



Consolidated Responses for the PAFPNet Discussion for the month of February 2015

Date: 05/02/2015 – 23/02/2015

“Animal Welfare”

The PAFPNet topic for the month of February, “Animal Welfare” emphasized four questions that triggered a constructive discussion among the network members. From the discussion feedback, Animal Welfare had been highlighted as an area lacking perception and full awareness. Hindrances, benefits and promotional ideas were examined regarding the notion of implementing animal welfare practices. This discussion topic provided a clear platform of actions that must be taken in order to achieve effective enforcement of animal welfare in the region.

The core deterrent factor of animal welfare development was identified as the lack of or limited knowledge of humans regarding animal well-being. On the same note, members highlighted that in order for there to be a positive, effective change in animal welfare practices and engagement, the attitude among the Pacific Islanders must change towards both companion and livestock animals. Moreover, other contributing factors were mentioned as key limitations to animal welfare development in the PICTs. The lack of priority given to the well-being of animals stems from the lack of awareness and education on understanding the animals’ physical characteristics and certain behaviour patterns. In addition, cultural issues were also underlined in the forum as a barrier to animal welfare progress and development. Some cultural beliefs in the PICs, according to the members, prove to be unsympathetic to animal upkeep, which brings us back to the lack of education among this population.

However, on a more positive note, participants in the discussion provided key benefits of practicing Animal Welfare. Some of these benefits included increased productivity as a result of proper treatment towards livestock animals. Healthy animals are proven to be more productive than stressed animals in livestock husbandry practices. Additionally, stemming from having more productive livestock animals, there is a high likelihood of an increase in income and animal performance which counts as a plus factor for humans. In reference to companion animals, they provide security as well as provide companionship for their owners. Dogs in particular provide a much cheaper means for hunting in the PICs and protection.

Human comfort is always given priority when referring to the output of animals. In observing animal welfare guidelines, the effectiveness of animal production can reach its peak taking into consideration its providence towards organic fertilisers from their manure, ploughing agricultural land and their bi-products, that is, feathers for artefacts and teeth for decorations. Moreover, an additional advantage in practicing animal through providing suitable housing and adherence to animals’ natural behavioural instincts can drastically minimize zoonosis. According to one

respondent, there should and must be a balance drawn between animals and human beings to be able to maintain a healthy complementary relationship.

On another note, many results were discovered for potential animal welfare promotion in the region during the discussion. Many members reached the common grounds on agreeing that providing simple general awareness would be significant in educating PICs on the importance of animal welfare practices. Respondents had listed strategic methods on promoting animal welfare. The utilization of social media, for instance, Facebook, Twitter and text messaging, was a suggested platform to be used for news updates and key learning tips for animal welfare practices. Also, the implementation of animal welfare practices into school curriculum/activities was featured an important step to increasing knowledge capacity on animal well-being. Moreover, proper Paravet training was listed crucial to achieving the efficient practical know-how of proper animal welfare procedures.

Finally, all members on the forum agreed that animal welfare legislations does indeed have a place in PICTs, however only after carrying out effective awareness. Also, in implementing this legislation, it must coincide with the current environment to cater to existing traditional values and obligations. Lastly, initiating a legislation with the ability to be enforced is important as a basis and framework for PICTs.

The assessments of the consolidated responses were gauged from the questions below:

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTs?
2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?
3. How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?
4. Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTs?

Please visit the following link PAFNet discussion: http://www.spc.int/lrd/pafnet-publications/cat_view/137-all/136-pafpnet/491-discussion-queries

Responses from:

1. [Mr. Avinesh Dayal](#)
2. [Mr. Andrew Tukana](#)
3. [Mr. Ilagi Puana](#)
4. [Dr. Alan Quartermain](#)
5. [Mr. Barney Kega](#)
6. [Mr. Nichol Nonga](#)
7. [Mr. Nambo Moses](#)
8. [Ms. Renee Orange](#)
9. [Mr. Gibasa Asiba](#)
10. [Mr. Eroni Tamani](#)

11. [Ms. Kate Blaszak](#)
 12. [Mr. Samu Turagacati](#)
 13. [Mr. Uatea Vave](#)
 14. [Mr. Reini Baer](#)
 15. [Ms. Elenoa Salele](#)
 16. [Mr. Abner Yalu](#)
 17. [Mr. Maikali Drauna](#)
 18. [Mr. Itaia Lausaveve](#)
 19. [Mr. Takaniko Ruabete](#)
 20. [Dr. Peter Saville](#)
-

