

# Overview of Animal Welfare in Zambia

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ▶ **Policy & Legal Framework**
- ▶ **Collaborative initiatives/activities**
- ▶ **Awareness creation & networking**
- ▶ **Capacity building in AW**
- ▶ **Challenges**
- ▶ **Opportunities & Way forward**

# Policy

## ▶ Two policies that speak to matters of animal welfare:

- ▶ National Livestock Development Policy, 2020
- ▶ National Animal Animal Policy (*WIP*)

## ▶ National Livestock Development Policy, 2020

- ▶ **Specific objective #6: to improve the AW and livestock production environment - through the following measures:**
  - Strengthen institutional cooperation on animal welfare;
  - Improve public awareness levels on animal welfare; and
  - Improve compliance and enforcement levels.

## ▶ National Animal Health Policy

- ▶ **Specific objective #10: To strengthen the capacity of DVS and partners to improve understanding and compliance with animal welfare standards**
- ▶ Measures
  - Promote the establishment of an Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
  - Strengthen institutional capacity to handle animal welfare issues (regulatory framework)
  - Strengthen collaboration and coordination between stakeholders involved in animal welfare
  - Strengthen public awareness on animal welfare
  - Develop appropriate animal welfare law

### National Animal Health Policy under development

Over the past few months we've been working with a core team at MFL who are developing a National Animal Health Policy. As part of this process, we supported MFL to carry out a comprehensive situational analysis of the various aspects of animal health within Zambia.

This considered questions such as:

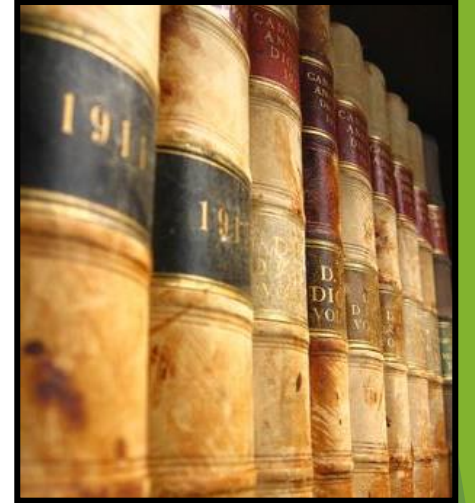
- How animal health systems and services are governed and managed in Zambia;
- The different aspects of maintaining animal health and welfare in Zambia (from disease identification, diagnosis and treatment to prevention and control);
- The veterinary side of public health (e.g. food safety of animal products such as milk); and



Above: A group discussing the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) in relation to Zambia's animal health sector.

# Legal Framework

- ▶ Principal legislation is the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Cap 245 of 1964**. This Act provides for the prosecution of acts of outright cruelty
- ▶ Others are the **Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010**, **Control of Dogs Act Cap 247**, **Local Government Act, 2019**, **Public Health Act Cap 295**
- ▶ **Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010**, under General Provisions, provides for development of standards for animal welfare and transportation of animals
- ▶ **Control of Dogs Act Cap 247**; mainly speaks to rabies control, responsible dog ownership and inadvertently dog population control through limiting the number of dogs that can be kept by one owner
- ▶ **Local Government Act, 2019**; gives local authorities (councils, municipalities) powers to develop by-laws that may speak to animal welfare issues
- ▶ **Public Health Act Cap 295**; has some animal welfare provisions relating to the slaughter of animals with regard to provision of feed and water to animals awaiting slaughter and emergency slaughter of injured animals.



