Japan's comments on the proposed amendments of the Terrestrial Code in the Code Commission Report of the September 2010 meeting

List of comments

1. General Comments
2. Chapter 3.3 - Veterinary Legislation (Annex V)
3. Chapter 3.4 – Communication (Annex XXX)
4. Draft Chapter 5.X – Control of OIE Listed Diseases in Heat Treated, Shelf Stable Pet Food (Annex XI)
5. Chapter 8.5 – Foot and Mouth Disease
   Chapter 1.6 – Status for OIE Listed Diseases : Procedure for Self Declaration and for Official Recognition by OIE (Annex XVII)
6. Chapter 8.10—Rabies (Annex XVIII)
7. Chapter 15.4 – Swine Vescular Disease (Annex XXIX)
8. Comments on Guidance from the Animal Welfare Working Group to Ad hoc Groups on the Development of Animal Welfare Standards (Annex XXXI, Appendix C)
9. Draft Chapter X.X.X. Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production (Annex XXXII)

NOTE

Please find the following specific comments in which proposed insertion is underlined and proposed deletion is ~~struck out~~. Any deletion or insertion by Japan shall be written in red on this paper.

1. General Comments

For Members to contribute constructively in the development of new chapters of OIE codes, Japan considers that OIE members need to be informed of the following information well in advance of the consultation process. This is beneficial not only to Members but also to other relevant parties including OIE experts and the OIE Secretatiat because this ensures effective and focused communication and reduces their overall burden by avoiding unnecessary work (e.g. clarification of basic information).

1. outline of the proposed chapter (e.g. scope and purpose) ; and
2. background information (e.g. ongoing issues that could be addressed and potential improvements that could be achieved by the proposed chapter).

Japan would like to ask OIE to include in the standard setting procedure a process to provide the above information for consideration of development of a new chapter.

In addition, considering that WTO members have certain obligation under WTO/SPS agreement to refer to OIE codes, Japan believes that criteria for establishment of a new chapter, such as feasibility of implementing the proposed chapter, would be valuable for Members.

2. Chapter 3.3 - Veterinary Legislation (Annex V)

General Comments

Japan recognizes the need for globally enhancing the overall veterinary governance by modernizing the veterinary legislation of Members, which was also emphasized in the "Fifth Strategic Plan of the OIE". Japan appreciates the efforts of OIE to elaborate "Guidelines on veterinary legislation". We believe recommendations in these guidelines are appropriate and the guidelines are useful for those Members which need to update their veterinary legislation.

Japan requests the OIE to maintain the status of the guidelines as a guideline (i.e. references posted on the OIE Website) because many Members, especially developing countries, are at this stage unable to comply with the detailed provisions described in the draft chapter, and Japan believes it inappropriate to list requirements in a single uniform way with each Member facing different issues with different priority under the legislative development. Therefore, we believe that "Guidelines on veterinary legislation" should be referred to, if needed, as a useful guidance for those Members which wish to improve the quality of their veterinary services.

In addition, since the proposed draft chapter addresses a broad range of areas including food safety, food security and public health, Japan considers it essential for the OIE to have a consultation and collaboration with relevant international organizations such as FAO and WHO when developing a chapter.

3. Chapter 3.4 – Communication (Annex XXX)

General Comment

Japan believes it essential that the term “communication” strongly emphasize interactive information and awareness sharing among the parties concerned rather than notification of information because mutual understanding is the key for each party to play an appropriate role.

Therefore, Japan would like to ask the OIE to consider the above points when elaborating this chapter.

4. Draft Chapter 5.X – Control of OIE Listed Diseases in Heat Treated, Shelf Stable Pet Food (Annex XI)

General Comment

Japan would like to ask the Code Commission to provide the reason and rationale of for developing this new chapter, especially regarding ongoing issues that need be addressed, as mentioned in the General Comments.

In the previous version of the draft, the chapter was developed for protecting health of animals in general including dogs and cats, which Japan believes was created in response to food accidents, such as the Melamin contamination. However, in the proposed version, the chapter's main concern appears to be changed from protecting the health of pet to protecting livestock from infection with OIE listed diseases through pet food.

Japan reserves its right to make further comments on the elaboration of the new chapter until we are informed of the clarification regarding the points above.

