



# STATE VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION

## Czech Republic

### ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME

#### Situation in 2012

##### Chapters: Supervision of the protection of farm animals

##### Transport of animals

##### Introduction

The bulletin ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME - Situation in 2012, just like every year, contains information on the protection of animals and their welfare in the Czech Republic (CR) in the period from 1993 to 2012, with focus on the analysis of activities conducted in 2012.

Act No 246/1992 Coll., on the protection of animals against cruelty (AWA), approved by the Czech National Council on 15 April 1992, has been subsequently amended and harmonised with the Community legislation. The latest amendment of the AWA came into force on 1 January 2013 and, among other things, implemented Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing and transposed Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals for scientific purposes.

In 2012, when the number and type of scheduled inspections was set out based on the risk analysis and in line with the "Multi-annual Plan of Inspections", altogether 9 150 inspections were conducted by the inspectors of Regional Veterinary Administrations (RVA). Deficiencies were identified during a total of 766 inspections and involved 131 424 animals. The number of motions to initiate the administrative procedure pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act submitted to the municipal authorities of municipalities with extended powers (MEP) in 2012 slightly declined to 385 proposals as against 430 motions in 2011, with also other sanctions imposed. Other sanctions were also imposed (penalties in the administrative procedure and on-the-spot fines).

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Justice, in 2012, a total of 13 persons were prosecuted, and 27 persons were convicted for cruelty to animals pursuant to the Penal Code.

The topics of animal welfare and assurance of minimum standards were on the agenda of courses and seminars for breeders of farm animals held by various entities. The accredited courses for employees of municipal authorities of the MEP were held. At 6 training centres courses took place for transporters of animals covering the requirements laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations. Vocational training of persons for the acquisition of qualification for the capture of stray animals and care of them was also held. A course was held in which the trainees acquired the competence of persons responsible for the care of handicapped animals. There was also a course for the persons to take care of chickens kept for meat production organised. Moreover, the qualification courses for official veterinary surgeons were held focused on the performance of supervision of animal protection (Section 26 of the AWA), and the courses focused on management of experiments on animals (Section 17 para 1 of AWA) for physicians, veterinary surgeons and other persons with natural science university education acquired the qualification.

In accordance with European Commission requirements, below is the information **on inspections of selected animal species and categories** pursuant to Directive No 98/58/EC (data are presented in Table 1a, 1b). Similar information on inspections **of other animal species and categories** pursuant to Directive No 98/58/EC is provided also in the text (data are presented in Table 2a, 2b). An overview of the inspections on **animals during transport** is also included in this paper (data are presented in Table 3a, 3b).

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

## Supervision of the protection of farm animals

As stated above, the core supervisory activities in 2012 consisted in planned inspections of farm animals related activities. The number and the type of scheduled inspections were determined in line with the Multi-annual Plan of Inspections and a Risk Analysis.

The supervision of **farm animals related activities** represented the largest share of inspections, with 5383 inspections registered (in 2011: 6 234 inspections). These inspections involved 17 117 109 animals (in 2011: 21 255 661 animals). The number of inspected animals depends on animal species and husbandry technology used (e.g. poultry and fish farms creates higher numbers).

In 2012, deficiencies were detected during 326 inspections (in 2011: 361, in 2010: 419) and involved 126 601 animals (in 2011: 267 823, in 2010: 363 668 animals). A total of 136 motions (in 2011: 156, 2010: 170) to initiate the administrative procedure were submitted to municipal authorities of the MEP, but also other forms of sanctions were applied, e.g. 22 on-the-spot fines and 191 penalties in the administrative procedure.

In 2012, a total of 3,323 inspections were **performed on farms**, of which 1 656 were planned and 1 663 unplanned. In 2012 there was the overall amount of planned inspections. In 2012 there was a slight decrease in the number of planned inspections, which are the basis of inspections activities. Planned risk based inspections on animal welfare on farms have been set out based on the centrally performed risk analysis from 2011. As a criterion of the degree of risk several factors are taken into account: the number of animals on the farm, types of farmed livestock, date of the last inspection, deficiencies identified during inspections, the number of animals moved for disposal in the previous year, etc. The control plan in other areas such as trade, transport, gatherings, etc., results from the minimum frequency of the checks in a multiannual plan for the set year.

