

Proposal to create an OIE collaboration centre at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (FMVZ-UNAM)

Name of the institution:

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine,
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Name proposed for the collaboration centre:

Animal Welfare and Sustainable Animal Production Group, FMVZ-UNAM.

Background

Currently the Veterinary profession faces important challenges in relation to the increasing demand of animal products and because of the need to develop sustainable animal production models. In this sense, in order to generate these models, it is necessary to integrate science-based animal welfare aspects to other factors, such as environmental, food safety, and socioeconomic issues. On the other hand, ethical aspects related to other ways of human - animal interactions, such as responsible ownership of companion animal, working animals, and wildlife kept in captivity, constitute also challenges where animal welfare is a priority.

In 1993, when the discussion on the need to integrate animal welfare topics into the veterinary curricula initiated, a new compulsory course on Animal Behaviour and Welfare, was included in the plan of studies of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the National University of Mexico (FMVZ- UNAM), and at the same time the Department of Ethology and Wildlife was created, one of the first academic groups working on this area in the continent. Since then an academic programme on Animal Welfare (AW) has been developed that with time and the interdisciplinary and inclusive work of other departments in the institution has allowed the consolidation of an Animal Welfare teaching and research group, focusing on the science of AW and on its applications to Veterinary Medicine.

At present, Animal Welfare in the FMVZ-UNAM is being taught transversally, with compulsory and optional courses, covering aspects on the basis of the concept of AW, the scientific assessment of AW, and the applications of the science of AW. In addition, strengthening the graduate programme in the area has allowed to graduate more than 30 Masters and PhD students in the last five years, increasing this way the number of scientific publications in indexed and peer-reviewed journals. As part of the continuous education activities, since 1995 an annual course, as minimum on topics related to Animal Welfare has been organized in the FMVZ-UNAM. More recently a couple of diploma courses have been elaborated for the Ministry of Agriculture in order to train official veterinarians on AW issues. In addition, the FMVZ-UNAM has received a

petition by the Organismo Internacional Regional en Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA) so that these diploma course can be given to veterinarians in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá, and Dominican Republic.

Among other activities, this working group has had an active participation in several committees and in the elaboration of legislation on animal welfare in the country. It has also gained important presence among the scientific community as the group organised and hosted the 41st Annual Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) in 2007. It is important to say that the ISAE gathers most of the scientist doing research on AW.

This academic work has given the Animal Welfare Group at FMVZ-UNAM international recognition and leadership and it is in this context that we present this proposal so that it can be recognized as an OIE collaboration centre.

General aim:

To consolidate and recognize the Animal Welfare Group at the FMVZ-UNAM as an OIE collaboration centre on topics related to the science of AW and its applications to sustainable animal production and responsible ownership and care of companion, working, and wild species of animals.

Specific aims:

To implement teaching programmes and training courses on AW, at a scientific and technical levels, in order to increase regional capacity in Latin America, with emphasis on countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

To promote the inclusion of AW courses in Veterinary Schools of Latin America, with emphasis on countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

To elaborate educational materials on AW for on-line courses that can help promote science-based AW standards and its applications in Latin America.

To carry out scientific research and technological transfer projects on AW, with emphasis on sustainable animal production models (integrating AW to environmental, food safety and social issues), responsible ownership and care

of companion and working animals, and as a tool for conservation of threatened species of wildlife.

To validate AW science-based assessment methods and protocols and to apply them to animal production systems in Latin America, with emphasis on countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

To collaborate with academic groups of Latin America, with emphasis on countries of Central America and the Caribbean, in the execution of teaching and research programmes and to facilitate the mobility of teachers and undergraduate and graduate students in order to generate scientific information in the context of the problems that we face in Latin America.

To provide scientific and technical support to the official sector in topics related to AW assessment and the elaboration of legislation.

To act as a reference group on AW topics, nationally and internationally, for the academic, official and private sectors.

To liaison with government, private industry and non-governmental organizations on efforts to promote a science-based standards of AW.

To promote AW as a tool with high added value for the industry and producer (profitability) and for the consumer (food quality), in addition to ethical aspects.

To disseminate the work carried out by the OIE *ad-hoc* groups promoting the organization standards in the region.

To collaborate with the OIE *ad-hoc* groups and with other collaboration centres on topics related to AW from a regional perspective.

Members of the working group

Professors, Lecturers, Researchers

Francisco Galindo Maldonado, MVZ, Dipl., PhD (University of Cambridge, UK)

Research internship at the Institute of Animal Production, 'Schoonoord', Zeist, The Netherlands in 1992. Coordinator of this working group and Professor at the Department of Ethology and Wildlife of the FMVZ-UNAM, Head of Department since its creation until 2002. Teaches Applied Ethology and Animal Welfare in the undergraduate and graduate levels. Research interests: Animal Welfare and Epidemiology in Dairy Cattle, Sustainable beef and milk production, Animal Welfare and Conservation.

Aline Schunemann de Aluja, MSc (U. of Pennsylvania), Emeritus Professor (FMVZ-UNAM), Doctor *Honoris Causa*, University of Aguascalientes, Honorary Fellow International Society for Applied Ethology ISAE., Founder and coordinator from 1985 – 2005 of the Working Equids programme in collaboration with The Donkey Sanctuary, UK; World Horse Welfare, UK, and UNAM, Professor of Bioethics. Areas of interest: Working animals, Animals used for teaching and research, Pig welfare.

