

Japan's Comments on the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report of the February 2023 meeting

Japan would like to express its appreciation to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission (TAHSC) and other relevant Commissions, Working Groups and *ad hoc* Groups for all the work they have done. Japan also thanks the TAHSC for providing us with the opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions to the texts of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Please find our comments on the following text:

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1. CHAPTER 7.5. ANIMAL WELFARE DURING SLAUGHTER

1) Proposal of amendment to and comment on Article 7.5.23

Article 7.5.2320.

Methods, procedures or practices that should not be used unacceptable on animal welfare grounds for free-moving animals

1) ~~None of~~ The following practices for handling animals are unacceptable and should not be used under any circumstances:

- a) crushing, twisting or breaking tails of animals;
- b) applying pressure using an injurious object or applying an irritant substance to any part of an animal ~~to sensitive areas such as eyes, mouth, ears, anogenital region or belly;~~
- c) hitting animals with instruments such as large sticks, sticks with sharp ends, ~~metal~~ piping, stones, fencing wire or leather belts;
- d) kicking, throwing or dropping animals;
- e) grasping, lifting or dragging animals only by some body parts such as their tail, head, horns, ears, limbs, wool or hair;
- f) dragging animals by any body part, by any means, including with chains, or ropes or by hand
- g) forcing animals to walk over other animals;
- h) interfering with any sensitive area (e.g. eyes, mouth, ears, anogenital region, udder or belly).

Cattle in Japan are meticulously raised under intensive care including individual management, and they have established familiarity with human beings.

In Japan, farmers use ropes in a non-invasive manner to assist cattle in their voluntary movements, like a bitless bridle used in horses.

Slaughterhouses in Japan also use ropes for solely guiding cattle to minimize stress and injuries resulting from physical contact with other animals.

Japan respectfully requests the Code Commission to clarify that the term "dragging" mentioned in point 1) f) of Article 7.5.23 specifically refers to forcefully pulling and moving cattle against their will; therefore the practice of using rope in Japan mentioned above should not be considered as "dragging".