

WOAH Collaborative Centre Reports Activities 2023

Activities in 2023

This report has been submitted : 10 juin 2024 16:02

Centre Information

Title of WOA Collaborating Centre	WOAH Collaborating Centre for Animal welfare
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Name (including Title and Position) of Head of the Collaborating Centre (WOAH Contact Point):	Daniela Morelli, Head of Foreign Diseases of Animals
Name of the writer:	Daniela Morelli, Luigi Iannetti, Lotta Berg, Lena Tuominen

TOR1 AND 2: SERVICES PROVIDED

1. Activities as a centre of research, expertise, standardisation and dissemination of techniques within the remit of the mandate given by WOA

Category	Title of activity	Scope
Animal welfare (true)	Enhancing Research For Africa Network (ERFAN), AW sub group for the SADC region	To establish a network of animal welfare experts in the SADC area, directly connected to local governments and research institutions, in order to develop common research activities and draft a shared strategy, aiming at ensuring a more effective implementation of the WOA standards on animal welfare in these countries. During 2023 two online meetings of the AW sub group have been carried out and the sub group coordinators Luigi Iannetti (IZSAM) and Quixi Sonntag (Faculty of Veterinary Science – University of Pretoria) have attended to the ERFAN meeting for the Region Southern Africa “Regional Meeting: ERFAN meets with international organizations actively engaged in Southern Africa” 7-9 November 2023, Pretoria (South Africa)
		An OIE (WOAH) Twinning project in the field of Animal Welfare has been designed, presented and approved in 2020. It is being implemented between the Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise “G. Caporale” (Parent Institute) and the École Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire (ENMV) in Sidi Thabet (Candidate institute). IZSAM provides

<p>Animal Welfare (true)</p>	<p>OIE Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV)</p>	<p>support to the North African candidate institute to enhance capacity and improve scientific capabilities in relation to animal welfare. Over a thirty-six month period, this Twinning project is mostly focusing on the Section 7 of the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code and - in particular - on the slaughter of animals, killing of animals for disease control purposes, animal transport by land, and stray dog population control. The main goal is to improve the technical knowledge and skills of the Candidate Institute staff, to support the ENMV in the process that will eventually lead to acquire the status of WOAHP Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare. After the activities carried out in 2021 and 2022 (kick off meeting, preliminary assessment visit and 3 training courses), in September 2023 two training courses aimed to ENMV and DGSV personnel were carried out at IZSAM in Teramo, one on animal welfare during depopulation for disease control, involving also Lotta Berg from SLU/SCAW, and another one on dog population management, with particular reference to the current situation in Italy. A whole week in October was then dedicated to dog population management in Tunisia and to deepen knowledge of the new WOAHP standard on this issue.</p>
<p>Animal Welfare (true)</p>	<p>Organisation and implementation of training activities on animal welfare on the farm, animal welfare at the time of killing of animals (at slaughterhouses and for disease control purposes) and animal welfare during transport under the "Better Training for Safer Food" initiative</p>	<p>WOAHP-CC-IZSAM has been entrusted in December 2017, in partnership with Università degli Studi di Milano, for the organisation and implementation of training activities on animal welfare on the farm, animal welfare at the time of killing of animals (at slaughterhouses and for disease control purposes) and animal welfare during transport under the "Better training for Safer Food" Initiative. After a first two-year phase (2018-2019), a second two-year cycle has been approved by the EU Commission with the aim to develop best practices and compliance with the EU and international standards in the animal welfare field. Bringing together participants belonging to National Competent Authorities of Member States, Candidate and Non-EU countries, this project contributes to increase the compatibility of procedures and practices across the EU and to allow exchange between them. As in the first phase, also during the second phase, the attendance should be approximately 30 people per training session, with an estimated global number of 360 participants for the entire training programme that foresees 12 training course editions. Experts from SLU/SCAW have been involved in developing other BTSF courses, both for on-site training events and for online training. In November 2023 a final training event involving all the animal welfare fields included in the initiative (farm, transport and slaughter) was held in Rome.</p>
		<p>The two partners, SLU/SCAW and IZSAM, have together with other highly qualified centres of research and expertise applied for, and been granted, the position as an EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare with a focus on ruminants and equines. We have hereby been given the opportunity to systematically work for improving the knowledge and support to competent authorities on the animal welfare demands of these species, based on the well-functioning cooperation that we have developed as a WOAHP CC. This way, we will be able to convey knowledge and up-to-date research findings to the</p>