Outside of planned checks also unplanned inspections were performed, that result from the changes in the previous year, reported complaints, findings in other areas of animal husbandry, or as a follow-up of the actions imposed to remedy the deficiencies. In many cases the inspections were made more difficult due to the detected concurrent deficiencies related e.g. to non-compliance with the requirements for registration and identification of animals.

### Cattle.

In the course of 2 673 inspections (in 2011: 1 979, in 2010: 5 201) focusing on diverse use of cattle a total of 263 265 animals (in 2011: 274 861 animals, in 2010: 697 708) of all categories were inspected. The given data does not include the data of daily welfare checks in consignments of animals at slaughterhouses and the same applies to all the other animal species mentioned below.

Deficiencies were detected during 116 (in 2011: 118, in 2010: 149) inspections and involved 3 730 (in 2011: 3 883, in 2010: 5 032) heads of cattle.

In connection with the adverse weather conditions in early spring checks focused on grazing of cattle (and also horses and sheep) to check that the breeders were able to ensure suitable care of the animals. The shortcomings were identified especially regarding feeding and watering animals (freezing water sources, inadequate diet), lack of protection from adverse weather conditions on pasture (failure to provide adequate shelter, unpaved terrain) and the absence of any decontamination activities (finding carcasses in pastures), etc.

In other cases the non-compliances with minimum standards were identified (mostly in dairy cows), deficiencies were detected in feeding and watering during summer season, failure to provide aids necessary for parturition, etc..

In line with requirements laid down in Directive 98/58/EC, the inspections in cattle breeding establishments concentrated on various age categories of animals. Since the Integrated Agricultural Register does not monitor the husbandry technology a total number of holdings with calves subjected to inspections is mentioned. The number of holdings visited and the deficiencies found are divided into

the types of holdings as regards categories of calves inspected. 643 holdings with milked-fed calves were inspected and deficiencies were identified in 15 cases and 752 holdings with calves on plant nutrition were inspected and deficiencies were identified in 14 cases (see Table 1a, 1b). Of the total of 18 779 cattle holdings registered (as active, as of 1 January 2012) 1 632 inspections were carried out and deficiencies were identified in 94 holdings (see Table 2a, 2b).

### **Pigs.**

Diverse activities involving pigs were subject to 1 434 inspections (in 2011: 668, in 2010: 1 642) involving 262 281 pigs (in 2011: 313 598, in 2010: 628 237). During inspections carried out in holdings deficiencies were detected during 122 inspections and involved 3 730 pigs, with the largest number of deficiencies consisting in the non-compliance with the minimum standards (mainly in pigs for fattening).

The IAR does not monitor the husbandry technology in order to facilitate the reporting of holdings with group pens and individual pens in individual categories of pigs. The results of inspections for evaluation in accordance with Directive No 98/58/EC were therefore analysed only based on the information given in inspection protocols, with the group housing technology of pigs (in pens) being inspected in 711 holdings (in 2011: 577; in 2010: 806) and the individual housing in 466 holdings (in 2011: 314; 2010: 332) (see Table 1a, 1b).

The actions focused on the implementation of the legal deadline Directive No 98/58/EC had been initiated, it involved gathering and updating of the national data every 3 months as regards details on husbandry technologies, communication with the Pig Breeders' Association and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) on this matter and informing the Commission on progress in this area etc. The results of these inspections showed that similarly as in the laying hens at the end of the use of unenriched cages the Czech breeders, despite the unfavorable period in this sector, were able to fulfill the terms of EU legislation and to meet the deadline. In September 2012, based on screening information, already 95% of holdings had fulfilled the set requirement.

### **Poultry.**

A total of 504 inspections (in 2011: 290, in 2010: 607) were carried in gallinaceous poultry and water fowl. Deficiencies were found in 16 cases (in 2011: 14). It shall be noted that also farms with less than 350 laying hens were subject to this set of inspections. In laying hens and broilers holdings, the inspections covering husbandry and other activities involving poultry concentrated also on the implementation of Salmonellosis eradication programme. Similarly to previous years, particularly in summer season inspections revealed difficulties with ensuring animal hygiene conditions (e.g. overheating of houses lacking adequate ventilation, microclimate defects, moist litter).

**In laying hens establishments**, the evaluation pursuant to the methodology laid down in Council Directive No 98/58/EC (see Table 1a, 1b) was performed in 2012. The inspections of laying hens establishments with more than 350 birds in cage systems focused on the compliance with enriched cage technology and other types of technologies. Several inspections were performed at 9 facilities that previously reported the termination of unenriched cages. In 8 farms the houses has been converted into different systems, in one of the farms, it was found that the unenriched cages were not excluded but poultry have not been raised there anymore (empty house).

