

# MINISTRY OF AGROINDUSTRY AND FOOD SECURITY



Animal Welfare Unit – Livestock & Veterinary Division Réduit, Mauritius

Senior Veterinary officer – Dr L.D.K Ramprogus -03.09.2024

# THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2013

---

- ✘ To make better provision for the welfare and protection of animals
- ❖ The Animal Welfare (experiment on Animals) regulations 2017 –procedures in place for license, composition of the animal care and use committee, severity classifications of experiments , animals to be used in experiments
- ❖ **THE FINANCE (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 2022 Act No. 15 of 2022**, an authorized officer is also an officer of the society(MSAW) designated as such by the Director- SECTION 4(1) of THE Animal welfare act 2013

# MISSION AND VISION OF THE LIVESTOCK & VETERINARY DIVISION

---

- ✘ Providing quality veterinary services to ensure the interests of animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health and sustainable animal industry for the benefit of mankind and promoting animal welfare.
- ✘ To be an institution which has the trust of all stakeholders in the animal industry.

# ANIMAL WELFARE UNIT

---

- ✘ This unit verifies compliance with the provisions of the **Animal Welfare Act 2013** and Regulations made thereunder and deals with issues such as cruelty or ill-treatment of animals, Experiment on animal and Control of dogs- Registration of dogs and other domestic pets, Obligations of dog owners,etc .
- ✘ Animal Care officers of this unit issue **notice of non-compliance** as per section 39.

# ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2013

---

Main activities :

- ✘ perform site inspections following complaints received regarding ill treatment of animals as per provisions stipulated in section 3 –offences of cruelty and Section 32 of the Animal Welfare Act 2013;
- ✘ carry out audit on animal holding establishments.

# ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2013

---

- ✘ to process applications for the holding of dog shows and issue a permit regarding same as per section 37 of the Animal Welfare Act 2013;
- ✘ to process applications for registration of animal breeders/animal trainer permit and issue animal breeder's permit/animal trainer 's permit as per the part VA and Part VB of the Animal Welfare Act amended;
- ✘ to assist other institutions in conducting site inspections and awareness related to animal welfare

### Registration of complaint

- Complaints received by phone, through emails, correspondences and on the Citizen Support Portal are registered by AWU and a reference number is allocated

### Site visit and reporting

- Assigned ACO will carry out the inspection

### SVO

- verify report
- close complaint or request Follow up /under query of complaint application
- recommendation/remarks and time frame for follow up

# COMPLAINTS

| Complaints from July 2023- June 2024 |      |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Number of complaints reported        | 1024 |

- ✘ Table 1.0: Total number of complaints received from July 2023 to June 2024



# MAURITIUS SOCIETY FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

- ✘ The Sustainable project for the Dog Population Control in Mauritius consists of the following components:
- ✘ The Mass Sterilisation of owned dogs;
- ✘ The registration of dogs;
- ✘ The survey of the dog population and;
- ✘ The Catch-Neuter-Release programme of Stray Dogs.

# Mass Sterilisation of owned dogs

---

To tackle the issue of the free-roaming unsterilised pets, the MSAW has started a Free Mass sterilisation programme for pet dogs through Outdoor campaigns around the island. Several campaigns are organized every week in different towns and villages.

- ✘ To provide an extra helping hand to those who do not have the means of transport, the MSAW provides free transport facilities during each of its sterilisation campaign. Assistance in the post-operative care is also provided.
- ✘ In order to make the process easier to the public, apart from campaigns, a digital platform has been introduced whereby pet owners can apply for free vouchers on the MSAW website and choose the veterinary clinics registered under this programme as per their choice.

# REGISTRATION OF DOGS

---

- ✘ The development of a dog ownership culture is a necessity to control the number of free-roaming dogs. To this effect, the public is encouraged to get their pet dogs microchipped and registered with the MSAW.
- ✘ The microchip numbers are linked to a database containing details of the owners. Hence, when a lost pet is found, it is easily linked to the owners through its microchip details.
- ✘ A pet management software has been devised to facilitate this process.
- ✘ **A survey of the population of stray dogs and pets.**
- ✘ The MSAW will soon conduct an official survey regarding the dog population in Mauritius of owned and secured, and free roaming dogs across the island. This survey will help to provide specific data to assess our projects, and to make amends wherever necessary to comply to the country's needs and population demands

# THE CNR: CATCH-NEUTER-RELEASE PROJECT

---

- ✘ **The CNR: Catch-Neuter-Release project**
- ✘ The Catch Neuter Release programme for the unowned dogs adopted in Mauritius has been proven to be a more humane, sustainable and effective method of controlling the stray dog's population in several countries around the world.
- ✘ In this process, the description and geolocation among other crucial details of the dogs are recorded at the time of catching. A strict protocol for the pre and post operative care is followed by the veterinary doctors.
- ✘ Each stray dog is ear notched for identification and microchipped. These microchips identify them as unowned dogs, and are linked to a database which consist their medical details, and that of their location as well.
- ✘ Once deemed fit to be released, the stray dogs are returned according to their geolocation to avoid the vacuum effect and infiltration of other unsterilised dogs.

# AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION

---

- ✘ Awareness and Communication
- ✘ The outdoor sterilisation campaigns are preceded by Canvassing and Awareness campaigns through which the pet owners are sensitised on the welfare of animals and importance of sterilisation of pets. Awareness programmes also are held in offices and schools.
- ✘ For more public outreach, an aggressive communication is carried out through billboards, newspapers, radio and on various social networks.
- ✘

# PENALTY

---

- ✘ **Offences of cruelty to animals**-fine not exceeding 500,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years.
- ✘ **32. Obligations of dog owners, 33. Dogs attacking, chasing or rushing at persons, domestic animals or vehicles ,34. Inciting or urging dog to attack and 35.Protected wildlife**

Any person who contravenes these sections shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years.

- ✘ **36. Breeding and connected matters**-fine not exceeding 500,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years
- ✘ **38. Importation of dogs**- fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years
- ✘ **39. Notice to comply**- fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years.

# EXPECTATIONS

---

- ✘ Policy Gaps analysis in existing policies, and implementation status of animal welfare legislations and challenges been encountered during the implementation process
- ✘ Setting up performance indicators in tracking animal welfare and evaluate the effectiveness of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Data frameworks and performance indicators
- ✘ Impact Assessments on climate change and sustainable practices on animal welfare and the environment.
- ✘ Training and Capacity Building Data, Data Collection Tools and Methods for better animal welfare strategies
- ✘ Use of animal for educational purposes(attaining manual skills)

**End of Presentation**

**ANY QUESTIONS?**