Enhancing Animal Welfare by Integrating a Multidisciplinary One Health Approach in Training and Research: A Case Study of University of Nairobi Veterinary Training

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Introduction: THE ONE HEALTH CONCEPT



Animal welfare training through a transdisciplinary approach

- Influence of animal welfare on Animal, Human and Environmental health on a scale of 1-10 is on upper one third.
- Key players:



Education and training are the most effective tools to solving most of the animal welfare problems (Radeski *et al*, 2018)

Objectives

- 1) To evaluate the changes in the knowledge, attitudes and practices on animal welfare resulting from introduction of One Health and Animal Welfare modules in veterinary Curriculum.
- 2) To determine the constraints to effective practice of good animal welfare principles by the Kenyan rural communities and veterinary extension officers.
- 3) To determine the effectiveness of evidence-based One Health multidisciplinary approach in embracing animal welfare principles.

Objective 1: Methodology

- Evaluate changes in knowledge, attitudes and practices on animal welfare resulting from introduction of One Health and Animal Welfare modules in veterinary Curriculum.
- One Health Course unit--45 hours: Lectures, Practical, Examination
- Animal Welfare Course unit-45 hours:Lectures, Practical, Examination
- Self-administered questionnaire- 5th year veterinary students
- Pre-module and Post-module comparisons

Objective 2: Methodology

- Determine the constraints to effective practice of good animal welfare principles by the Kenyan rural communities and veterinary extension officers.
- Retrieval of data from animal welfare research.
- Previous data collected by questionnaires
- Focusing on data related to contraints for good animal welfare practice (implementation)
- Animal owners, Stockpersons, Veterinarians, Animal care givers.
- Strategies for future research to improve animal welfare.

Objective 3: Methodology

- Determine the effectiveness of evidence-based One Health multidisciplinary approach in embracing animal welfare principles
- Multidisciplinary One Health-focused training with contribution of animal welfare in One Health
- Vet, Public health and Medical students.
- Outreach demo-sites with animal welfare seminars for community outreach coupled with vaccinations and treatment of animals
- Seminars focus on human-animal health interactions (zoonoses)

Demo-site training for community on OH/AW



Veterinarian trained by stop-gap induction on OH/AW—Giving practical experience vet and public health students



Student and oxen owners interaction



OUTCOMES/RESULTS: Knowledge, Attitude and practices

- Two cohorts of Veterinary students completed One Health and Animal Welfare Courses.
- 2017/2018 a class of 78 students
- 2018/2019 a class of 66 students
- Some Knowledge, attitude and practice on animal welfare:
 - Pre-module was 61%
 - Post-module was 100%
 - Improvement rate of 39%
- Main improvement for transdisciplinary training is on the attitude

Select number of students trained on One Health and Animal Welfare from each discipline as stop gap measure. Number **Student Discipline** Percentage (%) (n = 306)Veterinary 171 55.9 Medical 52 17.0Nursing 31 10.1 **Public health** 23 7.5 **Dentistry** 15 4.9 **Environmental** 14 4.6 **Total** 306 100

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Main factors that hinder practice of good animal welfare among the Kenyan animal owners.

| Constraint factor | Number | Percentage (%)(n=80) |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Finances | 80 | 100 |
| Dilapidated housing | 33 | 41.3 |
| Improper housing designs | 48 | 60.0 |
| Limited knowledge/ignorance | 43 | 53.8 |
| Cultural/Negative beliefs | 20 | 25.0 |
| Unavailable professional advice | 20 | 25.0 |
| Unconcerned | 20 | 25.0 |

Other factors influencing students on animal welfare attitude

- Gender-----female more empathetic than males
- Geographical origin----urban more empathetic than rural
- Type of pre-university schools/institutions
- Exposure and contact to animals
- Pet/companion animals versus food/production animals
- Animal uses

Dilapidated cattle housing



Improper design of feed trough/bunk







Improper design



Effect of ignorance and attitude/lack of professional service







Normal feet





Zerograzing units with cow injuries and cows with injuries

| Zero-grazing units having Cows with injuries (n=80) | | | Cows with injuries (n=306) | |
|--|----|----|-------------------------------|------|
| Body region | n | % | n | % |
| Carpal joint | 77 | 96 | 230 | 75.2 |
| Hock joint | 76 | 95 | 260 | 85 |
| Rib cage | 76 | 95 | 228 | 74.5 |
| Tuber coxae | 72 | 91 | 204 | 66.7 |
| Ischia area | 61 | 76 | 124 | 40.5 |
| Neck | 52 | 65 | 186 | 60.8 |
| brisket | 51 | 64 | 134 | 43.8 |
| Teat/udder | 50 | 63 | 89 | 29.1 |

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Strategy for improved attitude toward animal welfare

- Education/awareness, training and research
- Multidisciplinary/transdisplinary professional interactions
- Direct/indirect benefits of good welfare
- Policy and law enforcement

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THANK YOU! ASANTE SANA!