5. Chapter 8.5 – Foot and Mouth Disease
Chapter 1.6 – Status for OIE Listed Diseases : Procedure for Self Declaration and for Official Recognition by OIE (Annex XVII)

General Comment

Japan still has doubts about the feasibility of establishment of FMD free compartment because Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is highly contagious and has broad susceptible species including wildlife.

It is necessary for ensuring the biosecurity of the compartment to provide effective and specific requirements of the official control programme in the *Terrestrial Code* as we commented below. In addition, we think it is important for gaining the official endorsement of national FMD control programme by the OIE to undergo transparent procedures in the same way as official recognition of country freedom from FMD, Rinderpest, BSE and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia.

As for the effective biosecurity management system in Article 8.5.6 of the *Terrestrial Code*, we reiterate its concrete and detailed requirements should be provided in the *Terrestrial Code*, taking species and production systems into account. In addition, not only hardware but also software aspects including capacity and skill of personnel should be provided in Article 8.5.6 of the *Terrestrial Code* for providing the system properly and ensuring the freedom to strengthen.

On the other hand, Japan supports that the OIE requires the submission of detailed information on vaccination campaigns including technical specification of the vaccines to be used and the existing licensing in place for gaining the official endorsement of national FMD control programme by the OIE because it is important to use proper vaccine if vaccination is practiced as a part of control programme.

Specific Comments

Article 8.5.6.

FMD free compartment

A FMD free *compartment* can be established in either a FMD free country or *zone* or in an infected country or *zone*. In defining such a *compartment* the principles of Chapters 4.3. and 4.4. should be followed. Susceptible *animals* in the FMD free *compartment* should be separated from any other susceptible *animals* by the application of an effective biosecurity management system.

A Member wishing to establish a FMD free *compartment* should:

1. have a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting and if not FMD free, have an OIE endorsed national FMD ~~official~~ control programme and a *surveillance* system for FMD in place according to Articles 8.5.42. to 8.5.44. that allows an accurate knowledge of the prevalence of FMD in the country or *zone*;

(Rationale)

For clarification

Article 8.5.7bis.

OIE endorsed national FMD control programme

Countries may apply for endorsement of their national FMD control programme when they have implemented measures that could potentially lead to OIE official recognition of FMD free status. This endorsement will provide additional assurance that a FMD infected country or zone has control over the situation and thus act as an incentive to further increase its efforts. Therefore FMD free countries or zones where vaccination is not or is practiced do not need to gain the endorsement for maintaining and recovering the status.

For a Member's national FMD control programme to be endorsed by the OIE, the Member should:

1. have submitted documented evidence on the capacity of the veterinary services to control FMD. This evidence can be provided by countries following the OIE PVS pathway to identify gaps and the strategies to strengthen the veterinary services to sustainably control FMD;

2. submit documentation indicating that the national FMD control programme consistent with the recommendation of Chapter 8.5. is applicable to the entire territory or *zone*;

3. have a record of regular and prompt animal disease reporting according to the requirements in Chapter 1.1.;

4. have submitted a dossier on the epidemiology of FMD in the country describing the following:
   a) the general epidemiology of FMD in the country indicating the situation has been controlled and highlighting the current knowledge and gaps,
   b) the measures to prevent introduction of *infection* from neighbouring countries and trade partners;
   c) the prevailing livestock production systems and movement patterns of FMD susceptible *animals* and their products as well as other livestock related goods potentially contaminated with FMDV including bedding, litter and feeds, within and into the country;

5. have submitted a detailed plan on the approach to control and eventually eradicate FMD in the country or *zone* including:
   a) the timeline of the control programme,
   b) the performance indicators to assess the efficacy of the control measures implemented in the framework of the programme;
   c) the control of wildlife, pastured livestock and livestock as pets
   d) the control of the livestock waste
   e) the movement control of susceptible animals, their products and livestock related materials including straw across countries and zones
   f) the regulation and monitoring to ensure the practice of the plan
   g) the campaign to promote awareness of farmers

(Rationale)

[preamble]
It is necessary to clarify that the official endorsement will not affect the status of FMD free countries and zones. According to the discussion document of *Ad hoc* Group on FMD on the global strategy for the control of Foot and Mouth disease, the endorsement will provide additional assurance that a FMD infected country or zone has control over the situation and thus act as an incentive to further increase their efforts but it will not change the status of a country o r zone.

[point 4.a]
A prerequisite of the endorsement should be that the country has controlled the situation.

