



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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Overview of the Animal Welfare situation in Kenya

Presented at the

9th Africa Animal Welfare Conference-Action 2025

on 30 July 2024 at Hotel Franco, Yaounde, Cameroon

Devolution and county roles in animal welfare

- ▶ Kenya operates a two-tier government: National and 47 County Governments.
- ▶ Livestock is a devolved function **under the fourth schedule of COK**
- ▶ Counties are responsible for veterinary services, slaughterhouse licensing, local enforcement, implementing animal welfare interventions
- ▶ The national government (DVS) provides policy direction, technical guidelines, legislation and national coordination on animal welfare.
- ▶ Challenges; varying capacity and prioritization of animal welfare across counties.
- ▶ Opportunities for tailored, community-driven animal welfare solutions.

Animal Welfare under Article 42 the COK, 2010 -

- ▶ Right to a Clean and Healthy Environment, which includes:
 - ▶ The protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources.
 - ▶ The sustainable management of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations.
- ▶ The constitution indirectly supports animal welfare by:
 - ▶ Recognizing the intrinsic link between environmental health and animal well-being.
 - ▶ Enabling legal and policy frameworks that promote the humane treatment and protection of animals as part of a healthy ecosystem.
 - ▶ Providing a constitutional framework to challenge activities that result in animal cruelty, habitat destruction, or unsustainable exploitation of animals.

Article 69 - State's obligations in relation to the environment and natural resources,

- ▶ Article 69 provides a strong constitutional foundation for **integrating animal welfare, responsible animal use, and wildlife conservation** into Kenya's sustainable development agenda, ensuring both ecological and ethical stewardship of animals.
 - ▶ Sustainable exploitation of natural resources
 - ▶ Equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources
 - ▶ Protection of biodiversity and indigenous knowledge
 - ▶ Public participation in environmental governance
 - ▶ Collaboration with communities in conservation

Article 46 - Consumer rights

- ▶ Article 46(1)(b) guarantees consumers "the right to information necessary for them to gain full benefit from goods and services." This includes the right to **clear, accurate, and transparent** information about:
 - ▶ How animals were raised (e.g., welfare conditions, use of antibiotics or hormones)
 - ▶ Production systems used (e.g., free-range, industrial, organic)
 - ▶ Animal health and food safety practices
 - ▶ Slaughter and processing methods
 - ▶ This empowers consumers to make informed choices aligned with their health, ethical, religious, or environmental values.

Article 43 - Social and Economic rights

Article 43 of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010, guarantees **economic and social rights**;

- ▶ The **right to adequate food** implies food that is safe, nutritious, and ethically produced, which calls for humane treatment of food animals.
- ▶ The **right to health** depends on safe animal-source foods, free from contamination due to poor animal welfare or unhygienic practices.
- ▶ The **right to clean water and a clean environment** is impacted by how animals are raised and managed—poor animal welfare can contribute to environmental pollution and public health risks.

Animal Welfare legislative framework

- ▶ Several laws in place that address cruelty to animals, promote animal welfare, protect wildlife, and conserve natural habitats; **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the Meat Control Act, the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act**, among others.
- ▶ While we acknowledge the limitations within some of these legislations, they provide a strong legal framework to guide our interventions. The Animal Welfare and Protection Bill, 2019 seeks to modernize Kenya's outdated Prevention from Cruelty Act (CAP 360).
- ▶ Key focus: Promote humane treatment, regulate animal use, and strengthen enforcement.
- ▶ Bill has been re-validated and awaiting cabinet approval.
- ▶ Once enacted, it will provide a comprehensive legal framework for animal welfare.

Devolution and County-Led Animal Welfare Legislation

- ▶ The 2010 Constitution introduced devolution, granting counties legislative authority over functions like agriculture and animal welfare.
- ▶ Counties can now develop localized policies tailored to their specific needs and contexts.
- ▶ Example: **Nairobi City County Animal Welfare Act** addresses urban issues like stray animals, urban farming, and pet regulation.
- ▶ County laws enhance responsiveness, accountability, and collaboration in advancing animal welfare.

