Dissemination of Knowledge on the Animal Resource welfare in Kenya

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Abstract
The livestock sector is one of the major economic activities in Kenya and includes the production and consumption of animal and animal byproducts. Dogs and cats are essentially companions of man and provide security. Every month, approximately 60 to 120 dogs are killed by fast vehicles along the 22 kilometre stretch between Cheptiret and Eldoret town in Uasin Gishu district, amounting to loss of large numbers of man's security and companion as well as a polluted environment, and a health hazard arising out of the cadavers that are left uncollected for days. Trafficking of wild animals from Kenya under unacceptable conditions causes deaths and starvation in addition to breaking international laws and even threatens their survival.

This paper gives an insight into the effects of various forms of violence and handling on the livestock and domesticated animals including dogs, cats, experimental and wild animals in Kenya. Notable among these is the violence that was meted on livestock following the outcome of the 2008 election results in Kenya thus leaving the livestock industry at crossroads, violence which went unnoticed and was hardly mentioned by most Kenyans. The author suggests number of actions on animal welfare that can be implemented to educate Kenyan people on these important resources besides protecting human health and wealth.

The author recommends that a policy on animal welfare be drawn to cater for these animals who man least cares for, “the silent sufferers”.

Background
Livestock production is one of the mainstay economic activities in Kenya and involves 11,746,774 million cattle, 1,719,606 million sheep and 27,740,153 million goats, pigs 334,689, indigenous poultry total 27,756,487 while commercial poultry number 6,071,042 approximately 2,971,111 camels in addition to 1,842,496 beehives (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2009) and an unknown number of dogs and cats. Eighty-five percent of the cattle, small stock and camels are found in the Arid and Semi-Arid lands, where pastoralists rear them extensively as a source of food and livelihoods and other valuable products.

The Rift Valley is home to mainly exotic dairy and dual purpose cattle, small stock and indigenous poultry. The cattle reared in the wetter parts of the Rift Valley are mainly exotic Friesians, a small number of Jerseys and Guernsey’s, with an insignificant population of the Siements and Limousins whose purity of breed is much diluted.

In the drier parts of the Rift Valley, the Maasais are currently upgrading their cattle to the Sahiwal's which are drought resistant and produce more beef. There is however also a large number of indigenous cattle reared in Kerio Valley, Turkana and Pokot areas.

Poultry production has not picked up in the Rift valley despite the demand for day old chicks from neighbouring Uganda. Man's companion animals include dogs, cats, while the donkey is the animal of burden especially in the hilly parts of the country.

Wild animals occupy about 75 % of the Arid Semi Arid Areas (ASALs) in Kenya and in some parts they share the habitats with man although the coexistence of the two species has its problems.

The wild animals are victims of unethical practices by unscrupulous animal traffickers use in their trade such as drugging, concealment in suit cases and ill designed cages to transport animals with a number dying or suffocating in the process. Such practices do not involve quarantine and this poses the danger of epizootics and pandemics along the routes these animals pass through.
Animal welfare has not been given priority in Kenya and the animals face many problems such as mutilation, inhumane slaughter, trauma from beatings, trappings, death from suffocation, and intentional poisoning as happens with wild ruminants and lions in the Masai Mara game reserve.

This paper looks at a wide range of mistreatment the animals undergo in Kenya and suggests that interventions and policies be put in place to alleviate this suffering.

**Introduction**

**Animals are faced by a myriad of cruelties directed at them**

**Animal Husbandry**

There are two animal husbandry systems in Kenya namely extensive and intensive rearing.

Extensive rearing involves releasing the animals into open fields and letting them fend for their forage during the or even overnight in times of scarcity of forage. This is the most practiced form of husbandry. Land size is diminishing in Kenya and the animals may not get enough forage in the open fields. Most communities view the animals as assets, the more the animals an individual possesses, the richer the person. Other welfare issues such as availability of adequate food, proper shelter, water and health care are not weighted much.

In intensive farming, the animals are enclosed in the smallest accommodation that is barely enough for standing. The animal cannot lie down, does not get out of the pen and fed solely for the purpose of getting maximum benefit from the animal with little regard for standard inputs to ensure its welfare.

**Post Election Violence and its Implications on Livestock Welfare in Kenya.**

Upon the announcement of the election results and swearing in of the President at State House grounds on the 29/12/07, chaos broke in Kenya. A total of 1200 people were reported dead by the local media, however, the fate of animals particularly domestic stock was hardly mentioned and the number of livestock that perished in this period may never be known.

**Domestic animals**

All the domesticated animals in the violence zones suffered in various ways. For instance upon displacement of the post election violence victims, dogs and cats were left to wander aimlessly in their familiar surroundings with no one to care for them. Given that the animal owners had items they considered more important, they opted to salvage whatever was left after the destruction of their homes and property at the expense of the cattle, sheep, goats, rabbits, poultry, cats, dogs and donkeys.

