

Panorama

Bulletin 2023-2

Editorial
Perspectives
Dossier
Around the World
Resources



Improving aquatic animal health and welfare worldwide



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

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The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is the international standard-setting body for animal health recognised by the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement of the World Trade Organization. This establishes the Standards in the Aquatic Animal Health Code for WOAH Members as the basis for national aquatic animal health programmes and international trade. These Standards are scientifically based and designed to meet Members' needs for managing aquatic animal disease risks, facilitating safe trade and improving aquatic animal health and welfare.

The first objective of the WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Strategy is the development and amendment of Standards. The primary support to achieve this objective is obtained through a core activity of WOAH's Aquatic Animals Health Standards Commission (the Commission) which involves development and amendment of evidence-based Standards.

At every meeting, the Commission reviews the priority of Standards to be revised and the development of new Standards, while taking into consideration the goals of the Aquatic Animal Health Strategy.

The Commission has prioritised the revision of several Standards of great importance to WOAH Members:

- The assessment of susceptible species and updates to the disease-specific chapters of the *Aquatic Animal Health Code* ensure that all Standards are only applied to those species that pose a risk for the spread of disease.
- The development of two new chapters on emergency disease preparedness and disease outbreak management will provide Members with additional guidance on how to prepare for disease incursions and how to react if a disease incursion occurs.
- The Commission has also prioritised the development of new chapters on ornamental aquatic animals and trade in genetic materials, based on Members' feedback. These chapters will provide new Standards where previously guidance was lacking and will assist Members with risk mitigation for these specific commodities.

The development of the Standards is led by the Commission, which presents the revised and new texts to the Members for their review and comments. It is the Members that adopt the texts at the end of the standard-setting process.

Together, through the development and implementation of Standards, we can achieve improved aquatic animal health and welfare.

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PERSPECTIVES

▶ WOA ACTIONS

2-1-01 Importance of WOAH Standards and the prioritised Standards under the Strategy

KEYWORDS

#international standard, #risk, #safe trade, #WOAH Aquatic Animal Health Strategy, #World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)

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WOAH (founded as OIE) is a global organisation, working to ensure the health of animals across the world. Since 1924, we have focused on the complexities of animal health. We disseminate information on animal diseases and use science-based strategies to limit their potentially negative impact on society.

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