



STATE VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION

Czech Republic

ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME

Situation in 2008

Chapters: Farm animals husbandries - Transport of animals

Introduction

The ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME presents information on the protection of animals in the Czech Republic in the period from 1993 to 2008. In this period the protection of animals and care of their welfare was implemented in accordance with Act No 246/1992 Coll., on the protection of animals against cruelty, as amended (the Animal Welfare Act), and other national legislation, or the directly applicable European Community (EC) legislation. In the forefront of attention of the EC is the Action Plan for the Protection and Welfare of Animals which is also implemented in the Czech Republic. For that reason in 2008 supporting materials were drawn up for the EC discussions in the light of the preparations for the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, with major focus on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter and on other ways of killing as well as on the amendment to Directive on the protection of experimental animals.

The supreme animal protection authority in the CR is the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) which sets out the main tasks and is responsible for the management of the public administration in this field. Until the end of 2008 another animal protection body was the Central Commission for Animal Welfare (CCAW), composed of representatives of competent state authorities and interest associations, which following the amendment to the Animal Welfare Act has become an advisory body to the Minister of Agriculture. Within the MoA, the Animal Welfare Division (AWD) was set up within the Animal Commodities Department, acting as the animal protection body. The bulletin outlines the methodological procedure followed by the supervisory bodies of the State Veterinary Administration (SVA CR) in their activities accompanied by evaluations and comments to these activities and presentation of data in tables, charts and maps. It also comprises information on activities of the CCAW, including data on the use of experimental animals.

In compliance with legislation and the methodological guidelines, the inspectors of the Regional Veterinary Administrations (RVAs) within their supervisory activities carried out a total of 16 918 inspections in 2008 (as opposed to 16 127 inspections in 2007). The total number of inspections carried out in the CR in the monitored period since 1993 was 179 971 inspections.

Where deficiencies were detected, corrective measures with set deadlines were imposed. In case of any harm caused to animals, animal suffering or cruelty to animals, or in case of a failure to adopt corrective measures, penalties were imposed within the administrative procedure or the cases of suspected crimes were investigated by the competent authorities.

As referred above, a total of 16 918 inspections were carried out in 2008, of which in the total of 1 203 cases non-compliant care was detected involving 431 854 animals. The number of proposals submitted to municipal authorities of municipalities with extended powers to initiate an administrative procedure pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act increased from 258 in 2006 to 327 in 2007 and to 705 in 2008. In 2008 a total of 26 persons were prosecuted, 21 persons were charged and 23 persons were convicted for cruelty to animals; altogether 6 persons were tried summarily.

In the supervision of farm animals related activities, a total of 12 224 inspections were conducted which is by 1 004 inspections more than in 2007. These inspections covered 31 531 314 animals. In 2007 the inspections involved 43 738 991 animals since a larger number of poultry and fish farms were inspected. In 2008 non-compliant care was detected during 650 inspections involving 426 556

animals and 372 cases were addressed in administrative procedures (penalties, proposals submitted to municipalities).

The next part presents a summary of the results achieved by supervisory and control activities of farm animal husbandry and transport of animals in accordance with the EC methodology in 2008.

The ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME bulletin is available on <http://www.mze.cz/> and <http://www.svscr.cz> .

Supervision of farm animal husbandry

Cattle.

In line with requirements laid down in legislation, the inspections of cattle farms focused on various age categories of animals. In accordance with the EC methodology a total of 2 314 calve establishments were checked and only in 64 cases deficiencies were detected. As against 2007, the number of detected deficiencies dropped. This being the fact thanks to not only better care of animals, but also the enhanced awareness campaigns of the MoA agricultural agencies. In 34 cases deficiencies detected at farms related to the failure to apply good husbandry practice. In 12 establishments the size of space for animals was non-compliant and during 10 inspections shortcomings were detected in registration and record keeping. The results are presented in Enclosure 1a. Also 4 522 establishments with other categories of cattle (excluding calves) were inspected and 179 cases of deficiencies were detected. Once again, the largest share of identified deficiencies concerned the shortcomings in husbandry practice (94 cases), registration and identification (25), feeding (23) and size of space (22) as presented in Enclosure 1b. The referred to shortcomings and the most frequent violation of minimum standards were analysed and discussed at training courses for breeders and advisors in connection with preparation for Cross Compliance (CC) controls.

Pigs.

