Annex 23

**USA COMMENTS IN RED FONT**

CHAPTER 7.1.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

##### **Article 7.1.1.**

General considerations

[*Animal welfare*](#_bookmark17) means the physical and mental state of an [*animal*](#_bookmark5) in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies.

An [*animal*](#_bookmark5) experiences good welfare if the [*animal*](#_bookmark5) is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, ~~is not suffering severely or for a long time from avoidable unpleasant states such as pain, fear and~~ *~~distress~~*~~,~~ and is able to express behaviours that are important for its physical and mental state. Negative affective states should be minimized by the avoidance of pain, fear, and *distress*. Good *animal* *welfare* is not only about avoiding negative experiences for *animals*, but also providing them with positive experiences.

Good [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17) requires disease prevention and appropriate veterinary care, shelter, management and nutrition, a stimulating and safe environment, humane handling and humane [*slaughter*](#_bookmark151) or [*killing*](#_bookmark95). While [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17) refers to the state of the [*animal*](#_bookmark5), the treatment that an [*animal*](#_bookmark5)receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

**RATIONALE:** To better align language with the Five Domains Model, which addresses the importance of providing positive experiences, not only minimizing negative experiences.

Reference provided:

Mellor, D. J., Beausoleil, N. J. Extending the ‘Five domains’ model for animal welfare assessment to incorporate positive welfare states. *Anim. Welf.* 2015, *24*, 241–253. doi: 10.7120/09627286.24.3.241.

##### **Article 7.1.2****.**

Guiding principles for animal welfare

1) ~~That~~ ~~t~~There is a critical relationship between animal health and [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17).

2) ~~That~~ While the ~~internationally recognised~~ “five freedoms” (freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; freedom from fear and *distress*; freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; and freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour) provide valuable guidance in [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17)~~.~~, the ‘five domains’ (nutrition, environment, health, ~~behavioural interactions~~ behaviour, and mental state) support the systematic scientific assessment of *animal welfare*.

3) ~~That~~ ~~t~~The ~~internationally recognised~~ “three Rs” (reduction in numbers of [*animals*](#_bookmark5), refinement of experimental methods and replacement of [*animals*](#_bookmark5) with non-animal techniques) provide valuable guidance for the use of [*animals*](#_bookmark5)in science and education.

**RATIONALE:** The 3 R’s are an important component in veterinary medical education curriculums as well as some animal science education.

4) ~~That~~ ~~t~~The scientific assessment of [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17) involves diverse elements ~~which~~ that need to be considered together, and ~~that~~ selecting and weighing these elements often involves value-based assumptions which should be made as explicit as

possible.

5) ~~That~~ ~~t~~The use of [*animals*](#_bookmark5)in agriculture, education and research, ~~recreation and entertainment,~~ and for companionship, recreation and entertainment, makes ~~, recreation and entertainment, makes is~~ a major ~~contributor~~ contribution to the wellbeing of people.

**RATIONALE:** Edits are suggested here to improve readability and clarity.

6) ~~That~~ ~~t~~The use of [*animals*](#_bookmark5) carries with it an ethical responsibility to ~~ensure~~ optimize the welfare of such [*animals*](#_bookmark5) to the greatest extent practicable.

**RATIONALE:** Suggest “optimize” to convey the need to strive for provision of the best state of welfare of animals in any given environment.

7) ~~That~~ I~~i~~mprovements in farm [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17)can ~~often~~ improve productivity and food safety, and hence lead to economic benefits.

8) ~~That~~ ~~t~~The equivalent welfare outcomes based on performance criteria, rather than identical systems based on design criteria, ~~be~~ are the basis for comparison of [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17) standards and recommendations.

**Article 7.1.3.**

Scientific basis for recommendations

1) Welfare is a broad term which includes ~~the many~~ numerous elements that contribute to an *anima*l's quality of life, including its physical and mental states ~~those referred to in the “five freedoms” listed above~~.

2) The scientific assessment of [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17) ~~has progressed rapidly in recent years and formeds~~ forms the basis of the recommendations ~~of~~ in the *Terrestrial Code* for animal welfare. Welfare assessment can be either at a point in time or over a period of time such as a lifetime. There is value in using both the ‘five freedoms’ and ‘five domains’ models. In contrast to the ‘five freedoms,’ the ~~The~~ ‘five domains’ model allows consideration ~~to be given to~~ of both the degree and cumulation of positive and negative experiences over the duration of the animal's life.

**RATIONALE:** Providing clarity around how one model might allow a more comprehensive scientific assessment than the other.

3) Some measures of [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17) involve assessing the degree of impaired functioning associated with injury, disease and malnutrition. Other measures provide information on [*animals*](#_bookmark5)' needs and positive or negative affective states ~~such as hunger, pain and fear~~, often by measuring the strength of [*animals*](#_bookmark5)' preferences, motivations and aversions. Others assess the physiological, behavioural and immunological changes or effects that [*animals*](#_bookmark5) show in response to various challenges.

4) Such measures can lead to criteria and indicators that help to evaluate how different methods of managing [*animals*](#_bookmark5)influence their welfare.

