Promoting Welfare of Animals in the Community

Iran’s National Veterinary Day was held on October 06, 2017 and with it the first Veterinary Photogaph and Film Festival “Baitar” was also held over 4 days. This festival drew community awareness to the significance and impact of animal health and welfare, human and animal interaction, and relationships.

Photographer: Mahdi Heidari Nejad - Iran Baitar Festival

Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Guidelines

“A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.”

OIE Global Animal Welfare Strategy

Oceania

Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Guidelines

Planning and strengthening veterinary services

A workshop is scheduled in the Pacific to assist the veterinary services integrate emergency preparedness and disaster management across sectors 28th November.

“National Plan”

Leading the Way to Better Animal Welfare

Objectives

- To achieve sustained improvements among parties are necessary to achieve and sustain improvements to animal welfare.
- To advance welfare strategy, solutions to complex problems. As concerns for animal welfare and welfare strategy, “Mutual recognition of Animal Welfare Act and these activities involving licensing, investigation and prosecution of any cases related to animal welfare.

Animal Welfare a major focus at the 33rd World Veterinary Congress in Korea

A global seminar on Animal Welfare was part of the program during the 33rd World Veterinary Congress this year, which addressed global and regional concerns for animal welfare and involved many sectors to discuss solutions to complex problems. As highlighted in the OIE global welfare strategy, “Mutual recognition and constructive engagement among parties are necessary to achieve sustained improvements to animal welfare.”

Legislation to support Animal Welfare

Strong legislation is vital to give government the legal power to implement OIE standards.

Malaysia—Animal Welfare Act 2015 has been enforced in 2017. Animal welfare officers have been appointed by the minister after the commencement date of the Animal Welfare Act and these officers will conduct regulatory activities involving licensing, investigation and prosecution of any cases related to animal welfare.

One Health and One Welfare – Good welfare practices are good for disease control too.

Bhutan – Response to Rabies Outbreak

In response to a confirmed rabies outbreak in Panbang, Zhemgang district, emergency mass vaccination of dogs and cats including owned and free roaming was undertaken along with a strong public awareness campaign to control the outbreak. Previously vaccinated animal were marked by ear notch. However sporadic cases of rabies continued in dogs and other livestock, causing risk to human and animals. The Department of Livestock decided further measures to control the disease were needed and wanted to ensure humane methods were used. Competent veterinarians began catching susceptible (un-notched, young dogs) and suspect infected animals using tranquilizer dart gun to sedate and then catch with nets. Suspected dogs were then humanely and rapidly euthanized using saturated Magnesium sulphate. Use of tranquilizer dart for capture of suspected animals has proven efficient and rapid with minimal stress or pain to the animal. This method is also safer for the team handling suspected rabies infected dogs as they are sedated before being caught. Rabies suspected animals are sedated in their normal habitat, euthanized rapidly, then the carcass disposed off safely following OIE welfare standards which helps prevent spread to other areas. The outcomes of this approach were effective containment of rabies and prevention of spread to other areas; is safer for staff and causes minimal stress or pain to the animals. The National Rabies Prevention and Control Plan and Standard Operating Procedures have been updated and this method will be adopted if future outbreaks occur.

Image from BETAGRO PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED

Progressing Animal Welfare in Pig Production and collaboration across sectors

World Animal Protection is working to improve the welfare of farm animals and building a global movement for higher pig welfare. In 2017, significant pig producers in Asia publicly committed to moving to enriched sow group housing and farrowing pens, allowing sows to turn around, move and perform important natural behaviours. In addition, they are all working to improve growing pig welfare by ensuring effective enrichment and towards avoiding painful procedures to demonstrate that higher pig welfare at scale is commercially possible and responds to global consumer interest. Together, we know good animal welfare.