Animal welfare and the Sustainable Development Goals

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SGDs

Livestock and the SGDs

17 Partnership for the goals
- Stakeholders of the livestock sector have come together to form the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock and recognize the UN SDGs in their strategy

16 Peace, justice & strong institutions
- Numerous conflicts in areas where access to land creates tensions between communities (e.g. pastoralists)
- Livestock can also be a threat to biosecurity

15 Life on land
- The major part of land is used for livestock
- Livestock interacts with biodiversity through impacts on habitats, LUC, water & soil pollution, grassland species etc.
- Domestic animals are part of biodiversity

14 Life below water
- Livestock use large amounts of fishmeal, contributing to overexploitation of marine resources and loss of biodiversity
- Manure discharge can lead to eutrophication and hypoxic water conditions

13 Climate action
- Poor livestock keepers are among the most vulnerable to climate change
- Livestock are responsible for a significant share of GHG emissions but have a large mitigation potential, through reduction of emissions intensity and soil carbon sequestration

12 Responsible consumption & production
- Wastes and losses along livestock supply chains are high
- Rebalancing diets and the share of animal products can contribute to sustainability and health

11 Sustainable cities & communities
- Hundreds of million of people in cities keep livestock
- Benefits for food security, nutrition, jobs creation
- Potential threat to health and sanitation
- Supports rural-urban linkages

10 Reduced inequalities
- Livestock are a source of income, create employment opportunities and provide market participation to poor rural households

1 No poverty
- Many rural poor rely on livestock
- Livestock provide 3 major pathways out of poverty: (1) securing assets, (2) improving productivity and (3) increasing market participation

2 Zero hunger
- Food (energy and high value protein)
- Traction and fertilizer for crop production
- Income

3 Good health & well being
- Essential micronutrients, especially for children, women and the elderly
- Majority of animal diseases could cause human pandemics
- Use of antimicrobial expected to rise in livestock
- Diseases limit livestock productivity

4 Quality education
- A healthy diet is key to learning capacities (e.g. school milk programs)
- Livestock provides income which supports education

5 Gender equality
- Majority of poor livestock keepers are women, especially with small ruminants and poultry
- Women have less access to resources (land, capital and services)

6 Clean water & sanitation
- Livestock use large amount of water
- They are a source of water pollution (e.g. nitrates)
- Water contaminated by livestock causes hygiene problems
- Livestock can contribute to protect water quality (grazing)

7 Affordable & clean energy
- Livestock are an energy sink and source
- Recycling animal manure (e.g. biogas) provides an alternative to fossil fuels or wood

8 Decent work & economic growth
- 40% of agricultural GDP is provided by livestock
- The sector is growing at a fast rate
- High rate of child labour and occupational hazards

9 Industry, Innovation & infrastructure
- Many people depend on livestock, including from jobs provided in the value chain (feed, processing, retailing)
- Small scale livestock keepers lack market access and inclusion

Animal health & welfare

An animal is in a good state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code
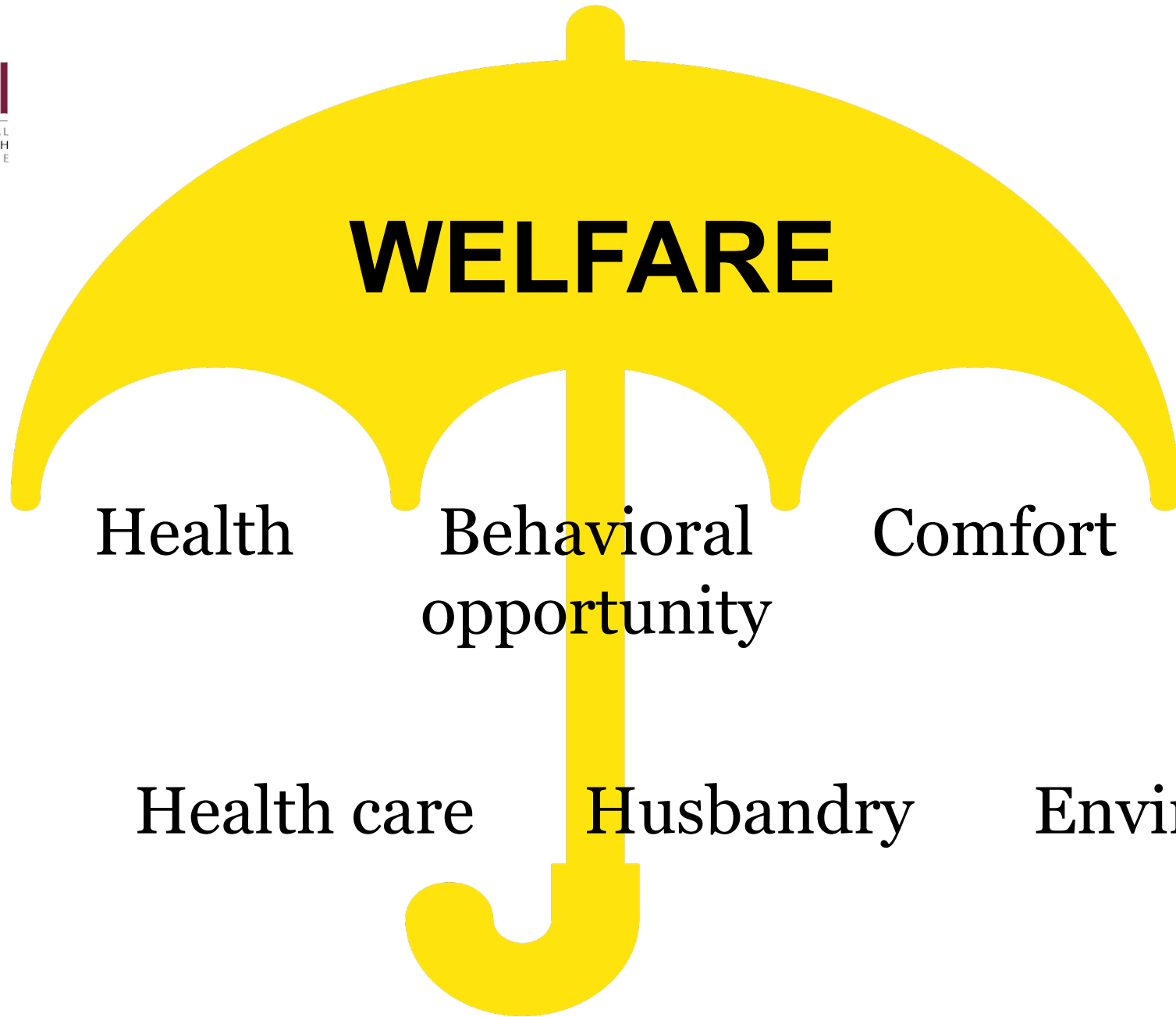
Animal health & welfare