##### **Article 7.1.4.**

Guiding principles for the use of measures to assess animal welfare

~~1) the OIE~~ WOAH [*animal welfare*](#_bookmark17) standards ~~to be applicable globally, they should~~ emphasise the ~~favourable~~ consequences that any treatments on *animals* may have on their welfare and ~~they should be applicable globally. outcomes for the~~ [*~~animals~~*](#_bookmark5)~~, although, in some circumstances, it~~ may include recommendations on  ~~be necessary to recommend~~ specific conditions of the [*animals*](#_bookmark5)' environment and management~~. Outcomes are generally measured by assessing the extent to which~~[*~~animals~~*](#_bookmark5) ~~experience the "five freedoms" described in Article~~ [~~7.1.2.~~](#_bookmark365)

2) For each principle listed in Article [7.1.5.](#_bookmark367), the most relevant criteria (or measur~~abl~~es), ideally comprising animal-based measures, defined as an evaluation of a response of an *animal* or as an effect on an *animal* used to assess its welfare, should be included in the standard. Any given animal-based measure ~~may~~ should be linked to one or more of these ~~than one~~ principles.

3) Recommendations should, whenever possible, define explicit targets or thresholds that should be met for animal-based measures. Such target values should be based on relevant science and experience of experts.

4) ~~In addition to~~ While animal-based measures are preferable, if they cannot be defined, ~~one may use~~ resource-based measures, defined as an evaluation of a feature of the environment in which the *animal* is kept or to which it is exposed and management-based measures, defined as an evaluation of what the *animal handler* does, and with which management processes or tools, may be used. ~~may be used and~~ The use of any of these three types of measures should be defined on the basis of science and expert experience showing that a welfare outcome is clearly linked to an *animal* as well as to a resource or ~~to~~ a management procedure.

**RATIONALE:** To emphasise that the ideal measures are animal based and an attempt to define animal-based measures should occur prior to utilizing resource or management based measures.

5) ~~Users of the standard~~ ~~Members should select~~T~~t~~he most ~~appropriate animal-based~~ relevant measures from among those listed in the standards should be selected for ~~their~~ a given farming system or environment~~, from among those listed in the standard~~. Welfare ~~O~~outcomes can be measured by an assessment of individuals or *animal* groups, or a representative sample of those, using data from [*establishments*](#_bookmark56), transport or [*slaughterhouses/abattoirs*](#_bookmark152). [*Competent Authorities*](#_bookmark40) should collect all data relevant ~~for the users~~ to set target and threshold values.

6) Whatever the basis of the measure, if welfare outcomes are unsatisfactory, ~~users~~ ~~Members~~ relevant ~~should consider what~~ changes to resources or management ~~are necessary~~ should be applied to improve the welfare outcomes.

##### **Article 7.1.5.**

General principles for the welfare of animals in livestock production systems

1) Genetic selection should always take into account the health and welfare of [*animals*](#_bookmark5).

2) [*Animals*](#_bookmark5) chosen for introduction into new environments should be suited to the local ~~climate~~ conditions, including their adaptability ~~and able to adapt~~ to local climate, diseases~~,~~ ~~parasites~~ and nutrition.

3) The physical environment, including the substrate (walking surface, resting surface, etc.), should be suited to the species so as to minimise risk of injury and transmission of diseases ~~or parasites~~ to [*animals*](#_bookmark5).

4) The physical environment should allow comfortable ~~resting,~~ and safe resting and ~~comfortable~~ movement including normal postural changes, and the opportunity to perform ~~types of~~ natural behaviours that [*animals*](#_bookmark5) are motivated to perform.

5) Social grouping of [*animals*](#_bookmark5) should be managed to ~~allow~~ promote positive social behaviour and minimise injury, *distress* and chronic fear.

6) For housed [*animals*](#_bookmark5), air quality, air flow, temperature and humidity should be appropriate for the species, thus supporting ~~not be aversive detrimental and should support~~ good animal health and welfare ~~and not be aversive~~. Where and when extreme weather conditions occur, [*animals*](#_bookmark5)should not be prevented from using their natural methods of thermo-regulation.

**RATIONALE:** Edits are suggested here to improve readability and clarity.

7) [*Animals*](#_bookmark5) should have access to sufficient [*feed*](#_bookmark60) and water, suited to the [*animals*](#_bookmark5)' age and needs, to maintain normal health and performance ~~productivity~~ and to prevent severe or prolonged hunger and~~,~~ thirst, malnutrition and ~~or~~ dehydration.

8) Diseases ~~and parasites~~ should be prevented and controlled as much as possible through good management practices and *biosecurity*. [*Animals*](#_bookmark5)with serious health problems should be isolated and treated promptly or killed humanely if treatment is not feasible or recovery is unlikely.

9) Alternatives to painful procedures should be used whenever possible. Where painful procedures cannot be avoided, ~~the resulting~~ pain should be managed to the extent that available methods allow. Substituting for a less painful method, performing the procedure at a more optimum time in the animals’ life, and using local and systemic analgesia are all options that should be considered to mitigate pain associated with painful procedures.

**RATIONALE:** Kleinhenz MD, Viscardi AB, Coetzee JF. Invited review: On-farm pain management of food production animals. Applied Animal Science 2021;37(1):77-87.

10) The handling of [*animals*](#_bookmark5) should foster a positive relationship between humans and [*animals*](#_bookmark5) and should not cause injury, panic, lasting fear or avoidable stress.

11) Owners~~and~~, handlers, and other animal caretakers should have sufficient training, skills and knowledge to ensure that [*animals*](#_bookmark5) are treated in accordance with these principles.

**RATIONALE:** Edits are suggested here to improve clarity.