

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report September 2016

CHAPTER 7.1.

INTRODUCTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

Article 7.1.X.

Guiding principles for the use of animal-based measures

- 1) For the OIE *animal welfare* standards to be applicable globally, they should emphasise good outcomes for the animals rather than prescribe specific conditions of the animals' environment and management. Outcomes are generally assessed by animal-based measures such as low mortality rate, low prevalence of injuries, ability to move freely, positive human-animal relationship, and a low incidence of aggression and stereotyped behaviour.
 - 2) For each principle listed in Article 7.1.4., the most relevant measures, ideally animal-based measures, should be included in the standard. Any given animal-based measure may be linked to more than one principle.
 - 3) End-users of the standard should select the most appropriate animal-based measures for their farming system or conditions, from among those listed in the standard.
 - 4) Standards should, whenever possible, define explicit targets or thresholds that should be met for animal-based measures. Such target values should be based on available science and experience of experts. To guide end-users, *Competent Authorities* should collect data that can be used to set locally relevant target values.
 - 5) In addition to animal-based measures, resource-based measures and management-based measures can be defined on the basis of science and expert experience, in cases where a welfare outcome is clearly linked to a resource such as adequate space, or to a management procedure such as pain mitigation.
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