

Promoting animal welfare in Asia and the Pacific – Update on the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS)

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Chair

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health
Founded as OIE

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale
Fondée en tant qu'OIE

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal
Fundada como OIE



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Animal Welfare in WOAHA



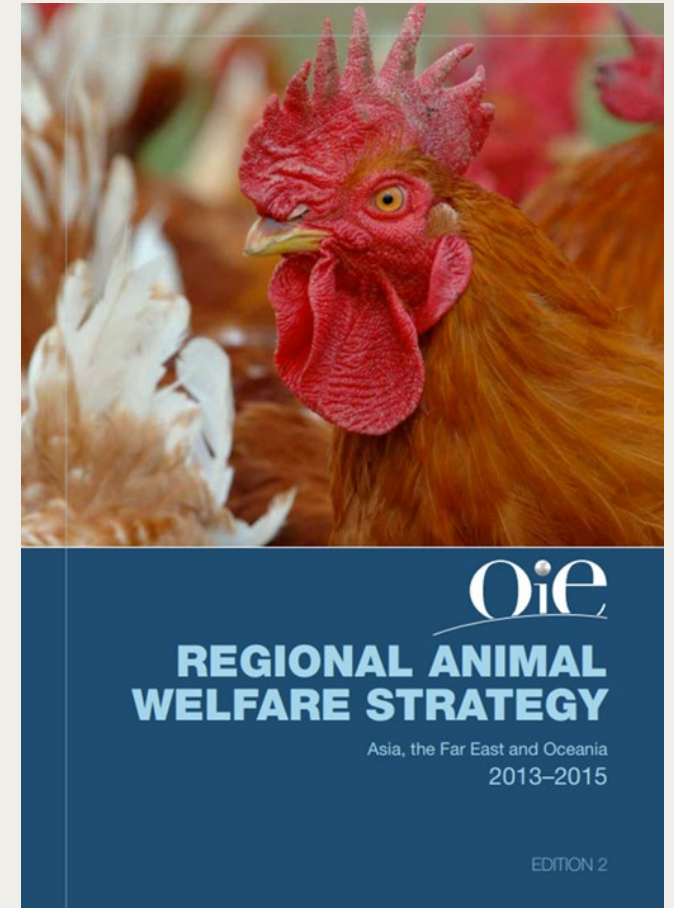
- “Animal welfare is a complex and multi-faceted subject with scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, social, religious and political dimensions. It is attracting growing interest from civil society and is one of the priorities of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).”
- WOAHA (the OIE) first agreed to include animal welfare in its strategy in for 2001-2005.
- Standalone Global Animal Welfare Strategy adopted by Members in 2017, to deliver “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”.
- Terrestrial code – definition and standards
animal welfare is ‘the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.’
- Aquatic code – standards for the welfare of farmed fish (excluding ornamental species); advocates appropriate handling and housing environment.

What is the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy – RAWS?

The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia & the Pacific was developed in 2007 – the first regional plan developed by WOAHA

Provides an overarching, agreed framework and guidance for WOAHA Members, non-WOAHA members and partners in the region when implementing WOAHA Standards, and to serve as the basis for the development of Action Plans.

Vision: *'A region where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and incrementally advanced, simultaneously with the pursuit of progress and socioeconomic development.'*



Brief history of the RAWS Asia Pacific



- 2007** - RAWS created as an outcome of the 4th OIE Strategic Plan (2006-2010); to emphasise importance of animal welfare, and to influence adoption of the OIE guidelines for animal welfare in the region
- 2008** - RAWS endorsed by the OIE 78th General Session (May 2008)
- 2013** - Second edition of RAWS released
- 2015** - RAWS management was established under the Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania and a new RAWS Advisory Group; agreed at the 29th Conference of the WOAHP Regional Commission in Ulaanbaatar
- 2022** - RAWS Advisory Group was reactivated after COVID-19 pandemic. Regional Commission agreed to new membership and terms of reference at 16 May 2022 meeting
- 2023** - New advisory group members endorsed. Action plan under review

