



STATE VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION

Czech Republic

ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME

Situation in 2010

Chapters: Supervision of the protection of farm animals

Transport of animals

Introduction

The bulletin ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME - Situation in 2010 presents information on the protection of animals and their welfare in the Czech Republic (CR) in the period from 1993 to 2010 with a more detailed analysis of the situation prevailing in 2010. Activities performed in this field in the referred to period were carried out in line with Act No 246/1992 Coll., on the protection of animals against cruelty, as amended (Animal Welfare Act), last amended in 2009. The relevant European Community (EC) legislation was also applied.

Throughout the period the supervision of the animal protection are being performed by the Veterinary Administration authorities pursuant to the methodological guidance. Evaluation of their activities is presented also by tables, charts and maps with explanatory notes. A total of 207 500 inspections were carried out in the monitored period. In 2010 the inspectors of Regional Veterinary Administrations (RVAs) conducted a total of 12 841 inspections. In 2010 deficiencies were detected in 791 cases and involved 373 762 animals. The number of proposals to initiate the administrative procedure pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act submitted to the municipal authorities of municipalities with extended powers dropped in 2010 to 442, compared to 426 proposals submitted in 2009. Nonetheless, it has to be taken into account that also other penalties were imposed, e.g. 323 penalties were imposed in the procedure to issue an administrative order and 83 of on-the-spot fines.

In accordance with European Commission requirements, information on inspections of selected animal species and categories pursuant to Directive No 98/58/EC expressed in percentage is presented in Tables 1a, 1b. Similar data on inspections of other selected animal species and categories pursuant to Directive No 98/58/EC expressed in percentage are provided in Tables 2a, 2b. Tables 3a, 3b present an overview of the protection of animals during transport.

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

Supervision of the protection of farm animals

In 2010 the basis of supervisory activities and its vast contents were the planned inspections of activities with farm animals. The number and type of the planned inspections resulted from the implementation of the Multi-annual National Control Plan. The plan of official controls applies to all holdings with farm animals and the selection of holdings is made centrally using risk analysis based on the number of holdings at the beginning of the year. The plan for control activities was updated during the year.

An analysis of control activities in farm animals shows that as regards the number of animals checked poultry dominates (92%). As regards the number of inspections, however, controls of poultry were carried out in only 7%. Conversely, given the size of farms, a high proportion of controls (59%) were made in breeding cattle holdings, while cattle represented in the number of animals checked only 1%. Similar relationship was seen in pigs, sheep and goats.

It is possible to generalize, especially in the care of livestock, the increased number of deficiencies and the level of welfare is followed by a period of lower economic interest in the products of the species in question (eg, decrease in purchasing prices of meat, milk, etc.). Long-term monitoring shows that the increased number of shortcomings is recorded when targeted control actions are carried out or after the new legal provisions come into force. This highlights the need to provide timely information to farmers.

In the supervision of farm animals related activities a total of 8 790 inspections were conducted in 2010 (in 2009: 10 388). These inspections involved 29 448 100 animals. The number of animals checked depends on the type of technology and animal species and categories controlled. E.g. in 2007 they involved 43 738 991 animals since more poultry or fish farms were inspected. In 2010 deficiencies were detected during 419 (in 2009: 489) inspections and involved 363 668 animals. Altogether 170 proposals (in 2009: 144) to initiate the administrative procedure were submitted to municipal authorities of municipalities with extended powers, but also others forms of penalties were applied, e.g. 83 penalties (in 2009: 66) were imposed in administrative procedure.

Cattle.

In the course of 5 201 inspections (in 2009: 6 464) focusing on diverse use of cattle a total of 697 708 (in 2009: 353 284) animals (of all categories were inspected. The given data does not include the data of daily welfare checks in consignments of animals at slaughterhouses, the same applies to all the other animal species mentioned below. Deficiencies were detected during 149 (155 in 2009) inspections and involved 5 032 (2 541 in 2009) heads of cattle.

The repeated deficiencies were found in 20 cases of non-compliance with minimum standards, in 16 cases failure to ensure adequate feeding and watering and in 11 cases failure to provide the specific equipment. Furthermore, the daily checks were not provided as well as the corrective measures to eliminate the shortcomings were not carried out by breeders. Difficulties were found during conducting the inspections due to parallel deficiencies, such as registration and identification of animals.

