
ANIMAL WELFARE VIOLATIONS AND CRUELTY RELATED ISSUES TO LIVESTOCK-A REVIEW

Yakubu, N., Saidu, I. and Muhammad, S. and Yakubu, U.

Department of Animal Production Technology, Bauchi State College of Agriculture, , Bauchi State

Corresponding author's email: nuhuy9150@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study is aiming in reviewing papers on animal welfare and cruelty related issues. From the available literature, it appears that most countries rather tend to enact legislation in line with the more realistic of the views: treating animals humanly. Animal welfare concern is limited in developing countries compared to developed nations. In the United Kingdom example, there is a strong animal welfare legislation with good compliance generally. Acceptable standards of animal welfare can be determined by legislation. In Nigeria, there is a very low and unsatisfactory level of understanding and implementation of the obligation to show concern for all aspects of animal well-being in terms of proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention, treatment, and handling. The World animal protection (WAP) has graded Nigeria deplorably in its recent reports of 2020, chief among the reasons for the country's low rating is lack of a principal legislation on animal welfare. The Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (NIAS) is the foremost regulator of all issues pertaining to animal husbandry in Nigeria as well as encouraging the enactment and enforcing laws. The institutes are not adequately funded to put in place the necessary facilities, equipment's and human resources to discharge such function. Improving animal welfare may have additional benefits as many welfare problems have detrimental effects on performance and carcass quality. It has also been found to affect local and international trades. Adhearing to animal welfare guidelines can therefore increase farm profits by improving animal's productivity and efficiency, reduce losses and can facilitate international trades.

Keywords: Animal, Welfare, Violation, Cruelty, Livestock

INTRODUCTION

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) defined animal welfare as how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives and dies. Dawkins (2018) reported the most practical definition of good animal's welfare is states that animal is healthy and has all it wants. Animal welfare science is a large field, since it embraces everything that affect the physics and emotional state of the animal, it ability to cope and its overall quality of life (Efiona *et al.*, 2020). Ames (1995) stated herd/flock management practices combined with a veterinary programs can be most effective in optimizing production and profitability through prevention of diseases. An animal is in good state of welfare if it's healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behavior and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management and nutrition, humane handling and slaughter/killing. (Oluwapelumi, 2022). Acceptable standards of animal welfare can be determined by legislation which may set the minimal standard that a society is prepared to accept in food production and by retailers and other accreditation schemes, labels or standards that provide higher levels of animal care. (Efiona *et al.*, 2020). Oluwapelumi (2022) reported the United Kingdom's Farm Animal Welfare Council highlighted as animal's welfare under five freedoms: Freedom from hunger and thirst :- ready access to water and diets to maintain health and vigor . Freedom from discomfort: by provision of an appropriate environment including a shelter and a comfortable resting area. Freedom from pain, injury and disease:- by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment. Freedom to express normal behavior:- by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind. Freedom from fear and distress:- by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid suffering. Domestic animals are generally kept for food, park animals or pets . Many Nigerian farmers are practicing extensive system of management where animals are roaming freely as they lack shelter and are also searching of what they can eat. Stray animals roaming freely put themselves and others in risks (Hannatu , 2021) . Some of the risks includes causing road accidents, attacking other animals eg dogs, destroying people's farms or properties etc. In developed

nations, movement and welfare of animals is usually a concern of the law. Regulation is very necessary to curtail these problems.

Welfare Violations or cruelty to Animals

In a literal term, animal cruelty is defined as any intentional and repeated behavior that causes physical or physiological distress in animals including causing unnecessary pain, suffering, distress or death of an animal (Lockwood, 2006). Animal cruelty includes many kinds of mistreatment, from temporarily failing to provide essential care to the malicious killing or repeated torturing of an animal (Alabi *et al.*, 2019). Types of cruelty recognized across the globe today includes: Simple neglect:- Failure to provide adequate feed, water, shelter or veterinary care to one or few animals usually due to



Figure I



Figure II

ignorance. Gross neglect:- It can be called willful, malicious or cruel neglect : Intentional act of withholding feed or water from an animal or animals. Animal hoarding:-This is the accumulation of a large number of animals without provision of minimal standard of nutrition, space, sanitation and veterinary care example during transportation of birds and other animals in a very poor uncondusive environment. Organized abuse:- Dog, cock or ram fighting. Animal sexual Assault (bestiality): It's an act of sexual attraction by human to non human. Many researchers indicated animals in Nigeria are mishandled, suffering, injured and even death at the farms, markets, during transportation, loading and unloading. The level of cruelty to animals by humans in Nigeria is beyond everyone reasonable doubt (Scott and Ayo, 2017). The poor level of animal welfare and its science in Nigeria and other developing countries could be linked to the following factors: poor economic development, political instability, social insecurities, low level of awareness and poor access to information on legal provisions on animal welfare (Shinko, 2013). Animal's welfare is therefore, the responsibilities shared between farmers, service providers, drivers, abattoir workers legislators and Government (Scott and Ayo, 2017).