[point 4.b]
It is important for the endorsement of national control programme to examine the measures to prevent introduction of infection not only from neighbouring countries but also from trade partners because trading of goods are important sources of infection.

[point 4.c]
The potential sources of infection include not only FMD susceptible animals and their products but also bedding, litter, feed and other livestock related goods. The OIE should examine their movement patterns for the endorsement.

[point 5]
As mentioned in the general comments, it is necessary to provide effective and specific requirements of the official control programme in the *Terrestrial Code.* The detailed plan should include not only the timeline of the control programme and the performance indicator but also other important factors because it must be intended to eradication of FMD in the country or zone and finally lead to OIE official recognition of FMD free status.

Article 1.6.3.

Questionnaire on foot and mouth disease

COUNTRY WITH OIE ENDOSED NATIONAL FMD CONTROL PROGRAMME

3. FMD control
   c) Describe how FMD is controlled in the country or any zones. Submit a detailed plan on the measures to control and eventually eradicate FMD in the country. Include the timelines of the control programme, ~~and~~ the performance indicators to assess the efficacy of the control measures and plan, the control of wildlife, pastured livestock and livestock as pets, the control of the livestock waste, the movement control of the susceptible animals, their products and livestock related materials including straw across countries and zones, the regulation and monitoring to ensure the practice of the plan, and the campaign to promote awareness of farmers.

(CONT)

e) Provide a description of the methods of animal identification (at the individual or group level), herd registration and traceability; and how the movements of animal and products are assessed and controlled, including movement of infected animals to slaughter. Provide evidence on the effectiveness of animal identification and movement controls. Please provide information on pastoralism, transhumance and related paths of movement. Describe measures to prevent introduction of the virus from neighbouring countries or zones and trade partners.

(Rationale)

See the rationale for point 4.b and 5 of Article 8.5.7bis.

Article 1.6.3.

Questionnaire on foot and mouth disease

COUNTRY WITH OIE ENDOSED NATIONAL FMD CONTROL PROGRAMME

6. FMD prevention
Describe the procedures in place to prevent the introduction of FMD into the country. In particular provide details on:
   a) Coordination with neighbouring countries, trading partners and other countries within the same region. Identify relevant factors about the adjacent countries and zones that should be taken into account (e.g. size, distance from adjacent border to affected herds or animals, surveillance carried in adjacent countries). Describe coordination, collaboration and information sharing activities with neighbouring countries and zones. Describe the measures implemented to effectively prevent the introduction of the agent, taking into consideration physical or geographical barriers. Describe the measures implemented to prevent the propagation of the agent within the country or zone and trade partners.

(Rationale)

See the rationale for point 4.b of Article 8.5.7bis.

Article 1.6.3.

Questionnaire on foot and mouth disease

COUNTRY WITH OIE ENDOSED NATIONAL FMD CONTROL PROGRAMME

6. FMD prevention
   iii) Describe the regulations, procedures, type and frequency of checks at the point of entry into the country and/or their final destination, concerning the import and follow up of the following:
   - animals,
   - genetic material (semen and embryos),
   - animal products,
   - veterinary medicinal products (i.e. biologics).
   - other livestock related goods potentially contaminated with FMDV including bedding, litter and feeds

(Rationale)

See the rationale for point 4.c of Article 8.5.7bis.

Article 1.6.3.

Questionnaire on foot and mouth disease

COUNTRY WITH OIE ENDOSED NATIONAL FMD CONTROL PROGRAMME

7. Control measures and emergency response
   c) In the event of a FMD outbreak:
   iv) indicate the control and/or eradication procedures (e.g. vaccination, stamping-out, partial slaughter/vaccination, the movement control, the control of wildlife, pastured livestock and livestock as pets, the control of the livestock waste, the campaign to promote awareness of farmers etc.) that would be taken;

(Rationale)

See the rationale for point 5 of Article 8.5.7bis.

6. Chapter 8.10－Rabies (Annex XVIII)

Specific Comments

Article 8.10.1.

General provisions

Rabies is a disease caused by any member of the *Lyssavirus genus*. All mammals including human are susceptible to infection. Carnivora and Chiroptera are the major reservoirs for rabies.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*:
1. a case is any animals infected with the *Rabies virus* species (*Lyssavirus genotype 1*);
……
The most important species for international trade purposes are domestic carnivores (primarily dogs, (*Canis familiaris*), cats (*Felis catus*) ~~and~~ ferrets (*Mustela putorius furo*) and raccoons(*Procyon lotor*)) and also include domestic livestock (equids, ruminants and suids).
……

(Rationale)

Scientific rationale is still not sufficient to affirm that Carnivora and Chiroptera are the reservoirs for rabies. Any mammal has potential for the reservoir. In addition, it should be better to clarify the *Rabies virus* species does not include rabies-related virus.