## Collaborative initiatives/activities

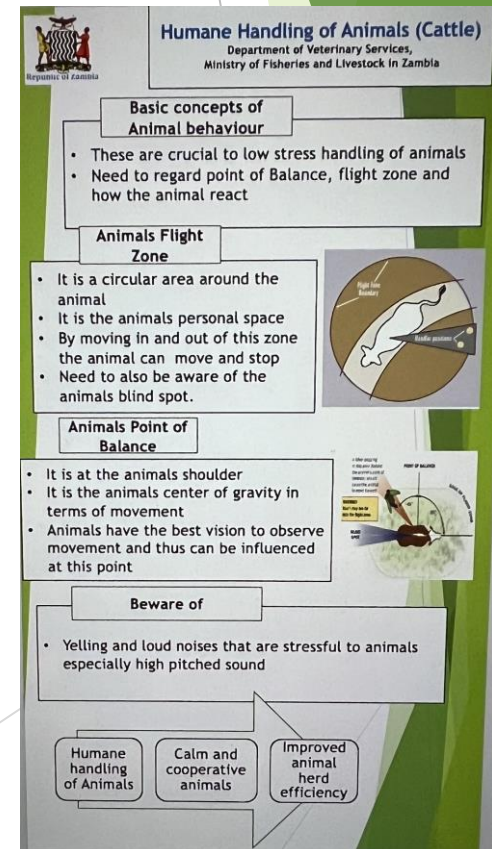
- ▶ 1st Southern African Regional Animal Welfare Summit: Focus on Poultry, RSA, 2019
- ▶ World Animal Protection (WAP) scoping study on AW for Zambia in 2019
- ▶ VAZ-WAP 2022 Animal Welfare and Protection Campaign Conference
- ▶ Annual VAZ scientific conferences/symposiums at which AW topics are presented

# Awareness creation, interventions & networking

- ▶ Networking with local and international animal welfare organisations and collaborative interventions
  - ▶ LAWS
  - ▶ ZAWS
  - ▶ SPCAs (Ndola, Kitwe, Chingola towns)
  - ▶ VAZ
  - ▶ CACTUS Foundation
  - ▶ World Animal Protection (WAP)
  - ▶ ERFAN (SADC) AW Working Group for Southern Africa (2019-2023)

# Capacity building in AW

- ▶ ERFAN sponsored UoP FVS on-line course on **Applying WOAHA animal welfare standards in Africa**
  - ▶ 5 months course: 56h of learning; live sessions, self-study material and assignments
  - ▶ 5 modules
    - Introduction to concepts of animal welfare
    - Assessment of animal welfare
    - WOAHA animal welfare standards
    - Attitudes towards animals in Africa
    - Communicating animal welfare messages
  - ▶ Certificate of completion



# CHALLENGES

- ▶ Absence of an institutional framework in MFL/DVS for AW
- ▶ Lack of a comprehensive legal framework on AW
  - ▶ Multiplicity of laws that touch on “AW” makes it difficult to effectively regulate and coordinate AW issues
  - ▶ Outdated legislation that does not comprehensively address animal welfare issues
    - e.g. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Cap 245, 1964), though it provides for the prosecution of acts of outright cruelty, it has a very limited scope and does not provide for the welfare of animals, which goes far beyond just “being physically cruel”. In the modern day, animal welfare encompasses five domains, which includes its nutrition, environment, behaviour, health and mental state.
- ▶ Animal Health Act No. 27 of 2010, under General Provisions provides for development of animal welfare standards (regulations), however this has not been achieved because of resource constraints (technical capacity, finances)
- ▶ The severe drought experienced in the 2023/2024 rainy season....
  - ▶ challenge on nutrition and environment of animals
  - ▶ Finance constraints as funds are being channeled to disease control of attendant emerging diseases such as anthrax



# OPPORTUNITIES & WAY FORWARD

## ▶ National Animal Health Policy (WIP)

- Specific Objective #10: To strengthen the capacity of DVS and partners to improve understanding and compliance with animal welfare standards and the measures stipulated therein to achieve the objective provides hope for the AW narrative in the country

## ▶ Development of animal welfare standards under the AHA

## ▶ Development and finalization of an Animal Welfare Act

- This exercise has been spearheaded by VAZ
- Draft layman's bill has been submitted to MFL
- Requires stakeholders' lobbying to push the process forward
- Requires technical and financial resources for stakeholder engagements



**THANK YOU**