

mation. Translocations and reintroductions are increasingly used in efforts to conserve populations and species and these IUCN Guidelines are valuable in setting out the principles and protocols that should be followed to maximise conservation benefits and minimise risks to welfare.

Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations (2013). A4, 58 pages. The Reintroduction and Invasive Species Specialist Groups' Task Force on Moving Plants and Animals for Conservation Purposes Version 1.0. ISBN: 978-2-8317-1609-1. IUCN/SSC (International Union for the Conservation of Nature/Species Survival Commission), World Headquarters, Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Available at: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2013-009.pdf>.

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National animal welfare strategy for New Zealand

New Zealand's Minister for Primary Industries, Nathan Guy, released a New Zealand Animal Welfare Strategy on 2 May 2013. The Strategy is not a detailed action plan, although it does give some initial priorities for the Government. Rather, it gives a national focus for improvements and future work directions for all New Zealanders involved with animals. It sets out a high-level framework for how New Zealanders treat animals and provides a formal foundation for New Zealand's animal welfare legislation and policy. The underpinning values are:

- It says that it matters to us and to animals how animals are treated;
- We have responsibilities toward animals in our care and animals affected by our activities; and
- Using animals is acceptable as long as it is humane.

Under two key outcomes — care of animals, and our reputation for integrity, the Strategy lists four main routes toward maintaining high animal welfare standards:

- Better planning to prevent animal welfare problems;
- Better animal husbandry, science and technology;
- Clear expectation and sanction, with help for people to comply; and
- Measuring animal welfare performance.

Animal Welfare Matters: New Zealand Animal Welfare Strategy (May 2013). A4, 8 pages. New Zealand Government. ISBN No: 978-0-478-40587-3 (online), ISSN No: 978-0-478-40588-0 (print). Publications Logistics Officer, Ministry for Primary Industries, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, New Zealand. Available at: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/biosecurity-animal-welfare/animal-welfare/new-zealand-animal-welfare-strategy>.

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Updated regional animal welfare strategy for the OIE's Asia, Far East and Oceania region

A second edition of the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania was recently released by the Strategy's co-ordination group. The OIE

(World Organisation for Animal Health) has encouraged each of its five regions to develop animal welfare strategies, to promote the implementation of the OIE's animal welfare standards. The first edition of the Strategy was endorsed in May 2008. This region was the first to issue an animal welfare strategy — a significant step for animal welfare considering that it makes up more than half the world's population of people and animals. Other regions are now doing the same.

The Strategy provides OIE member countries with a direction for future improvements in animal welfare standards and practices through education, regulation and research and development. Key to its success is the development of practical and applied implementation processes and the ongoing support of governments, welfare organisations, practitioners, scientists and industry. The Strategy is to be published in several languages, to cover the diverse members in this geographic region. The vision for the region in the strategy is: "A region where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and incrementally advanced, simultaneously with the pursuit of progress and socioeconomic development".

The OIE is an intergovernmental organisation charged with promoting animal health, including by setting standards to manage animal disease risks in international trade. Its mandate broadened to include animal welfare in 2001 and its 178 members have since adopted nine standards for terrestrial animals and three for aquatic animals, covering transport, killing and on-farm management of livestock (including poultry), and population management of stray dogs, particularly relating to rabies control (see <http://www.oie.int/en/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-key-themes/>).

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania (2013). A4, 15 pages. OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy Coordination Group. Available at: <http://www.rr-asia.oie.int/programme/regional-programme/good-governance-of-veterinary-services/animal-welfare/>.

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Launch of new UFAW support for international developments

The importance of science in elucidating and tackling animal welfare problems is increasingly recognised, but priorities, concerns and approaches vary between nations and cultures. In July, over 160 delegates from 33 countries — including Brazil, China, Egypt, Nigeria, Pakistan and Russia — came to the UFAW Symposium held at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain to explore such issues.

As part of this meeting, there was a session to discuss how UFAW might help to further build capacity in animal

welfare science around the world. Among the ideas and suggestions discussed by the delegates, three emerged which were widely supported as likely to be very helpful in supporting developments in animal welfare and which might be relatively simple to achieve for a start. These were:

- Provision of support for regional scientific meetings and workshops.
- Provision of funds to support student projects. The latter have been identified as a cost-effective and practical way of helping to support developments in animal welfare science as they: (i) provide good training and experience for students hoping to pursue careers in animal welfare science; (ii) can be helpful to supervisors and their academic groups in contributing to their programmes of research; and (iii) can help address important issues of animal welfare.
- Provision of travel scholarships to enable scientists (including students), especially from countries which have emerging interest in the field, to travel to established centres of expertise in animal welfare science to learn approaches, methods and techniques for addressing the welfare questions and challenges they face in their home countries.

UFAW already does these things to an extent (information about UFAW's activities and awards is presented at its website; www.ufaw.org.uk) but will seek to further expand these particular activities, identified as priorities at the meeting in Barcelona. How this develops will depend on funding.

Helping to Build Capacity in Animal Welfare Science Worldwide (August 2013). UFAW, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, Wheathampstead, Herts, UK. Available at: <http://www.ufaw.org.uk/documents/Mediareleaseinternationaldevelopment1.pdf>.

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Revised Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes

The *Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* (the *Code*) was originally developed in 1969, and by 1996 all Australian universities had agreed to implement it. The *Code* has been adopted by state-based legislation, and is legally binding in all Australian states. The *Code*'s purpose is to promote the ethical, humane and responsible care and use

of animals used for scientific purposes, and implementation of the 3Rs Replacement Reduction and Refinement are implicit throughout.

The latest edition has been restructured to reflect four governing principles which (in brief) emphasise the importance of respect for animals when making decisions and carrying out actions involved in the care and use of animals, the need to properly care for animals, the need for an ethical judgement as to whether the research is justified and the obligation to respect animals used in research throughout the animal's lifetime. The title of the new *Code* has also changed, as *Code of Practice* has been replaced with *Code*, to emphasise that it concentrates on principles rather than practice (performance rather than engineering standards). The result of this shift in emphasis is that specific statements in the 2004 edition, such as the requirement that "Bedding and litter must be provided if appropriate to the species" have been replaced by more general statements of responsibility such as that pens, cages and containers must be "compatible with the behavioural needs of the species". The document aims to clarify the responsibilities of those involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, and makes a clearer distinction between what is obligatory and what is strongly recommended.

The changes have introduced clarity regarding the responsibilities of institutions, individuals and Animal Ethics Committees, and the performance-based expectations provide flexibility so that standards do not become ossified. The use of the term 'current best practice' to allow for advances in knowledge or where firm evidence for such practices is not available also provides flexibility. On the other hand, performance standards are not as informative about the detail of what is expected. Also, guidance on the frequency of independent reviews (these are organised by the institution) to assess the institution's compliance with the *Code* has changed to recommend a minimum frequency of every four years rather than every three years as in the previous edition. It will be interesting to see whether the new *Code* leads to better welfare for animals used in Australian science, and whether institutions and researchers find it easier to use and implement.

Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, 8th Edition (2013). National Health and Medical Research Council, Canberra, Australia. ISBN 1864965975. Available at <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/publications/ea28>.

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