

Compilation of indicators as basic information for the measurement of effectiveness and evaluation of the animal welfare legislation

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Key words

Revised Animal Welfare Legislation, evaluation, Animal Welfare Report

Problem definition and objectives

The overall revision of the Animal Welfare Legislation was mainly conducted in order to improve the implementation of the Legislation. For the evaluation of this target, the impact of the developed Animal Welfare Legislation has to be objectively measured and indicators constantly collected. According to Art. 5 of the Animal Welfare Act (Tierschutzgesetz) and Art. 208 of the Animal Welfare Ordinance (Tierschutzverordnung), the Federal Administration is now obliged to report to the public on development in animal welfare research issues as well as to inform on current questions concerning animal welfare. This should further develop the species-appropriate handling of animals.

The Federal Veterinary Office (FVO) will therefore publish an annual Animal Welfare Report (Tierschutzbericht).

Material and methods

The FVO mandated the company econcept to develop a model for the evaluation of effectiveness of the revised Animal Welfare Legislation. On the basis of this model, it was attempted to derive indicators for the measurement of effectiveness.

The working group, consisting of econcept and BVET together with technical experts, elaborated the final parts of the model and defined the functional chains within the models.

Additionally, econcept conducted an assessment with regard to the need for an animal welfare report. The assessment was made by interviewing 22 members of administration, politics, animal welfare organizations, veterinary associations, agricultural organizations, industry, research, tourism, zoos and consumer organizations.

Results and conclusions

The cooperation with econcept resulted in a concept for the monitoring and evaluation of the Animal Welfare Legislation including a defined process for the required working steps. However, the step "definition of indicators and data sampling concept" was discussed controversially and there is still no agreement in the working group concerning the detailed working steps.

The results of the need assessment showed that an Animal Welfare Report would be highly appreciated. Education and information, welfare-oriented animal husbandry as well as animal transport were evaluated as the central issues of interest. The Animal Welfare Report should fulfill the following criteria: the target population, experts and the interested public have to be reached, lacks and progresses demonstrated and an overview on the implementation of the legislation given. Last but not least, the role of the FVO should be illustrated.

Thereupon, a concept for the Animal Welfare Report was elaborated. The first Report is planned to be published in spring 2010 and will focus on the legislative reforms.

Publications, Posters and Presentations

None.

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