Achievements highlights

2016-2023



- 2017 – Fiji workshop on emergency preparedness and disaster response / subregional meeting for the Global Frameworks for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADS) with the Pacific Community, WOAHA and FAO for the Pacific Islands and Territories
- 2018 – survey of animal welfare focal points on training needs and animal welfare issues to support future regional planning under the RAWS
- 2019 – Regional training and seminar for Focal Points, Bali, Indonesia
- 2019 – ICWE International Coalition for Working Equids session on working equids
- 2020 – RAWS News special issue on equine welfare
- 2022 – Regional focal point consultation workshop
- 2023 – WOAHA Webinar on animal welfare standards
- Numerous examples of regional activities by Members (or supported by members) to promote animal welfare, implement WOAHA standards and support capacity building, including Malaysia, India, Iran, Bhutan, Republic of Korea, Thailand, China and Fiji.



RAWS Advisory Group membership

RAWS Advisory Group membership represents our region, supports the implementation of the WOAH Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia and the Pacific and ensures it remains up-to-date.

Kate Littin (Chair)	New Zealand	Ex-Manager Animal Welfare Team, Ministry for Primary Industries
Jacqueline Lusat (Secretariat)	WOAH RRAP	WOAH RRAP Animal Health Information Officer
Abhijit Mitra	India	Animal Husbandry Commissioner & Chief Veterinary Officer (Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying)
Xiao Xiao	China	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare
Atieh Dabaghian	Iran	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare
Emily Orchard-Mills	Australia	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare
Marzuna binti Md Yunus	Malaysia	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare
Madison Pannett	New Zealand	WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare
Sripad Sosale	Fiji (SPC)	Animal Health and Production Adviser, Pacific Community
S Abdul Rahman	Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)	Executive Director of CVA
Jackson Zee	International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) – Four Paws	Director of Disaster Relief Unit and Interim Head Southeast Asia of Four Paws International
Yi-Chun Lin	Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS)	Assistant Professor– National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) Chinese Taipei
Peter Thornber	Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA)	Ex-president CVA
Leopoldo Stuardo	WOAH headquarters	WOAH Chargé de mission
Ashish Sutar	WOAH SRR SEA	WOAH Capacity Building Coordinator
Hirofumi Kugita	WOAH RRAP	WOAH Regional Representative for Asia & the Pacific

Revision of RAWS Action Plan

- Reactivated Advisory Group has drafted a 5-year Action Plan to define and track activities that support the implementation of the RAWS.
- This is the third action plan since the RAWS was released.
- Builds on achievements under the previous two plans, addressing gaps and updating actions according to current priorities, knowledge and activities.
- The Action Plan will be circulated to WOAHP Delegates and focal points for further comment before it is finalised in early 2024.





Draft Third RAWS Action Plan 2023-2026

Impact (long-term objective)

Enhanced animal welfare alongside progress & socioeconomic development in the region, through a focus on the development & implementation of animal welfare standards for transport, slaughter & killing; capacity building & education; & communication to promote respect & awareness of animal welfare.

Outcome (short to mid-term objectives)

- 1. Promotion & achievement of a high level of understanding & awareness of animal welfare** through effective coordination, communication, education, & training.
- 2. Coordinated regional approach** to implementation of WOAHA animal welfare standards.
- 3. Sustainable improvements** in animal welfare, based on regional & international research & development.
- 4. Sustainable mechanisms** to coordinate & promote animal welfare programs & priorities.

Priority activities 2023-24

- Restart *RAWS News* for updates on activities and events under RAWS.
- Revise RAWS document.
- Planning for regional animal welfare forum.
- Social media to enhance awareness of the RAWS.
- Support WOAHA Members to raise awareness of RAWS through conferences and meetings.
- Support WOAHA/ICFAW-OPP Pig management project.
- Promote understanding of and connection on One Health/Welfare nexus.



Coming events

- Nomination for new Chair (next Regional Commission meeting May 2024)
- Calling for new members to join RAWs AG (Feb 2024)
- Revision of the RAWs document 2023-24
- Upgrading the animal welfare regional webpage (ongoing)
- 2024 Open Philanthropy project between WOAHI and International Coalition for Animal Welfare (ICFAW) on pig management – series of train-the-trainer will start early 2024
- 2024 webinar – links between animal welfare, biodiversity, climate change, pollution, health, food security & livelihoods
- 2024 – regional animal welfare forum (tbc)

Thank you

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