Animal welfare (true)	EURCAW Ruminants & Equines, and the Care4Dairy project	competent authorities in charge of animal welfare inspections, and also to the dairy, beef and horse industry, as well as for other ruminants and equine species. Furthermore, we have now carrying out a EU funded project called Care4Dairy, with a focus on improving farmer knowledge of animal welfare requirements and needs for dairy calves, heifers and cows, for example by developing digital factsheets on relevant topics. Also in this case, the consortium is based on the collaboration between SLU/SCAW and IZSZAM, and other European centres of excellence in this field.
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TOR3: HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS

2. Proposal or development of any procedure that will facilitate harmonisation of international regulations applicable to the main focus area for which you were designated

Proposal title	Scope/Content	Applicable area
FAO Good Emergency Management Practice manual (GEMP)	Technical Working Group for the revision of the Good Emergency Management Practice manual (GEMP)	health management
OFDA Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance "Strengthen regional and global coordination of animal health emergencies of international concern"	Technical working group FAO Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health	health management

3. In exercising your activities, have you identified any regulatory research needs* relevant for WOA?H?

4. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOA?H Collaborating Centres (CC), Reference Laboratories (RL), or organisations designated for the same specialty, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOA?H CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose
European Reference Centre for the Welfare of ruminants and equines	Sweden, Austria, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy	Europe	The objective of the EURCAW - ruminants & equines is to provide the EU Commission and EU Member States with support to knowledge building, implementation and enforcement of relevant legislation and capacity building
Enhancing Research For Africa Network (ERFAN)	Italy/SADC	Africa Europe	To strengthen the network of the WOA?H FP for animal welfare from SADC countries (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Lesotho, eSwatini) built in the framework of ERFAN Sub-group for Animal Welfare

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)	Brussels	Europe	To promote new initiatives in the framework of the WOAHEmVetNet activities on animal welfare. Collaboration also in the framework of the Care4Dairy project
WOAH CC on Animal Welfare and Livestock Production Systems	Latin America	Americas	To promote the establishment of a WOAHEmVetNet Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centers.
UNIMI (Università degli Studi di Milano)	Italy	Europe	Collaboration in the framework of the BTSF initiative on AW
Eurogroup for Animals	Belgium	Europe	Collaboration for capacity building on Animal Welfare
Nordic Network for Communicating Animal Welfare, NORDCAW	Nordic and Baltic countries	Europe	Network for collaboration and Communicating Animal Welfare
European Centre for Animal Welfare-pigs	European countries	Europe	Collaboration with EURCAW-pigs
European Centre for Animal Welfare-poultry and small farm animals	European countries	Europe	Collaboration with EURCAW-poultry and small farm animals
WOAH Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres	Global	Africa Americas Asia and Pasific Europe MiddleEast	WOAH Network of Animal Welfare Collaborating Centres. Currently in contact with the other WOAHEmVetNet CC for Animal Welfare to define the Terms of Reference (draft document) of the network.
National Centre Group for Animal Welfare (NCGAW)	National Animal Welfare Centres	Europe	Collaboration with other National Animal Welfare Centres in Europe

TOR4 AND 5: NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

5. Did your Collaborating Centre maintain a network with other WOAHEmVetNet Collaborating Centres, Reference laboratories, or organisations in other disciplines, to coordinate scientific and technical studies?

