

1. Scope and introduction

IFU, the Danish state-owned Development Finance Institution (DFI), provides equity, loans and guarantees on commercial terms to private sector investments in developing countries and emerging markets. IFU's objective is to promote investments which support sustainable development in developing countries in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental - in a balanced and integrated manner and contribute to the realisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This Animal Welfare Policy is part of the IFU sustainability policy framework that guides IFU's efforts towards supporting global sustainable development. IFU's Sustainability Policy is the main policy document, whereas the underlying thematic policies elaborate on IFU's commitment in relation to major global sustainability issues. This Animal Welfare Policy further explains how IFU approaches animal welfare issues and implements responsible business conduct measures.

Animal welfare is linked to other sustainability issues such as food security, human health and environmental pressure on ecosystems and is thus an important dimension of sustainable development. Furthermore, there is often a business case for upholding animal welfare standards as it may increase productivity through reduced animal morbidity and mortality and open new markets where retailers and consumers are concerned with animal welfare.

2. Commitments

IFU is committed to setting high animal welfare standards and using Danish rules and regulations as a comparative benchmark for (but not limited to) good management practice, physical environment, veterinary practice and the use of medicine, transport and slaughtering.

Guided by the principles referred to as The Five Freedoms of animal welfare¹ and the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)², this means that animals (e.g. pigs, cattle, sheep and poultry) used by project companies should be housed, fed, watered and looked after in consideration of their physiological and behavioural needs and protected against pain, suffering, fear, distress, injury or disease in the best possible manner.

3. Implementation

Good management practice

Animal welfare is influenced by management commitment and competency. The top management of the project company should be committed to protecting animal welfare and following appropriate animal welfare codes such as the latest version of the Danish Veterinary Association's policy for the relevant type of livestock, which includes but is not limited to minimising animal mortality rates and illnesses.

Physical environment

Animals should be provided with appropriate shelter and resting areas. The stables or cages should be properly designed and follow the current Danish requirements and recommendations, as appropriate for each type of livestock. These requirements and recommendations include but are not limited to ensuring that animals have sufficient space, comfortable resting areas and rummage material as appropriate, separate boxes or areas for new-borns, separate boxes or areas for sick animals, and that there is an optimal indoor temperature. Animals should also be provided with a suitable quantity and quality of food, appropriate for each type of livestock and according to their age, breed and gender.

Veterinary practice and prophylactic treatment

Rules and regulations regarding veterinary practice should be followed so that the use of medicine is made on a solid professional basis and in conformity with legal requirements. Pain, injury and disease must be prevented, rapidly diagnosed and treated in an appropriate manner, and if treatment is not possible or has been shown to be ineffective, the animal must be put down in a quick and humane manner.

A veterinarian with relevant and proven training must supervise the conditions at the farm, either as an employee of the project company, as a consultant on a fixed contract or after having been appointed by the authorities in the host country.

¹ http://www.aspcapro.org/sites/pro/files/aspca_asv_five_freedoms_final_0_0.pdf

² <http://www.oie.int/en/standard-setting/terrestrial-code/>

The veterinarian must visit the farm on a regular and frequent basis, for example once a month. As a minimum, each visit must cover an inspection of all animal housing units, and the results of any autopsies, laboratory check-ups and relevant production data must be checked. On this basis, diagnoses can be made, and antibiotics and vaccines and other relevant treatment can be prescribed.

The veterinarian is to prepare a schematic outline of the diagnoses made and the treatment prescribed for each disease(s).

A survey must be made of all preparations (analgesics, antibiotics, hormones etc.) used, as well as applied vaccines/vaccination programmes.

If necessary, the veterinarian can prepare treatment guidelines to ensure that any treatment and all vaccinations are made on a consistent and correct basis.

Based on the diagnoses and medicine surveys and possible treatment guidelines, the veterinarian must, in cooperation with the project company, work out and maintain accounting which proves that medicine is used as prescribed. This documentation must be kept for at least one year, or longer, if required according to host country legislation.

Medicine

All prophylactic treatment must address a specific diagnosis. Antibiotics can only be dispensed as prophylactic treatment against diagnosed diseases, and their use must be limited as far as possible. Prophylactic treatment with antibiotics that is not directed at a specific disease but used only to secure improved productivity must not take place.

In the event that prophylactic treatment directed at a specific diagnosed disease has been used, the treatment must be assessed regularly by the veterinarian. At least once a year, the following must be considered and described taking the livestock data into consideration:

- Is this treatment still needed?
- Have prophylactic measurements been made and are new measurements advisable?
- Is the treatment period and the dosage sufficient, or should it be adjusted?

Fluoroquinolones may only be used if investigation from an approved laboratory has proven that no other treatment is possible. Such laboratory results must be proven, and the documentation cannot be more than six months old.

If the authorities of the host country require that special vaccinations are made, such requirements must be complied with, unless an exemption has been made by the relevant authority in the specific case. IFU is entitled to obtain a copy of such an exemption.

Transport and slaughtering

The handling and transport of animals to for example slaughterhouses, markets or another farm should not cause stress, injury or unnecessary suffering. The journey should be properly planned, and travel time kept to a minimum. Animals should be fit to travel and be given water, feed and rest as appropriate, as well as sufficient floor space and height during the journey. The persons transporting animals should have the necessary qualifications and training.

Humane methods of slaughter should be used. Animals should be stunned prior to slaughter and only by persons with the necessary knowledge and skill to do so as quickly and humanely as possible. Only permitted methods should be used to stun or kill animals.

4. Approval and feedback

This policy was approved by IFU's Board of Directors on 9 June 2015. Minor corrections were made for communication purposes in May 2019.