1. Mr. Avinesh Dayal

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTs?
 - Outdated or non-existent animal welfare legislation
 - A lack of manpower and resources to either to update legislation, implement it or to enforce it
 - Lack of awareness & training
 - Cultural beliefs or attitudes unsympathetic to animal welfare being difficult to change
 - Geographical constraints
 - Difficulties for small producers in implementing the standards
 - Creating consistency in animal welfare regulation within different jurisdictions of a country
 - Prioritisation of human development over animal welfare
 - Financial constraints

2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?
 - Increased productivity
 - Increased performance
 - increased income
 - reduced bruising and good quality meat
 - Improved employee safety
 - Healthy and prolific animals

3. How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?
 - Massive use of Local media- Radio, TV, Newspaper
 - Use of local language
 - Posters, leaflets, pamphlets, advertising
 - Social Media- Facebook, twitters, text message
 - Inclusion into government annual budget program
 - Basic Training and Awareness program- school curriculum, community
 - PPP in communication
 - Use of iconic/influential personnel/religious leaders eg. film stars, priest
 - Develop website and regular exchange of progress report- networking

- Regional workshops/ seminars
- Collaboration- Institutes, universities, NGO's

4. Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTs?

Yes, but enforcement should only be carried out after effective awareness which should change majority of the peoples mentality and attitude.

2. Mr. Andrew Tukana

Here are some of my thoughts;

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTs?

One of the main things are the general lack of awareness on animal welfare in the PICTs, this limited awareness means that animal welfare may have a low priority during the planning and development of policies with in-county governments so can be left out altogether.

2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?

There are numerous benefits that could be obtained, a main one could be, e.g. livestock and livestock products fetching premium prices due to having animal welfare systems set up and practiced on their farms, etc.

3. How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?

There needs to be more general awareness, e.g. having information displayed in conjunction with major in-country events, e.g. at the World Food Day or Pacific Agricultural Week, Animal Welfare syllabus could also be developed and included in the school curriculum in PICTs, etc.

4. Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTs?

Yes I think it does; legislation will ensure that abuse of animals are reduced, e.g. research indicates that animals are able to have fear and feel pain, thus need to be treated properly to reduce these. There will be no enforcement of animal welfare regulations if there are no legislation, e.g. Australia which have legislation, banned exports of live cattle to Indonesian in 2011, as footage collected indicated that animals (cattle) slaughtered infringed on the OIE standards of animal welfare. In addition the export conditions on the barges (ship) were poor leading to high mortality, e.g. from

2000-2012, more than half a million animals died en route to their destinations. The ban meant that those involved had to re-strategize to ensure that their protocols met the world animal welfare standards before exports could continue, it also meant that a lot revenue was lost as trading ceased during the ban.

3. Mr. Ilagi Puana

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTs?

- Mindset of people in the island countries is that, animals are animals and therefore are not accorded the humane treatment. Considering that for example, the dog has been known to be the man's best friend since its introduction in the region, the mindset had not changed significantly. I guess lack of knowledge as well as need for companionship and comradeship that pet animals or specialized animals such as hunting dogs or guard dogs provide to support and protect human or the owner are not appreciated to the extent the animals are provided care and love in our island culture. There is however, some significant changes in recent times with increasing education and urbanization that people are starting to appreciate the services provided by pet animals such as dogs and cats.
- Lack of promotional awareness in PICTs is also another contributing factor to hindrance in animal welfare development in PICTs.

2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?

Benefit may include:

- Love and affection towards pet animals can provide comfort and happiness in the owners
- Promoting animal welfare approach to livestock production systems can improve productivity in farm animals. Healthy animals are more productive than stressed animals is a well-known factor in livestock husbandry practices.
- Dogs provide very cheap means for hunting, protection etc
- Supports tourism

3. How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?

- Promoting animal welfare concept in the livestock production husbandry practices.
- Paravet training module
- TV promotional awareness slots
- Animal welfare activities in school especially in kindergarten and primary schools

4. Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTs?

- I think there is a place in PICTs , especially in PICTs that have established Society for the Protection against Cruelty to Animals facilities (SPCA/RSPCA) and in PICT that are popular tourist destinations. SPCA facilities are well established in a good number of PICTs and should be supported by city councils under a regulation of some sort.

4. Dr. Alan Quartermain

Rather than responding directly to your questions on animal welfare I will tell you what I am doing here at the University of Goroka in the PNG highlands.

