

  
**RAWS-News**  
**Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter**  
June 2013

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## Note from the Chair



The last few months have been very busy for the RAWS. At the last RAWS Coordination Group meeting the RAWS (edition 2) was endorsed and I presented the RAWS (edition 2) to the OIE Regional Commission for the Asia, Far East and Oceania region. The new edition of the strategy was endorsed and will now be printed in several regional languages and made available throughout the region.

The RAWS Coordination Group have revised the RAWS Action Plan and collated the completed activities to make the plan more user-friendly, this document outlines the key achievements and priorities to promote the RAWS. New activities are also planned to extend the reach of the RAWS and undertake further education and training in animal welfare.

Across the region, member countries are reporting animal welfare achievements. New legislation to improve animal welfare is currently being developed or implemented in Bhutan, Thailand and China. Malaysia released its animal welfare strategy last year and now several countries in the region are considering developing their own national strategies. The new legislation and strategies will have real on-ground effects to improve animal welfare in those countries and provide potential models to share and improve animal welfare in the region.

Looking forward, the RAWS CG secretariat and OIE headquarters are currently discussing the next proposed RAWS CG meeting in conjunction with the OIE Focal Point seminar in Seoul, Korea. The RAWS CG is also preparing a comprehensive paper on our proposed activities and past achievements for the Regional Commission meeting in Cebu, the Philippines.

**Gardner Murray**  
Chairman  
RAWS Coordination Group

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## Introduction

The RAWS-News June 2013 edition covers the most recent meeting of the RAWS Coordination Group, the Regional Commission meeting in Paris and the progress of the second edition of the RAWS and the RAWS Action Plan. Member countries have also contributed their recent animal welfare achievements. The Secretariat encourages all members of the region to contribute to future editions of RAWS newsletter. For your contribution to future editions of RAWS newsletter, please provide your input to Ms Lee-Ann Swift via email at [animal.welfare@daff.gov.au](mailto:animal.welfare@daff.gov.au).

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## Outcomes of the 5<sup>th</sup> RAWS Coordination Group meeting in Bangkok, Thailand

The RAWS Coordination Group met from 26-27 March 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand (RAWS CG group pictures below). The group endorsed the RAWS (edition 2) and members provided updates on country and organisation activities. Some of the achievements that were discussed are outlined in the country summaries below. Using this information, the members considered what activities could be undertaken to build on the strategy and further animal welfare improvements in the region. The RAWS CG is now considering a number of possible activities related to communications, education and training. New activities will be announced in the RAWS News as they are finalised.



  
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The RAWS CG also discussed a comprehensive paper to go to the regional commission meeting in the Philippines in November on the progress of the strategy and next steps. The paper will canvas the RAWS (Edition 2) endorsement, the RAWS Action Plan, governance of the RAWS and a communications plan going forward to promote further uptake of the RAWS.

### **The May 2013 OIE Regional Commission Meeting in Paris, France**

The 81<sup>st</sup> OIE general session was held from 26-31 May in Paris, France. More than 800 people attended from 146 of the 178 OIE Member Countries, international organisations and non-government organisations. At the opening session, the Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry gave a presentation by video on animal welfare leadership.

On 27 May 2013, the Regional Commission meeting for Asia, the Far East and Oceania met to discuss issues that affect the region. Dr Gardner Murray, Chair of the RAWS CG, presented the RAWS (Edition 2) to the Regional Commission for Asia, The Far East and Oceania. The RAWS was well received and has been endorsed by the Regional Commission.

### **New OIE Animal Welfare Standard for Broiler Hens**

The OIE has adopted new a new standard on maintaining the animal welfare of broiler chickens including criteria and measurable outcomes for production systems.