Cattle and small stock also encountered various problems. At the peak of the violence, after the homestead owners had fled or had moved their animals to neighbours for safe custody, the animals were either taken away forcefully or stolen or simply walked off to be slaughtered and consumed or they were mixed with the “attackers”/ “warriors” or “new” owners’ animals to swell herd numbers. Animals that were not killed walked to new locations or were moved to the nearby vicinities and some starved to death as some owners watched helplessly.

Some people opted to move with their animals and sheep to displaced peoples camps but there were logistic problems such as sources of forage or fodder, water and housing for the animals. There were no provisions for pregnant and young animals (DEFRA, 2009). There were no appointed veterinary staff to offer services for the sick and wounded animals or those with problems at parturition.

There was a television footage of a goat with a part of the left foreleg chopped off, 13 cattle that had their tails mutilated off at the base of the tail, while two were reportedly stolen. In one incident in Narok District, a farmer lost 23 poultry during a deliberate fire. These cases of cruelty were punishments meted on animals whose owners were perceived as not co-operative.

**Livestock and Meat trade**

During the post election period (PEV) period, there had been a Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in the Cheptiret area and the quarantine that had been imposed earlier constrained animal movement, resulting in minimal financial returns from animal sales. The meat trade too was affected.
and most people could not get animal protein because of the limited the movement and their livestock and the butcheries were only slaughtering few profitable small livestock to reduce wastage.

Butchery owners felt that it was more economical to slaughter small stock since the meat sold faster and there was less likelihood of wasting meat from spoilage than if the larger cattle were slaughtered.

There was also serious combat between the government forces and locals in hot spot areas like Naivasha Cheptiret, Burnt Forest, Eldoret and this meant that most people avoided visiting shopping centers and towns where there were higher chances of getting injured. Any meat that was left in the butcheries before the onset of the violence most likely rotted.

Trade in day old chicks in East Africa had been high before PEV, but interstate politics had a negative impact on poultry and egg production in Uganda which relied on Kenya for the chicks. All this translated to a substantial financial loss of poultry and their eggs (The East African, 2008).

Meat inspection services

The fighting impacted negatively on services offered by the government with regard to meat inspection (CAP 356, 1972). The meat inspectors hesitant to risk their lives, and only ventured out to inspect meat when they felt safe at strategic positions like Cheptiret. The government also posted the Anti Stock Theft Unit to control animal movements and possible theft.

The impact of the crisis was even greater in Eldoret town where there was a conspicuous presence of armed personnel ensuring that violence was contained. With many closed business premises, few authorized officers were at hand to offer the essential service of meat inspection (G.O.K., 1972) since the Eldoret Municipal abattoir was not operating fully and the provision of meat was minimal affecting the government revenue that was collected during that time.

People were aware of the benefits of consuming inspected meat and in areas where animals were slaughtered but carcasses were not inspected, such carcasses exposed consumers to zoonoses including Brucellosis, Antharax and Rabies (Cap 356, 1972 (Public Health Act, Cap 242), (Food Drugs and Chemical Substances Act, Cap 254).

The milk sector

The milk sector was negatively affected. In the first two weeks of PEV, all forms of transport came to a stand still and no fresh milk was delivered to the New Kenya Co-operative Creameries (New KCC) or any other processing milk plants. As a result, low volumes of milk were delivered and the New KCC lost Kshs. 100 million in the months of January and February in addition there to lower sales of cheese and ghee manufactured within that period. The consumption of the non pasteurized milk posed the risk of diseases milk borne diseases such as Q fever, Tuberculosis among others. Acquisition of feeds for dairy animals was hampered because of the insecurity on the roads and urban centres that experienced PEV.

Animals of burden

In Kenya, the donkeys perform a variety of works such as ploughing, carrying baggage and in places like Lamu island with its narrow streets, the donkeys carry all the building stones and others building materials as well as being the main form of transport. These animals have been mistreated by man and are oftentimes forced to carry very heavy loads besides doing extraneous work (Rick Bein, personal communication). The owners when not satisfied with the donkeys output whip and even wound them. The donkey is usually left to fend for itself and if there is not enough forage, it will starve and die. The donkeys are often left to wander all night since there is no provision for their accommodation at the end of the day. These animals hardly get any veterinary attention from their owners. During the post election violence there was mention of the welfare of these animals until about four months after the aftermath when a few veterinarians mounted a humanitarian campaign in Limuru area. To date there has not been mention of the numbers and fate of donkeys that were affected during the turmoil.
Abandoned animals and the danger of zoonoses

Animals like dogs and donkeys abandoned by their owners or stray ones pose a danger of outbreaks of diseases such as rabies. Animal vaccination coverage against rabies is low in Kenya and this is a serious threat to the human population in contact animals which could result into an epizoonotic. The current rabies outbreak in parts of Nyanza in Kenya (Thaiya, personal communication) is a major challenge for both the Veterinary and Health professionals arising out of the large numbers of non-vaccinated domestic animals who are exposed to the Sylvatic form of rabies which has its origin in the forests and calls for concerted logistical efforts to contain. People are generally not familiar with the signs of rabies in a donkey or wild animal and this is a risk in the spread of the disease and its control. Once is a human being bitten by a rabid animal, there arises another challenge that of implementing the various protocols in managing the disease both in man, the domestic and wild animals.

