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foranimals.org](http://eurogroupforanimals.org)



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World Society for the Protection of Animals

[wspa-
international.org](http://wspa-international.org)

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR THE FAO EXPERT GROUP ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Recommendation 1

As animals are sentient beings, the importance of their welfare should be acknowledged.

Recommendation 2

Agree that animal welfare can be scientifically measured and that new systems of assessment can compare standards of welfare.

Recommendation 3

The FAO should adopt a clear position on the positive benefits of developing systems of higher welfare farming, transport and slaughter in developing countries.

Recommendation 4

The FAO should agree that good welfare of animals can have direct impacts on their health, productivity and yield, which positively benefits farmers and communities.

Recommendation 5

Relevant aid and development work undertaken by the FAO, as well as international and non-governmental agencies, should assess the risks to animal welfare when developing and executing any initiatives. Programmes should minimise the negative impact and maximise the positive impact of programmes involving animals.

Recommendation 6

The FAO should support the widely accepted “Five Freedoms”⁶, which are globally acknowledged as the foundation of good farm animal welfare standards:

1. **Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. **Freedom from Discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. **Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. **Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
5. **Freedom from Fear and Distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Recommendation 7

The FAO should establish an *Animal Welfare in Development Group* involving experts from all relevant organisations and parties to promote the action points from this meeting and raise awareness of animal welfare as a key pillar of community development.

⁶ Farm Animal Welfare Council. *Five Freedoms*. www.fawc.org.uk/freedoms.htm

Recommendation 8

A proactive programme should be established by the FAO to encourage support for systems of higher welfare farming, transport and slaughter in developing countries and thereby disallow support for industrial production models and practices being phased out by western countries. This would, in particular, be an incentive to maximise trade export opportunities to developed countries where there is already established consumer demand and market for such goods. The programme should include the development of welfare guidelines, training protocols, and identification of practices and systems that provide for high welfare and health.

Recommendation 9

A new funding stream should be established from governmental, non-governmental and corporate sources to deliver technology transfer and capacity building into developing countries to enable them to meet standards of higher welfare assurance schemes and so realise the trade potential from such schemes.

Recommendation 10

The report and recommendations from the Expert Group should be forwarded to COAG, and animal welfare should be included as an agenda item for its April 2009 meeting. As well, animal welfare should be included as part of the debate in the November 2009 FAO conference, written and included into disaster management policies, and part of FAO's recommendations towards more humane and sustainable farming systems.