



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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Status of Animal Welfare in Kenya



Animal Welfare :Definition

World Organization of Animal Health (WOAH) defines animal Welfare as the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies (OIE code on Terrestrial Animals Chapter 7.1)

When Does an animal Experience Good Welfare?

- ▶ An animal experiences good welfare if the animal is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress, and is able to express behaviours that are important for its physical and mental state.

Role Of Directorate of Veterinary Services in Implementing Animal Welfare

- ▶ Animal Welfare is embedded in the Vision ,Mission and Mandate of The Directorate

VISION

Healthy and productive animal resources that contribute to sustainable economic development and social welfare in Kenya

Mission

To provide and facilitate efficient veterinary services for production of safe and high quality animals, animal products and by-products and promote trade and industrial growth in a sustainable environment

Mandate

To safeguard animal and human health, **improve animal welfare**, increase animal resource productivity, and ensure safe and high quality animals and their products to facilitate food security, and domestic and international trade

Five Animal Freedoms

- ▶ Freedom from hunger and thirst, by ready access to water and a diet to maintain health and vigour.
- ▶ Freedom from discomfort, by providing an appropriate environment.
- ▶ Freedom from pain, injury and disease, by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- ▶ Freedom to express normal behaviour, by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and appropriate company of the animal's own kind.
- ▶ Freedom from fear and distress, by ensuring conditions and treatment, which avoid mental suffering.

Animal Welfare Service Delivery

- ▶ Animal Welfare is a unit in the Animal Welfare and Veterinary Advisory Section which is under Disease Surveillance, Vector Regulatory and Zoological Services. Within the Directorate of Veterinary Services
- ▶ In the recent past, The section had 6 staff members but currently it is manned by only 2 staff members as all the others have retired without replacement.
- ▶ However, this services is endowed with many actors who assist in the delivery of the service;
 - ▶ KSPCA which was established under Cap 360
 - ▶ Animal Welfare Organizations
 - ▶ Farmer organizations
 - ▶ Enforcement officers
 - ▶ Veterinary Public health (usually at the slaughter house)

Legal Frame Work Guiding the Provision of Animal Welfare Services

- ▶ Constitution of Kenya 2010 : Article 40 (protection of right to property), article 60 (c) sustainable and productive management of land resources, (e) sound conservation and protection of ecological sensitive areas. Article 69 (e) protect genetic resources and biodiversity, Schedule 4 **National Government** 1 (International Trade section 22 (b)Protection of animals and wildlife, 24 :Disaster Management, 30: Veterinary Policy, 32:Capacity Building and technical Assistance to the counties. **County Governments; Section 1 (a) and (d) section 2(e) Veterinary Services**and Section 6 Animal control and Welfare
- ▶ OIE code on Terrestrial Animals Chapter 7 : Animal Welfare of which Kenya Subscribe to.
- ▶ Prevention of cruelty to animals Act Cap 360, 2012 which prevents any mistreatment to animals
- ▶ Animal health Act Cap 364
- ▶ Meat Control Act Cap 356
- ▶ Animal Health Bill, Animal Welfare and Protection Bill, Various regulations, policies and Strategies.

Some of the animal welfare issues encountered

- ▶ During entertainment and Sports : cock fighting, bull fighting, horse racing just to name a few : Fear, Pain, Injuries, Intoxication etc
- ▶ Housing : Lack or improper housing : most donkeys have no housing, overcrowding, poor ventilation, lack of proper bedding materials : can cause stress, reduced immunity, injuries, exposure to diseases.
- ▶ Feed and Water : lack of , or inadequate feed and water and mostly of poor quality without all the nutrients
- ▶ Transport of Animals ; During Loading, Inadequate space in the vehicles, wrong transport e.g on the carrier of vehicles, lack of resting, feeding and watering.
- ▶ During Slaughter;
- ▶ During Disasters : fire, drought and floods

Benefits of Observing Animal Welfare

- ▶ Increase in productivity (happy, Lack of Injuries)
- ▶ Companionship
- ▶ Aesthetic (Feeling Good)
- ▶ Respect from peers
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Disease Control
- ▶ Public Health (Rabies, RVF, Anthrax, Vicious Animals)
- ▶ Food Safety
- ▶ Access to international markets

Ongoing Activities

- ▶ Following up on the animal Welfare and Protection bill and all other Veterinary bills because they all have an impact on animal welfare
- ▶ Development of animal welfare Strategy
- ▶ Development of Animal Welfare Protection Regulations
- ▶ Development of animal welfare inspection Guidelines
- ▶ Enforcement of Animal welfare
- ▶ Rapid Results Initiative targeting Bush slaughter of Donkeys and unwholesome food products of animal origin

Challenges faced in the delivery of Animal Welfare Services

- ▶ Obsolete laws for the carrying out of the function with lenient fines and does not conform with the constitution.
- ▶ Slow Legislative process
- ▶ Very few Animal Welfare Inspectors, Actually they are only 3 in the whole country
- ▶ Life span of the regulations has expired
- ▶ Lack of budget since there is no budget line to carry out the function
- ▶ Inadequate staffing levels due to staff exit through natural attrition with no replacement.
- ▶ Lack of Awareness among the public and livestock farmers
- ▶ Traditions that infringe on the welfare on animal

GOD BLESS YOU, GOD BLESS KENYA