Similarly as in cattle or calve establishments, the results of inspections were evaluated pursuant to the requirements and methodology laid down by Directive No 98/58/EC Enclosure 1a. Inspections based on this methodology were conducted in 25 % of the number of registered establishments with group housing of pigs. The evaluations show that in this animal species the largest share in the total number of deficiencies in both the types of breeding establishments was associated with the requirement for appropriate feeding and watering, namely in 21% in the group rearing, and 41% in case of farms with individual pens. It concerns especially the provision of adequate share of crude fiber in feedingstuffs for the given category of sows. Similar level of deficiencies was detected already in 2007. More shortcomings, accounting for approximately 13 %, concerned the failure to provide material for manipulation for various categories of pigs. For the sake of comparison, in 2006 the highest number of shortcomings identified in the inspected establishments related to the equipment of farms and the quality of used premises. For the first time in the Czech Republic an extreme case of death of more than 300 heads was reported at a single farm due to non-compliant care, especially in feeding of pigs.

Poultry.

In 2008 as to the disease status the situation at poultry farms and in activities involving poultry calmed down. The welfare inspections of laying hens and broilers establishments were accompanied by checks for the implementation of Salmonellosis eradication programme.

In gallinaceous fowl establishments especially in summer season, inspections detected difficulties with ensuring animal hygiene conditions (e.g. overheating of houses without adequate ventilation) and some more inspections identified deficiencies related to the failure to observe good husbandry practice (insufficient feeding and watering, failure to provide necessary aids and equipment).

In laying hens establishments the evaluation of compliance with the requirements and methodology of Council Directive No 98/58/EC (see Enclosure 1a) was made for 2007, in the course of which the registered establishments were inspected. A total of 61 establishments with unenriched cage systems were repeatedly inspected (the intensity of inspections reached 118.3 %). The same applies to selected establishments with deep litter system, where inspections were repeatedly conducted. More inspections were done in 25 establishments with free range conditions (in 2007 only

3 such establishments were registered). Due to the rise in the number of establishments equipped with this technology, the conditions of controls may fully apply to the referred to type of breeding establishment due to the number of kept laying hens (more than 350 birds). In all types of establishments with laying hens deficiencies were detected only sporadically.

A total of 336 inspections were conducted in the establishments with other categories of domestic fowl, during which 12 cases of deficiencies were discovered. No deficiencies were detected during inspections on turkey farms (see Enclosure 1b).

No deficiencies were discovered during inspections in 8 goose establishments. In 1 ducks establishment shortcomings were repeatedly detected in housing.

During 50 inspections done in ratites establishments, one case of non-compliant housing was identified (see Enclosure 1b).

Sheep and goats.

During inspections pursuant to the EC methodology (see Enclosure 1b), the largest number of non-compliances were detected in identification of animals, registration and record keeping, husbandry practice (e.g. failure to provide suitable breeding aids) and malnutrition.

Fur animals.

No deficiencies were detected during 12 inspections (see Enclosure 1b)

Supervision of transport of animals

Conditions of (road, railway and air) animal transport were inspected already in line with Council Regulation No 1/2005/EC on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97. Since the unamended wording of the Animal Welfare Act was still effective, the registration of transporters in the national transport made prior to 2005 was still considered to be valid. With respect to long-term journeys the observance of conditions laid down in the above referred to Regulation was however required.

Evaluations pursuant to the EC methodology, comprising also the number of inspections in slaughtered, exported and imported animals, are presented in the Enclosure 2.

The inspections were recorded in 215 888 means of transport, including transport to slaughterhouses, involved approximately 146 million of transported animals. The highest numbers were reported in case of inspections of transport of poultry.

Infringements were found in 1208 means of transport, including transport to slaughterhouses. Corrective measures and penalties were imposed and in 9 cases the administrative procedure was initiated. In additional 14 cases the information on deficiencies during transport of animals were forwarded to the competent authorities in the EU Member States. In 5 cases the RVA inspectors participated in the investigation of traffic accidents of trucks transporting animals, which resulted in the necessity to conduct immediate euthanasia of some suffering animals and to transport other animals to slaughterhouses.

In spite of all the efforts to acquire more information during the technical consultations held in Brussels and during other contacts with the EC, it shall be stated that particularly during the inspections of transit transport and at approval procedure difficulties arose in the checks of compliance with and implementation of provisions of Council Regulation No 1/2005 as a consequence of unclear technical conditions. We tried to tackle these difficulties through bilateral meetings with the competent authorities of the Member States. The promised possibility of acquiring data from the TRACES system has not come true either. Certain difficulties also arose in monitoring the consistency of data in the newly introduced SVA information system.

