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RAWS-News

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Newsletter

February 2017

Note from the Chair

Welcome to the February 2017 issue of RAWs News – a newsletter for the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. This is a short update this time just to introduce new members of the RAWs Advisory Group, but there will be more to come later this year.

First up, I want to recognise the struggles of many in our region as they deal with a number of significant disasters that have occurred over the last year. Disasters put great pressure on people and mean that animal welfare may not be the most important consideration. I hope we can continue to support each other as we deal with these challenges.

Secondly, I would like to warmly thank Dr Gardner Murray, the chair of the RAWs Coordination Group. As reported in the last RAWs Newsletter, the Coordination Group was closed in 2015 and a new RAWs Advisory Group established, to keep up the good work on the RAWs. Dr Murray chaired the Coordination Group through the development of the RAWs and implementation plan, and a recent review. His input will be missed. Thanks Gardner.

And finally, welcome and thank you to new members of the advisory group. Without the commitment of everyone, the RAWs cannot be progressed. We are all introduced below.

Take care,

Dr Kate Littin, Chair OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (Asia, Far East and Oceania) Advisory Group

New Governance of the RAWs

During 29th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania in September 2015 in Ulaanbaatar, Regional Commission agreed to establish RAWs Advisory Group (AG) and adopted its Terms of Reference (ToR) and *Modus Operandi*.

Introduction of Advisory Group Member: OIE Member country representatives

Dr Amy Little, Australia



Dr Little graduated from Veterinary Science with First Class Honours from the University of Queensland in 2005. Following a brief stint in equine referral practice, she started with the Department of Agriculture, Australia in 2007 and since then has worked in various roles, particularly in the import and export of live animals. This experience increased her interest in the complex and challenging field of animal welfare. Her current role is leading the team responsible for managing the importation of live horses, reproductive material and avian commodities.

Dr MD Abdur Rashid, Bangladesh



Dr Rashid graduated from Bangladesh Agricultural University & got DVM in 1983. He is working as a principal scientific officer at Livestock Research Institute in Dhaka, Bangladesh. He worked as government veterinary officer for animal health management and livestock development from 1987.

Dr Atieh Dabaghian, Iran



Dr Dabaghian has been working in different fields of veterinary medicine in Iran Veterinary Organization since her graduation in 2000 including Laboratory Diagnostic Techniques, quarantine and international affairs having animal welfare in her mind now acting as Iran focal point for animal welfare.

Introduction of Advisory Group Member: Chair and OIE Member country representatives

Dr Quaza Nizamuddin Bin Hassan Nizam, Malaysia



Dr Nizam acquired DVM in 1984 from the University Pertanian Malaysia and Master of Science in Tropical Vet Epidemiology and Preventive Veterinary Medicine in 1994 from the Free University Berlin. He has been involved as a veterinary officer in livestock development, animal health programmes, extension services and as a training provider for para-professionals. He has worked as a State Director for the Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia engaged in providing Veterinary Services. Personally he has led the formulation of the Animal Welfare Act. Currently he is the Deputy Director-General (Veterinary Health), Department of Veterinary Services Malaysia.

Dr Narayan Sharma, Nepal



Dr Sharma graduated Bachelor in Veterinary Science and Animal Health in 1995 and obtained master degree on Dairy Technology in 2007. He is working as a senior livestock development officer under the Government of Nepal for 21 years. He has been the OIE National Focal Point for Animal Welfare for 18 months.

Dr Engly Ioanis, Federated States of Micronesia



Dr Ioanis studied at Lubbock Christian University emphasis in Biology and Agriculture. He joined a position as Research Assistant at the College of Tropical Agriculture and Sciences (CTAS). After 7 years working at CTAS, he joined the Animal Science masters programme at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. CTAS merged with College of Micronesia-FSM and he stayed with the college as Extension Agent, then Acting Director and now as Cooperative Research Extension Service CRE Coordinator. He has conducted many livestock trainings in the Northern Pacific, involved in the training of Para veterinarians sponsored by SPC, and most recently, as National Focal Points for FSM on OIE.

Dr Kate Littin, New Zealand



Dr Littin is with New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries, where her main role is to lead the team that develops national animal welfare standards and supports the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee – New Zealand's independent Ministerial advisory committee for animal welfare. She is also New Zealand's OIE National Focal Point for Animal Welfare. Kate's background is in animal welfare science (she has a PhD from Massey University, one of the partners in the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis).

Dr Purevkhu Tsedenkhuu, Mongolia



Dr Tsedenkhuu is a senior officer for Transboundary animal disease control and prevention in Mongolia. He obtained a DVM from the School of Veterinary Medicine of Mongolian in 1992. Also, he completed his PhD at the All Russian Research Institute for Animal Health (ARRIAH) in 2005. He has been extensively involved planning and implementing in preventive measures, and nationwide surveillance and vaccination of transboundary and other animal diseases in the Mongolia since 2006. He has various experience in animal disease control and preparedness, intersectoral collaboration on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, as well as modern interventions on food safety and public health.

Dr Hong Mun Wong, Singapore



Dr Wong, a veterinarian by training, is the OIE National Focal Point for Animal Welfare, Singapore. He works for the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) of Singapore and reports to the Director-General in AVA, the OIE Delegate. He is the Group Director of the Agri Establishment Regulation Group, that oversees the regulation and licensing of animal establishments, plant establishments, veterinarians and vet centres in Singapore. His Group looks into the control and prevention of the spread of animal and plant diseases and is responsible for animal welfare in farms. Dr Wong played a major role in the drafting of the Codes of Animal Welfare

Introduction of Advisory Group Members: stakeholder groups

Dr Kate Blasszak – Animal Welfare NGO Rep (WAP)

Kate is an Australian veterinarian, with professional experience, technical expertise and passion to improve animal welfare. She has a Masters in International Animal Health, memberships by examination in epidemiology and also animal welfare with the Australian New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists.



