

MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT MINISTERIAL TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY AND LEGISLATION REVIEW

Submitted by dominic.ochwang on Mon, 2013-06-17 22:01

Start Time: Tue, 2012-07-24 (All day)

Location: Government of Kenya

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MINISTRY OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

MINISTERIAL TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL WELFARE

POLICY AND LEGISLATION REVIEW

Ministerial Taskforce - spearheading Policy and legislative Review in Kenya

Background

Animal Welfare Policy and Legislation are the overarching instruments for implementation of practices in animal use and care that avoid animal neglect and cruelty. Africa does not have adequate animal welfare policies, laws and guidelines and where they do exist, ineffective enforcement. It is imperative that Africa develops consultative and participatory robust national policy and legislation that recognize that good animal welfare can bring benefits to people both in practical and ethical terms. Awareness and enforcement of legislature is particularly important in achieving long term and sustainable animal welfare standards.

Most countries that do have some animal protection law are those that were colonized by Britain; and were left the legacy of the Protection of Animals Act of 1911. However, most of these legislations have either not been revised or have inadequate revision. Kenya is one such country with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act Cap 360 (1963, revised 1983).

As Kenya seeks to reposition herself in the global animal industry, there is need to take into consideration animal welfare in all aspects of animal use as such consideration is currently of concern both locally and internationally

Kenya has various pieces of legislations pertaining to Animal Welfare. The following are some of the important legislature that directly or indirectly deals with Animal Welfare issues: The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals Act Cap 360, The Meat Control Act, The Kenya Veterinary Surgeons Act Cap 366, The Animal Diseases Act Cap 364, The Cattle Cleansing Act Cap 358, The Branding Of Stock Act Cap 357, The Crop Production And Livestock Act Cap 321, The Fertilizers And Animal Foodstuffs Act Cap 345 And Rabies Act Cap 365. There is a challenge to regulation and enforcement. Further, most of these legislations are outdated and out of touch with current contemporary needs of the animal sector. This situation warrants a review of the laws on the basis of an inclusive Animal Welfare policy framework. Though an embryonic policy statement does exist embedded in The National Livestock Policy an exhaustive policy that forms that informs the law is necessary.

For any meaningful and sustainable change in the treatment of animals to be realized, societal behavioral change is crucial. Challenges to a good animal welfare environment have been

recognized as speciesism prejudices of dominion over animals, ignorance and lack of awareness. The raising of societal awareness levels is therefore important for long term gains in the well being of animals.

Based on these considerations and a coalition lobby of key policy makers, an Animal Welfare Policy and Legislation Ministerial Taskforce was appointed on 24th July 2012 by Hon. Kuti, The Minister for Livestock development.

The Ministerial Taskforce comprises the following members:

1. Julius T. Kariuki (Dr.) - (Chairperson),
2. Charles Kimwele (Dr.) - (Vice Chairperson),
3. Hesbon L. Awando (Dr.),
4. Elizabeth Ouko (Dr.),
5. Samuel Yegon,
6. Jean Gilchrist (Ms.),
7. Christopher Wanga (Dr.),
8. John D. Mande (Dr.),
10. Lucy Njagi (Dr.),
11. Dr. Francis Gakuya (Dr.),
12. Mary N. Gichure,
13. James Isiche,
14. Rose Mwema,
15. Sidney Tawuo,

16. Veejay Varma

Contact Person: Dr.Charles Kimwele,Chairman ,DVAP

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