The animal transporters were advised of changes in amended legislation, above all of the end of validity of the original registration. At 6 training centres 26 courses were held for drivers and attendants for the acquisition of qualification and additional 513 persons were trained in line with conditions laid down by Council Regulation No 1/2005. At the end of 2008 altogether 3296 persons were trained in the CR.

Conclusions

In the light of preparation for the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU, the activities in 2008 in this field focused on matters related to animal protection and welfare with respect to the efforts exerted by international organisations, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in particular, to improve the situation beyond the borders of Europe. This intention not only impacted the animal protection itself, but shall also set economic limits while respecting cultural and religious traditions. To this end the "Community Action Plan for the Protection and Welfare of Animals" has been implemented. For that reason the supporting technical materials were drawn up for EC discussions in the light of preparations for the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2009, with major focus on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter and killing as well as on the amendment to Directive on the protection of experimental animals.

During the implementation of Council Regulation No 1/2005, it was repeatedly asserted that the technical conditions for the implementation of this Regulation are only general, which complicates the efforts of transporters as well as inspection bodies. The results indicate that the professional care devoted to the development of conditions of animal protection and welfare in companion animal establishments, wild animals as well as in the protection of experimental animals gives rise to multiple problems, which despite of partial achievements still prevail and have to be taken care of. In the field of protection of companion animals attention concentrates particularly on public awareness and education activities. Newly addressed are the matters concerning the care of handicapped animals.

The following measures are to be adopted based on the analysis of results:

- In the first half of 2009, the attention in the field of animal protection and welfare will be focused on technical and organisational matters necessary for the fulfillment of the following tasks ensuing from the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU:
 - a submission of a proposal for discussions on the UN "Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare",
 - discussion on the proposal for Regulation for the protection of animals at the time of slaughter and killing,
 - discussion on the proposal for the amendment to Directive on the protection of experimental animals,
 - discussion of the proposal for Directive on restricting seal hunting and import of seal products to EC,
 - submission of proposals concerning topical animal protection and welfare issues.
- The MoA, SVA CR and competent state authorities in cooperation with the CCAW as an advisory body to the Minister of Agriculture will in their activities build on the "Community Action Plan for the Protection and Welfare of Animals". Additional comments and analytical findings will be submitted to the competent authorities with regard to the drafting of legislation at the Community level.
- When amending the legislation, requirements to reflect the EU legislation shall be met - compliance with the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 882/2005 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law and animal health and animal welfare rules. The emphasis will be placed on the adoption of legislation (decrees) in compliance with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act.
- Animal protection authorities, particularly the MoA and SVA CR, shall together with the Ministry of Transport create conditions for the implementation of Council Regulation No 1/2005.

- More legislation will be harmonised with the EC legislation, the Czech legislation will be fully harmonised with Directive laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production.
- The MoA and competent authorities shall create conditions for the implementation and evaluation of cross-compliance (CC) based on the results of inspections conducted in animal welfare under the Animal Protection Programme, or bearing in mind the risks identified in other areas, or based on foreign experience selected risks shall be identified, which are relevant for the welfare of animals for breeding and which shall be taken into account in the conduct of inspections. In 2009 activities involving inspections of individual cattle and pig categories are foreseen.
- The SVA CR in keeping with the amended Veterinary Act and its implementing legislation shall ensure the compliance with the conditions of supervision of the protection of animals and animal welfare; inspections will be conducted in line with the new methodological guidelines and in accordance with the "Guideline for the conduct of internal audit of the SVA CR official control systems" comprising efficient procedures for the verification of effectiveness of official controls and follow-up measures.
- The SVA CR shall analyse and evaluate the "AP Programme" at the meetings of RVA Chief inspectors. Information on the evaluation of activities in the field of farm animals breeding, inspections of transport and use of experimental animals, including this bulletin, will be sent to the EC.
- The SVA CR shall be responsible for testing and fine-tuning of the welfare module for 2009 and the preparation of a new module of Client-welfare Information System with special focus on CC. The documented procedures shall contain information and instructions as defined in Article 8 para 1 Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, for adequate evaluation of compliance with the requirements laid down in Directives No 91/629/EEC, 91/630/EEC and 99/74/EC.
- The MoA - Animal Welfare Division, SVA CR, RVA inspectors and CCAW members and staff shall work in the given field in synergy with citizens, interest associations of citizens, breeders and state administration bodies with a view to continuously improve the situation in animal protection.
- Information and public awareness activities will be provided to both the citizens and breeders. Information on the protection of animals will be made available on the Internet.

MoA - AWD, CCAW: <http://www.oz.mze.cz/>

SVA CR: <http://www.svscr.cz/>