

World Association for Transport Animal Welfare and Studies (TAWS)



Common ground: moving forward with animals

TAWS/TAA/BVA workshop held 15 April 2004, Silsoe Research Institute, UK

The role of legislation in the advancement of the welfare of working animals

Report of discussion group

At the TAWS workshop in 2003, the final discussion of this topic concluded that a database of legislations was required and the suggestion was made that each charity should implement this in each of the developing countries in which it worked.

In 2004 ten members of the 2004 TAWS workshop gave further consideration to the subject and reached a somewhat different conclusion. It was recognised that legislation concerned with the welfare of animals exists in many developing countries although it is not always specific to working animals. In Latin America there is often voluminous legislation in animal health but in which aspects of welfare are included, while in North Africa too, there is much legislation but which is often forgotten about and not enforced.

The group felt that the development of a database would be difficult and time consuming and it did not believe that the time, money and effort to do so could be justified. Nevertheless, it did feel that a more limited study of working legislation and the techniques employed to foster it, as well as failing attempts, would be useful. For instance, it was noted again that there are a number of examples in which tourism has been used successfully to drive the advance of welfare legislation.

The group felt that such a study might form a suitable project to be run under the auspices of a University Welfare Department, perhaps within the Veterinary School at Cambridge or Bristol. It might be funded jointly by the equine charities and the data acquired would then be jointly owned. Roger Connan agreed to discuss these ideas with the appropriate people at the Universities and to report back.

R Connan, 30.9.04