In accordance with the Directive 98/58/EC inspections in cattle breeding establishments were targeted at various age categories of cattle. Pursuant to the EC methodology altogether 9121 calves holdings were checked, 3,799 checks were performed and shortcomings were identified only in 56 cases (in 2009: 29). In other categories of cattle 4778 inspections were carried out and shortcomings were recorded in 163 cases.

Pigs.

During 1 642 inspections (in 2009: 1 834) of diverse use of pigs a total of 628 237 (in 2009: 849 691) pigs were checked. The existing system of the Integrated Agricultural Register does not monitor the technology of husbandries, thus in the evaluation the results of inspections were analysed only based on the protocols so that "group pens" and "individual pens" of pigs can be taken into account. The summary of inspections pursuant to Directive No 98/58/EC states that 806 holdings with "group pens" and 332 holdings with "individual pens" were subject to inspections.

Poultry.

In gallinaceous fowl establishments a total of 607 inspections were performed covering 19 207 518 birds (886 inspections covering 21 270 902 birds in 2009). Deficiencies were detected in 17 cases (in 2009: 11) and involved 338 228 birds. In breeding and other activities with the poultry the inspections on categories of laying hens and broilers were associated with the controls for the implementation of Salmonella control programmes. As in previous years, especially in summer season during 12 inspections difficulties were detected as regards ensuring animal hygiene conditions (e.g. overheating of houses without adequate ventilation, disturbances, microclimate, moisture in litter). Altogether 34 (in 2009:119) inspections were carried out at exhibitions and similar public performances, in one case deficiency was detected and involved 39 animals.

In laying hens establishments the evaluation pursuant to the methodology of Council Directive No 98/58/EC (see Tables 1a, 1b) was made for 2010. Due to Salmonella control programme the repeated 16 inspections of 7 holdings with free range conditions were conducted and in 4 farms deficiencies were identified as regards the equipment of houses, system of watering and other husbandry practices.

The holdings of laying hens with barn systems was performed in 100% of farms. In case of enriched cages systems 50% of farms were inspected and 106% farms with unenriched cages were inspected.

In other categories of domestic fowl in 172 inspections deficiencies were detected in 11 cases. In relation to the implementation of Council Directive 2007/43/EC a total of 374 persons responsible for the care of chickens kept for meat purposes have been trained before the amendment of the Animal Welfare Act came into force, and thus the provision of breeding practice was fulfilled. For the inspectors of RVAs repeated training and practical demonstrations of the use of measurement techniques and data processing were organised.

A total of 31 inspections were carried out in holdings with geese, including repeated visits. Deficiencies were detected in one case and the inspector did not allow to re-populate the house until the deficiencies were eliminated. During 60 inspections of turkeys farms in one case repeated shortcomings were found as regards mutilations. During 29 inspections in farms with Ratites shortcomings were found in the space allowances and care of animals.

Sheep and goats.

A total of 8 440 sheep and goats were inspected both in breeding establishments and companion animal establishments in the course of 1663 inspections (868 inspections in 2009), of which deficiencies were detected during 113 inspections (111 inspections at farms in 2009) (see Table 2a). During inspections pursuant to the EC methodology (see Table 2b), the largest percentage of non-compliances in sheep and goats were detected in identification of animals, registration and record keeping, namely 15% in sheep and 10,8% goats. In case of companion animal establishments deficiencies consisted repeatedly in keeping the animals in non-compliant premises and failure to notify their keeping. During 47 inspections at public performances were detected non-compliances in 5 cases.

Fur animals.

No deficiencies were detected during 7 inspections (see Table 2a).

Supervision of transport of animals

Conditions of animals during transport (road and rail) are inspected in all species according to Council Regulation (EC) No 1 / 2005 of 22. December 2004 on protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 (hereinafter the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005). Tables 3a, 3b present the percentage and proportions of deficiencies detected during inspections of transport of livestock according to methodology set out under the terms of the Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. In this file daily checks of consignments of animals at slaughterhouses and animals exported and imported are also included. In one case at the place of departure the inspector not allowed the loading of animals, the vehicle was not in accordance with the provisions (see Table 3a - shortcoming in one vehicle with no animals).

