

ANIMAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES IN MALAWI



Dr Julius L C Chulu (PhD, MSc, DVM, CVSc)
Director of Animal Health and Livestock Development
WOAH Focal Point for Animal Welfare-MALAWI

Regional Training of WOAH Focal Points for
Animal Welfare (cycle III)
3-5 September 2024
Nairobi, Kenya

OUTLINE



- Veterinary Services
- What is Animal Welfare
- Animal Welfare Legal Framework
- Malawi Animal Welfare Guidelines
- Animal Welfare Bill
- Animal welfare activities

Veterinary Services



- **Veterinary services** are a working community which in every country in the world, protects the health and welfare of animals and people and the environment
- **This community** primarily comprises public service veterinarians responsible for preparing and enforcing the laws governing disease control and food safety and contributing to the safeguard of biodiversity and, all other categories of public sector personnel who support this work (administrative staff, communication officers, legal experts, etc.).
- **The community** also includes self-employed and salaried veterinary practitioners in the private sector who work in the field.

Functions of veterinary services



- To safeguard public health
- To ensure food safety
- To promote animal production
- To alleviate poverty worldwide
- To ensure the safety of world trade in products of animal origin
- Conserving animal species
- **To defend animal welfare**



To defend animal welfare

Protecting animals through well-enforced laws and regulations

- **Animal health** is a vital component of animal welfare. Animal welfare is a complex concept encompassing scientific and ethical aspects as well as economic, cultural and political aspects.
- Animal protection requires being able to **control the conditions** in which animals are raised, transported and slaughtered.
- Veterinary Services are the best qualified community to prepare **legislation** on animal welfare and see that it is **enforced in the field** on a daily basis.

Veterinary services in Malawi



- The Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development (DAHLD) is the **Competent Veterinary Authority** mandated with the regulation and provision of veterinary services in Malawi.
- **Veterinary Authority** means the Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and paraprofessionals
- It has the **responsibility and competence** for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in **the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes** in the whole territory.

Veterinary services in Malawi



- In terms of legislation, the Department of Animal Health is guided by Acts of Parliament, most of them having their origin in the colonial era to regulate animal health and production matters in Malawi. **The current main Acts that regulate veterinary services and activities are:**
 - **Control and Diseases of Animals Act (Cap 66:02) 1967**
 - **Meat and Meat Products Act (Cap 67:02) 1975**
 - **Milk and Milk Products Act (Cap 67:05) 1972**
 - **Protection of Animals Act (Cap 66:01) 1968**
 - **Hides and Skins Trade Act (Cap 50:02)**
 - **Veterinary and Para-veterinary Practitioners Act 2001(Cap 53:04)**
 - **Livestock Development policy**
 - **Livestock strategic plan**
 - **NAP and NAIP**

Livestock Development Policy

Priority Area 2: Animal Health, Veterinary Public health and Welfare



Provision of credible and reliable animal health or veterinary services The policy has provision for:

- Promote optimal production of healthy animals and welfare;
- Prevent and control animal diseases of social economic importance
- Regulate import and export of animals, animal products and animal production inputs
- Improve veterinary public health services
- Update and align all animal health legislations, regulations and protocols with relevant national, Regional and International livestock policies

PROTECTION OF ANIMALS ACT (CAP 66:01) 1968



- WOA (World Organization for Animal Health) Veterinary Legislation Mission of 2016
- Lacks a requirement in law for the owner of an animal to ensure the well being of an animal in his or her care.
- Lacks appropriate definitions of “animal”, “animal well-being”, “humane killing”, “humane slaughter”, “journey”, “resting period” and others;
- Lacks provisions for DAHLD to collaborate with private sector institutions and NGOs with an interest and competency in animal welfare;

PROTECTION OF ANIMALS ACT (CAP 66:01) 1968



- Lacks an appropriately qualified, designated (Animal Welfare) Board or Committee to set, review, revise, as necessary and implement / enforce animal welfare standards;
- Lacks provisions to authorize the Minister (on the advice of an Animal Welfare Board / Committee), to make regulations for setting standards of: management, handling and nutrition of animals, the humane slaughter of food animals and the humane destruction of animals for other reasons, the conduct of experiments using animals and the use of animals in sport or for exhibition.

Animal Welfare Guidelines



- Malawi has Animal Welfare Guidelines 2019
- The Guidelines outline the responsibility and expected standards to be upheld by all stakeholders (including farm owners, ranch and dairy farms, commercial poultry producers, transporters, abattoir owners, security companies and agencies using dogs, pet owners, government officials, animal welfare organizations and veterinarians) involved in animal management and care.