A case in point is that of a person who upon being attacked by a raging dog from a nearby forest, fought the animal, used his strength to tear the carnivores mouth then presented himself to a health facility. The person was advised to go for the routine anti rabies vaccinations but the dogs head was not presented to the veterinary offices for confirmation of rabies.

It should be pointed out here that despite awareness on the seriousness of rabies, the practice of vaccinating dogs and cats has not been fully taken up by animal owners.

Droughts and Animal disease spread

The heavy rains that pounded Kenya in late 2005 to 2008 altered the climate which resulted in Rift Valley Fever that killed a large number of small stock in Rift Valley and North Eastern provinces. The disease control measures were instituted when the death of a veterinarian who died a few days after conducting a post mortem using bare hands was highlighted in the media about four months after the initial outbreak. Pestis petits which was ravaged the Kenya-Uganda border in 2008. Pestis petits is a diarrhoeal disease that affects small ruminants and its presence in Kenya meant a major environmental and economic disaster because of the speed with which it spreads and its financial implications from animal deaths. Large herds of small stock died in the drier parts of the North Rift and the poverty stricken livestock owners could not access veterinary services such as vaccinations for their stocks. The services were availed about a year later after the disease had spread to the ASAL areas in Eastern Province. In both cases cited above action to save animals life took place after much economic loss.

Dog deaths from vehicular accidents

The author estimates that at least one to two dogs are killed daily between Cheptiret junction and Eldoret and postulates that the numbers could be higher if some of the knocked dogs survive. The pulped bodies of the cadavers are left uncollected at the sites of the crashes implying that few people if any care about the dogs once they have been killed.

Human wild life conflict

The diverse animal species occupying the ASALs do at times share the same ecosystem with man and in such instances, human/wildlife conflict over resource use ensues. The animals may forage on farmers crops, trample on the plants or even kill human beings. The immediate response is disregard for legal redress and human beings retaliate by killing the wild animals through various means including shooting them with guns, lighting fires around herds of animals most of which perish in the fire. In Maasai Mara, wheat farmer resorted to applying Furadan a Carbamate to the crops. This latter practice has a ripple effect along the food chain and the trophic levels and man too is a potential victim. The methods used to control the wild animals cause a lot of suffering to the animals.

Poaching

Shortage of animal protein among Kenya poor sharing the habitats with wild animals and the quest to get rich led to a surge in poaching. Animals especially ruminants are poached for their meat and skin,
while the larger animals like the rhinoceros may be hunted for their horns believed to be an aphrodisiac, elephants may be poached for their highly priced tusks while others like leopards maybe killed for use in traditional medicine and witchcraft.

The author did a study on methods used by poachers/hunters to harvest game from the wilderness on the Athi-Kapiti plains and the Laikipia Plateau in 2000 to 2004 and recorded 19 ways each with a harmful effect on the victim. The sufferings included death from asphyxiation, fractures, immobilization, limb amputation, gangrene, generalized haemorrhage, pneumothorax, and even secondary predation. (Otieno, 2007)

**Tick control**

In other parts of Kenya like the Coast, Eastern, North Eastern and Nyanza provinces where there is poverty and people cannot afford to dip their animals regularly, the animals die from tick borne diseases and farmers do not reap maximally from the livestock investment. The Animal Diseases Act (Cap 364,1989) was enacted to reduce animal suffering from tick bites and tick borne diseases in both man and animals. Poverty in above mentioned areas implies that the health of the animals may not be fully realized and this has a direct impact on the returns to the farmers.

**Herdsmen**

Most of the livestock in the ASAL areas are reared extensively usually under the watch of a herdsman. Although most herdsmen take good care of the animals, cruel herdsmen mistreat these animals by hitting them with stones, wooden sticks and cause injuries, bruises, wounds and times even fracture limbs all of these resulting in suffering for the animals. The mode of herding the animals too may result in the animal not foraging and watering adequately and such animals may die from starvation and dehydration. Such practices result in economic loss from the animal deaths.

**Animal trafficking**

There have been cases of animals including turtles, snakes and endangered species found under heavy drug dosage or dead in aeroplane cabins and ship compartments. Such animals are destined for illegal exportation and all manner of inhumane practices are employed to get them to the final destinations.

**Animal sales**

There are stock auction markets that operate throughout the country and whose activities are supervised by the responsible ministries namely Agriculture and Fisheries and Livestock Development. However there are also other points of livestock sales mainly along road sides. Indigenous poultry at times have their wings broken when they are taken for sale at roadsides like what happens on the Eldoret-Turbo road, or they maybe suspended by their wings. The practice not only causes suffering to the animal but also causes financial loss to the consumer who frequently has to discard gangrenous wings. The consumer is also exposed to the dangers of contamination from the infected gangrenous lesions while the suspended bird suffers from pain and risks dislocating shoulders. Currently Avian flu is a real threat so communities should be informed of the dangers of handling birds and in the case of a potential outbreak of Swine flu, pigs besides other zoonoses.

