

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION  
REPORT-SEPTEMBER 2007

**USA COMMENTS**

CHAPTER 1.1.1.

**GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

Article 1.1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*:

**Animal welfare**

means the state of animal as regards its attempts to cope with its environment and includes both the extent of failure to cope and the ease or difficulty in coping all aspects of animal well being as indentified and supported by science, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane treatment and humane euthanasia.

**Comment/rationale:** we recommend deleting the proposed text as such text is vague and highly subjective. It is inappropriate to define this important concept in terms that can be easily misinterpreted and potentially manipulated by anyone. The suggested definition addresses a number of specific issues in animal welfare and is much more objective than the proposed language.

**Approved abattoir**

means premises used for the slaughter of *animals* for human consumption or animal feeding and approved by the *Veterinary Authority* for export purposes.

**Comment/rationale:** Unless a new definition is proposed for *abattoir* or *slaughter establishment*, we do not recommend deleting it because it is also referred to in Article 1.4.3.4 of Chapter 1.4.3.

**Infection**

means the presence of the pathogenic agent in the host ~~entry and development or multiplication of an infectious agent in~~ the body of men or animals.

**Comment/rationale:** Although the OIE does address zoonotic diseases, it is an animal (non-human) organization, and as such does not address disease events in humans. Inclusion of “man” in this definition is not appropriate.

**Monitoring**

means the ~~continuous investigation of intermittent performance and analysis of routine measurements, aimed at~~ **detecting** ~~changes in the environment or health status of a given population or subpopulation, and its environment, to detect changes in the prevalence of a disease or characteristics of a pathogenic agent.~~

**Comment/rationale:** suggest adding the word “detecting” as shown above for clarity.

**Surveillance**

means the ~~investigation of a given population or subpopulation to detect the presence of a pathogenic agent or disease; the frequency and type of surveillance will be determined by the epidemiology of the pathogenic agent or disease, and the desired outputs~~ the systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of **disease/pest** data and the timely dissemination of information to those who need to know so that action can be taken.

**Comment/rationale:** suggest adding the words “disease/pest” as shown above to make it clear that the data being analyzed is disease/pest related.