Japan understands ferrets are included in the primarily important carnivores because there are increasing trades in ferrets as a pet. But we wonder why raccoons are not included in them because the trades of raccoon as a pet are also increasing. If the *Code Commission* does not have rationale to distinguish between ferrets and raccoons, raccoons should be included in the primarily important carnivores.

Article 8.10.2.

Rabies free country

A country may be considered free from rabies when:

3. regulatory measures for the prevention of rabies are implemented consistent with the recommendations in this Chapter, including effective procedures for the importation of domestic dogs, cats, ~~and~~ ferrets and other major reservoirs for rabies such as raccoons;

(Rationale)

Japan would like the *Code Commission* to clarify the reason why the effective procedures are required only for the importation of domestic dogs, cats and ferrets, because all mammals are susceptible to infection with rabies as mentioned the draft Article 8.10.1.

Japan thinks that at least raccoons should be treated in the same way as dogs, cats and

ferrets

~~Article 8.10.3~~

~~**Country free from dog to dog transmission of rabies**~~

~~A country may be considered free from dog to dog transmission of rabies when:~~

~~1. the disease is notifiable and any change in the epidemiological situation or relevant events are reported in accordance with Chapter 1.1.;~~
~~2. an effective system of *disease surveillance* has been in operation for the last 2 years, with a minimum requirement being an on-going early detection programme to ensure investigation and reporting of suspect animals;~~
~~3. regulatory measures for the prevention and control of rabies are implemented consistent with the recommendations in this Chapter, including vaccination, identification and effective procedures for the importation of domestic dogs, cats and ferrets;~~
~~4. thorough epidemiological investigations have demonstrated no case of dog to dog transmission of rabies during the past 2 years.~~

~~Members should implement and maintain a programme for the management of stray dog populations consistent with Chapter 7.7.~~

~~Article 8.10.6.~~

~~**Recommendations for importation of dogs from countries free from dog to dog transmission of rabies**~~

~~*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the dogs:~~
~~1. were kept for at least the 6 months prior to shipment in a country free from dog to dog transmission of rabies;~~
~~2. were permanently identified (e.g. by a microchip or tattoo) and the identification member should be stated in the *certificate*;~~
~~3. received, prior to shipment, a valid anti-rabies vaccination, in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*, or revaccination if applicable, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer;~~
4. ~~showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment.~~

(Rationale)

Japan opposes the proposal to create the new category of "Country free from dog to dog transmission of rabies". According to the draft Article 8.10.1, the aim of this chapter is to mitigate the risk related to rabies for international trade and non-commercial movements of rabies susceptible species. If there are cat to dog or ferret to dog transmission of rabies occurred in the category of country, the risk of the dogs imported from it is not lower than one from infected countries. The creation of the new category runs counter to our efforts to mitigate the risk related to rabies. In addition, it is inconsistent to give dog special treatment and to create the category only for dogs because the draft Article 8.10.1 of the *Terrestrial Code* mentions dogs, cats and ferrets as a primarily important carnivore in a line.

Article 8.10.4.

Recommendations for importation from rabies free countries

for domestic mammals, and captive wild mammals

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical signs of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;
2. were permanently identified (e.g., by a microchip) and the identification number should be stated in the certificate;
3. and either
   a) were kept since birth or at least 6 months prior to shipment in the free country; or
   b) were imported in conformity with the regulations stipulated in Article 8.10.7., 8.10.8., 8.10.9. or 8.10.10.

(Rationale)

Japan has experienced the cases that imported dogs were illegally replaced with other dogs on purpose in exporting countries or during transportation. It is important for quarantine against rabies to clearly identify pets such as dogs.

In addition, Japan would like the *Code Commission* to define the words of "captive wild mammals", "wild mammals" in Article 8.10.5. and "captive non-human primates" in Article 8.10.13. Please clarify if the "wild mammals" includes "feral mammals".

Article 8.10.7.