Another form of cruelty meted on animals during transit is tethering them around the groin and over the abdominal flank with the twine straddling the Tuber coxae thus limiting the young animal’s movement. This strains the weak and undersized stock besides causing unnecessary pain on the tied muscles. The practice may be of advantage to the drover since in controlling their movements, keeps pace and stops the fast animals from running or escaping.

Along the Nakuru Nairobi road, rabbits are suspended by ears and hang precariously as the vendors run excitedly towards potential buyers in the vehicles oblivious of the animals pains.

At the adjacent Lubao auction market in Kakamega district there has been the largest dog market in the country. Dog buyers scout for them from as far as Nandi district and it is even alleged that a number of these dogs are stolen implying that no medical checks, or mandatory vaccinations are done on them, a factor that poses health risks such as rabies and other zoonoses to the buyer / handler, prospective buyers and the communities living along the paths these animals are walked through. The buyer/handler shackles these dogs with twine and walks them all the way to the market where they are sold. During the long treks the dogs are not fed. In 1990, the author recorded about 30 cases of dog bites monthly in Kakamega districts with 3 cases of human rabies arising from such
bites. The cost of anti-rabies injections is high and puts a lot of financial constraints on people bitten by dogs. There is also the anxiety during the window period when the dog bite victims awaits their fate.

**Transit and Disaster**

In times of animal transit and disaster the chances of spreading diseases among the stressed animals is high. Their immunity is compromised so they are highly susceptible especially the young, pregnant, sick and old animals. The objective of establishing stock routes and holding grounds by the Livestock and Marketing division in the then Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development was to provide room for rest, convalescence or parturition while an animal was on a journey. The routes became neglected during the 1980s to 1990s and land set aside for livestock while on route was converted to other uses such as real estate creating confusion in issues regarding animal welfare.

The expansive holding grounds of the Kenya Meat Commission along Mombasa road and Slaughter village in Athi River at Kwa Kasina near Mlolongo have been developed into housing schemes that block access to cattle from Ukambani and Maasai land into the Kenya Meat Commission abattoir. The slaughter stock has now to be driven to the lairages through human habitats via a narrow path without adequate grazing land for animals awaiting slaughter.

The acquisition of the trekking route and grazing land meant for livestock that have to be walked to the abattoir is in itself an action that does not consider the welfare of livestock which suffer silently. The human settlements along the Wild Animal Corridor in Kitengela area has also blocked animal movement across the expansive Kaputiei Plains. Animals are also exposed to vehicular accidents as they cross the roads. Another effect of the constructions is the reduction in foraging habitat and exposure to predators.

**Experimental Animals**

*Animal experiments*

**Unnatural Acts against animals**

Bestiality has been reported in some parts Kenya. This involves human beings having sexual acts with animals. This is a violation of the animals right because the act is not consensual. There is also the danger of acquiring zoonotic infections. In women having sex with dogs, there is the risk of damage to the reproductive tract. This is because after coitus the dog’s bulbo-urethral gland swells while in the vaginal tract for about twenty or more minutes while the animals face opposite directions in an attempt to separate. This is called “tying”.

**Administration**

The administration of animal resource is fragmented and there is no coordinated effort to address the welfare issues holistically. The veterinarian treats the sick animal, the human counterpart treats the human victim, the extension person focuses on improved production, the wildlife professional is concerned with conservation efforts while the law enforcer implements the arising legal issues at one point and time. There is also no value system instilled into the common man so not much attention is given to animal welfare. Each professional arm acts separately in a vacuum.

To be able to attain comfortable conditions for the survival of all animals there has to be a concerted effort in addressing animal problems.

**SUMMARY OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY ANIMALS**

**Post Election Violence** – fate of domestic stock was hardly mentioned and the number of livestock that perished in this period may never be known.

Domestic animals, dogs and cats were either killed or left to wander aimlessly in their familiar surroundings with no one to care for them. There was no food, shelter, water, health services or administrative strategy.

Quarantine not fully enforced during PEV.

Interstate politics had a negative impact on poultry and egg production in Uganda which relied on Kenya for the chicks.
No Meat inspection services during PEV exposed consumers to zoonoses
The milk production-Low, no feeds, Non pasteurization-zoonoses
Animals of burden -Donkeys, cruelty. Risk of rabies- non-familiarity with symptoms
Sylvatic spread of rabies- nyanza- control logistics
Droughts and Animal disease spread –stress, environmental- RVF, Pestis petit
Dog deaths from vehicular accidents –speed, 30-60 deaths monthly. Danger of adulteration

**Human wild life conflict**-resource competition. Furadan-trophic levels, food chain.
**Poaching- poverty.** Animal protein = animal suffering. Danger of zooanthroponoses eg Rabies, Ebola, Unknown diseases

  Shortage of animal protein among Kenya poor sharing the habitats with wild animals and the quest to get rich led to a surge in poaching. Animals especially ruminants are poached for their meat skin, while the larger animals like the rhinoceros may be hunted for their horns believed to be an aphrodisiac, elephants may be poached for their highly priced tusks while others like leopards maybe killed for use in traditional medicine and witchcraft.