Yes

Name of WOAHEmVetNet CC/RL/other organisation(s)	Location	Region of networking Centre	Purpose

Reduction of the Risk of Disasters in Animal Health (CENSA)	Cuba	Americas	In the framework of the WOH network on veterinary emergencies
Biological Threat Reduction (IIAD)	USA	Americas	In the framework of the WOH network on veterinary emergencies

TOR6: EXPERT CONSULTANTS

6. Did your Collaborating Centre place expert consultants at the disposal of WOH?

Yes

NAME OF EXPERT	KIND OF CONSULTANCY	SUBJECT
Luigi Iannetti	Lead Expert	WOAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV)
Michele Podaliri Vulpiani, Francesco Cerasoli, Silvia D'Albenzio, Daniela Ciavarelli, Francesca Pompei, Ombretta Pediconi, Chiara Albanello, Emanuela Rossi, Annalisa Falconi, Massimo Fuina	Experts	WOAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV)
Lotta Berg, Luigi Iannetti, Michele Podaliri Vulpiani, Emanuela Rossi, Francesco Cerasoli	Experts	WOAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV): Training course on animal welfare during depopulation for disease control (Teramo, 4-5 September 2023)
Michele Podaliri Vulpiani, Luigi Iannetti, Giusy Matteucci, Paolo Migliaccio, Andrea Vitelli	Experts	WOAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV): Dog population management (part 1): the Italian framework (Teramo, 6-7-8 September 2023)
Michele Podaliri Vulpiani, Luigi Iannetti	Experts	WOAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV): Dog population management (part 2), the new WOH standard and the current Tunisian situation (Sidi Thabet, 9-10-11 October 2023)
Michele Podaliri Vulpiani, Luigi Iannetti, Silvia D'Albenzio, Emanuela Rossi, Lotta Berg	Experts	WOAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV): Presentations at the Third Congress of the ENMV, Workshop "Animal Welfare in Northern Africa" (Sidi Thabet 12-13 October 2023)
Silvia D'Albenzio	Expert	WOAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV): Coordination of the working group for the establishment of a permanent capacity building system in animal welfare in Tunisia
Michele Podaliri Vulpiani, Luigi Iannetti	Experts	ERFAN Sub-group for Animal Welfare for the SADC region. Online Meetings on 23 March and 11 December 2023

Luigi Iannetti	Expert	ERFAN Regional Meeting in Southern Africa. ERFAN meets with international organizations actively engaged in Southern Africa (Pretoria, 7-8-9 November 2023)
Silvia D'Albenzio, Daniela Morelli, Lena Tuominen, Lotta Berg, Luigi Iannetti, Alessandro Ripani	Experts	WOAH Online Stakeholders' Consultation on "The role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters in Europe". 14-15-17 March 2023
Michele Podaliri Vulpiani	Expert	REMESA Rabies Training Workshop, Toward Rabies Control: Epidemiology, Diagnosis, Vaccination, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Padua, Italy 25-28 September 2023
Birgitta Staaf Larsson	Expert	20th meeting of the Steering Group of the WOAH Platform on animal welfare for Europe (SG20) - 11 May 2023 - online
Lena Tuominen	Expert	21st meeting of the Steering Group (SG21) of the Platform Animal Welfare for Europe, 10-11 October 2023, Bern, Switzerland
Birgitta Staaf Larsson	Expert	5th WOAH Animal Welfare Forum, Paris, 2-3 November 2023_CC_Europe
Lotta Berg, Elina Åsbjer	Experts	WOAH regional activities on welfare working equids in Europe, 8 February 2023
Lotta Berg	Expert	Animal transport guiding documents meeting 10-11 January 2023
Lotta Berg, Lena Tuominen	Experts	Animal transport guiding documents meeting 9 March 2023
Lena Tuominen	Expert	Animal transport guiding documents meeting 5 April 2023
Lena Tuominen	Expert	Animal transport guiding documents meeting 10 May 2023
Elina Åsbjer	Expert	Online event on the welfare of working equids organized by WOAH Platform on animal welfare for Europe on 12 September 2023

TOR7: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING

7. Did your Collaborating Centre provide advice/services to requests from Members in your main focus area?

No

8. Did your Collaborating Centre provide scientific and technical training, within the remit of the mandate given by WOAH, to personnel from WOAH Members?

