



**GAPFA STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF 2021 EDITION  
OF THE OIE TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH CODE  
(in particular of Chapter 10.4. Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses)**

The Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA) congratulates the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for its continued efforts to provide standards for the improvement of animal health and welfare, and veterinary public health worldwide. As highlighted by the OIE, these standards should be used by Veterinary Services to set up measures for the early detection, reporting and control of pathogenic agents, including zoonotic agents, and preventing their spread. Implementation of the recommendations in the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)* ensures the safety of international trade in animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers.

GAPFA welcomes the publication of the 2021 edition of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* with new and amended texts that were adopted by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE at the 88<sup>th</sup> OIE General Session in May 2021. GAPFA fully supports OIE's efforts to put in place recommendations that support virus inactivation that reflect recent scientific data, thereby facilitating safe international trade and is grateful for the opportunity to have been able to contribute to the revision of *Chapter 10.4. Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses* by providing the necessary scientific data related to standardised industrial processes.

GAPFA members are pleased that GAPFA's input has been considered under *Article 10.4.2. Safe commodities* of Chapter 10.4. which states that when authorising importation or transit of a number of commodities, **including extruded dry pet food** and coated ingredients after extrusion, Veterinary Authorities should not require any conditions related to high pathogenicity avian influenza, regardless of the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the exporting country or zone.

In 2017 GAPFA has established a Memorandum of Understanding with the OIE and currently GAPFA continues its engagement with the OIE on activities of mutual interest, including the field of international standards and recommendations relevant to pet food.

*The Global Alliance of Pet Food Associations (GAPFA) is a non-profit association of pet food manufacturers, established in Belgium in 2014. GAPFA's mission is to support the health and wellbeing of dogs and cats and to promote the benefits of living with them, by providing a forum to address industry consensus on key issues of mutual interest. The Alliance works to promote adherence to food safety and nutritional standards enabling manufacturers to deliver wholesome, healthy and nutritious prepared pet foods; to promote the feeding of prepared pet food to support the health and wellbeing of pets; and to develop and disseminate educational resources which highlight and enhance the benefits of human pet interaction. For further information, please visit [www.gapfa.org](http://www.gapfa.org).*