

OIE STANDARDS ON INTEGRATED LIVESTOCK AND WILDLIFE HEALTH : DOES THE HAND FIT THE GLOVE ?

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ABSTRACT

The *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE) is amongst other objectives, an international standard-setting organisation, recognized by the *World Trade Organisation* (WTO) and entrusted with the development of trade and health standards for animals and animal products, such as meat, milk and eggs. The various OIE Specialists' Commissions and expert groups are in charge of developing and updating standards while facing new consumer demands, new scientific developments and the emergence of re-emergence of diseases linked to the human-animal-ecosystem interface. The experts providing recommendations to OIE's 178 Members are also increasingly challenged by issues related to wild animals and their impact on the regulation of trade of domestic animals and their products.

The role played by wild animals as source, as well as recipient of these diseases can no longer be ignored or examined separately. This paper demonstrates how the OIE addresses these challenges in view to facilitate the trade of animals and animal products, while ensuring at the same time that consumers worldwide benefit from safe products. Examples of such actions are:

- The supporting role of OIE focal points for wildlife in the design and setting of new standards and the increased involvement of African states in the approval process of these new standards.
- The separation of disease status in domestic or captive wild animals from wild animals (e.g. Newcastle disease);
- The concepts of compartmentalisation and of safe commodities, irrespective of disease status
- The definitions of wild, feral and captive wild animals;
- The dedicated reporting system WAHIS-Wild;
- The new OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* chapters on wildlife-specific diseases (e.g. tuberculosis of farmed cervidae).

The authors also briefly look at some aquatic diseases affecting farmed fish and wild species (e.g. *Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome*), as well as honey-bees (e.g. *American Foulbrood*), thereby illustrating that the glove increasingly does fit the hand...

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