WELFARE

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OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Role of animal welfare in sustainability

Broom *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education* 2010
Coalition for sustainable eggs; Centre for Food Integrity
Garnett et al *Science* 2013

Animal welfare and the SDGs

WELFARE

Welfare Quality Network

Good Feeding
Good Health
Good Housing
Appropriate Behaviour

SDGs 1 & 2

Good Feeding
Good Health
Good Housing
Appropriate Behaviour

SDGs 1 & 2

900 million poor people worldwide; half of them depend directly on livestock for their livelihoods

'Pathway out of poverty' & major asset

14% total calories and 33% dietary protein; food security, "hidden hunger"

Resource constrained

Knowledge constraints

Grazing, mixed farming systems --- partial/permanent tethering

SDGs 1 & 2

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Knowledge constraints

Grazing, mixed farming systems --- partial/permanent tethering

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SDG 3

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

ONE Health

WELFARE

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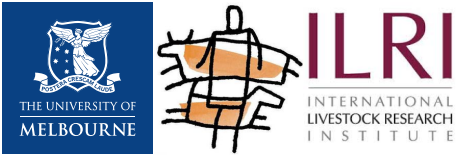
SDG 3

Anti-microbial resistance

Zoonotic disease

Feed related to resilience

Identification, intervention for health issues

Risk of disease transmission

Human animal relationships

Positive interactions and healthy lifestyles?

SDG 5

Good Feeding
Good Health
Good Housing
Appropriate Behaviour

SDGs 13 & 15

2/3 poor livestock keepers are women

Diverse role; increased risk to disease and health exposure

Gender differences in empathy

Workloads & feeding

Providing health care

Positive human-animal relationships

Community violence

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SDGs 13 & 15

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SDGs 13 & 15

14.5% of human-induced GHG emissions

Driving biodiversity loss: land conversion, degradation, fragmentation

Marginal/non-cropping lands

Two way relationship

Improved feed and housing
Reduced wastage (mortality)

Disease, resources, thermal comfort

WELFARE

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SDGs 12 & 10

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

WELFARE

Welfare Quality Network

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SDGs 12 & 10

Reducing wastage: on-farm, post-farm gate, consumer end

Environmental & health benefits reducing animal-sourced food

Regulation can be a catalyst or hand break for welfare improvements

Feeding, health, housing

Animal numbers

Welfare regulations – minimum standards becoming more common & trade focus
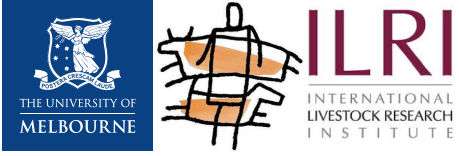
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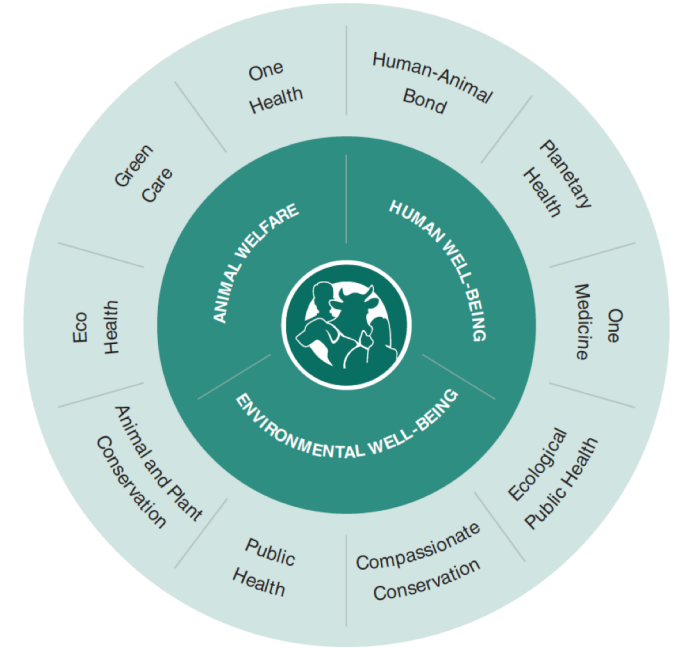
Where to next?

Rebeca Garcia Pinillos 2018

Where to next?

Strengthen the evidence base

Situation-specific welfare indicator & KAP studies

Integrated concepts of animal welfare
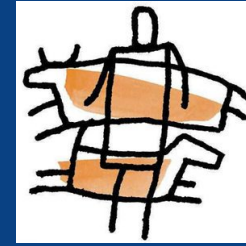
Thank you

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