Recommendations for importation of domestic dogs, cats ~~and~~ ferrets and raccoons from countries considered with rabies

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;

~~AND EITHR~~

2. were permanently identified (e.g., by a microchip ~~or tattoo~~) and their identification number should be stated in the *certificate*; and

AND EITHR

3. received, prior to shipment, a valid anti-rabies vaccination in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*, or revaccination if applicable, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer; and
4. were subjected not less than ~~3~~ 6 months and not more than 12 months prior to shipment to an antibody titration test as prescribed in the *Terrestrial Manual* with a positive result;

OR

5. have not been vaccinated against rabies or do not meet all the conditions set out in points 2, 3 and 4 above; in such cases, the animals should be quarantined for 6 months prior to export.

(Rationale)

Japan thinks raccoons should be treated in the same way as ferrets and identification of the animals are important for rabies control.

Although Japan permits imports of dogs identified by tattoo exceptionally, we think the OIE should encourage the identification by a microchip hereafter. We believe the identification should be globally recognized as common method, whereas there is no international standard of tattoo and information from tattoo is indistinct. We wonder why the OIE mentions such an ambiguous method as an example now.

As for the timing of antibody titration test, Japan proposes that the "not less than 3 months" be changed to "not less than 6 months" because there is no scientific rationale for the "3 months" and the incubation period for rabies is considered less than 6 months according to the draft Article 8.10.1 of the *Terrestrial Code.*

Article 8.10.11

Recommendations for importation from countries considered infected with rabies

for captive wild ~~animals~~ mammals (other than non-human primates)

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of shipment;
2. were kept since birth, or for the 6 months prior to shipment, in an establishment where no contact with reservoir species and other infected mammals and where no case of rabies was reported for at least 12 months prior to shipment.

(Rationale)

All mammals are susceptible to infection with rabies as mentioned the draft Article 8.10.1. There are cases that rabies viruses were transmitted from other mammals than Carnivora and Chiropera to human.

Article 8.10.12

Recommendations for importation from countries considered infected with rabies

For wild and feral animals (other than non-human primates ~~and Chiroptera~~)

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

(Rationale)

Japan would like the *Code Commission* to clarify the reason why the recommendations for Chiroptera are not provided in this Chapter, because it is the major reservoir of rabies.

Article 8.10.14

Recommendations on domestic dogs, cats, ferrets and raccoons which should not be took on board

Domestic dogs, cats, ferrets and raccoons should not be taken on board of international vessels including cargo and fishing vessels which depart or call at countries considered infected with rabies unless *Veterinary Authorities* attest that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of rabies the day prior to or on the day of the shipment;
2. were permanently identified (e.g., by a microchip) and their identification number should be stated in a certificate;
3. received a valid anti-rabies vaccination in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*, or revaccination if applicable, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer.

Veterinary Authorities of *transit countries* may require a notification of boarding of the animals, and the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting the animals meet all the above conditions. The *Veterinary Authorities* may prohibit the *unloading* of the animals in transit or isolate the animals in their facilities if the certificate is incorrect or unsatisfied.

(Background)

Japan is faced with a risk of rabies invasion through illegally landing dogs. Some international vessels, especially fishing vessels take dogs on board as a pet or an amulet to ward off accidents. Most of them depart or call at neighboring countries considered infected with rabies. Recently so many such dogs are brought out by fishermen without permission of the *Veterinary Authority* that they seriously threaten animal and public health in Japan. There have been many accidents that illegally landing dogs bit people although animal quarantine services, local veterinary service centers, local public health centers, local police, ports authorities and public veterinarians make every efforts to prevent the dogs from unloading from the vessels .

According to Article 5.5.2 of the *Terrestrial Code*, the *unloading* of *animals* in transit shall be permitted in the territory of the *transit country* only for purposes of watering and feeding or for welfare or other essential reasons and this must be under the effective control of an *Official Veterinarian* of the *transit country*, who should ensure that the animals have no contact with any other animals. However it is practically impossible for official veterinarians of the *transit countries* to control illegally landing dogs effectively. Exporting countries should also take responsibility to prevent *transit countries* from being infected with the agent through the transit.

According to the draft Article 8.10.1, the aim of chapter 8.10 is to mitigate the risk related to rabies not only for international trade but also for non-commercial movements of rabies susceptible species. Therefore, Japan proposes that transit of dogs, cats, ferrets and raccoons be provided in the *Terrestrial Code* to mitigate the risk of *transit countries* because it serves the aim.