In Asia, where she has lived and worked for over a decade, she has managed regional programmes, established the veterinary syllabus in Animal Welfare across the region and worked in the 'one health' field in Laos. She has contributed to policy areas of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy and FAO expert meeting on dog population management. With World Animal Protection in Asia Pacific, her work has included human rabies and dog population management, human behaviour change with farmers, animal welfare legislation and standards, tertiary education and training for humane slaughter and now works in their Humane and Sustainable Agriculture programme.

Ms Sharon Dundon – Industry Rep (MLA)

Sharon has a Rural Science degree from the University of New England, Australia and a Master of Rural Science focused on the impact of long distance road transport on the welfare of cattle, developing scientific indices to measure and quantify animal welfare. She has 20 years' experience working in the livestock industries at various levels and has been actively involved in the live export trade since April 2004 and manages the Livestock Export Program (LEP) R&D portfolio for Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) after 7 years working and living in the Middle East. Sharon has trained stockmen, truck drivers, slaughtermen and feedlot staff in the proper handling, slaughter and management of sheep and cattle and actively implementing OIE guidelines throughout the region. The LEP focusses on improving the welfare of livestock in overseas markets as well as assisting market access and trade development for Australian producers. The program has 4 main bases - Sydney, Dubai, Vietnam and Jakarta. Her range of experience across the livestock industries, spanning project management and hands-on training in technical as well as practical components offers a relatively unique skill-set, particularly in the animal welfare and livestock handling & transport areas. She focuses on linking science with practical, on-the-ground solutions as well as an ability to relate effectively across a range of stakeholder levels, from stockmen in feedlots to senior government and industry officials.



Dr SIRA ABDUL RAHMAN – OIE Animal Welfare Working Group

Dr S. Abdul Rahman is a Veterinary graduate with 35 years of teaching experience ultimately retiring as Dean of the Veterinary School in Bangalore India and has published more than 125 scientific papers and has authored a book on Veterinary Parasitology. He is the Chairman of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Animal Welfare Working Group and a former Chairman and Member, OIE Ad hoc Group on Stray Dog Control and a Consultant to World Animal Protection (WAP). He is the Past President and Executive Director of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association. His current interests include Animal Welfare, Veterinary Public Health especially involving Zoonosis to include control programmes for Rabies and Cysticercosis and Epidemiology and Control of Emerging Diseases, Food Security and Safety, Adaptation to Climate Change and Animal Welfare. He is actively engaged in promoting Animal Welfare by raising issues of stunning prior to slaughter and long distance transport in various parts of the world. He has also authored a paper commissioned by OIE on Animal Welfare with special reference to cruelty to animals during transport and slaughter to sensitise authorities in various countries on animal welfare issues.



Introduction of Advisory Group Members: stakeholder groups

Dr Mark Fisher – Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare



Dr Fisher is Chair of New Zealand Australia OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis Management Committee (a role alternating with Australia) and Principal Adviser in Animal Welfare with the Animal & Animal products Directorate at the Ministry for Primary Industries in Wellington. Previously he has worked as a scientist with AgResearch in NZ, focussing mainly on the reproductive physiology of the farmed red deer hind, especially reproductive seasonality and advancing the timing of calving

His other interests include agricultural ethics, especially the welfare of pastoral farmed animals, animals used in research, testing and teaching, and the equitable distribution of costs and benefits of animal welfare.

He has established a private science and ethics consultancy business.

Dr Fisher has also served on NZ's National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching, the Bioethics Council, and the NZ Society of Animal Production. He grew up on a family sheep and beef cattle farm.

Dr Achariya Sailasuta, DVM (Hons.) FRVCS, PhD, Dip. in ACCM, DTBVP – Secretary General FAVA



Dr Sailasuta is a Professor in the Department Pathology and as well as the Chair of the Companion Animal Cancer Research Unit (CAC-RU), in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. She is the current Secretary General of the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations, (FAVA).

Report from the 4th OIE Global Animal Welfare Conference and side meeting

Taking the opportunity of the global animal welfare conference in December 2016 where there were over 400 attendees with several members of the RAWs AG present we took time to have some discussions on planning for the following year and updating on activities regionally as well as globally. For many of us it was the 1st time meeting in person.

There were a lot of topics covered during the global conference with discussions on topical issues and updates in welfare science. There was active participation and good engagement from all regions and a wide variety of parties with an interest in animal welfare. More information on the global conference can be found online at:

<http://www.oie.int/eng/animal-welfare-conf2016/introduction.html>

The Global Animal Welfare Strategy was also put forward and is planned to be proposed for adoption at the 2017 OIE General Session in May. The vision of this strategy is *“A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, animal well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability”*

The RAWs Advisory group members who were present discussed the regional action plan and as soon there should be a global strategy it should be in line with this, while still taking into consideration factors specific to the region. We heard about the successes of the Improved Animal Welfare Program and other welfare training courses that are available in the region and discussed ways to continue expanding this training in the future and identify areas to focus on.

The meeting was also attended by a representative from OIE HQ and European Commission who gave valuable insight and information into advocating for support for the region.

Finally, the meeting also decided to hold another teleconference in the 1st quarter of 2017 to stay connected and communicate important information on animal welfare activities in Asia, Far East and Oceania.

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