Danilo Méndez Medina, MVZ, MSc, PhD (University of Córdoba, Spain). Research internship in Texas A&M University, Sabbatical year in the University of Bristol, UK. Professor of Pathology in the undergraduate programme and Teacher of Physiopathology of parasitic diseases in the graduate programme. Coordinator of the Animal Welfare Committee (National Consultation Council on Animal Health – CONASA). Areas of interest: Animal Welfare and Meat Quality, Animal Welfare and Sustainable Pig Production.

Anne Sisto Burt, MVZ, MSc (Texas A&M University), PhD (Texas A&M University), Teaches Animal Behaviour, Handling and Welfare and is a member of the Department of Ethology and Wildlife. Areas of interest: Welfare of ruminants, with recent interest in dairy goats.

Dulce Brousset Hernández, MVZ, PhD (FMVZ-UNAM). Professor of Wildlife Medicine in the undergraduate and graduate levels. Member of the Department of Ethology and Wildlife (currently Head of Department). Areas of interest: Conservation Medicine, Welfare of carnivores and primates, and Companion Animals.

María de la Salud Rubio, Lic. Vet. (U. of Córdoba, Spain), PhD (Texas A&M University), Sabbatical year at the University of Bristol, Head of the Meat Science Laboratory at the FMVZ-UNAM, Teaches Science and Technology of Meat Quality in the undergraduate and graduate levels. Areas of interest: Animal welfare and Meat Quality.

Beatriz Vanda Cantón, MVZ, PhD (Fac. Medicine, UNAM). Coordinator of the Institutional Committee for the Care and Utilization of the Animals (CICUAE) at the FMVZ-UNAM. Member of the Academic Committee of Postgraduate Studies in Bioethics of the UNAM. Professor of undergraduate and postgraduate courses of Bioethics and Pathology as well. Areas of interest: Bioethics and Pathology.

Pilar Castañeda Serrano, MVZ, PhD (Texas A&M University). Lecturer and researcher at the Teaching and Research Centre of Avian production of the FMVZ-UNAM. Areas of interest: Laying hen and poultry welfare and its relationships with meat and egg quality.

Lorenzo Álvarez Ramírez, PhD (FMVZ-UNAM), Lecturer and researcher at the Teaching and Research Centre of the Mexican High Plain, Tequisquiapan, FMVZ-UNAM. Areas of interest: Goat behaviour and welfare.

Carlos González-Rebeles Islas, M.V.Z., M.Sc., Ph.D (Texas Tech University). Postdoctoral Internship in Texas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Texas Tech University. Researcher and professor at the Department of Ethology and Wildlife. Professor of undergraduate courses as Wildlife, Management and Utilization of Natural Resources, Introduction to Veterinary Medicine in Wildlife. Postgraduate courses: Techniques for Wildlife Management and Selected Topics of Natural Resources Management. Areas of interest: Planification and evaluation of biologic

conservation, wildlife management, rational utilization of wildlife as a conservation tool, sustainable production.

Gerardo Suzán Aspíri M.V.Z.; M.Sc., Ph.D (New Mexico University, EUA). Postdoctoral Internship in New York Wildlife Trust. Researcher and professor at the Department of Ethology and Wildlife. Lecturer of undergraduate course: Management and Utilization of Natural Resources and posgraduate course: Ecology of Infectious Diseases and Fundamentals of Ecology. Areas of interest: Ecology of Infectious Diseases in vertebrate communities. The effect of habitat loss and species loss in infections dynamics. Domestic, feral and wild animals interactions. Conservation medicine.

Rafael Olea-Pérez, M.V.Z., M.Sc., Ph.D (Newcastle University, UK). Researcher and professor at the Department of Pig Animal Production, FMVZ-UNAM. He teaches undergraduate courses such as Porcine Production, Practices in Porcine Medicine and Zootecny I and Evaluation of Environmental Impact in Animal Production.

Areas of interest: Sustainable food Production and Ethics, environmental impact; and nutrient recycling in food production.

Technicians:

Horacio Chavira Sevilla, MSc (FMVZ-UNAM), coordinator since 2005 of the Working Equids programme in collaboration with The Donkey Sanctuary, UK; World Horse Welfare, UK, and UNAM. Areas of interest: Working equine welfare.

Luis Felipe Rodarte Covarrubias, MSc (FMVZ-UNAM), PhD student and lecturer of Animal Behaviour, Handling and Welfare. Member of the Department of Ethology and Wildlife. Areas of interest: Pig welfare and organic pig production.

Alberto Tejeda Perea, MSc (FMVZ-UNAM), Master of Ethology (University of Barcelona, UAB). Member of the Department of Ethology and Wildlife and lecturer on Clinical Ethology. Areas of interest: Clinical Ethology, Welfare of Companion Animals, Human-Animal Interactions, Welfare of exotic birds.

Adriana Cossio Bayúgar, MSc (Institute of Ecology, AC, Ver.), Member of the Department of Ethology and Wildlife and lecturer on Animal Behaviour, Handling and Welfare. PhD student on Sustainable Animal Production. Areas of interest: Livestock-Environment interaction, Horse welfare, Cattle and Deer welfare.

The active graduate students of the Masters and Doctorate Programme on Animal Health and Production Sciences (i.e. **Eduardo Santurtún, Claudia Rodríguez, Karen Mancera**, among others), are also part of this working Group.

Also one lecturer assistant (**Karina Flores**), in the Department of Ethology and Wildlife is an important support for the group.