*"This new chapter is the culmination of a long-term undertaking and it has taken OIE member countries several years to reach a consensus. It also goes to show that our organisation's international standards-setting process, based on scientific excellence and democratically adopted standards — one country, one vote — achieves results of worldwide importance,"*  
OIE Director General, Dr Bernard Vallat

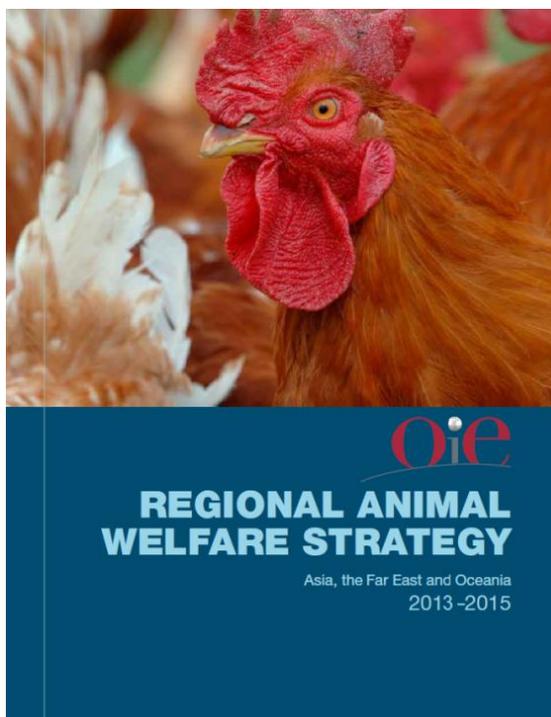
### **The RAWS (Edition 2)**

Over the past year and a half, the RAWS Coordination Group has been working to update the RAWS to reflect the achievements of the past four years. The RAWS (Edition 2) final version was endorsed by the coordination group at meeting 5 in March 2013 held in Bangkok, Thailand.

The RAWS (Edition 2) retains the policy and strategy from the first edition of the RAWS as this is still central to the vision and goals for animal welfare in the region.

The first edition of the RAWS was endorsed and published in 2008. The OIE Asia, Far East and Oceania Region is the only OIE Region to have such a strategy, now other OIE regions are considering drafting their own strategies following the success of the RAWS. The review of the RAWS is part of a regular process to ensure that the RAWS stays relevant and up-to-date.

Endorsed by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, The Far East and Oceania, the RAWS will be printed in several languages and available to members. Please email the RAWS Secretariat to request your copies now.



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### Update on the RAWS Action Plan

At the last RAWS Coordination Group meeting, the group workshopped and updated the RAWS Action Plan. The Action Plan is a living document that brings together the activities and outcomes from meetings, and the previous RAWS Implementation Plan in an easy-access format. The activities are linked to the four RAWS goals and objectives to ensure that the strategy is progressing in line with the regional vision. Regional member countries are encouraged to seek a copy of the RAWS Action Plan from the RAWS Secretariat.

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### Country Highlights



#### Animal Welfare Legislation in China

Last year, China drafted three farm animal welfare standards: good practice for the production of farm animals, good practice for the transportation of farm animals, and good practice for the slaughter of farm animals. Comments have now been received on the draft standards and they are being revised.

These standards will re-enforce the current General Principles of Animal Welfare Assessment, which are non-compulsory guidelines mainly focused on the treatment of livestock. As well as promoting animal welfare, these guidelines and standards recognise other benefits of improved animal welfare which include; increased production, fewer health problems, better meat quality and reducing animal welfare trade barriers.

#### Update on Thailand's investigation of stunning parameters for poultry

In February The RAWS NEWS reported that the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) in collaboration with the Department of Biomedical Engineering of Mahidol University and the Department of Veterinary Public Health of Kasetsart University was analysing the electroencephalograms (EEGs) of stunned poultry in commercial slaughterhouse conditions. This study noted that food consumed by Muslims must be slaughtered by the Islamic way of Halal which includes that the animal must be alive at the time of slaughter and must be able to recover after stunning within 5 minutes. These requirements and meat quality were monitored in relation to the OIE's electrical waterbath stunning method recommended prior to the slaughter of poultry.

Somatosensory signs (corneal reflex and wing flapping) are not reliable to detect unconsciousness and as recording the pre-stunning EEG is not practical outside laboratory conditions. The study proposes that the real-time EEG interpretation method be used to monitor the unconsciousness after waterbath stunning of poultry using the shift of frequency bands (i.e. via a frequency based algorithm). Using the algorithm, there is a trend from lower to higher EEG activity after stunning while the bird is in recovery. The study also recommends that further field trials related to the clinical somatosensory signs be conducted in order to improve the technique.

