

# **Animal Welfare Legislation in Developing Countries – Challenges and Opportunities**

*by*

**Hassan Aidaros**

Professor of Hygiene and Preventive Medicine

# Topics

---

- Importance of Animal Welfare Legislations.
- Situation of Animal Welfare Legislations.
- Proposed actions to encourage countries to adopt Animal Welfare Legislations.
- Proposed framework for animal welfare legislation.

# Developing Countries

---

- There is *no available standard definition for a Developing Country*. Different organizations have different criteria for classification.

# Developing Countries

---

- There are no WTO definitions of “developed” and “developing” countries. Members announce for themselves whether they are “developed” or “developing” countries.
- The World Bank’s main criterion for classifying economies is gross national income (GNI) per capita, Low-income and middle-income economies are sometimes referred to as developing economies.

# Developing Countries

---

**For the purpose of this presentation, a developing country is a country with limited financial resources, infrastructure and/or technical capabilities.**

# Introduction

---

- Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted public policy issue that includes important scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions.

**Because of its growing importance in society, animal welfare must today be addressed in scientific and lawful manners.**

# Animal Welfare Legislations

---

Animal Welfare Legislations is the legal statement which support the starting initiative as well as its implementation and continuity.

---

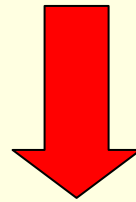
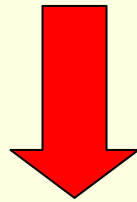
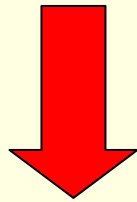
**For the purpose of this presentation, legislations means the legal statement as well as its executive statutes and Standard Operating Procedures.**



# Importance of animal welfare legislation

---

- Without animal welfare legislation:



Many constraints will antagonise the enforcement and improvement of animal welfare activities and subsequently retarding the improvement of animal health and animal production.

# Importance of animal welfare legislation

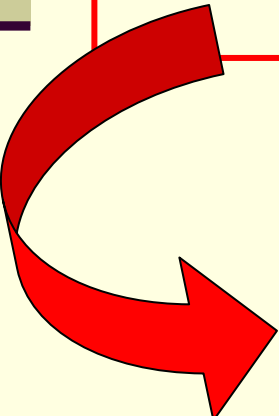
---

- Guarantee for the long term consideration of animal welfare activities.
- Provide legal power for funding, implementing and monitoring animal welfare activities, and consequently improving animal health.
- Manage a strong trade barrier (specially international trade in livestock and slaughtering of animals).

# Factors affecting the efficiency of an animal welfare legislation

---

- Quality
- Level and quality of the executive statutes.
- Political level of the issuing body.
- Efficacy of the Veterinary Services.



**All of these affect on the DEGREE OF ENFORCEMENT**

# Factors affecting the efficiency of an animal welfare legislation

---

- **Quality** means that the legislation addressing the following points:
  - OIE international standards.
  - Managing the breaches by sensible penalties.
  - Flexible to be fit for regular updating of the international standards.
  - Practical articles (taking in consideration the religious, social and economic dimensions).

# Factors affecting the efficiency of an animal welfare legislation

---

## ■ **Quality of the executive statutes:**

- The legislation is usually includes a broad meanings and general stipulations, so an executive statutes have to be issued to enforce the legislation.
- The executive statutes should clarify the activities and the responsibilities of the different authorities.

# Factors affecting the efficiency of an animal welfare legislation

---

## ■ Political level of the issuing body :

- In cases where different institutions involved in the implementation of the legislations:

**If the legislation issued by the president/king or prime minister or through the parliament the attention for enforcement will be at the highest level.**

# Factors affecting the efficiency of an animal welfare legislation

---

- **Efficacy of the Veterinary Services:**
  - Legal power
  - Technical capabilities to develop and monitor the SOPs.
  - Training of the concerned staff.
  - Public awareness.
  - Financial capabilities.
  - Partnership with the NGOs.
  - Veterinary infra-structure.



# **Situation of Animal Welfare Legislations**



# Situation of Animal Welfare Legislations.

---

The majority of developing countries either have un-enforced animal welfare legislations or have no animal welfare legislations at all.

# Situation of Animal Welfare Legislations.

---

Some countries have few articles related to the animal welfare within the animal health legislations .

Egypt, the first country developed animal welfare legislation (Decree of the Khedawi of Egypt issued on 5 June 1902 , regarding the punishment for who doing violent management to animals), this legislation amended by the Minister of Agriculture on 1966.

# Situation of Animal Welfare Legislations.

---

- Some developing countries like India and Taiwan have animal welfare legislations addressing more animal welfare issues than those of middle east countries, but they need update to comply with the OIE standards because they issued on 1998 (TAIWAN) and 1982( India).

## **Situation of Animal Welfare Legislations.**

---

Generally, in some Developing countries; the concept of animal welfare depends on the religious background and/or the humane ethics more than the legislations.

# Situation of Animal Welfare Legislations.

---

We may concluded that, all the developing countries need to adopt a new legislation regarding animal welfare or reviewing the existing legislation to comply with the OIE guidelines.

---

# **Proposed actions to encourage countries to adopt Animal Welfare Legislations**

# Proposed actions

---

## From the international community

- **The PVS tool should clearly address the animal welfare issues.**
- **If animal welfare is considered a factor which could justify a trade barrier in the SPS agreement , the global animal welfare activities specially issuing and enforcing animal welfare legislations will consequently improve.**

# Proposed actions

---

## From the international community

- Assist the veterinary services in developing the required infra-structure to comply with the animal welfare standards, otherwise the animal welfare legislations will not be enforced, these assistances includes Improving the :
  - slaughter houses.
  - Animal transport facilities.
  - Humane animal killing facilities.
  - And others



# Proposed actions

---

- From the developed countries

Other measures can add value for the implementation of animal welfare activities such as the MOUs between veterinary services of the countries . MOUs are also a sort of a legal statement where the signatories have to respect all its articles.

The best example for this matter is Egypt and some other countries in the ME region, as developing countries doesn't have complete infra-structures and updated legislations for animal welfare but MOU between Egypt and Australia was prepared to tackle all the animal welfare requirements for trade in live animals.

# Proposed actions

---

## From the veterinary services

**Preliminary steps should be addressed to rehabilitate the veterinary services, community and stakeholders before enforcing animal welfare legislation and this includes:**

- Training
- Public awareness
- Support from NGOs
- Studies on the market impact.

# Proposed framework for model animal welfare legislation

---

The model animal welfare legislation should be issued at least on a Ministerial level to give the legislation the attention and responsibility from all relevant sectors .

As the animal welfare regulations are more or less extended, and require a continuous updating therefore we suggest that the legislations should refer to the OIE standards as reference

# Proposed framework for model animal welfare legislation

---

- N.B. The ministerial decree in each country should include a penalty for any individual(s) breaching the animal welfare regulations.
- N.B. Should take in consideration to allow a transition period prior to enforcement of the decree to ensure the presence of the required facilities and to make awareness campaigns for the involved sectors



**Thank you**