Yes

- a) Technical visit : 0
 b) Seminars : 60
 c) Hands-on training courses: 25
 d) Internships (>1 month) : 0

TYPE OF TECHNICAL TRAINING PROVIDED (A, B, C OR D)	CONTENT	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE EXPERT(S) PROVIDED WITH TRAINING	NO. PARTICIPANTS FROM THE CORRESPONDING COUNTRY
C	Training on animal welfare during depopulation for disease control in the framework of the WOAAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV)	Tunisia	5
C	Training on animal welfare during dog population management (part 1, the Italian framework) in the framework of the WOAAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV)	Tunisia	9
C	Training on animal welfare during dog population management (part 2, the new WOAAH standard and the situation in Tunisia) in the framework of the WOAAH Twinning project on animal welfare between Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise-Italy (IZSAM) and the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV)	Tunisia	11
B	Workshop "Animal Welfare in Northern Africa, in the framework of the Third Congress of the Ecole Nationale de Médecine Vétérinaire, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia (ENMV)	Tunisia, Algeria	30
B	REMESA Rabies Training Workshop, Toward Rabies Control: Epidemiology, Diagnosis, Vaccination, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Padua, Italy	Algeria, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Portugal and Tunisia	30

TOR8: SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

9. Did your Collaborating Centre organise or participate in the organisation of scientific meetings related to your main focus area on behalf of WOAAH?

Yes

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL	TITLE OF EVENT	CO-ORGANISER	DATE (MM/YY)	LOCATION	NO. PARTICIPANTS
International	WOAH Online Stakeholders' Consultation on "The role of Veterinary Services on animal welfare in natural disasters in Europe"	IZS Teramo – WOAAH SRR Bruxelles	2023-03-03	online	37

TOR9: DATA AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

10. Publication and dissemination of any information within the remit of the mandate given by WOAAH that may be useful to Members of WOAAH

a) Articles published in peer-reviewed journals:

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- *Brucella abortus* strain RB51 administered to prepubescent water buffaloes, from vaccination to lactation: Kinetics of antibody response and vaccine safety. De Massis, F., Sacchini, F., Nicola D'Alterio, Migliorati, G., Ferri, N., Rossi, E., Podaliri Vulpiani M., Tittarelli, M. (2023). *Microorganisms*, 11(8), 2078. doi:<https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms11082078>
- Manna, L., Rizzi, E., Bafile, E., Cappelleri, A., Ruscica, M., Macchi, C., Podaliri Vulpiani, M., Salini, R., Rossi, E., Panebianco, C., Perri, F., Paziienza, V., Federici, F (2023). *Lentilactobacillus kefir* SGL 13 and *Andrographis paniculata* alleviate dextran sulfate sodium induced colitis in mice. *Frontiers in Nutrition*, 10, art. no. 1072334. DOI: 10.3389/fnut.2023.1072334
- Guidi, F.; Centorotola, G.; Chiaverini, A.; Iannetti, L.; Schirone, M.; Visciano, P.; Cornacchia, A.; Scattolini, S.; Pomilio, F.; D'Alterio, N. and Torresi M. (2023). The slaughterhouse as hotspot of cc1 and cc6 *Listeria monocytogenes* strains with hypervirulent profiles in an integrated poultry chain of Italy. *Microorganisms* 2023, 11, 1543. <https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms11061543>
- Alves F., Artursson K., Bloch J., Brisabois A., Imberechts H., Jokelainen P., La Ragione R., Lindblad M., Litzell Forss R., Marston D.A., Parvizi O., Tuominen L. and Omazic A. (2023). A multi-country One Health foodborne outbreak simulation exercise: cross-sectoral cooperation, data sharing and communication. *Front. Public Health*, Volume 11,2023, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1121522>
- Ahmed, H., Emanuelson, U., Alvåsen, K., Berg, C., Hultgren, J., Röcklingsberg, H., Hansson, H., 2023. Animal welfare efforts and farm economic outcomes: Evidence from Swedish beef production. *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review* (2023), 1–22 doi:10.1017/age.2023.8 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/agricultural-and-resource-economics-review/article/animal-welfare-efforts-and-farm-economic-outcomes-evidence-from-swedish-beef-production/0782335F958001C5E28B2281DCDD9B68>
- Saxmose Nielsen, S., Alvarez, J., Bicout, D.J., Calistri, P., Canali, E., Drewe, J.A., Garin-Bastuji, B., Gonzales Rojas, J.L., Gortázar Schmidt, C., Herskin, M., Michel, V., Miranda Chueca, M.A., Padalino, B., Roberts, H.C.m Spoolder, H., Ståhl, K., Viltrop, A., Winckler, C., Berg, C., Edwards, S., Knierim, U., Riber, A., Salamon, A., Tiemann, I., Fabris, C., Manakidou, Aikaterini, Mosbach-Schultz, O., Van der Stede, Y., Vitali, M., Velarde, A., 2023. Welfare of ducks, geese and quail on farm. *EFSA Journal* 2023 (21:5), e07992. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.7992>

