RESOLUTION No. 23

Animal Welfare

CONSIDERING THAT

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

2. Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted, international and domestic public policy issue, with important scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, 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 first adopted at the 2005 and subsequent General Assemblies and are regularly updated,

6. A new standard on animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems has been proposed for adoption by OIE Member Countries,

7. 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 already under development,

8. Animal welfare is included in the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS Tool) and in the OIE Veterinary Legislation initiative,

9. The Director General has asked Delegates to nominate national focal points for animal welfare according to proposed 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,

11. OIE Member Countries adopted Resolution No. 26 on the ‘Roles of public and private standards in animal health and animal welfare’ at the 78th General Session in 2010.
THE ASSEMBLY

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The Director General maintain the Animal Welfare Working Group to advise him, and the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commissions, concerning OIE priorities and proposed activities in the field of animal welfare.

2. The Working Group and OIE Headquarters 2013 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.

3. Delegates take steps to ensure that their national animal welfare focal points be nominated, if this has not already been done, and that focal points participate in regional training programmes organised by the OIE.

4. 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.

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

6. OIE Regional Commissions and Regional Representations continue to play an active role in raising awareness of the OIE animal welfare role, with active involvement of OIE Working Group members from their respective regions.

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 the new 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 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 and the need to implement OIE adopted standards worldwide.

10. The Director General continue dialogue with the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), GLOBALG.A.P. and the International Standardization Organization (ISO) to ensure awareness of and compliance with OIE science-based animal welfare standards.

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

(Adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 29 May 2013)