COMPELLING CASE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN AFRICA

By Dr. Kikiope Oluwarore (DVM, MSc)

Presented at the 6th Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC)
Gaborone, Botswana, 27th October 2022
Evolving definition and practices of Animal Welfare

The Five Freedoms of Animals

One Health, One Welfare
The trends of Animal Welfare in Africa

The role of AU-IBAR, the CC-AWA and the implementation of the AWSA

The need for a **Compelling Case on Animal Welfare in Africa**
STUDY METHODOLOGY & PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

- Literature Review
  - Research papers from peer-reviewed journals
  - Grey literature (FAO, OIE, UNEP, IGAD, SADC, ISO, WTO)

- Survey Questionnaire
  - 20% response rate from 55 country-level AW focal persons
  - 91% male respondents
  - 82% from anglophone countries

- KII
  - Representatives of African RECs (50% response rate)
  - 6 AW professionals across 2 AW organizations

DATA ANALYSIS

- Quantitative – Microsoft Excel
- Qualitative – Content Analysis
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

General Status Of Animal Welfare In Africa
POOR ANIMAL WELFARE PRACTICES

- Poor transport, slaughter
- Poor handling, mutilation, and use of animals
- Inadequate provision of food and water
- Restriction of movement and natural behaviors
- Poor quality veterinary services
- Poor antimicrobial stewardship
- Administration of unnatural additives
KNOWLEDGE & STATUS OF ANIMAL WELFARE IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

- 36% of country-level AW focal persons do not understand the meaning and impact of Animal Welfare.
- 64% of countries do not have Animal Welfare policies.
- 0% of countries with Animal Welfare policies are implementing their policies at sub-national levels.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Impact of Animal Welfare – The Compelling Case
IMPACTS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

- AW positively impacts animals, less stress, lesser incidence of injuries
- Maintain good metabolic processes and thus enhances productivity
- Enhances immunity, thus improves resistance to diseases, and reduce use of antibiotics and incidence of AMR
IMPACTS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

HUMAN HEALTH

❖ Healthier animal conditions, reduces the risk of zoonotic infections and transmission to humans (75% of all infectious diseases)
❖ Enhanced mutually beneficial co-existence
❖ Supports human mental health and social well-being
IMPACTS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY

❖ Maintains the health qualities of meat and other animal by-products
❖ Retains nutritional content and reduces rate of spoilage
❖ Products of stressed animals produced under poor welfare conditions have inferior nutritional quality, and spoil faster
IMPACTS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

❖ Improved AW requires alternative production systems to factory farming

❖ Thus it reduces contribution of animal waste to greenhouse gas into the environment

❖ Minimizes land degradation and maintains ecosystem sustainability

❖ Increased reliance on factory farming and intensive production compromises environmental sustainability and increases the risk of climate change – need for consideration and inclusion of alternative proteins to meet growing food and protein demands sustainably
IMPACTS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

❖ Meet emerging and growing consumer demands
❖ Improves access to local and international trade (alignment with WTO and WOAH welfare guidelines)
❖ Increase contribution to country GDP
❖ Improves sustainable livelihood
❖ Reduce budgetary burden on animal health – medicines and antibiotics used to treat ill animals from poor welfare conditions
NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF POOR ANIMAL WELFARE

- Stressed animals,
- Poor health, disease vulnerability,
- Illness and poor productivity,
- Purchase and use of drugs and antibiotics,
- Increased cost of production and resources

- Increased risk of zoonoses transmission, AMR transmission,
- Poor quality and hygiene of meat and food products,
- Poor human health, AMR,
- Purchase and use of drugs and antibiotics,
  Increased cost of treatment

- Loss of income, revenue and GDP from not meeting emerging trade rules and consumer demands,
  Increased budgetary burden on poor animal health,
  Waste of scarce resources

- Land degradation, ecosystem breakdown
- Climate change,
- Increased cost of resources to combat climate change and poor sustainability outcomes
GAPS AND CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING ANIMAL WELFARE

❖ Poor knowledge and awareness
❖ Inadequate policy establishment and implementation
❖ Poor prioritization of AW in national agenda, leading to poor funding and resource mobilization
❖ Insecurity and political crisis
❖ Inadequate AW personnel and poor technical capacity of existing personnel
❖ Inadequate intersectoral collaboration
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

AU-IBAR/CC-AWA

❖ Improve resource mobilization
❖ Train and build the capacity of AW focal persons
❖ Harmonize institutional governance of AW
❖ Support awareness and advocacy

PARLIAMENTARIANS, CVOs, ADVOCATES

❖ Promote public awareness and education at all levels
❖ Mobilize in-country resources and budgetary allocations for AW
❖ Establish and implement AW policies, systems and frameworks at all levels
❖ Increase and improve AW workforce
❖ Support and systemize inter-sectoral collaborations for AW
CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION

The evidence that animal welfare impacts several aspects of public health and socioeconomic development presents an opportunity and URGENT need for coordinated continental-wide multi-level inter-sectoral Stakeholder Action.
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

Email: kiki@onehealthdev.org