7. Chapter15. 4－Swine Vesicular Disease (Annex XXIX)

Specific Comments

Article 15.4.12.

Recommendations for importation from SVD infected countries, zones or compartments

for *meat products* of pigs

Veterinary Authorities should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the entire consignment of *meat* products comes from *animals* which have been slaughtered in an approved *abattoir* and have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections for SVD with favourable results;

2. the *meat* products have been processed in an establishment approved by the *Veterinary Authority* so as to ensure the destruction of the SVD virus by either:

~~1.~~ a) heat treatment in a hermetically sealed container with an F0 value of 3,00 or more, or

~~2.~~ b) heat treatment at a minimum temperature of 70 °C, which must be reached throughout the meat, or

~~3.~~ c) heat treatment in a hermetically sealed container to at least 60 °C for a minimum of 4 hours, during which time the core temperature must be at least 70 °C for 30 minutes, or

~~4.~~ d) natural fermentation and maturation of not less than nine months, resulting in the following characteristics: Aw value of not more than 0,93 or a pH value of not more than 6,0 ~~, and~~.

~~5.~~3. all the necessary measures have been taken to avoid cross contamination.

(Rationale)

Paragraph 5 of this Article is presented as an option to ensure the destruction of SVD virus. But it is clearly not an option and should be a recommendation for the whole Article. We suggest restructuring the entire Article as above.

In addition, it should be included in the same article of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* that the meat products should be derived from animals which have passed ante- and post-mortem inspection, because it is important to prevent the spread of the disease.

Article 15.4.12.

Recommendations for importation from SVD infected countries, zones or compartments

for *meat products* of pigs

paragraph 4

~~4. natural fermentation and maturation of not less than nine months, resulting in the following characteristics: Aw value of not more than 0,93 or a pH value of not more than 6,0.~~

(Rationale)

The pH parameters presented for the destruction of the SVD virus are merely copied from the chapter on CSF (Article 15.2.21., paragraph 2). However, CSF virus is less stable than SVD virus. SVD virus can be expected to persist in pork products for much longer than CSF virus.

8. **Comments on Guidance from the Animal Welfare Working Group to Ad hoc Groups on the Development of Animal Welfare Standards (Annex XXXI, Appendix C)**

Specific Comments

Guidance from the Animal Welfare Working Group to *ad hoc* groups on the development of animal welfare standards

1. Introduction

Worldwide, animals are raised under extremely diverse cultural, geographical, and social backgrounds, and conditions ranging from intensive to extensive systems. There are also great differences between countries and their level of priority according to the welfare of animals. Flexibility should be noted when developing the animal welfare standards. Taking this flexibility into consideration, an OIE animal welfare standard should contain recommendations that can be implemented, and criteria that can be used to tell whether a given practice or facility is in compliance with the standard.

2. Objectives of animal welfare guidelines

Focus principally to protect the basic health and normal functioning of animals. Where feasible and appropriate, the chapter could also accommodate perspectives of other objectives such as protecting the psychological well-being of animals

3. Outcome based, resource based and conditional criteria

~~When 'welfare codes' were first developed in the 1970s and 1980s, they tended to contain truisms such as 'Animals should have adequate space' and 'Noise levels should not be excessive'. Although such statements can be useful to identify important variables in the course of providing more specific advice, they do not provide any implementable information or any means of determining whether a given practice or facility is in compliance. In contrast,~~ (move rest of text into 4th sentence of paragraph 1.)

Outcome-based or animal-based criteria should be used where possible because they are generally related most directly to animal welfare, and because they can be applied to a wide range of production systems. Such criteria can be qualitative (all animals should be able to lie down at the same time without lying on top of each other) or quantitative (no more than 1% of animals should be dead on arrival).

In some cases, input-based or resource-based criteria may be possible, for example if welfare is likely to be reduced by a certain factor in a wide range of systems. Again these can be qualitative (no animal should be hoisted while conscious) or quantitative (ammonia level in the air should not exceed 25 ppm).

In other cases, 'conditional' criteria can be used. These generally specify what actions should be taken under certain conditions. These can include both qualitative and quantitative elements, as in: (1) If more than 2% of birds arrive at the slaughter plant with broken wings, catching crews should be re-trained to catch birds in ways that are less likely to cause injuries. (2) In months where hot weather is expected, stocking density should be reduced so that birds have enough space to perform wing-stretching

(CONT)

4. The role of science in animal welfare standards

Animal Welfare standards should be based on scientific information that is broadly recognized and accepted. If there is no such information or if there are significant conflicts among existing reviews, a new review may need to be created before beginning to develop a standard.

