WORKING EQUID WELFARE IN AFRICA

By Dr. Solomon Onyango

OCTOBER 2017

AFRICA ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE-ACTION
NAIROBI
INTRODUCTION: STUDY AREA
INTRODUCTION

• Working equid in Africa mainly fall under the category of horses and donkeys. Despite increased human population expansion and technological development the use of equid for transportation and entertainment has increased steadily in Africa over the years. While these equid play a key role in sustaining rural and peri-urban livelihoods, little considerations is given to their welfare and care. This has seen them worked while in poor welfare state whilst limited interventions provided by the local government systems and other service providers. There are various possible intervention programs that can be used to improve their welfare, the key ones that have been noted are education, training, better policy and legislation and advocacy
Objectives:
This paper was guided by the following objectives;
• To determine the number of working Equids in Africa
• To determine key welfare challenges affecting working Equids
• To recommend desirable mitigation measures to address the gaps identified in the study finding
METHODOLOGY

• This paper adopted a desk based research approach as the main mode of seeking information. The information was gathered through review of available literature both print and electronic (accesses mostly via internet publications and postings). This information was furthered corroborated through interviews by selected resource persons across the region of study, the interviews were oral (personal and phone conversations) and through personal experience.
FINDINGS: WORKING EQUIDS

• This group includes horses, donkeys and mules, their population is estimated at 26 million in Africa. Where they are found they commonly fall into two arbitrary categories, urban/periurban equids and rural equids.

• Race horses are generally the only equine in good conditions

• Most others are generally in fair to poor welfare state as a result of the following;

➢ Poor harness and cart designs and usage, mistreatment in the form of whipping, over working, overloading, poor handling practices in the form of use of bits and tether ropes, poor feeding and straying, diseases due to limited involvement of the vet care system in their welfare, neglect and occupational related injuries
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NAIROBI</th>
<th>LAMU</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RECOVERED</td>
<td>DIED</td>
<td>RECOVERED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>72</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>515</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To add to this challenges a new trade affecting donkeys welfare has emerged. What is it?
BEAUTY AND LIBIDO ENHANCING PRODUCTS ASSOCIATED WITH DONKEY SKIN

NATURALLY BOOST YOUR SEX LIFE!
- Boost Your Sexual Stamina
- Increase Erection Size
- Help Maintain Longer-Lasting Erections
- Stimulate Sexual Desire
- 60 Day Money Back Guarantee
SKIN TRADE TAKING LIVELIHOOD AWAY
SNAP LOOK INTO THE WELFARE STATE IN THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES
SNAP SHOT OF THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE
INHUMANE METHODS OF BUSH IMMOBILIZATION AND NO STUNNING AT THE LEGAL SLAUGHTER HOUSES
Environmental pollution due to waste products from the slaughterhouses and bodies left to rot due to the illegal bush slaughter. Infectious water born agents such as salmonellosis and cryptosporidiosis can easily be washed into and contaminate nearby rivers, canals and dams, and onwardly infect humans and animals.
PUBLIC HEALTH RISK

Apart from being a potential source of infectious diseases for other animals, the trade may expose people to many zoonotic diseases due to;

• Absence of prior clinical or antemortem examinations;
• Back yard and illegal bush slaughtering;
• Unhygienic environment of the slaughterhouses;
• Lack of biosecurity measures;
• Inadequate or the absence of protective equipment while handling, slaughtering, flaying and processing;
• Lack of vaccination of donkeys and/or human against relevant zoonotic diseases
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Research
2. Socio-cultural-economic values
3. Policy and Legislative frameworks
4. Advocacy and awareness
5. Training and Education
6. Partnership and networking
RESEARCH

• Limited data and information about population distribution, economic contribution and quantified welfare state

• Lack of research means no technological development to address animal welfare challenges

• This contributes to lack of proper guidelines, legislation, policy, educational and advocacy programs
SOCIO-CULTURO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

• Cultural beliefs and myths towards working animals eg donkey faeces cause tetanus

• Low economic value attached to working equids

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

• Lack or limited

• Lack or limited enforcement
ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS

- Value of working animals
- Appropriate campaigns
- Gaps to address working practices and husbandry
- Messages to address cultural beliefs and lack of vet care
- Messages to address gaps in policies and legislation and enforcement
TRAINING AND EDUCATION

• Knowledge and skill shape attitude and practice to a large extent
• Population seeking services are always guided by their ASK to help them determine which when and where to get the service they need
• Population providing service also are guided by their ASK to be able to provide satisfactory service
• Thus education is power

PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORKING

• Pulling resources together to achieve more is the key
CONCLUSION

• This paper has illustrated that research, development, resource allocation and education on working Equid is limited especially for working donkeys was significant. It is therefore prudent that concerned organizations and governments work together to address the gaps identified.
CONCLUSION ON EMERGING DONKEY SKIN TRADE

• From this presentation it's very clear that the trade in donkey skin has glaring negative impact to donkey welfare, community livelihood, environment and also poses a potential risk to human welfare.

• These points above clearly out ways the benefits claimed to be achieved from the skin related products.

• Therefore it's fundamental that alternatives be developed on how to sustain the ejiao market which doesn't have the negative impacts shown.
THANK YOU