

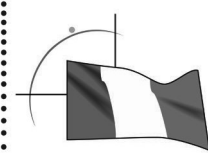
ANIMAL WELFARE

FROM SCIENCE TO LAW

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
PARIS, 10-11 DECEMBER 2015
UNESCO



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The Foundation for Animal Law, Ethics and Sciences (LFDA) is a state-approved French organization which brings together legal experts, philosophers, sociologists, medical doctors, veterinarians, zoologists, neurobiologists and ethologists to develop, realize and promote studies and research, teaching and pluridisciplinary trainings, all geared towards alleviating the pressure of humans on animals. The organization works to publicize, enforce, improve and expand national and international legislations and regulations aimed at assuring the well-being of animals living under the control of man and preserving free animal species, on the basis of a rigorous scientific and ethical argumentation.

The Foundation for Animal Law, Ethics and Sciences is completely independent financially. Its resources come exclusively from donations by private individuals.

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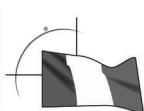
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SESSION II – DECEMBER 10, 15:50

ANIMAL WELFARE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA: WHAT IS GOING ON?

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Our aim was to study animal welfare (AW) policies and initiatives in Central and South America. Our main method was a questionnaire sent to specialists in 20 countries; Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Suriname and Venezuela responded, and we added Brazilian data. Responding countries represent 85.5% of cattle, 81.4% pigs and 77.3% poultry production; perceptions expressed may be restricted due to potentially limited AW teaching in these two continents. Brazil, Chile and Colombia maintain animal protection, transport and slaughter regulations. Even then, respondents from five countries considered animal transport and slaughter as priorities to be addressed, suggesting the need for better regulations and enforcement mechanisms. Farmer educational level seems an important issue since elementary education was the most common level mentioned. Other characteristics with negative impacts on AW are discussed, such as inaccurate AW information on animal product labeling. Availability of higher welfare products is also a field to be explored. Initiatives to improve animal handling were cited by all. Governmental funding to improve AW exists in Brazil, Chile, Colombia

and Ecuador. International trade with European Union (EU) was mentioned by respondents from all countries, except Ecuador; partnership with the European Union was considered an important way to exchange information on AW. The adoption of European norms is common in export slaughterhouses in Brazil and Chile. The adoption of foreign regulations, such as certification schemes and assessment protocols, requires adaptation to local characteristics of each country, as reported by Brazilian and Chilean respondents. We have also collected information on laboratory animal use: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Venezuela maintain regulations for laboratory animals, which require institutional ethics committees. Trends on pig and laying hen farming and on laboratory animals are discussed. Central and South American AW issues other than those in farm and laboratory scenarios remain to be studied; it was difficult to obtain information about AW in the continental level. A structure to constantly monitor this information and support planned strategies to improve AW is welcome, including AW higher education and mechanisms for regulation enforcement.

Key words

- Animal welfare regulation
- Farm animal
- Laboratory animal