5. Inclusion of numeric value

For certain variables, it is possible to identify 'critical levels' beyond which welfare is expected to be affected. Such levels are normally determined by scientific research. For example, welfare in many species is noticeably affected if ammonia levels in the air exceed 25 ppm.

For other variables (percent lame, percent dead during transport) there are no critical levels but it may be possible to set or recommend 'performance targets'. In the case of performance targets, an *ad hoc* committee may be able to agree that a certain level of performance should be achieved broadly, for example, that no more than 1% of animals should fall while being moved in a slaughter facility. In other cases, there may be so much variation between breeds or locations that a standard merely identifies variables that should be used to assess performance, and calls for national or breed-specific targets to be set. In such cases it is helpful to provide examples of performance targets from other standards that are broadly applicable under different conditions.

(Rationale)

Japan supports OIE's approach to elaborate the guidance on the development of animal welfare standards. This guidance will help *Ad hoc* group to unify approach when developing the standards of animal welfare for production systems of various livestock species.

With regard to the standards of production system, Japan notes that the Working Group has developed "Discussion Paper on the Development of Animal Welfare Guidelines for Production System (hereinafter referred to as "Discussion Paper")". Japan believes that some items mentioned in the Discussion Paper need to be considered when the *Ad hoc group* develops draft standards. Therefore, Japan recommends the following approach be included in the proposed draft guidance.

1) Chapters of animal welfare should be flexible and operational, considering the various livestock production systems of Members.

2) The primary objective of the chapters should be to protect basic health and normal functioning of animals. Where feasible and appropriate, the chapter could also accommodate perspectives of other objectives such as protecting the psychological well-being of animals.

3) Chapters are required to be based on scientific information that is broadly recognized and accepted.

In addition, Japan proposes to delete the first and second sentences of the first paragraph from the introductory part of the draft to keep the guidance concise and reader-friendly.

Draft Chapter X.X.X. Animal Welfare and Broiler Chicken Production (Annex XXXII)

General Comments

Japan supports the conclusion of the *Ad hoc* Group in the draft Article 4 which states that it would be impractical at this time to assign numeric values to measurables due to large variations in the commercial production systems used by OIE members. Japan is also supportive of the Ad hoc group's approach of using outcome-based criteria where possible.

Specific Comments

Article X.X.5.

Recommendations

2. Environment and management
2.1. Thermal environment
(6th paragraph)

Management of the thermal environment should be checked at appropriate frequency with taking broilers' condition into account. ~~at least twice a day~~.

2.13. Handling and inspection
(First paragraph)

Broilers should be inspected at appropriate frequency with taking broilers' condition into account. ~~at least twice every a day~~. Inspection should have three main objectives: 1) to identify sick or injured broilers to treat or cull them, 2) to detect and correct any welfare or health problem in the *flock* (e.g. related to the supply of feed and water, thermal conditions, ventilation, litter quality), and 3) to pick up dead broilers.

(Rationale)

Frequency of inspection should be flexible based on birds' condition rather than indicating number. The current draft standards may induce unnecessary entry of farmer into a poultry house, at the same time may lead to insufficient frequency of inspection when birds are placed in adverse condition.

Article X.X.5.

Recommendations

2. Environment and management
2.9. Outdoor areas

Broilers can be given access to outdoor areas as soon as they are old enough to range safely. There should be sufficient exit areas to allow ~~birds~~ broilers to enter and leave the poultry house freely.

(Rationale)

Given that allowing birds to enter and exit a poultry house freely should be avoided from a biosecurity perspective, Japan suggests a replacement of the word "birds" with the word "broiler".

Article X.X.5.

Recommendations

2. Environment and management
   2.12. Painful interventions
   (4th paragraph)

   If therapeutic beak trimming is required, it should be carried out by trained and skilled personnel at an early age as possible (preferably before 10 days of age; Hester and Shea-Moore, 2003) and care should be taken to remove the minimum amount of beak necessary using a method which minimizes pain and controls bleeding (Glatz and Miao, 2005; Hester and Shea-Moore, 2003).

(Rationale)

It is essential from an animal welfare perspective to mention the importance of practicing beak trimming of chicks at an early age, which is supported by scientific information,