REPORT

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ANIMAL WELFARE: PROGRESS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE OF LIVESTOCK & 2nd Regional Meeting of Researchers on Animal Welfare

In Montevideo, Uruguay, the 10th and 11th of July 2012 was held the International Congress on Animal Welfare: “PROGRESS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE OF LIVESTOCK & 2nd Regional Meeting of Researchers on Animal Welfare” in the framework of activities of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Chile-Uruguay for the Americas.

The event was declared of National Interest by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and was co-organized also by the Veterinary Faculty of University of the Republic and Uruguayan Institutions of the Technical Group on Animal Welfare: Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP), National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA), National Meat Institute (INAC), Extension Services Institute (IPA), Society of Veterinary Medicine of Uruguay (SMVU) and the National Academy of Veterinary Medicine (ANV).

The Congress had the valuable contribution of Dr. Temple Grandin, USA, world leader in animal welfare, together with 15 top-level experts from home and abroad, highlighting the OIE authorities (Drs. Correa and Barcos), researchers of Universidad Austral de Chile (Drs Gallo and Strappini), of the State University of Sao Paulo (Dr. Paranhos da Costa), of IRTA, Spain (Dr. Dalmau) and the OIE Collaborating Centre on veterinary training- Institute Caporale, Italy (B. Alessandrini) among other experts.

The attendance reached 650 participants from 16 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay, USA, China, Venezuela, Turkey, Spain and the Netherlands), plus a number of interesting Uruguay assistants, with a lot of young people, which surprised and enjoyed Dr Grandin and the rest of experts.

Remarkably, the OIE Collaborating Centre Chile-Uruguay and the Veterinary Faculty had the support of all national institutions linked to the meat chain and part of the

Photo 1. More than 650 participants at LATU facilities
Technical Group on Animal Welfare, and the meat industry, laboratories of production of veterinary drugs, International Organizations like OIE and European Union and NGOs such as the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA).

Within the framework of the 2nd Regional Meeting of Researchers on Animal Welfare, the first one was held in Valdivia-Chile in 2009, there were more than 70 very good level research papers, developed in several Latin American countries presented as posters during the two days event.

Also during the congress, a ceremony took place of transferring the pro tempore headquarters of the OIE Collaborating Centre of Animal Welfare for the Americas, from Chile (Faculty of Veterinary Science, Universidad Austral de Valdivia, under the direction of Dr. Carmen Gallo) to Uruguay (Faculty of Veterinary-UdelaR that will be directed by Dr Stella Huertas). Such transfer between countries every three years was stipulated at the OIE World Assembly in May 2009 when the Centre was created.

At that moment, we stated our commitment to continue aligned to the OIE world standards on Animal Welfare and continue working on the main objective of the Collaborating Centre promoting animal welfare in Latin America and remain a reference for the region and the world.
Dr Grandin made a big emphasis on the need to audit the indicators on animal welfare at all levels and to provide training and disseminate best practices with animals. All speakers emphasized the main role of the official Veterinary Services, the Veterinary Faculty and the OIE Collaborating Centre Chile-Uruguay as disseminators of knowledge in good management practices on animal welfare.

Other activities developed on behalf the OIE Collaborating Centre in Animal Welfare Chile-Uruguay with Dr. Grandin.

2. Visit to a rural operations.

Dr. Grandin made a visit to a cattle production operation that have adopted animal welfare standards suggested by the OIE through our efforts and have built facilities for moving animals as designed by Temple Grandin.

3. Temple Grandin Conference: "A life experience"

The Veterinary Faculty, the OIE Collaborating Centre and the Technical Group on Animal Welfare through the Uruguayan Honorary Committee of Disability, promoted and managed a conference of Temple Grandin about her life experience and the problems of autistic children.

The conference was held in the Montevideo City Hall, on the 12th of July from 9am to noon to more than 500 assistants.
4. Post-conference courses

I. HUMANE SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE AND PIGS WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE EUROPEAN REGULATION 1099/2009. Held on 12-13 July 2012, Veterinary Faculty of the University of the Republic, Uruguay.

Taking advantage of the presence in our country of leading experts of the region, the course on Humane Slaughter of Cattle and Pigs, with special emphasis on the European Regulation 1099/2009, took place. This course was taught by specialists of the Program STEPS-WSPA, Brazil. This NGO has been working with the Veterinary Faculty and the Collaborating Center for years, having already delivered several training courses on topics related to animal welfare, especially for production animals.

The course had 110 participants, among which highlighted the presence of the veterinary services officers at the Uruguayan slaughter plants. They were supported by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay (MCAP) at a clear sign of involvement with Animal Welfare issues, in addition to attendees from several countries in the region and Mexico.
II. **DAIRY COWS: STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE AND PRODUCTION.** Held on 16 - 17 July 2012, Veterinary Faculty of the University of the Republic, Uruguay.

The course was taught by Dr. Frank van Eerdemburg, Dairy Specialist of the University of Utrecht, Holland. We worked together for many years with the Veterinary Faculty and the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare. It was well attended by colleagues who work in the dairy industry, not only in Uruguay but Argentina, Mexico and also graduate students.

![Photo 6. Hall of the Veterinary Faculty full of people attending the course Welfare in dairy cows.](image)

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**Stella Maris Huertas Canen, DMYV, MsC**
Animal Welfare Programme of Veterinary Faculty
OIE Collaborating Centre on AW Chile-Uruguay