I teach a one-semester course in Animal Production Systems which amounts to one out of four courses per semester to 3rd year undergraduate students in our 4-year Bachelor of Agriculture Extension. I spend about 15-18% of the course on animal requirements for their welfare which includes food, water, space, shelter, companionship and health but which is heavily weighted towards good international practice in what you are calling here animal welfare and the problems we have in PNG to ensure acceptable welfare.

The course includes a substantial assignment in this topic carrying 10% of the final grade.

The students are very receptive and appreciate the problems so I hope they are active in at least farmer education. Many are teaching agriculture in schools so have the opportunity for disseminating ideas on the need for improved animal welfare.

Dr Alan Quartermain, Professor in Agriculture, UoG.

5. Mr. Barney Keqa

Some of my thoughts and views on the Animal welfare query include;

Firstly there is a general lack of or limited knowledge regarding animal welfare, and the impact of animal welfare on animal health and productivity. People do not relate animal welfare to improvements productivity. This stems from in many cases traditional knowledge and systems which are largely unproductive systems. Secondly many people do not think animals need to be given the fundamental freedom of wellbeing and believe animals are of a lower order to humans. Then some PICT animal health and production agencies in the last decade do not have any policy or strategy promoting animal welfare hence farmers, services providers and policy makers.

When animal welfare is properly understood from a production point of view, it encompasses management of the animal such as its fundamental well-being catered for and therefor carers or owners have the benefit of a health and efficiently producing animal. The same can be said for pets, pet owners have the benefit of owning a healthy animal within household and therefore less health risks. Note that zoonosis are a potential risk for individuals, families and communities when uncared for, sick animals are present and interact with humans. There could also be a general reduction of animals becoming pests (stray dogs) in the society because of improved animal welfare through animal welfare strategies and legislation.

Each PICTs has to start at some stage following firstly a national policy, strategy or action plan which must be compatible or in line with existing regional strategies (for instance these could be inspired by the OIE regional strategy). These strategies should work towards improving realization and knowledge on the significance of Animal Welfare and therefor developing an Animal Welfare Act for the particular country. From a regional cooperation point the developments in animal welfare can be monitored and supported from stage to stage until fruition of animal welfare regulation is achieved and practiced.

(This however is developed over time. Paravet approach could be an effective way and becoming part of national strategic actions.

There certainly is a place for animal welfare enforcement legislation in PICTs. This means effective strategies and actions must be put in place whereby knowledge regarding the need to practice animal welfare and the benefits of animal welfare is effectively promoted and fully understood and accepted by the public. Again each country must develop and implement a strategy that results in animal welfare legislation enforcement. But first public must understand. Effective advocacy both vertically and horizontally must be undertaken.

6. Mr. Nichol Nonga

Dear colleagues,

Some comments to add on to Andrew's.

Q 1.

Animal welfare is a new term but the practice of keeping animals has been with us for centuries. One thing need to change if animal welfare development is to happen in PICTs and this is 'attitude towards animals'. Animals need to be treated well as they are also living things and they have feelings, able to express pain, suffering, enjoyment etc. People's attitude towards animals are sometimes horrifying, e.g. animals get kicked or beaten if they are in the way, companion animals such as dogs or cats steal food from people's homes because they are not being given the basic needs such food and water and shelter

The other main factor that hinders animal welfare development is people 'understanding the physical characteristics' and certain behaviour of animals. People need to be educated about these characteristics and behaviours of certain animals, e.g. pigs and chickens do not have sweat glands to relieve heat stress. (See dogs' poster above attached). Some lessons about dogs (pets). Thus you usually see pigs go to muddy areas or ponds of wallow (remember pigs are not dirty animals as we unusually see them to be). They do this for a reason, they wallow into mud and ponds to relive heat from the body (water absorb heat), if they don't. They can die of heat stress.

Q2.

The benefits of good animal welfare are many folds. Animals provide many benefits to humans, apart from food (meat, milk and eggs) they also provide other products such as companionship (pets, dogs cats etc) for human comfort, provide power and traction for ploughing agricultural land, provide manure as organic fertilisers for plants and crops, animals aerate the soil

by digging . As bi-products, animal provide feathers for artefacts, hides for leather, teeth for decorations and traditional money values and so forth.

Q3.

There needs to be greater awareness, advocacy and education throughout the PICTs and right into the rural areas where many animals are being kept and used.

Q4.

The PICTs has to have these policies, legislations and regulations to guide the development of animal welfare in PICTs.

