



STATE VETERINARY ADMINISTRATION

Czech Republic

ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME

Situation in 2011

Chapters: Supervision of the protection of farm animals

Transport of animals

Introduction

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 in force in the Czech Republic for twenty years already. Subsequently it was amended and harmonised with the Community legislation. It is of major importance that in 2011 further amendments were made to the referred to act with the view to incorporate the Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing in the Czech body of law and to transpose the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals for scientific purposes.

The bulletin ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME - Situation in 2011, 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 2011, with focus on the analysis of activities conducted in 2011.

In 2011, when the number and type of scheduled inspections was set out based on the risk analysis in line with the "Multi-annual Plan of Inspections", altogether 10 212 inspections were conducted by the inspectors of Regional Veterinary Administrations (RVA). Deficiencies were identified during a total of 821 inspections and involved 316 336 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 2011 slightly declined to 430 proposals as against 442 motions in 2010, with also other sanctions imposed. Other sanctions imposed involved 377 penalties in the administrative procedure and 107 on the-spot fines.

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Justice, in 2011, a total of 16 persons were prosecuted, 13 persons were charged and 25 persons were convicted for cruelty to animals pursuant to the Penal Code; 78 persons were tried summarily.

The topics of animal welfare and ensurance of minimum standards were on the agenda of courses and seminars for breeders of farm animals held by various entities. For example 383 persons responsible for the care of chickens kept for meat production were trained. The Noveko Agency held accredited courses for employees of municipal authorities of the MEP and members of animal protection organisations. 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, altogether 2 994 persons have been trained. Vocational training of persons for the acquisition of qualification for the capture of stray animals and care of them was held. A course was also held in which the trainees acquired the competence of persons responsible for the care of handicapped animals. Moreover, the qualification courses for official veterinary surgeons were held focused on the performance of supervision of animal protection (Section 26 of the AWA), during which 1 135 persons acquired the qualification. During the courses focused on management of experiments on animals (Section 17 para 1 of Animal Welfare Act) 4 442 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 protection of animals during transport and inspection activities is also included in this paper (data are presented in Table 3a, 3b).

The ANIMAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME bulletin is 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 2011 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.

The extent of conducted supervisory activities shall be judged in light of the data on population of farm animals in the CR as reported pursuant to the prescribed methodology by the Czech Statistical Office (CSO) as of 1 April of the given year. A different methodology for determining the number of animals in individual months is used by the Integrated Agricultural Register (IAR). It shall be noted that due to the application of different methodology these sets may sometimes show different data. The data of both these institutions, however, clearly indicate a marked drop in the number of cattle, pigs and poultry since 1993.

The supervision of farm animals related activities represented the largest share of inspections, with 6 234 inspections registered (in 2010: 8 790 inspections). These inspections involved 21 255 661 animals (in 2010: 29 448 100 animals). The number of inspected animals depends on animal species and husbandry technology used (e.g. in 2007 the inspections involved 43 738 991 animals since more poultry and fish farms were inspected).

In 2011, deficiencies were detected during 361 inspections (in 2010: 419, in 2009: 489) and involved 267 823 animals (in 2010: 363 668 animals). A total of 156 motions (in 2010: 170, in 2009: 144) to initiate the administrative procedure were submitted to municipal authorities of the MEP, but also other forms of sanctions were applied, e.g. 49 on-the-spot fines.

Cattle.

The number of inspected heads of cattle represented 1.4 % of all the inspected farm animals, while the share of inspections of cattle in the total number of inspections was 34.8 %. In the course of 1 979 inspections (in 2010: 5 201, in 2009: 6 464) focusing on diverse use of cattle a total of 274 861 animals (in 2010: 697 708 animals, in 2009: 353 284) 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 118 (in 2010: 149, in 2009: 155) inspections and involved 3 883 (in 2010: 5 032, in 2009: 2 541) heads of cattle. Repeatedly detected, namely in 22 cases, were the inappropriate breeding conditions, involving 585 heads of cattle. In 16 cases the non-compliance with minimum standards was identified (mostly in dairy cows), in 12 cases deficiencies were detected in feeding and watering and in 9 cases the prescribed aids failed to be provided (aids necessary for parturition, etc.). Moreover, the prescribed daily checks failed to be carried out and the detected shortcomings were not removed by the breeders. 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.

