The role of veterinary para professionals in Africa.
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Delivery systems in animal welfare and animal protection.

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Point of agreement.

• We all agree that animals need to be protected.

• The nature and extent of protection and by who, is usually the point of differing.

• Science shows that animal can feel pain and suffer- they are sentient being.
Need for protection

• Laws and legal systems in the world governing human interaction are meant for order to alleviate pain and suffering.

• One writer said “in absence of law life would be short and brutal”.

• To alleviate pain and suffering in animals we must also have laws and legal systems that governs how animals are treated.
Use of animals and its responsibility.

• The use of animals carries with it an ethical responsibility to ensure the welfare of such animals (OIE).

• Thus animal protection systems must place responsibility on certain individuals with an emphasis that animal welfare is key in achieving sustainable development and livelihoods.

• This calls for a protection system that recognises various stakeholders who have diverse interest and differing points of view.

• Some based on economic or protection of their various position.
The stakeholders.

- These stakeholders include animal owners, animal handlers, veterinary doctors, veterinary para professionals, animal producers, processors, transporters, animal welfare bodies, researchers, consumers, and government agencies.

- The protection system must bring all stakeholders within its control and regulation to ensure animal welfare is taken care of.
The focus of the system.

• The protection system must focus on the animals.

• With an emphasis that animal welfare is a human responsibility.

• A responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal wellbeing through well-defined standards of animal welfare.
Prohibition and sanctions

- The system must provide for acts of omission or commission that are prohibited in relationship to animals.

- Provide for sanctions against such acts. With a view to punish, deter or reform.

- The sanctions must be enforced through a well-known predictable system of enforcement.
Enforcement.

- Enforcement refers...
- To range of procedures and actions employed by the state, its competent authority and its agencies to ensure that.

- Organizations or persons can be brought to compliance, returned to into compliance and or punished.

- Enforcement encompasses a set of actions like adopting laws and regulations, monitoring outcomes including various actions and steps.
**Enforcement**

- Regular exchange of information among agencies, consultation, experience sharing, coordination at national level and regional level.

- Capacity building and Training to enhance enforcement capabilities.

- Public awareness

- The protection system must provide an environment where all animals are provided with care and compassion both in policy and practice.
Powers of authorized officers.

- The protection system must provide what powers the authorized officer has and can exercise.
- Demand for documents required under the law.
- Search a person suspected of having committed a crime or a vehicle, vessel and seize and detain any animal in respect of which there is reason to believe that offence has been committed.
- Powers to enter a premises with or without warrant.
Animals in disaster

- The protection system must provide for animals in disaster and place responsibility on a particular agency.

- Animals can be in either man made disaster or natural one.

- Increasingly animals are being used as an object of war in conflicts.

- This must be provided for as an aggravated form of cruelty.
Animals in disaster.

- I think time has come and it is here for us to raise and maintain the profile of animals in disaster to a level where, there are specialized neutral “animaltarian” agencies to help animal in disaster and work hand in with the humanitarian agencies.

- In most cases people who are rescued and have left their animals behind are not happy.

- Loss of companion or livelihood.
Protection through role in animal cruelty cases.

- Animal cruelty cases are multi disciplinary effort.
- Law enforcement agencies conduct the investigations

- The prosecution department conducts prosecutions.
- Veterinary doctors conduct medical examination and forensics and should be aware that...

- Animal cruelty is a legal issue and not a medical determination.

- Can be called as an expert witness in veterinary medicine.
Protection through role in animal cruelty cases.

- The veterinary medical investigation and documents are both legal and medical.

- Focus on the Animal past information, identification, description, ownership, health status.

- Current status..... Is the animal injured, is it in pain, if dead, what is the cause of death. This is important in criminal cases.

- Determine the fault..... What human action or in action may have caused the animal illness or death.

- What would be produced as exhibits in court.
Protection system

• Must establishes an national **legal framework** together with common **procedural mechanisms** for the strictest control of veterinary services and animal welfare protection.
Questions to us all.

• Are veterinary para profession needed in the value chain of animal welfare?
• if no why do we hold that view?
• Is it out of protecting our interest or is for the good of the animals.
• If yes, how can we integrate them into the system for ease of regulation and standards.
• Who will offer leadership towards this direction in our respective countries.
Leadership.

LEADERSHIP IS WHEN THE PERSON OF THE LEADER STANDS OUT!
Great leaders don't tell you what to do....they show you how it's done.

This is called "LEADERSHIP"
Thank you.