#### WSPA and Myanmar work together to develop Early Warning Systems

WSPA has worked with the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) of Myanmar to provide Early Warning System training and kits to villagers who own livestock. With these kits, in times of disasters, livestock owners know when to evacuate with their livestock to safer ground and to take proper care of their animals. WSPA held a workshop for 5 townships in the Sagaing Region with 126 participants and has another four workshops planned to be completed during the year.

### **Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards**

As the Asia Representative of Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) Steering Group, WSPA has actively been driving forward LEGS in the region to improve the welfare of animals in disasters. In 2013, WSPA is supporting at least six trainings in Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar and in Fiji following the Commonwealth Veterinary Association conference in September.

### **Veterinary Emergency Response Units**

The Veterinary Emergency Response Unit (VERU) 3-day course for veterinary students was developed by WSPA to teach veterinary students about disaster management and the role of veterinarians to protect the welfare of animals in crises. The 5th VERU workshop was held recently at Khonkaen University in Thailand with 58 veterinary students across Thailand. VERU training gives participants the skills and expertise to be able help animals affected by disasters more quickly and efficiently, in both the communities and regions where natural disasters are likely to increase in the future.

### **Concepts in Animal Welfare Training Program**

WSPA believes that education is the key to achieving a world where animal welfare matters and animal cruelty ends. To promote animal welfare education, WSPA developed the *First Concepts in Animal Welfare* (FCAW) course and the *Advanced Concepts in Animal Welfare* (ACAW) course in conjunction with the School of Clinical Veterinary Science at the University of Bristol in England.

Teachers from the South Delhi Municipal Corporation participating in the FCAW program in New Delhi, India have successfully been certified as animal welfare teachers in a graduation ceremony in April. In addition to training the teachers, the programme allows for the FCAW resources to be integrated into the current curriculum and helps to build the capacity of the South Delhi Municipal Corporation to ensure animal welfare is taught effectively in their schools.

Together with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, WSPA launched the 2013-2014 FCAW teaching course late last month. It is expected that over the course of the year teachers from 52 schools across Bangkok will be taking part in the training. Over the first 3 months of the year, observations of classes of Vietnamese teachers enrolled in WSPA animal welfare education programme showed that many are successfully integrating animal welfare into their teaching and that their lessons are having a positive impact on their students.

The ACAW stream of work has been developed further with the syllabus having been endorsed by the Federation of Asian Veterinary Association and The South East Asia Veterinary School Association. The teaching resource will be available in several South East Asian languages such as Indonesian and Thai, and WSPA recently launched the CAW syllabus in Vietnamese at a fruitful workshop in Hanoi, focusing on the welfare of livestock and animal welfare education

### **Indonesian Humane Pre Slaughter Treatment and Slaughter of Local Cattle Project**

The Indonesian Veterinary Medical Association (IVMA) and The World Society for The Protection of Animals (WSPA) have agreed to work together to improve the animal welfare in Indonesia through a project which focuses on the treatment of local cattle before slaughter and during slaughter procedures. The project aims to deliver an economically viable and culturally sensitive humane slaughter model for Indonesia (and potentially beyond). The collaborators for the project strongly believe that it has the potential to directly and sustainably improve the welfare during lairage, handling and slaughter of millions of local cattle – initially by pilot activities which, if successful, will be expanded further in conjunction with regional support.

The animal welfare program within the project also receives the necessary support from the Government through the Directorate General of Livestock and Animal Health Services in order to assure local acceptance and collaboration. The existence of the Government Regulation no.95 year 2012 on Veterinary Public Health and Animal Welfare which just been enacted is in line with the project objectives that could facilitate sustainable improvements in animal welfare, strengthen auditing mechanisms and encourage new and existing market confidence in Indonesian cattle products.

Oie  
**RAWS-News**  
*Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter*  
June 2013



Above: Delegates at the workshop on Indonesian Humane Pre Slaughter Treatment and Slaughter of Local Cattle Project

### Animal Welfare Farm Certification System in Korea

On 4 August 2011, the Republic of Korea introduced farm certification standards for animal welfare. Under the system, the Government certifies that an animal farm breeds livestock humanely in accordance with animal welfare standards. The system is aimed at improving animal welfare, and the quality and safety of livestock products through farm management. These certification standards take into account the OIE animal welfare definition, the five animal freedoms and trade opportunities.

