CHAPTER 7.1.

INTRODUCTION TO THE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

Article 7.1.1.

**Definition—General considerations**

Animal welfare means the physical and psychological state of well-being of how an animal is coping with in relation to the conditions in which it lives.

**Rationale:** This definition is tautological. The term “well-being” could easily be exchanged with the term “welfare”. The terms “physical and psychological” clarify that it is not only the physical health and fitness of the animal that are important, but also their mental state, emotions or feelings.

An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) the animal is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress and it is able to express innate behaviours that are important for its well-being, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress.

**Rationale:** Every animal has a state of welfare, good, bad or otherwise. An animal's state of welfare is not contingent on humans detecting that state through scientific evidence. Humans use scientific evidence when making assessments of animal welfare; and Article 7.1.2.4. already establishes the scientific assessment of animal welfare as a guiding principle in the establishment of standards.

Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and appropriate veterinary treatment, shelter, management and nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter or killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

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