

Policy and Legislative review in Kenya. Speech by the Chairman Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology in his capacity as the Vice-Chairman, Ministerial Task Force on animal welfare Policy and Legislation review - at the Launching of the Brooke East African Office on the 3rd July 2013 at Hotel Intercontinental.

The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock development, the CEO Brooke, The Chairman of Brook EA, The OIE representative, WSPA representative, IFAW representative, MTF Chairman ladies and gentlemen.

It am humbled to have been requested by the Brooke to make a speech before the entire animal welfare fraternity in Kenya specifically but also Africa in general. I have personally, like many of you been engaged in animal welfare for a considerable length of time. Animal welfare is not just about the health of an animal, though that is an important aspect of it's welfare. Animal welfare encompasses all the aspects both biological, physical and behavioural that enable an animal cope comfortable in it's given environment be it under under cage dependency (domestication) or in the wild.

We are gathered here as organizations or individuals interested in animal welfare, the well being of animals, and I will not belabor the need to be ethical and exercise due responsibility to animals as we use them – that is why we are all here; driven by passionate concern for animals and recognizing that animals are sentient, they feel pain but also have the capacity to exhibit emotions such as distress, joy and grief.

However, Kenya is a developing country that has obligations for it's development and citizenry. Food security, increased incomes and improved livelihoods are issues that the country must

address. Kenya is therefore become a middle income country by, for instance implementing Vision 2030 and The MDGs among other frameworks. Kenya recognizes the importance of agriculture and is implementing CAADP, a NEPAD initiative. Biomedical research is and remains important as the country seeks to improve its technological base, a driver for development.

In driving agriculture and research and improving the livelihoods of poor peri-urban and urban poor, a utilitarian approach in the use of animals is inevitable. However, as such animals are used we must mainstream animal welfare within such use, we must bear in mind the internationally accepted five freedoms as an animal welfare guide; and the 3R's as a guide in the use of animals in research, teaching and testing. More important though is to have a policy and legal framework that will allow for the rolling out of standards, awareness and enforcement. In recognition of this need, the Kenya Government appointed a Ministerial Taskforce (the MTF) to formulate and review the laws governing animal welfare in Kenya (Cap 360). The MTF, appointed on July, 2012 have the following members;

- 1. Julius T. Kariuki (Dr.) - (Chairperson), **DVS/OIE animal welfare focal point**
- 2. Charles Kimwele (Dr.) - (Vice-Chairperson), **UoN/WSPA**
- 3. Christopher Wanga (Dr.), **DVS/KVA**
- 4. Elizabeth Ouko (Dr.), **DVS/KVA**
- 5. Francis Gakuya (Dr.), **KWS**
- 6. Hesbon L. Awando (Dr.), **DVS**

- 7. James Isiche (Mr.), **IFAW**
- 8. Jean Gilchrist (Ms.), **KSPCA**
- 9. John D. Mande (Dr.), **UoN/KVB**
- 10. Lucy Njagi (Dr.), **UoN**
- 11. Mary N. Gichure (Dr.), **KENDAT**
- 12. Rose Mwema (Ms),**KALT**
- 13. Samuel Yegon (Mr), **DLP**
- 14. Sidney Tawuo (Mr), **AKEL**
- 15. Veejay Varma **UoN/Jockey Club**

The MTF is a partner of The Brooke EA. Through this partnership, the MTF has undertaken a gap analysis on animal welfare policy and legislation funded by the Brooke. The gap analysis, now completed gave a 15point recommendation. Two key recommendations were;

1. There is a justification for an **overhaul of the entire Cap 360** and accordingly generate **a holistic Animal Welfare Bill** well in accord with the emergent spirit and letter of the **CoK 2010**
2. The Bill should be preceded by a comprehensive **Animal Welfare Policy that ropes in all the Sectoral players**

Thank you ladies and gentlemen for lending me your ear, my sincere thanks also go to the Brooke for supporting the cause of animal welfare and specifically funding the MTF and draught animal welfare in Kenya. We wish to welcome the Brooke to Kenya and look forward to working together to improve the welfare of animals; and subsequently those of humans for “healthy animals are more productive and are better companions, ultimately improving the wellbeing of people”. Thank you once again.

Dr Charles N. Kimwele

Vice- Chairman. MTF