**In holdings with other categories of domestic fowl**, a total of 61 inspections were conducted and deficiencies were detected in 3 cases (see Table 2a, 2b). For the sake of implementation of Council Directive 2007/43/EC, persons responsible for the care of **chickens kept for meat production** were trained. The inspections identified deficiencies qualified as breeding in unsuitable premises (insufficient ventilation, smothering of birds, etc.) and non-compliance with the requirements for breeding practices were also detected (e.g. non-compliance with animal hygiene conditions).

**In goose holdings** altogether 11 inspections (in 2011: 17) were carried out and one deficiency was detected as regards feeding and watering. Altogether 22 (in 2011: 20) **duck breeding establishments** were inspected and in 2 cases deficiencies were identified (constructions and breeding procedures. During 6 inspections on **turkey farms** no deficiencies were detected. During 19 inspections carried out in **ratite holdings** deficiencies were detected in one holding as regards small space and lack of runs (see Table 2a, 2b).

### **Sheep and goats.**

The number of inspections in sheep and goats constituted approximately one fifth of the total number of inspections. Sheep and goats were in 2012 inspected in farm animal breeding establishments during 1 615 (in 2011: 1 598, in 2010: 1663) inspections with 144 cases (in 2011:153) with deficiencies. Moreover, 58 inspections were carried out on the occasions of auctions and exhibitions, during which in 11 cases deficiencies were detected.

### **Fur animals.**

In the course of the year another establishments were closed in consequence of the required change in technology consisting in larger space requirements. No deficiencies were detected during 5 planned inspections and other special inspections carried out by Animal Welfare Division of Ministry of Agriculture on red fox, mink, and chinchilla farms. (see Table 2a. 2b).

## **Supervision of transport of animals**

The conditions of animal transport (road and railway) in all animal species were inspected in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 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 (Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005). The Table 3a. 3b, provides an overview and percentage of deficiencies detected in the transport of farm animals by the EC methodology in line with requirements laid down in Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005. This set of inspections covers also the daily checks of consignments of animals at slaughterhouses and exported and imported animals.

A total of 544 checks were performed in **the international transport** of farm animals that were focused on animal welfare. International transport of farm animals was inspected in line with the relevant methodology, apart from animals as such and equipment of the trucks, the inspections focused also on the registration, Type 2 certificates of approval of vehicles and professional competence of persons involved in animal transport directly at the transporters' companies. In 1 case a motion to initiate the administrative procedure was submitted to the municipal authority of the municipality with extended powers, in 1 case administrative procedure was held and the imposed monetary sanctions were paid. The most frequent deficiencies apart from those connected to the documents were detected in non - satisfactory conditions of transport, fitness of animals during transport, vehicle equipment and maintenance, procedures etc.

**The competent authorities of EU Member States** were consulted on deficiencies mainly of administrative nature identified in transport of animals on the basis of the article 26 of Regulation (EC) n°1/2005. The most common reason for unplanned inspections of the transporters were the reports by the competent authorities of other Member States concerning the Czech transporters. Particular attention has been focused on monitoring the conditions of transport of animals to third countries, and especially cattle to Turkey. In dispatching these consignments no deficiencies were detected, the cases were investigated also retrospectively on the basis of deficiencies surveyed by NGOs especially outside the EU territory.

The RVA inspectors took part in the investigation of **traffic accidents of road vehicles** transporting animals (4 accidents in the national transport, 3 cases in international transport), where euthanasia of some suffering animals had to be performed on-the-spot and other animals had to be transported to slaughterhouses..

In 2012 **the national transport** was checked in a total of 318 cases of consignments of animals (in 2011: 261; in 2010: 336), 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. In 10 cases deficiencies were found, 5 administrative procedures were held (in 2011: 4) and 5 proposals were submitted (in 2011: 2).

At 6 training centres 28 additional **training courses** (in 2011: 23) were held and additional 583 persons acquired the certificate of competence for drivers and attendants (in 2011: 359). Since 2005, a total of 5 025 persons have been trained and acquired the referred to qualification.