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 IAR does not monitor the husbandry technology in order to facilitate the reporting of the number of holdings with calves on milk nutrition and the number of holdings with calves on plant nutrition. Therefore we state that pursuant to EU methodology, of 9 121 holdings keeping calves 708 holdings with calves on milk nutrition were inspected with deficiencies detected in only 21 holdings. Moreover, 824 holdings with calves on plant nutrition were inspected and deficiencies were identified in 32 cases (see Table 1a, 1b). Of the total of 22 518 cattle holdings registered as active, as of 1 January 1 937 inspections were carried out and deficiencies were identified in 106 holdings (see Table 2a, 2b).

Pigs.

Diverse activities involving pigs were subject to 668 inspections (in 2010: 1 642, in 2009: 1 834) involving 313 598 pigs (in 2010: 628 237, in 2009: 849 691). During inspections carried out in holdings deficiencies were detected during 80 inspections and involved 7 740 pigs, with the largest number of deficiencies consisting in the non-compliance with the minimum standards (16 cases in pigs for fattening, 7 cases in sows and gilts, 3 cases in piglets).

The share of inspected heads of pigs represented 2.5 % of the total number of inspected pigs, whereas the share of the number of inspections in pig holdings in the total number of inspections accounted for 17.1 %. 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 577 holdings (in 2010: 806) and the individual housing in 314 holdings (in 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 etc.

Poultry.

A total of 290 inspections (in 2010: 607, in 2009: 886) were carried in gallinaceous poultry and water fowl involving 10 724 016 birds (in 2010: 19 207 518; in 2009: 21 270 902). Deficiencies were found in 14 cases (in 2010: 17) and involved 16 027 birds (in 2010: 338 228). 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 2011. The inspections of laying hens establishments with more than 350 birds in cage systems focused on the compliance with the deadline for the introduction of enriched cage technology. The other actions involved gathering and updating of the national data every 3 months as regards details on husbandry technologies, communication with the Czech Moravian Poultry Association and the MoA on this matter etc.

Throughout the year several establishments with cage systems for laying hens were under reconstruction, some of them terminated their operation and in inspected establishments just like in 15 inspected laying hens establishments with deep litter system no animal welfare deficiencies were identified.

In holdings with other categories of domestic fowl, a total of 1 937 inspections were conducted and deficiencies were detected in 106 cases (see Table 2a, 2b), to some extent in connection with inspections of poultry slaughtering. For the sake of implementation of Council Directive 2007/43/EC, a total of 383 persons responsible for the care of **chickens kept for meat production** were trained, by which the requirement for sufficient training was met. In 34 cases the inspections identified deficiencies qualified as breeding in unsuitable premises (insufficient ventilation, smothering of birds, etc.) and in 33 cases as non-compliance with the requirements for breeding practices (e.g. non-compliance with animal hygiene conditions).

In goose holdings altogether 17 inspections (in 2010: 31) were carried out and no deficiency was detected. Altogether 20 **duck breeding establishments** were inspected and in 4 cases deficiencies were identified. During 84 inspections on **turkey farms** in 2 cases deficiencies were detected. During 19 inspections carried out in **ratite holdings** deficiencies were detected in two holdings (see Table 2a, 2b).

Sheep and goats.

In terms of percentage, the number of inspected animals represented 0.1 % of the total number of animals, whereas the number of inspections in sheep and goats constituted 17.1 % of the total number of inspections. The CSO registered an increase of 106 % in registered sheep and of 107 % in goats.

Sheep and goats were in 2011 inspected in farm animal breeding establishments during 1 598 (in 2010: 1663, in 2009: 868) inspections. Deficiencies were detected during 88 inspections on sheep and 65 inspections on goats. Moreover, 161 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 several establishments were closed in consequence of the required change in technology consisting in larger space requirements. No deficiencies were detected during 4 inspections on red fox, mink, and chinchilla farms. The inspections on ferret farms detected deficiencies in two cases (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.

International transport of farm animals was inspected in line with the relevant methodology, apart from animals as such and equipment of the means of transport, the inspections focused 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 3 cases administrative procedures were 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.

In 4 cases the competent authorities of EU Member States were notified on deficiencies identified in transport of animals on the basis of the article 26 of Regulation (EC) n°1/2005. Deficiencies found were mainly of administrative nature. 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.