The National Animal Welfare Strategy

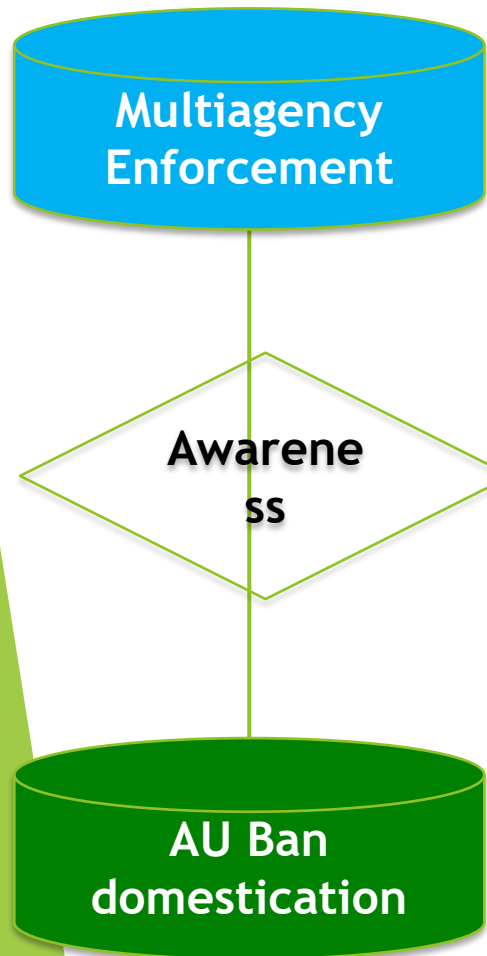
- ▶ The development of Kenya's National Animal Welfare Strategy is ongoing
- ▶ The draft Strategy aligns with WOAH animal welfare standards and Vision 2030.
- ▶ This is a multistakeholder process: public sector, NGOs, academia, animal welfare organizations, private sector, animal keepers, council of Governors, county governments
- ▶ Priorities include: awareness creation, enforcement mechanisms, capacity building, and education.
- ▶ Expected to guide counties in developing aligned County-level strategies and action plan

Multi-agency collaboration

- ▶ A High-Level Multi-Agency Technical Committee on Animal Welfare established.
- ▶ Ministry of Interior & National Admin, Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development, Ministry of Health and Brooke East Africa.
- ▶ 100-day Rapid result initiative (RRI) sought to;
 - **Enforce** existing regulations within the livestock sector, ensuring strict adherence to food safety standards and fortifying food security nationwide.
 - Ensure greater **Public awareness** and understanding of the risks of consuming uninspected meat, and the importance of reporting malpractices in the trade of Livestock Products.
 - Enhance better **ways of working**/Collaboration

High Multi-Agency meeting on illegal Slaughter of donkeys





Source	Movement	Kill zone
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen surveillance along the entire supply chain. • Biweekly Highway Patrols on regulatory compliance. • Inspect vehicles transporting animal products. • Documentation verification and ensure sanitary conditions. • Weekly butchery inspections and enforce licensing and penalties. • Monitoring of Closed Donkey Slaughterhouses 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Media actions [Expose, articles, news, social media] ✓ Educate stakeholders on rules, best practices, and penalties. ✓ Promote voluntary compliance and responsible behaviour. ✓ Develop a Rapid Legal Reference Guide and SOP ✓ Support consistent prosecution of livestock-related offences. ✓ Clarify legal frameworks, procedures, and evidence standards 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enforce the AU Ban on Donkey Slaughter and the Skin Trade ✓ Protect donkey populations and rural livelihoods. ✓ Foster Collaboration and coordination between state and non-state actors. ✓ Share information, build capacity, and adopt best practices. 	

Achievements of the high-level multi-agency RRI

- 700+ donkeys rescued and rehomed
- Many illegal slaughter sites dismantled
- SOPs & legal frameworks developed
- High-impact public engagement
- Arrests and prosecution of accused perpetrators
- Increased surveillance and reporting

AWAKE (Animal Welfare Action Kenya) Formation

- ▶ An umbrella formation of animal welfare organisations, professional associations, academia, DVS to ensure animal welfare
- ▶ Advocacy & Policy Engagements; Holds consultative forums with government
- ▶ Public Awareness Campaigns; World Animal Day, community outreach, and media campaigns.
- ▶ Support for Policy Implementation; National Animal Welfare Strategy, legislative reviews, and county-level animal welfare policies.
- ▶ DVS serves as the Chair of AWAKE, offering national coordination and technical oversight. Meetings are on quarterly basis.
- ▶ Aspire to bring all AW practitioners on board and have different areas of specialization; Recently we launched the Equine Veterinarians' caucus.

Organizational Positioning of Animal Welfare within DVS

Current Structure

- ▶ Animal Welfare is currently a small unit under the Disease Surveillance Division in the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS).
- ▶ This limits its capacity, visibility, and effectiveness in addressing the growing and diverse animal welfare concerns nationally.

Proposed Change

- ▶ The newly proposed DVS organizational structure proposes to elevate Animal Welfare to a stand-alone division.

Expected Benefits;

- ▶ Greater visibility and prioritization within DVS, Improved resource allocation and staffing, Enhanced collaboration with civil society and stakeholders, Stronger response to animal welfare challenges, Effective development and enforcement of policies and standards

Call to Action

- ▶ Nine years since the first Africa Animal Welfare Conference—what have Member States achieved in awareness, advocacy, and policy?
- ▶ It's time to conduct a clear, honest assessment of where we stand individually and collectively in advancing animal welfare.
- ▶ We must adapt international animal welfare instruments to align with our local realities, cultures and production systems.
- ▶ Call to Action: Let's document our gains, identify gaps, and realign our efforts to move from commitment to meaningful, measurable action.