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  The consumption of game meat is poses the risk of known zooanthroponoses including Trichinellosis, Anthrax, Ebola and unknown emerging diseases.

**Tick control**- The Animal Diseases Act (Cap 364,1989) -to reduce animal suffering
**Inhumane handling** - cruelty, starvation
**Animal trafficking- endangered species (CITES)**
**Animal sales- ill handling**
**Transit and Disaster** - stock routes for rest. No longer available. Blocked wild animal corridor
**Experimental Animals** - overcrowding, deaths, lack of health service provision.
**Unnatural Acts against animals** - bestiality. Diseases and injury to man.
**Administration**- Not cohesive therefore ineffective in ensuring welfare.

**DISCUSSION**

**Animal ownership**
  It is important that animals have an owner, with whom they are identified. This gives a sense of security to the animal and instills responsibility into the person owning the animal (AVMA (2006)

Currently, the Kenya Society for the Prevention of Animals (KSPCA) is the caretaker of the abandoned animals. However the organization is stretched to capacity and handles large number of animals but thousands still lack the tender loving care. Recently, KENDAT, an NGO focusing on the welfare of the donkey has been set up with the aim of improving the general conditions of this Beast of Burden around Limuru town.

**Animal Husbandry**

Animal production systems contribute in one way or another to discomfort for animals including curtailing movement and forcing the animals to use passive apparatus in order to stay standing. Although the methods may increase returns for the farmer, the animals suffer.

The conditions animals endure in intensive farming systems led to the formation of a commission to look into animal welfare in the United Kingdom ( ) and since then many other such
commissions and welfare lobby groups have sprung up in the developed world. There is need for policy guidelines on farming systems that alleviate animals suffering in the livestock industry.

**Post Election Violence and its Implications on Livestock Welfare in Kenya**

PEV demonstrated the level of non preparedness of Kenya in dealing with animal welfare during disasters. There were no provisions for pregnant and young animals (DEFRA, 2009). There was no appointed veterinary staff to offer services for the sick and wounded animals or those with problems at parturition (DEFRA, 2009). The Animal Welfare League of South Australia cared for over 19,000 animals in addition to providing care for lost and abandoned companion animals (www.animalwelfare.com.au 2008). When the typhoon Katrina hit the United States of America, some animal owners abandoned them. Some of the flood dogs were also too aggressive to handle and no shelter for abandoned dogs was set up. People skilled in handling particular species of animals like alligators also offered services for predators such as tigers, they were authorized. A community Emergency Rescue Volunteer group comprising professionals trained to handled the dogs was set up. (http://64.233.183.104/search) Kenyan should put in place a disaster response plan for animals affected by disasters. A selected team of trained veterinarians and volunteers should always be on stand by. Diseases like rabies will be controlled an organized system is in place.

Basic necessities such as shelter, food, water, health services and other administrative services should be provided as spelt out in SPHERE (2004).

**Livestock and Wild Animal Welfare**

To avoid unnecessary suffering of animals in the livestock industry, the Animal disease statutes should be implanted on time and observed. Laws including The Animal Diseases Act (Cap 364, 1989), Meat Control Act (Cap 356, 1972), Public Health Act, (Cap 242), Food Drugs and Chemical Substances Act, (Cap 254). There is an urgent need to implement the Kenya Wild Life Policy Act

**Animals of burden**

The welfare of the donkey is wanting despite the establishment of NGOs like KENDAT which currently covers a small part of the country. Through dissemination of the works of a body like one mentioned above, awareness will be created and peoples attitude towards the donkey will change for the better.

**Dog deaths from vehicular accidents**

The dogs killed on the roads pose serious environmental problems because they rarely removed from the road and upon decomposition emit obnoxious odours. These carrion also pose an even greater danger to human health because unscrupulous people have been known to skin these animals and sell them to unsuspecting consumers as “meat” which is not even inspected by authorized officers. A case in point is the televised news of a person who salvaged dogs knocked down by vehicles or stole dogs, “dressed” and finally sold the dog meat to unsuspecting consumers in Naivasha town. Although the man claimed that he ate dog meat, it is not a cultural or national practice in Kenya to eat dog meat and besides these dead dogs may be vectors of zoonotic diseases such as Botulism and hydatidosis, hookworm infections and rabies.

In June 2009, twenty five goats were killed by a speeding motorist along Mombasa road and the people who were nearby went for the dead animals but left the injured ones in pain on the road. The herdsman lost his animal resource and suffered economically and emotionally since his livelihood was destroyed.

The of rambles and bumps on the populated highways forces vehicles to slow down and has somehow reduced dog deaths caused by vehicles.

