

World Association for Transport Animal Welfare and Studies (TAWS)
The challenge of improving transport animal welfare in the world:
ways forward

Workshop held 24 April 2003, Silsoe Research Institute, UK

Welfare legislation

Facilitator/rapporteur: Ian Kelly, ILPH

A discussion group was convened to discuss the use of welfare legislation in the developing World, where all the major charities work to ease the suffering of equines.

The discussion group was chaired by Ian Kelly and consisted of members from the Donkey Sanctuary, the Brooke Hospital and SPANA. Karen Jones of SPANA had given a paper on the work to produce legislation in Morocco for the carriage horses. The ILPH currently campaigns within the European Union to improve and enforce legislation that affects the welfare of equines; in particular their work focuses upon the long-distance transport of live horses for slaughter across Europe.

From this group came one common factor, all were aware of the importance of good legislation. The following points were discussed in relation to legislation within the developing World:

- Is there existing legislation in the countries that the charities are working within? How easy is this to access?
 - *It was felt that it was often difficult to obtain the necessary information and often it was legislation passed many years ago and long forgotten.*
- Could a single legislation be developed to work in all the developing countries?
 - *It was felt that this would not be a solution as the needs and use of the equines in each country varied.*
- The issues associated with an equine charity working in a country that did not have a existing legislation
 - *It would be necessary to guide them in the direction of a like country legislation, taking into account the culture differences that may exist.*
 - *There is a necessity to introduce a database of legislations; this could be implemented by each charity working in a developing country and investigating the existing legislation to see if is practical and imp lamentable.*

In many countries the legislative body of the state has produced laws to protect the welfare of equines in its own country; this varies from country to country due to the culture difference.

The common factor in many cases is that legislation is not upheld or policed in many of the countries in the Developing World. This seems to be due mainly to a lack of knowledge of its existence or more importantly a lack of resources available to implement these laws.

During the final discussions it was decided that the way ahead was first thing to action is to produce a database of the present Legislation that are in use in the Countries in which all the major equine charities are involved.