Farm certification for laying hens was implemented on 20 March 2012. Now dozens of farms have been certified including 7 free range farms for layer hens. Target dates for future certification standards are; pigs (2013), chickens (2014) and dairy and beef cattle (2015).

The certification involves an assessment of common farm requirements; management processes including emergency plans, animal health plans and feed/water plans; environment including the stocking density, floor and litter, nest boxes etc; and additional free-range criteria if the farm is applying for free-range certification. The Government of Korea is also providing support for animal welfare farms including guidance and training on improving the management and environment of farm facilities



Left to right: farm certification sign, Animal welfare certification sticker and the inside area of a certified free-range layer hen farm.

### New Zealand has a new code of welfare for Llamas and Alpacas

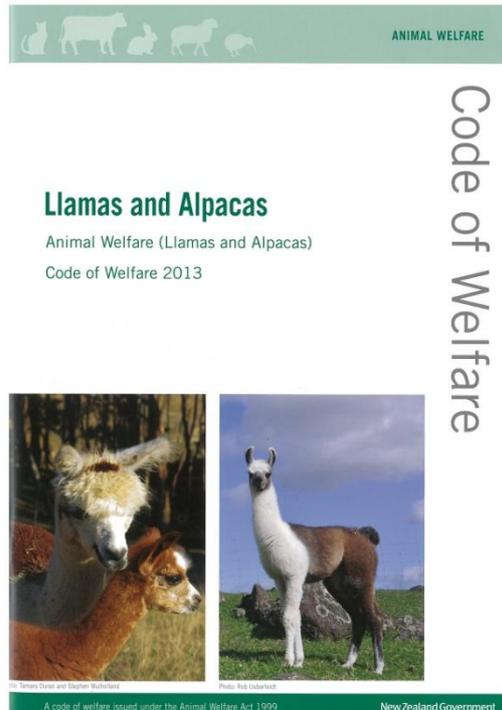
A new code of welfare is now in place for the estimated 15,000 South American camelids (llama, alpaca, guanaco and cross-breeds of these) that are owned and cared for by New Zealanders. Llama and alpaca have become increasingly popular in New Zealand and are unique animals that require experience, skill and understanding for their proper care.

This new code was developed by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) in consultation with the New Zealand Llama Association and the Alpaca Association of New Zealand. It contains minimum standards and best practices relating to all aspects of llama and alpaca ownership and care including food, water, shelter, behaviour and socialising.

One of the main requirements outlined in the code is a camelid's strong need for companionship. Camelids are highly social and hierarchical animals and the code requires that they must always live with another animal, preferably of the same species. In addition, young llamas and alpacas also need to be reared with their own species in order to develop normal behaviours.

The code and the explanatory report that accompanies it are available on the MPI website at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/reg/animal-welfare>



### National Animal Welfare for New Zealand is released

New Zealand's Minister for Primary Industries, Nathan Guy, has released a New Zealand Animal Welfare Strategy on 2 May 2013. The Strategy is not a detailed action plan, although it does give some initial priorities for the government. Rather, it gives a national focus for improvements and future work directions for all New Zealanders involved with animals. It sets out a high level framework for how New Zealanders treat animals and provides a formal foundation for New Zealand's animal welfare legislation and policy.

The underpinning values are:

- It says that it matters to us and to animals how animals are treated;
- We have responsibilities toward animals in our care and animals affected by our activities;
- Using animals is acceptable as long as it is humane.

Under two key outcomes – care of animals, and our reputation for integrity, the Strategy lists four main routes toward maintaining high animal welfare standards:

- Better planning to prevent animal welfare problems;
- Better animal husbandry, science and technology;
- Clear expectation and sanction, with help for people to comply; and
- Measuring animal welfare performance.

See <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity-animal-welfare/animal-welfare/new-zealand-animal-welfare-strategy>

  
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## Key Dates

Event	Date	Location
OIE AFEO Regional Commission meeting	November 2013	Cebu (Philippines)
OIE AFEO focal point seminar	27-29 August 2013	Seoul (Korea)

## Newsletter Contacts

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