The RVA inspectors took part in the investigation of traffic accidents of road vehicles transporting animals (2 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 1 case of international transport in connection to road accident a proposal to initiate the administrative procedure was submitted to the municipal authority of the MEP.

In 2011 the national transport was checked in a total of 261 cases of consignments of animals (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. A total of 4 administrative procedures were held and 2 proposals were submitted to the MEP.

At 6 training centres 23 additional training courses (in 2010: 21) were held and additional 359 persons acquired the certificate of competence for drivers and attendants. Since 2005, a total of 4 442 persons have been trained and acquired the referred to qualification; this occupation, particularly in case transporters transporting animals to slaughterhouses, shows a fairly high turnover of staff.

Transport of other animals (besides farm animals, e.g. transports of dogs and cats) was monitored in 133 cases. In 1 case a motion to initiate the administrative procedure was submitted to the municipal authority of the MEP and in 1 cases the imposed monetary sanction was paid.

Difficulties arose, particularly during inspections of transit transport, in the checks of compliance with and practical implementation of provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 caused by unclear technical requirements.

Conclusions

The publication presents results of coordination activities performed by the MoA and other competent state authorities as well as results of supervisory activities conducted by the RVA inspectors in 2011. Simultaneously, through selected parameters in charts and maps, it monitors the progress in activities since 1993, i.e. for almost 20 years since the Act No 246/1992 Coll. on the protection of animals against cruelty, took force. It provides information on the development of new laws and it gives a list of legislation in force and the methodology governing the supervisory activities. The publication compiles and publishes summaries required by the EU, namely concerning the evaluation of conditions of activities involving farm animals and pursuant to the prescribed methodology governing the evaluation of the use of animals in experiments.

The submitted results indicate that the situation as regards different segments and the monitored activities involving animals consolidates. Deficiencies detected in individual sections are analyzed, evaluated and it is pointed at them to find appropriate solutions and avoid such situations. 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 breeding of chickens kept for meat, the changing responsibilities in relation to laying hens in battery cages, changes in requirements for minimum standards in pig farming and fur animals in 2012. Still there is a lack in practice of the technical conditions and their completion is expected for the proper implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

It is possible to generalize, especially in the care of livestock, the increased number of deficiencies and the level of welfare is followed by a period of lower economic interest in the products of the species in question (eg, decrease in purchasing prices of meat, milk, etc.). Long-term monitoring shows that the increased number of shortcomings is recorded when targeted control actions are carried out or after the new legal provisions come into force. This highlights the need to provide timely information to farmers.

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 MoA, SVA and competent state authorities in cooperation with the Central Commission on Animal Welfare (CCAW) as an advisory body to the Minister of Agriculture will in their 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 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.
- Animal protection authorities, particularly the MoA and SVA, shall together with the Ministry of Transport create conditions in order to meet the requirements set by the technical rules supplementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport.

- The MoA, SVA and competent authorities shall create conditions for the implementation and evaluation of cross-compliance.
- Based on the results of inspections conducted in animal welfare under the “Animal Protection Programme”, or bearing in mind the risks identified in other areas, or based on foreign experience selected risks shall be identified which are relevant for the welfare of animals in breeding and which shall be taken into account in the conduct of inspections. For 2012, activities involving inspections of individual cattle and pig categories are foreseen.
- The planned actions to ensure the implementation of the provisions of Council Directive 2008/120/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs by the legal deadline are as follows:
 - monitoring of the situation - updating of the national data every 3 months as regards breeding systems - systems in operation, systems currently under reconstruction etc.,
 - communication with the Pig Breeders’ Association and the MoA - ongoing basis,
 - better information for the pig breeders and public - update of the SVA website,
 - increasing the frequency of checks in pig production sites in 2012 - additional checks
 - training of animal welfare inspectors in the area.
- 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 amendment to the Veterinary Act and the amendment to the AWA and their implementing legislation shall ensure the compliance with the conditions of supervision of the protection of animals and animal welfare; inspections will be conducted pursuant to the new methodological guidelines and in accordance with the “Guidelines for the conduct of internal audit of the SVA official control systems“ comprising efficient procedures for the verification of effectiveness of official controls and follow-up measures.
- 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 MoA, the SVA, RVA inspectors and CCAW members shall work in the given field in synergy with citizens, interest associations of citizens, breeders as well as state administration bodies with a view to continuously improve the situation in animal protection.
- 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**