**Human wild life conflict**

The resolution by farmers to spray or apply Furadan (a carbamate) (Brewer, 1995) to plants such as wheat, barley and maize with the aim to control wild ruminant foraging and destruction of their...
crops is unethical and cruel. Animals that consume the poisoned crops die, are weakened, and therefore predated on by carnivores such as lions and hyenas. The lions which are on a higher trophic level are especially vulnerable and upon assimilation of the Furadan in the wild ruminant meat, the lions neurolocomotor apparatus is affected and movements of the hind limbs become uncoordinated besides the resultant general body weakness. The affected lions, end up crawling and can therefore not hunt for more prey, neither are they able to consume what they have captured. The end result is starvation and a very painful slow death. By 2009, the media had recorded 37 lions dead after preying on Furadan poisoned wild ruminants. This practice will if not checked affect the tourism industry which relies on the big five.

There is still a further potential danger in that domesticated animals and predator human beings who either hunt wild ruminants or consume carnivore meat can also be adversely affected serially upon consuming animals that have become victims of intentional Furadan poisoning.

There are frequent deaths of livestock that are attributed to differences between neighbours where a person intentionally poisons an adversary’s animal to settle scores. This practice is inhumane and should be discouraged since the victimized animal does not have the slightest idea of the conflict neither understand the happenings around it.

Poaching

The sufferings of poached animals include death from asphyxiation, fractures, immobilization, limb amputation, gangrene, generalized haemorrhage, pneumothorax, and even secondary predation. (Otieno, 2007) most of which depreciate the value of the meat. Poached game meat is not inspected, the animals health profile is unkown and although much research has been done on animal diseases, the field is still grey and more needs to be done, including the logistics of controlling outbreaks and caring for the animal resource in the wilderness.

The consumption of game meat is poses the risk of known zooanthroposes including Trichinellosis, Anthrax, Ebola and unkown emerging diseases.

Pricing of game meat also does not demonstrate the actual value of the meat since it is sold very cheaply. In a study in 2000, Otieno (unpublished) recorded that a hand held kilogram of meat sold for as little as 20 kshs (0.4USD) while a similar weight from a standardized weighing scale sold for 70kshs (0.8USD). This is effect just devalues game meat besides endangering their existence in the wilderness.

Humane handling

Any form of mishandling stresses an animal and has a direct effect on the resultant quality of the meat. Whipping animals with hard sharp objects yields bruised meat with a poor keeping quality. Stress susceptible pigs like the Pietrain produce Pale Soft Exudative (PSE) meat because of the high pH 4.5 attained within an hour of slaughter. Sticking an animal in the presence of another, stresses the one that sees the process. The practice is prohibited by the Meat control Act (Cap356) which recommends for stunning areas.

Experimental Animals

Concern about animal welfare in research was documented by Fink and Dann (1972) when they carried out drug tests for malaria and trypanosomiasis on the green or vervet (Cercopithecus aethiops) and the De Brassa monkey (Cercopithecus neglectus). Causes of death for the 11 (8%) monkeys out of a total of 134 included due to asphyxiation (3) as a result of overcrowding in cages, a broken tail during transportation, abortions (2) within a few days of confinement, metritis, pneumonia (1) and one unknown cause. The time lapse between the capture of the monkeys and their caging at the institute was found to be critical.

In summary it may be noted that the animals faced a number of challenges such as abandonment, starvation, sickness, injury, difficult parturition, arthropod infestation, lack of vaccination, being stolen, death by fire and vehicles, overcrowding including illegal slaughter. There is need for a policy statement on animals used for experiments.
Unnatural Acts against animals

Bestiality has been reported in some parts Kenya. This involves human beings having sexual acts with animals. This is a violation of the animals right because the act is not consensual. There is also the danger of acquiring zoonotic infections. In women having sex with dogs, there is the risk of damage to the reproductive tract. This is because after coitus the dog’s bulbo-urethral gland swells while in the vaginal tract for about twenty or more minutes while the animals face opposite directions in an attempt to separate. This is called “tying”.

Administration

The administration of animal resource is fragmented and there is no coordinated effort to address the welfare issues holistically. The veterinarian treats the sick animal, the human counterpart treats the human victim, the extension person focuses on improved production, the wildlife professional is concerned with conservation efforts while the law enforcer on implements the arising legal issues at one point and time. There is also no value system instilled into the common man so not much attention is given to animal welfare. Each professional arm acts separately in a vacuum.

To be able to attain comfortable conditions for the survival of all animals there has to be a concerted effort in addressing animal problems. This can be achieved by retraining personnel dealing with animals in one way or another to focus on animal welfare.

Animal welfare

The average man has to have a basic understanding of the proper agricultural practices that contribute to the production of quality food which has an overall effect on the quality of human life (Animal Agriculture Alliance, 2009). Quality food production starts at the farm and in America, it involves researched guidelines for animal welfare for use by modern farmers, ranchers and producers to improve animal life since these people rely on this resource for their livelihood (Animal Agriculture Alliance, 2009).