b) International conferences:

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- Iannetti L. & Podaliri Vulpiani M. (2023). Implementation of WOAAH animal welfare standards through the twinning instrument in Tunisia and North Africa. Oral presentation at the Third Congress of the ENMV (Ecole Nationale de Medecine Veterinaire), Workshop "Animal Welfare in Northern Africa" (12-13 October 2023, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia)
- D'Albenzio S. (2023). Training center project on animal welfare in Tunisia and North Africa. Oral presentation at the Third Congress of the ENMV (Ecole Nationale de Medecine Veterinaire), Workshop "Animal Welfare in Northern Africa" (12-13 October 2023, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia)
- Berg C. (2023). Animal welfare during depopulation for disease control. Oral presentation at the Third Congress of the ENMV (Ecole Nationale de Medecine Veterinaire), Workshop "Animal Welfare in Northern Africa" (12-13 October 2023, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia)
- Rossi E. (2023). The welfare of animal used for research purposes: some examples. (12-13 October 2023, Sidi Thabet, Tunisia)
- Podaliri Vulpiani M. (2023). Dog Population management. REMESA Rabies Training Workshop, Toward Rabies Control: Epidemiology, Diagnosis, Vaccination. (26-28 September 2023 Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Padua, Italy).
- Berg, C., 2023. Animal Welfare inspections at slaughter – a national project for surveillance and improvement. *Proc. Animal Welfare Science Symposium 2023, Ultuna, Sweden*, p 25.
- Brandt, I.P.J., Berg, C., 2023. A legislative perspective on traditional reindeer slaughter in Sweden and Norway. *Proceedings of the 5th European Veterinary College of Behavioural Medicine and Animal Welfare*, 19-20 Oct 2023, Pisa, Italy. *Dog Behaviour* 9 (1), p 22. <https://dogbehavior.it/dogbehavior/issue/view/25/11>
- Berg C., Lundmark Hedman F., 2023. Training, advisory services, private standards and official animal welfare regulations – how can we improve human understanding, animal welfare and legislative compliance? Invited oral presentation at the Simpósio Internacional – Bem-Estar Animal como valor agregado nas cativas da pecunária, University of Jaboticabal, Dec. 13-16 2023, Brazil.

c) National conferences:

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- Podaliri Vulpiani M. & Iannetti L. (2024). Care4Dairy: nuove linee guida europee per il benessere animale nella filiera di produzione del latte bovino. Oral presentation at the congress "La zootecnia italiana cresce: quali traiettorie nel contesto globale?". *Fieragricola*, 1 February 2024, Verona, Italy.
- Berg, C., 2023. Vad säger forskningen som reglema baseras på? ("The scientific background of the legislation"). Oral presentation at the annual Swedish animal welfare conference, Uppsala, Dec 6th 2023.

d) Other (Provide website address or link to appropriate information):

11. What have you done in the past year to advance your area of focus, e.g. updated technology?

The SAM TOOL 2.0 was developed at IZSAM and put at disposal of WOAAH member countries that can use it for self-assessment, as a web-based self-assessment and monitoring e-platform to assist countries in making progress on the agreed vision of full implementation of the WOAAH TAHC Chapter 7.7 on dog population management

with a rabies component.

12. Additional comments regarding your report: