



Experiences and Expectations of Animal Welfare Practices at National Level

By

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**WOAH National Focal Point for Animal Welfare –NIGERIA
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for Animal Welfare (Cycle III), Nairobi, Kenya
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Outline



- Introduction
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- Experiences of animal welfare in Nigeria
- Welfare of production animals
- Welfare of animals during emergencies and disasters
- Welfare of chickens
- Welfare of companion animals
- Welfare of farmed fish
- Summary
- Nigerian Animal Welfare Strategy

Introduction ...1/3

- Animal welfare sound new to most Nigerians and normally they do not consider it important and so do not give it high priority in their daily activities
- Poverty, disease and low standard of living of majority have increased the wrong perception of people towards better care for animals
- Animals are seen as sources of food, income or beast of burden. However the pastoralist in Nigeria can protect their animals at the expense of their lives

Introduction ...2/3

- Peoples motivation towards good animal welfare practices remains a challenge in low resource settings where poverty, illiteracy, inadequate basic health care and amenities are consistent problems which may not be different with other developing country
- Challenges encountered with the implementation of Animal Welfare Standards includes;
- Poverty, Illiteracy, Ignorance among others

Introduction ...3/3

- Inadequate legislation to enforce implementation of animal welfare standards
- Cultural and religious beliefs (Religious bias, Resistance to stunning prior to slaughter of animals)
- Inadequate fund from government to implement animal welfare activities
- Very few Animal Welfare NGOs and Civil Society groups

Situation Analysis of Animal Welfare in Nigeria

- **Animal Welfare** in Nigeria like in many other developing countries has been poorly defined and unregulated
- **Policy:** Document is still a draft under review, characterized by low to poor standards.
- **An average farmer** does not understand the concept of Animal Welfare
- **Legislation:** Animal Disease Control Act, 2022 is currently signed into law with a new chapter on Animal Welfare though there are some regulations that needs to be in place
- **Implementation:** Nigeria has successfully developed a National Animal Welfare Strategy, approved by NCARD
- **Council:** The national council on animal welfare has been inaugurated

Situation Analysis of Animal Welfare in Nigeria



- Lack of adequate education and awareness among the Nigerian populace
- Lack of or inadequate policy and regulatory frameworks for animal welfare
- Lack of implementation or enforcement capacity
- Inappropriate husbandry practices
- Poor financial and technical resources and support for animal welfare
- Insecurity and cattle rustling
- No ranching system of livestock production
- Poor transport services for animals especially livestock (food animals)

Welfare of Production Animals – Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Poultry ...1/4

- Poor welfare and cruelty to animals are evident during production, restraining & transportation for market and slaughter
- Transportation and handling methods are still primitive and crude
- Slaughter animals are made to walk long distances or transported in over-crowded trucks
- During slaughter, animals are handled roughly and unnecessary pains are inflicted
- Animals awaiting slaughter watch other animals being killed / slaughtered
- Lack of implementation of existing legislations and religious bias has led to continued resistance to stunning and inflicting unnecessary pain to the animals



Welfare of
Production
Animals –
Cattle, Sheep,
Goats, Pigs,
Poultry ...2/4

Cattle scavenging for feed at the refuse dumps



Cattle moving long distances for grazing

Welfare of
Production
Animals –
Cattle, Sheep,
Goats, Pigs,
Poultry ...3/4



Inappropriate transport of cattle during festive period



FRSC officials querying strange method of transporting cattle on a motorcycle

Welfare of
Production
Animals –
Cattle, Sheep,
Goats, Pigs,
Poultry ...4/4



Truck and overload not good transport means



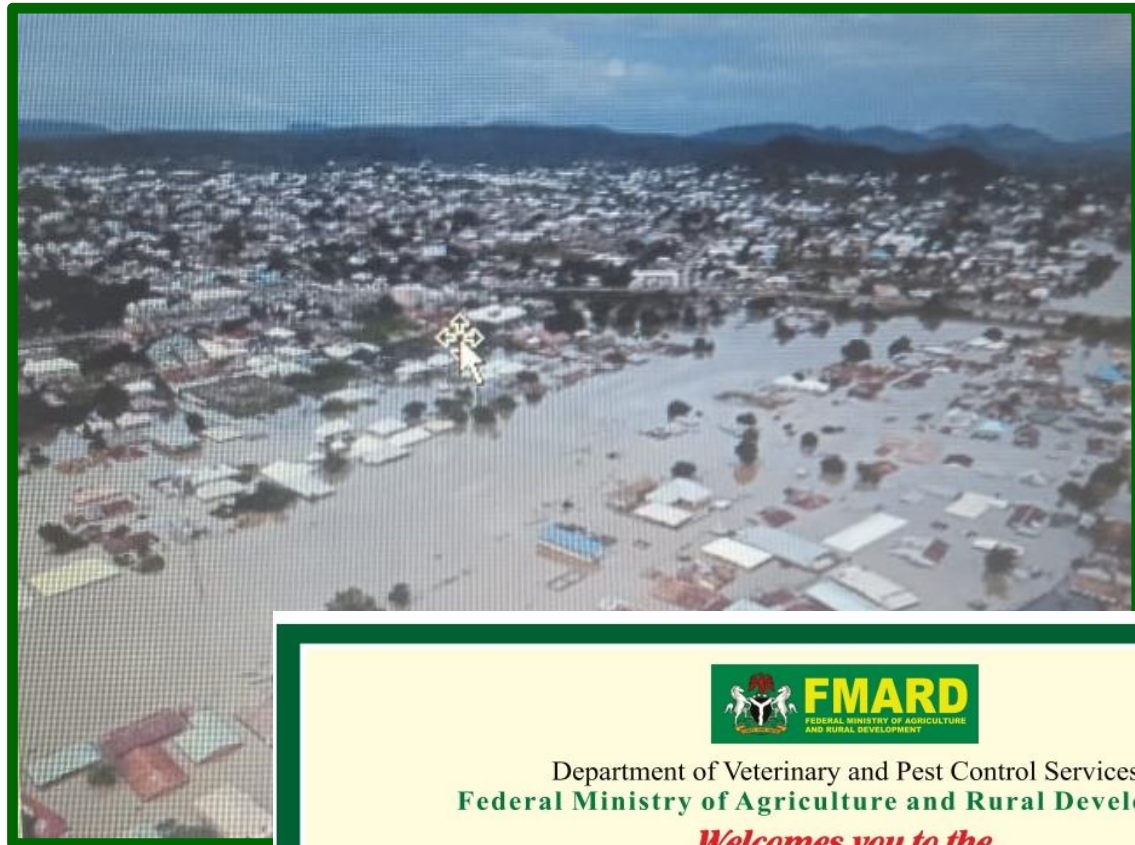
Bruises on cattle due to poor mean of transport

Welfare of Drought Animals



Camels and Donkeys seen as beast of burden for transportation, plough etc.

Welfare of Animals During Emergencies and Disasters



Kogi State
2022 flood
disaster




FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Welcomes you to the

National Stakeholders Consultative Meeting

**ON Animal Welfare During Emergencies
and Disasters in Nigeria**

Venue: JemmyLand Hotels, Abacha Road,
Mararaba Nasarawa State.

Date: Thursday, 16th March, 2023

Time: 8:00am Prompt

In Conjunction with: F & A Engineering Construction Links Limited

Welfare of Chickens

...1/2



- Nigeria is the third biggest broiler producer after South Africa and Egypt in Africa
- However 'broilers' are usually crammed together in pens
- They are kept at such high stocking densities that the birds quickly carpet the floor
- Use of growth promoters: Broiler chicken farmers are always in a hurry to get their birds to table size. The drugs expose the birds to certain disease conditions like fatty liver syndrome, Heart failure etc

Welfare of
chickens ...2/2



Spent layers kept ready for sale at live birds market in Jega Kebbi state



Welfare of Companion Animals



- Welfare of companion animals has not been encouraging due to poor income and poor culture of care to companion animal in Nigeria
- More importantly, stray dogs continue to be a cause of concern in some parts of the country

Poor Welfare for Companion Animals



- Catching and killing of stray dogs for food, or even stealing of those with temporary homes, is becoming a great concern

Welfare of farmed fish ...1/2



- This requires establishing minimum standards for fish welfare;
- Access to sustenance and environment that sustains health and vigour
- During examination prior to transportation
- Before and after they are transported
- Issuance of appropriate certification
- Record keeping
- Creating awareness
- Training of transportation personnel

Small scale fish
farming ... 2/2



Small scale fish farm in Adamawa State

SUMMARY

- Livestock largely undergo suffering due to undernourishment, overloading of work animals and ill-treatment of food animals
- Draught animals are usually exploited for farm work especially donkey
- Cruelty to animals are common at every stage during restrain, slaughter and transportation
- Slaughter animals are made to walk long distances or transported in overcrowded trucks
- Stunning is not practiced due to religious beliefs
- WOAHA Guidelines/Standards on Animal Welfare has been adopted by the country but yet to be implemented nationwide

Nigeria Animal Welfare Strategy... 1/2

- **Vision:** A nation where welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, simultaneously with the pursuit of progress and socioeconomic development

Nigeria Animal Welfare Strategy...2/2

- Provides direction for development of action plans to implement existing WOAHA guidelines and standards
- Provides a roadmap for development of future animal welfare policies, based on a national consultative approach
- Facilitates establishment of priorities that are consistent with agreed strategic goals
- Provides a framework for cooperation among stakeholders in promoting and advancing animal welfare in the nation

Our Priorities ...1/3

- Developing National Animal Welfare standards including broad consultation of industry, NGOs, etc
- Raising awareness at National, State & LGA levels on the significance of complying with animal welfare standards
- Improving participation of all stakeholders in compliance with National Animal Welfare standards

Increasing
Awareness
among
stakeholders
...2/3



Workshop on
Relevance of Animal
Welfare March, 2022



Stakeholders
consultative meeting on
Animal welfare
in Emergencies and
Disasters

Increasing Public Awareness using Pamphlets ...

3/3

- They should not be kept in cramped and uncomfortable conditions.
- We must not use them in harsh experiments.
- Kindness towards animals is a moral obligation.
- We should respect them and treat them with love and compassion.



Note:
Improving the quality of life for animals means improving the quality of animal product.
Improving the quality of animal product means improving the quality of life of humans

05



Be kind to animals today. Don't cause them any harm because they are sentient beings and do feel pain. Animals can thrive with good welfare and humans can also benefit from having animals that are well cared for (One Welfare).



..... You are "what you eat"

..... For more information, Contact us
Department of Veterinary & Pest Control Services, FMAFS

06

Definition:
Animal Welfare refers to the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the condition in which it lives and dies.



An animal is said to be in a good state of welfare if it is:

- Well nourished
- Safe and Comfortable
- Healthy
- Able to express innate behaviour
- Mentally stable: Not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress

The 5 domain of animal welfare include:

- Nutrition
- Environment
- Health
- Behaviour
- Mental state

01



Good Animal Welfare Practice

- Disease prevention and veterinary treatment.
- Appropriate shelter.
- Good management and nutrition.
- Humane handling
- Appropriate transportation
- Humane slaughter of food animals
- Humane killing (e.g. rabid dogs, AI infected poultry)

Importance of Animal Welfare

- Good animal welfare practices enhance the quality of animal products available for human consumption.
- Animal-friendly products are considered healthier, tastier, more hygienic, safer, acceptable, authentic, environmentally friendly, and traditional by consumers.
- Animals welfare promote improvement in experimental procedures for animals use in research, teaching, testing and exhibition by endorsing the use of replacement reduction and refinement (3Rs) (Russel and Burch book, 1959).
- Animals may suffer undue stress as working animals as well as in sports and entertainments.

02

• It is an essential component of the future of sustainable agriculture and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with growing global recognition which is considered as part of decision-making around food and nutrition security.

Animals may possibly suffer: when used for:

- Entertainment
- Food, traction and transportation
- Medical Drug Experimentation
- Fashion and beast of burden
- Scientific advancement and as
- Companion/exotic pets

General principles for animal welfare

- Animals should have access to sufficient feed and water; suited to the animals' age and needs; to maintain normal health and productivity and prevent prolonged hunger; thirst; malnutrition or dehydration
- Diseases and parasites should be prevented and controlled as much as possible through good management practices. Animals with serious health problems should be isolated and treated promptly or if treatment is not feasible or recovery is unlikely, be euthanized humanely.

- Use of animals in agriculture, education and research, and for companionship, recreation and entertainment, makes a major contribution to the wellbeing of people.

03



Show kindness to animals because:

- Animals are sentient and can feel similar emotions as humans. They are selfless and loving companions who fill our lives with joy.
- We are responsible for ensuring their basic needs such as food, water, and shelter.
- Helping animals improves our humanness and boosts our happiness.
- All captive animals, under human care responsibility, must have a good quality life.

04

Acknowledgements

- Photo credit – Prof Garba Sharubutu (Animal Welfare Initiative)
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**Thank you
for Listening**