

**APHIS Animal Care Stakeholder Announcement**  
**World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)**  
**Draft Proposal on the Use of Animals in Research, Testing or Teaching**  
**Comments due July 3, 2009**

The World Trade Organization recognizes the OIE as the body for setting animal health standards. The major functions of the OIE are to collect and disseminate information on the distribution and occurrence of animal diseases and to ensure that scientifically based standards govern international trade in animals and animal products. Animal welfare was emphasized as a priority in the OIE Strategic Plan 2001-2005. OIE Member Countries and Territories mandated the organisation to take the lead internationally on animal welfare and, as the international reference organisation for animal health, to elaborate recommendations and guidelines covering animal welfare practices, reaffirming that animal health is a key component of animal welfare.

OIE Specialist Commissions and Working Groups undertake the initial analysis and preparation of draft standards which are then circulated to Member Countries for review and comment. Draft standards are revised accordingly and then presented for adoption to the International Committee at the annual General Session of the OIE. The OIE's Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission met in March 2009 to discuss various issues including animal diseases and welfare. One document, on the "Use of Animals in Research, Testing or Teaching", has been extracted from the report resulting from that meeting, and released to member countries for review and comment.

The draft proposal is located at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/animals/oie/terrestrial.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/oie/terrestrial.shtml)

Generally, if a country has concerns with a particular draft standard and supports those concerns with sound technical information, the pertinent Specialist Commission will revise that standard accordingly and present the revised draft for adoption at the General Session. In the event that a country's concerns regarding a draft standard are not taken into account, that country may refuse to support the standard when it comes up for adoption at the General Session. However, each member country is obligated to review, comment, and make decisions regarding the adoption of standards strictly on their scientific merits.

The Deputy Administrator of Veterinary Services (VS), as the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) is charged with managing U.S. sanitary standard-setting activities related to the OIE. The CVO coordinates the U.S. comments to sanitary standards proposed for adoption or for consideration by OIE. Animal Care is assisting VS in coordinating the U.S. response, and seeks input from the regulated community.

When submitting comments back to our office, please note the following procedures:

- 1) identify the specific Article and/or text in the chapter you are commenting on
- 2) indicate the changes you believe should be made
- 3) provide suggested language that should replace the changes you are making (if any)
- 4) provide a scientific justification or rationale for such changes

Note: Please **do not** use the **automatic 'track-change'** function provided by word processing software as such changes are lost in the OIE's process of collating submitted comments into the Code Commissions working documents.

Comments must be submitted to Dr. Jodie Kulpa-Eddy, Animal Care Staff Veterinarian, at [jodie.a.kulpa-eddy@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:jodie.a.kulpa-eddy@aphis.usda.gov) by close of business on Friday, July 3, 2009. This will ensure APHIS can provide due consideration to all comments received and formulate a response to OIE by their deadline.

More information on the OIE's objectives and achievements in animal welfare may be found at: [http://www.oie.int/eng/bien\\_etre/en\\_introduction.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/bien_etre/en_introduction.htm)