One of the objectives of animal welfare organizations is to offer alternative accommodation for lost, abandoned or displaced animals. The Animal Welfare League of South Australia has cared for over 19,000 animals in addition to providing care for lost and abandoned companion animals (www.animalwelfare.com.au 2008). When the typhoon Katrina hit the United States of America, some animal owners abandoned them. Some of the flood dogs were also too aggressive to handle and no shelter for abandoned dogs was set up. People skilled in handling particular species of animals like alligators also offered services for predators such as tigers, they were authorized. A community Emergency Rescue Volunteer group comprise professionals trained to handled the dogs. (http://64.233.183.104/search......2008).

Kenya should put in place a disaster response plan for animals that could operate along lines similar to ones in practice by volunteer bodies. A select team of trained veterinarians and volunteers would always be on stand by.

To produce quality meat, animals should be handled humanely, get adequate rest, and proper slaughter techniques used. The pre-slaughter care of animals across all physiological states is therefore crucial and requires technically qualified staff to supervise the humane handling of slaughter stock as stipulated in animals such as dogs, cats or even rabbits. People need to be educated on the importance of caring for any animal properly.

The New Zealand Animal Welfare Emergency Management (NAWEM) Group organized a camp with Afghan soldiers and with the help of two American veterinarians to drench and control zoonotic parasitic diseases of dogs however, it can be controlled if dog waste is collected and disposed off properly. Treatment of affected dogs is also one way of controlling this disease, and services can be offered by trained veterinary personnel or even trained communities during strife. Kenya has all that is required to implement disease control and for disaster situations organization and preparedness is all that is called for. We do not have to wait for disasters to occur to act.

Once after a three-month lapse, some veterinary technical staff organized an animal treatment camp. Much as this exercise was aired and created awareness on the plight of the displaced animals, that
needed more attention just as their owners during the disaster. During times of disaster, people are frantic and may end up mishandling and neglecting their animals. The animals are also handled inhumanely during the illegal slaughter and burning.

**Housing Provisions for animal welfare**

In Sierra Leone to control the spread of rabies and other zoonoses among Freetown’s 100,000 stray dog population after the civil war of the 1990s, WSPA in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Animal Welfare Society (SLAWS), started a community activity that collected stray dogs from homes, neutered them, gave them anthelmintics and returned them to their owners (international.org/wspaswork/strayanimals/caninecasualtiessierraleone.aspx)

An enclosed accommodation in form of a coup, fenced ground or barn is crucial for animal welfare since it shields them from cold, rains and gives a sense of togetherness. The area allocated for the animals is also important for their security since owners will be within eye/ear shot. The area set aside for animal accommodation is crucial for environmental hygiene since animal waste such as urine and faeces are located in a prescribed area and can be easily managed. This is also advantageous with regard to control of communicable diseases. It is more practical to offer veterinary services if animals are accommodated in specified areas; and specially designed or modified equipment is used to attend to them at the site.

**Provision of animal food**

There is need to sensitize Kenyan farmers and the community at large on the need to value animal life, since this will inculcate the culture of proper handling of animals at all times. The animals starved during the time of transit, resettlement, or when they were abandoned and this too affected their welfare. As recently as 1 May 2009, there was drought that resulted in some animals starving to death especially in the Turkana and Pokot districts. Provision of food for the animals should therefore be a priority. To avoid a recurrence of animals suffering from starvation during disasters or war, farmers should be sensitized on methods of fodder conservation, such as making silage and compounding feeds.

**Agriculture and animal welfare**

**Tick control**

Livestock especially cattle suffer the effects of tick borne diseases, and the Cattle Cleansing Act (Cap 358, 1937) is one such act that was drawn to protect cattle from ticks through dipping. During calm in the country, the routine dipping of cattle had been going on, and people who lived in milk producing areas such as the Central and Rift Valley provinces benefited economically from the high milk output and returns.

The people of the Rift Valley especially those in the higher wetter zones have implemented tick control activities seriously because the cow is their main source of income. However, the drier zones of the valley still stock indigenous cattle and small stock and dipping may not be regarded as highly.

Other domesticated animals like cats and dogs should be cleared of ticks as a control and tick containment strategy, since the different species of animals do mix with cats and dogs especially where dogs assist in herding during grazing. Where zero grazing is practiced or animal numbers are small, efficient hand spraying may be practiced.

As a disaster management strategy, there should be emergency response teams to deal with tick control among displaced and abandoned livestock.

**Poaching**

To stem off animal suffering from poachers, there should be an education campaign on valuing animals.
Control of stock theft

The Branding of Stock Act Cap 357, 1972) is now being enforced. It includes the “list of brands compiled by the registrar of brands and published by the Kenya government” which stipulates where the first and subsequent brands should be placed on the animal and has provisions for a “certificate of registration of any brand”. The Branding of Stock Act, has provisions for transfers, cancellation and surrender of all brands.

Therefore the person buying or taking delivery of stock or produce sold in contravention of the section is liable to an offence punishable by imprisonment not exceeding six (6) months or both fine and imprisonment. The Crop Production and Livestock Act (Cap 231, 1971).

Diseases and Animal Welfare

The Rabies Act (Cap 365, 1967) stipulates action to be taken with regard to stray and rabid dogs. This law stresses on the humane killing of rabid dogs to end their suffering and at the same time protect human life.

The Animal Diseases Act(Cap 364,1989) deals with various actions that should be taken to control the spread of notifiable diseases. By controlling the spread of disease, animal welfare is addressed and the deaths and sufferings of animals are reduced. Control measures include compulsory Rinderpest vaccination , cross border control of Trypanosomiasis as is done on the Kenya –Uganda border and other subsidiary legislature as stipulated in the law.

Protecting Animals against Radiation

Animals do suffer from effects of radiation. Particularly affected are those that may be involved in scientific research where radioactive energy is used. Although Kenya has enacted the Radiation Protection Act (Cap243, 1984), this law only caters for human beings but animals are not considered. A law drawn to protect animals against radiation will go along way towards alleviating the deleterious effects of radioactivity on “these silent sufferers”.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (Cap 360,1963, 1983) is an act of parliament that has provisions for “the prevention of cruelty to animals to control experiments on animals, and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith”. This law defines an animals, outlines the forms of cruelty to animals and the fines for such offences. However the author feels that the three thousand shillings (kshs.3000) fine is too lenient and therefore not an effective deterrent for offences against animals.

From the listed laws, it is evident that the welfare of animals in times of disaster or violence as they happened in Kenya recently has not been fully spelt out, and respective organizations or individuals have to consult a wide range of references to ensure the welfare of animals in Kenya is adequately addressed.

The sad events of post-election violence that took place in Kenya were a reminder of a number of issues on animal welfare that need addressing by the Kenyan community . Although it may appear that our statutory laws have legislations on animal health and care, the violence that is meted to our animals exposes some loopholes or gaps in these laws.

It can be concluded that the policies on animal welfare in Kenya are fragmented and the existing many Acts on the animal health care and welfare require harmonisation. It must be noted here that implementation or enforcement of any legislation becomes an easier task when the basic intent or purpose of the legislation is understood by the public. Creation of awareness is therefore very important. As already indicated, above this promotes voluntary compliance with the legislation.
In an effort to improve our livestock and domesticated animals (cats and dogs) health and welfare, we must be guided by the principle that all animals are entitled to safe, sound and healthy environment and protection from unfair and inhumane treatments.

Retraining of the Animal Health Personnel
For animal welfare to succeed the perceptions of the animal health staff have to change so that they can look at animal welfare with greater focus. This can only happen with appropriate retraining of the concerned staff. This may be an expensive venture but will yield positive results in the long run.

CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATIONS

From the above scenario, it is evident that a number of issues need to be expounded if we are to attain level of good welfare practices for our animals. These include animal ownership, health

Animal ownership
First, the animals must have an owner, with whom they are identified with. this gives a sense of security to the animal and instills responsibility into the person owning the animal (AVMA (2006)

Animal welfare
The average man has to have a basic understanding of the proper agricultural practices that contribute to the production of quality food which has an overall effect on the quality of human life (Animal Agriculture Alliance, 2009). Quality food production should start at the farm and it involve researched guidelines for animal welfare for use by modern farmers, ranchers and producers to improve animal life since these people rely on this resource for their livelihood (Animal Agriculture Alliance, 2009). Alternative accommodation for lost, abandoned or displaced animals should be offered in times of disaster.

To produce quality meat, animals should be handled humanely by technically qualified staff. People should be educated on the importance of caring for any animal properly.

Housing Provisions for animal welfare
Provision of proper clean specific accommodation of animals will ensure security, and disease prevention for the animals.

Provision of animal food
Provision of food all the times for the animals should therefore be a priority. To avoid a recurrence of animals suffering from starvation during disasters or war, farmers should be sensitized on methods of fodder conservation, such as making silage and compounding feeds.

Agriculture and animal welfare

Tick control
The Cattle Cleansing Act (Cap 358, 1937) should be implemented and as a disaster management strategy, there should be emergency response teams to deal with tick control among displaced and abandoned livestock.

Poaching
To stem off animal suffering from poachers, there should be an education campaign on valuing animals. A commodity without value is nothing.

Control of stock theft
The Branding of Stock Act Cap 357, 1972) is now being enforced. Should be enforced to curb illegal practices.

Diseases and Animal Welfare
The Animal Diseases Act( Cap 364,1989) and The Rabies Act ( Cap 365, 1967) should be implemented to reduce animal suffering

Protecting Animals against Cruelty and Radiation
The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (Cap 360, 1963, 1983) is an act of parliament that has provisions for “the prevention of cruelty to animals to control experiments on animals, and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith”.

The Radiation Protection Act (Cap243, 1984), only caters for human beings but animals are not considered. A law drawn to protect animals against radiation will go along way towards alleviating the deleterious effects of radioactivity on “these silent sufferers”. A policy on animal welfare should be drawn to address animals issues under various circumstances. Health staff retraining so that animal welfare is appreciated first by them then other professionals and people is crucial if animal welfare in Kenya is to be appreciated in Kenya.

References

http://ad.yieldmanager.com/click
(http://64.233.183.104/search.....2008).