy, and that further applications to be recognised as OIE Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres be assessed according to criteria agreed by the OIE Council.

8. The Director General continue to take steps to promote the inclusion of animal welfare in veterinary teaching curricula and in continuing education programmes.

9. The Director General continue dialogue with the Global Food Safety Initiative, GLOBAL G.A.P. and the International Standardisation Organisation(ISO) to ensure awareness of OIE science-based animal welfare standards.

10. The Director General continue to organise regional seminars for the national animal welfare focal points designated by Delegates.

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 27 May 2015 in view of an entry into force on 30 May 2015)