**Transport of other animals** (besides farm animals, e.g. transports of ornamental fish, exotic animals etc.) was monitored in 121 cases (2011: 133) with no deficiencies. The controlled provisions

involved transport equipment, records for vehicles, competence of the persons involved in the transport of animals etc. Inspections related to the transport of animals by Czech transporters and also transporters approved in another Member State.

## Conclusions

All the activities related to animal welfare are summarised in the ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME bulletin published by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The submitted results of control activities indicate that the situation consolidates. It is possible to generalize, especially in the care of farm animals, that the increased number of shortcomings is recorded when targeted control actions are carried out or after the new legal provisions come into force. 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 protection of pigs, changes in requirements for minimum standards in fur animals, the changing responsibilities in relation to slaughter of animals and to animals used for experiments. Still there is a lack in practice of the technical conditions necessary for the proper implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

Cross compliance requirements in accordance with Article 124, paragraph 5, point. b) Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 represent a new approach in the promotion of welfare of animals as an essential tool for granting direct payments and subsidies for farmers.

SVA continuously updates its information system with many important control mechanisms and the necessary modules. The conditions for a combined record input controls in the area of animal health and welfare on farms have been prepared and put into service.

SVA continues to cooperate with inspectors of the Czech Breeding Inspection to increase the efficiency of supervision by joint inspections on farms. Cooperation is ensured with the Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons of the Czech Republic through joint information events and seminars.

### **The main strategic objectives in promotion of animal welfare:**

- Keeping farm animals in the relevant technologies, which provide the necessary requirements for animal welfare - ensuring minimum standards under applicable legislation, avoiding the use of methods affecting animal health or welfare or leading to cruelty to animals;
- Transport of animals carried out in compliance with all administrative, technical and practical requirements, focused on consignments of cattle over 8 hours;
- The use of experimental animals in accordance with the requirements of the revised EU legislation;
- The protection of animals at slaughter and killing in accordance with the requirements of the revised EU legislation.

### **Measures to be taken based on the analysis of results:**

- In the field of animal protection and animal welfare, attention shall be paid to technical and organisational tasks ensuing from the membership of the CR in EU bodies related to the negotiations on proposals concerning the topical issues in the field of protection of animals and animal welfare.
- The SVA will in its activities build on the "European Union Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals 2012 – 2015". Additional comments and analytical findings will be submitted to the competent authorities with regard to drafting or updating of legislation at the EU level.
- When amending the legislation, taken into account will be the requirements of alignment with the EU legislation, particularly with 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 and Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs. Specific activities will focus on the issuance of laws (decrees) in line with the authorisation as defined in the AWA.

- In 2012, there inspections on farms were based on the risk analysis. Based on the results of inspections or the risks identified in other areas that are relevant to animal welfare will be taken into account when planning and carrying out checks. The trend will be to reduce the number of planned inspections, in order to increase space for unscheduled inspections in justified cases. It is necessary to put emphasis on the quality of the supervision and implementation of follow-ups in case of deficiencies
- In other areas of animal welfare the frequency of inspections and selection of subjects for different activities and categories of animals are determined on the basis of various parameters, taking into account the results of previous inspections and knowledge of local specifics. The plan for 2013 is set by individual RVAs.
- For 2013, the planned activities involve the control of cross compliance requirements (cross-compliance) in the area of animal welfare in accordance with Article 124, paragraph 5, point. b) Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers, and is a prerequisite for granting direct payments and subsidies. This is a monitoring of the requirements based on the Council Directive 2008/119/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves, Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs and Council Directive No. 98 / 58/ES on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes. All the provisions controlled are implemented in the AWA and Decree No. 208/2004 Coll., on minimum standards for the protection of farm animals.
- In 2013 the inspections linked to the projects submitted under the Rural Development Programme will be conducted continuously. This involves approved grant applications, namely measures I.1.1 Modernisation of agricultural holdings (eg construction and reconstruction of stables) and further measures I.3.2 Setting up of young farmers
- MoA, SVA and competent authorities shall prepare conditions for successful cooperation and discussions with experts on the basis of past and the scheduled DG (SANCO) missions.
- The SVA in line with the methodological guidelines "Programme AP" and in accordance with the "Guidelines for the conduct of internal audit of the SVA official control systems" shall supervise the conducting of control activities, effectiveness of official controls and follow-up measures at selected RVAs.
- The SVA 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 EU.
- The SVA wil provide ongoing updates and enhancements in the information system - module "Client - Welfare".
- 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**