The Animal Welfare Bill



Provides for

- Fundamental Principles of Animal Welfare (Five freedoms)
- Competent Authority: Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and its functions
- Inspection and enforcement plus Duties and Powers of Animal Welfare Inspectors
- Power to Prosecute

The Animal Welfare Bill



- Humane education and animal welfare advocacy groups
- KEEPING OF ANIMALS:
Farm animals, abandoned and stray animals, care of injured animals
- Transportation of animals and animals unfit for transportation
- Surgical procedures and manipulations

The Animal Welfare Bill



- Slaughtering of animals and killing of severely injured animals
- Animal sanctuary or hospice
- The use of an animal for working and entertainment
- Surgical operations, bio-technology and animal experiment
- Control of aggressive animals and animal pounds
- Miscellaneous

ANIMAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES



BSPCA Animal Welfare

- Inappropriate ways of sterilising dogs
- Docked tails
- Neglected Animals
- Animal cruelty
- Stray dogs in need





Nala - Mange



Day of arrival



Two months after treatment started



Training

- Training for LUANAR students
 - Surgical training course for 12 fourth year vet students
 - Wildlife experience in Majete
- One month long student placements for 9 LUANAR and 2 Mikolongwe students



Cyclone Freddy – Livestock support



- Over 3,000 treatments to livestock
- Mainly antiparasitics to prevent further diseases caused by mosquitoes, ticks, fleas and worms after the floods



Animal Welfare awareness



- Stakeholder meeting with police, magistrate courts and city councils
- Training of police officers on animal welfare legislation
- Fight against illegal pet sales at road side (rabies is a very big public health risk)
- Education officers into schools to teach animal welfare issues





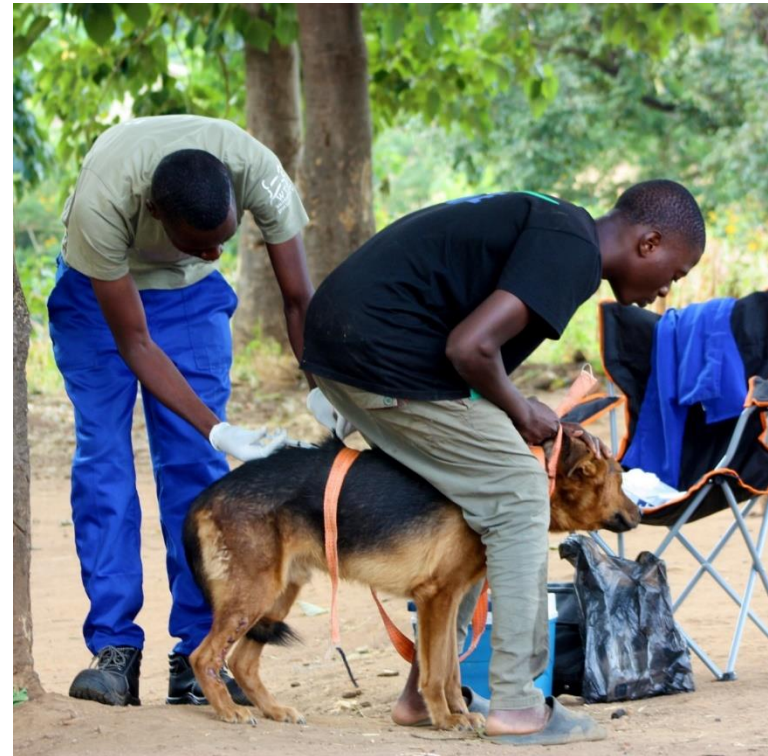
Introduction

- LSPCA runs a Veterinary hospital and animal welfare initiatives under its center for animal welfare in Lilongwe.
- Its mission is to raise awareness of animal welfare issues in Malawi and the surrounding region through targeted animal welfare education, veterinary training, and the provision of veterinary care for all animals
- Works with the government under the department of animal health and livestock development (DAHLD) and other partners to deliver programmes of veterinary care, animal welfare education and training and to advocate for the implementation and enforcement of policies, legislation and regulations to promote good animal welfare.



Rabies Project

- A rabies control project across various parts of Lilongwe, contributing to the global strategy of eliminating dog-mediated human rabies deaths by 2030.





Chicken Transport Project

- LSPCA has undertaken a crucial mission to address chicken welfare concerns in Lilongwe, Malawi, prompted by distressing revelations of cruel transportation practices.