In 2010 the national transport was checked in a total of 336 cases of consignments of animals, which were transported within the territory of the CR, out of the checks of transport to slaughter. Besides the clinical status of animals and equipment of vehicles, also approval of vehicles and professional competence of persons, which participate in the transport of animals, were also subjects to inspections. A total of 9 administrative procedures were held and 9 proposals were submitted to municipalities with extended powers.

International transport of farm animals was inspected similarly. A total of 1333 inspections were performed. Besides the animals themselves and equipment of vehicles, also the registration and approval of vehicles in "Type 2" transporters and the competence of persons involved in the transport of animals were inspected. In 2 cases proposals were submitted to municipalities with extended powers. In 4 additional cases, the information on deficiencies during transport of animals was forwarded to the competent authorities in the EU Member States. In 3 cases the RVA inspectors participated in the investigation of traffic accidents of trucks transporting animals, which resulted in the necessity to conduct euthanasia of suffering animals or the transport of animals to slaughterhouses.

Transport of other animals (besides farm animals) was monitored in 270 cases. The transport conditions, the equipment of vehicles, records' keeping in vehicles and professional competence of persons, which participate in the transport of animals were checked. Upon the request of the French side the inspections were targeted at the announced transports of dogs and cats. No deficiencies were found in the Czech transporters and suppliers of these pet animals. The problems remain in case of illegal trade in these animals.

Particularly during the inspections of transit transport and in cases of approval proceedings difficulties arose in the checks of compliance with and implementation of Council Regulation No 1/2005 as a consequence of unclear technical provisions.

Conclusions

The submitted results indicate that the situation in different segments and in the monitored activities involving animals consolidates. Yet from time to time there is a media presentation of a rare extreme cases of serious neglect of animals leading to suffering. Deficiencies detected during the last year involved a total of more than 370 thousand animals. Therefore, deficiencies in individual sections are analyzed, evaluated and it is pointed at them to find appropriate solutions and avoid such situations. Among the current challenges currently affecting not only the welfare of animals but also the economics of breeding it is necessary to consider implementing the terms of the EC Directive on the breeding of chickens kept for meat, the changing responsibilities in relation to laying hens in battery cages, changes in requirements for minimum standards in pig farming and fur animals in 2011 and 2012. Another amendment to the Animal Welfare Act and changes in conditions in practice are necessary for example in relation to adaptation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. Still there is a lack in practice of the technical conditions and their completion is expected for the proper implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and relating operations.

Despite the professional and social interests dedicated to animal protection of farm animals, pets, wild animals and experimental animals, the results presented show, that many problems occur and even the partial success they continue to persist, and it is necessary to pay attention to them.

Measures to be taken based on the analysis of results:

- In the field of animal protection and animal welfare, attention shall be paid to professional and organisational tasks ensuing from the membership of the CR in EC bodies concerning
 - the "Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare",
 - technical requirements complementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005,
 - proposals for the current problems of animal protection and animal welfare.
- 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 2006-2010". 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 the amended Council Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law and animal health and animal welfare rules. An 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 continue in creating the conditions for the implementation of additional technical provisions to Council Regulation No 1/2005.
- More legislation will be harmonised with the EC legislation, primarily with Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing.
- 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 in breeding and which shall be taken into account in the conduct of inspections.
- MoA, SVA CR and competent authorities shall prepare conditions for successful cooperation and discussions with the FVO experts on the basis of past and planned missions DG (SANCO) and the successful implementation of measures arising from the missions.
- The SVA CR in line with the amendment to the 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 pursuant to the amended methodological guidelines and in accordance with the “Guidelines 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 forwarded to the EC. The methodology for planning the activities in the field of animal protection will be discussed.
- In 2011 the SVA CR shall provide continuous updates and improvements of the established “Client - Welfare” module of the SVA information system.
- The MoA - Animal Welfare Unit, the SVA CR, RVA inspectors and CCAW members shall work in the given field in synergy with citizens, interest associations of citizens, breeders as well as 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 - AWU, CCAW : <http://eagri.cz/>

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

Tables:

- 1a, 1b. Information according to Decision 2006/778/EC - calves, laying hens, pigs**
- 2a, 2b. Information according to Decision 2006/778/EC - others**
- 3a, 3b Information according to Article 27 Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005**