Figure III



Figure IV



Figure V



Figure VI



Figure VII

Animal Welfare Legislation In Nigeria

Animal welfare can be determined by legislation, which may set the minimal standard that a society is prepared to accept in food production, and by retailer and other accreditation schemes, labels or standards that provide higher levels of animal care. The tropical condition favors livestock production, however there is a very low and unsatisfactory level of understanding and implementation of the obligation to show concern for all aspects of animal well-being in terms of proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention, treatment, responsible care, handling and when necessary humane euthanasia (Tijjani *et al.*, 2012). The Government of Nigeria was recently applauded for recognizing animals sentient section 495 of the criminal code (1990) prohibits act of cruelty to animals. The World Animal Protection (WAP) has graded Nigeria deplorably (dismal E on the animal protection index on a scale A to G) based on certain indices providing for animal welfare in its recent reports of March 2020. Chief among the reasons for the country's low rating is lack of a principal legislation on animal welfare (Hannatu, 2021). Legislation brings sanity to other wise insane situations because the state has the power to enforce it and ensure compliance. Religions have also voiced the need for humanity to consider the animals living within society.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The World animal protection (WAP) has graded Nigeria deplorably in its recent reports of 2020, this is due to lack of principal legislation on animal welfare. There is certainly an obvious lack of proper legal arrangement for animal welfare and control within states in Nigeria. Animal welfare and control legislation is clearly within the purview of state houses of assembly. The Nigerian institute of animal science is the foremost regulator of all issues pertaining to animal husbandry in Nigeria as well as encouraging the enactment and enforcing laws. The institutes are not adequately funded to put in

place the necessary facilities, equipment's and human resources to discharge such functions. Despite the facts that improvement in animal welfare may have additional benefits as many welfare problems have detrimental effects on performance and carcass quality. It has also been found to affect local and international trades. Adhering to animal welfare guidelines can therefore increase farm profits by improving animal's productivity and efficiency and also reduce losses. Nigerian States houses of assembly should urgently enact animal welfare and control laws to proper authorities to implement at the local levels. Adequate provisions of funding should be made by Government for procurement of all necessary equipment to the institution or personnels that are responsible for enforcing the laws at the farms, markets, abattoirs, during transportation, loading and unloading and at abattoirs. Public awareness campaigns should be planned and pursued vigorously by using extension workers, mass media eg television, radio, social media, and in mosques and churches by Imams and Pastors.

REFERENCES

- Alabi, O. M., Adejumo, D.O. Aderemi, F.A. and Ladokun, A.O. (2019). Alternative housing systems for cattle; factors against acceptability in developing countries. Book of abstracts of the UFAW *International Symposium on Animal Welfare*, Barcelona, Spain. Pp. 38. <https://www.ufaw.org.uk...ufaw-2013-symposium-abstract-booklet-final-v3>. Pdf
- Ames, T. (1995). Health programs for dairy heifers. *Minnesota Dairy Health Conference*. Early Brown Center University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus, May 24 - 25, 1995. Pp. 68 - 77
- Dawkins, M. S. (2018). Animal welfare and efficient farming: is conflict in evitable? *Animal Production Science* 201 -208
- Efiona, C., Rioja, L., Melanea, C., Heather, J. B., Alistair, B. L. and Cathy, M. D. (2020). Prioritization of farm animal welfare issues using expert consensus *In Veterinary* 2020. doi.10.3389/fvets2019.00495. www.frontiersin.org. *Science*. Published 10 January
- Hannatu, A. (2021). Animal Welfare and Control: A Call For Regulation in Nigeria. Pp. 1 - 19.
- Lockwood, R. (2006). Animal Cruelty Prosecution: Opportunities for early response to crime and inter- personnel violence. *American Prosecutor Rese* Lockwood, R. (2006). Animal Cruelty prosecution: opportunity for early *arch Institute*; Alexandria. 39; 110- 121
- Oluwapelumi, V. B. (2022). The state of farm animal welfare in Nigeria: Challenges and Recommendations. *Veterinary Science Technology* ISSN: 2157- 7579. Offline www.hilarispublisher.com/open-access.
- Scott, N. S. and Ayo, J.O. (2017) Effects of loading behavior and road transportation stress on traumatic followed by six - hours recovery in lairage. *Veterinary Rec.*, 145: 421 – 426
- Shinko, S. (2013) Physiological response of laying hens to the alternative housing system. *International Journal of Cattle Science* 2. (5): 357 - 360.
- Tijjani, H., Tijjani, B. A., Tijjani, A. N. and Sadiq, M. A. (2012) Economic analysis of poultry eggs production in Maiduguri and its environs of Borno state Nigeria. *Schooler Journal of Agricultural Science*, 12: 319 - 324