Chicken Transport Project (continued)

- A survey conducted by LSPCA in 2021 revealed that 600 vendors subject chickens to inhumane conditions during transportation, resulting in broken wings and legs, heatstroke, and fatalities.
- We initially collaborated with 100 vendors, providing them with locally-made and eco-friendly bamboo crates to enhance welfare during transportation.
- LSPCA has expanded its efforts, now working with 350 vendors across seven groups. This initiative aims to positively impact 4,600,000 chickens annually, emphasizing humane practices and education to ensure lasting improvements in chicken welfare.



Chicken Transport Project (continued)

THE PROBLEM



THE SOLUTION





Animal Kindness Clubs

- BSPCA has introduced Animal Kindness Clubs within schools where young hearts and minds come together to learn, grow, and champion the cause of animal welfare.
- These clubs serve as nurturing grounds where children not only discover the wonders of the animal kingdom but also cultivate empathy, respect, and responsibility towards all living beings.





Roadside Sale Project

- LSPCA has a project to stop the roadside sale of pets. The project focuses on creating awareness about the suffering of animals that are being sold along the roads, and the risks for humans to buy these animals from the streets.
- Most of these pets are not vaccinated or receive veterinary care, increasing their risk of contracting parvo, rabies (which is also a danger to humans), and suffering from flea and tick infestations.





Roadside Sale Project (Continued)

- We work with the community police, who are also working with vendors, to stop the roadside animal trade and the Malawi Police Services-Criminal Investigative Department officers who are tasked with confiscation of animals sold on the streets.
- LSPCA has a purpose-built rehoming shelter for dogs and cats, where we care for animals that have been surrendered, rescued, or confiscated from roadside sellers by the police. After medical examination, each animal is quarantined for thirty days to rule out any possible illness such as rabies. After that, our animals are looking for loving forever homes



Donkey Welfare Project

The LSPCA implements a donkey project in the districts of Lilongwe, Dedza and Dowa with the aim of improving the welfare of donkeys and the livelihoods of their owners. As a result, the welfare of over 10,000 donkeys has significantly improved and the livelihoods of over 2000 donkey-owning households have been positively impacted since 2017.





Donkey Welfare Project (continued)

- Our veterinary team provides veterinary care to donkeys through various clinics, including donkey clinics, emergency clinics, and hoof care clinics.
- We train donkey owners to make and use donkey-friendly harnesses, significantly reducing wounds caused by wooden yokes, and to improve handling and driving techniques to prevent injuries. Additionally, we teach them how to make and preserve donkey feeds using local resources, and how to identify and budget for their donkeys' needs, recognizing the important role donkeys play in income generation.



Working Dog' Welfare Project

- Together with LSPCA, DAHLD launched a government-accredited 'Stamp of Approval' for security companies and institutions that work with dogs as a way of encouraging proper dog welfare practices that can translate into improved welfare of security dogs in the city. We initially worked with 10 security companies and only 5 were accredited in 2021.





Working Dogs' Welfare Project(continued)

- We inspect dog kennels, identify areas for improvement, train/educate dog handlers and breeders on animal welfare and guide them as they make the necessary changes.
- The stamp of approval is given to the companies and institutions that adhere to the animal welfare standards as outlined in the Animal Welfare Guidelines of 2019.
- We aim to continue engaging various stakeholders and encourage them to only give business to accredited companies. Legal action will be taken against companies or institutions that fail to improve after receiving the necessary education, support and encouragement. The stamp of approval will be revoked from companies that fail to uphold the animal welfare standards.



Community Clinics

- We run mobile clinics in remote areas to provide veterinary services to communities with limited access to care. Our clinics offer treatment for various animal species and educate animal owners on responsible care and welfare-friendly management practices.
- We also perform canine spay and neuter surgeries in these communities where the service is most needed.





Disaster Response Project

- On March 23, 2024, President Dr. Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi declared a State of Disaster in 23 of the country's 28 districts affected by the El Niño spell.
- Recognizing the need for intervention, the LSPCA identified an opportunity to assist smallholder farmers by providing training on dry-season preparation, specifically focusing on fodder preservation for Donkeys.





Disaster Response Project (continued)

- Our aim is to improve animal welfare by treating donkeys, training on proper animal handling techniques and raising awareness among farmers unfamiliar with these practices.
- We selected Dowa district for this project due to the relatively low awareness of donkey welfare in the area, and because it is one of the districts facing drought during the dry season.
- Our mobile donkey clinic also travels around Dowa, providing treatment and neutering services.



Thank you for your
attention

**The greatness of a nation can
be judged by the way its
animals are treated.**

Mahatma Gandhi