7. Mr. Nambo Moses

Dear all,

I would like to share my view on this important subject- especially the approach used to convince our rural farmers. I think the idea of 'animal welfare' can be taken wrongly or not appreciated by farmers because they may not understand the concept. My suggestion is that we promote animal welfare from the economic and marketing side of it from production to slaughtering so that they will see the good practices as beneficial to them financially. Thus guidelines for good animal husbandry practices on such aspects as

1. Shelter
2. Feeding
3. Cleanliness
4. Not causing them stress
5. Friendly and companion attachment to them- giving names to the animals (if not too many- do not expect this for a 1,000 bird broiler or layer!)
6. Kindly slaughtering methods etc
7. Pest and Disease needs
8. Others that you may think of

Will be taken in by the famers and their families.

We should encourage such practices to include the whole family.

If we promote the animal welfare in isolation from the above approach, I do not think it will work.

Unfortunately, where I see most problems is when animals are not fed properly and slowly become malnourished and hungry.

8. Ms. Renee Orange

Its been great to read other's views, I offer some of mine below.

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTs?

I believe the main thing is that it is not a priority for either the government or the people residing in PICTs. I think the islands are still trying to improve the quality of life of our people and so until that is achieved, awareness programs will have minimal impact because the welfare of the people is still a problem. There is a model that was presented at the AW workshop in Fiji last year by Jed Goodfellow that summed it up really well, and it was showing the

2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?

So many benefits! Fulfilling the basics such as food water and shelter will increase production in terms of liveweight/kg milksolids plus optimising reproductive performance of the herd. Appropriate housing and fulfilment of natural behavioural instincts also results in fewer health problems. Good animal welfare leads to good health. It also keeps handlers safer not just in terms of reducing injuries from direct contact with animals, but also by reducing chronic injuries from improper handling facilities, lifting heavy animals and relying on strength to achieve most tasks. Welfare in slaughter promotes good quality product. Socially, it is a practice that rejects violence. Plus, if we start implementing AW practices now, then when the time comes that our stronger trading partners demand we comply with international AW standards, we will be ready! Or at least it wont be such a leap to achieve those standards.

3. How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?

Integrate it with existing farmer training practices, tv and radio shows, and start introducing it into primary and secondary schools as either part of their curriculum or do awareness days with them.

4. Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTs?

Yes. There will always be those few cases of direct animal cruelty or willful negligence that awareness and advice may not overcome.

9. Mr. Gibasa Asiba

Below some of my thoughts on Animal Welfare.

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTS?

Under this I would mention the low priorities given during planning and development, lack of knowledge and attitude/tradition or custom. For example, the way the pigs and poultry are carried is is been taken as normal. Lack education awareness and some it is not an issues especially at very isolated communities.

2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?

Healthy population of animals that will produce more and improve in income and better living standard for the farmers. Good relationship with the pet and owner (physiological effects).

3. How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?

Education and awareness. Example, school curriculum, presentation at farmer training, etc.

4. Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTS?

Yes it does. Animal welfare is a big and growing issues in the world now and we cannot be left behind. Furthermore, practicing animal welfare brings in more benefit.

10. Mr. Eroni Tamani

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTS?

A lot of things I would say - but I believe that the first and foremost reason is the lack of knowledge about the animal and the suffering that they go through. The notion that animals cannot talk contributes a lot to the misunderstanding therefore due to the fact they look at animals as different, difficult to interact with due to the fact that they do not talk. The people need to be taught about animal behaviour and the five freedoms of animal first and how animals communicate.

2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?

I believe the holistic benefits would be numerous - the people will learn to appreciate the existence and importance of animals to their lives. What animals could do in terms of livelihood, company, a friend, leisure and improvement of production through breeding methods and systems when interchanging breeding animals between families or farms. This also helps families to establish many different types of connections and expanding their circle of friends and acquaintances and develop their affection, care, and love for the animals and appreciate their existence.

3. How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?

The setting up of models in all the different facets of societies that are common in the region using different categories or groups of people using the following criteria may be a good start

- level of income earnings,

- family background,
- personal interest,
- education level,
- preferences
- ownership of any assets
- existing circle of friends, partners,
- lifestyle preference

4. Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTs?

I truly believe that the legislation will set the platform and the boundaries for the PICTs to function. I think that legislation or appropriate legislation is important to capture or bind the commitment of the region to animal welfare efforts administered by PAWCWG. A legislation put into place to match the current environment is appropriate to start with noting traditional values and obligations.

Your views and inputs regarding the theme will be most appreciated, and will also assist the PAWCWG in its work.

I hope to contribute further as we go along

11. Ms. Kate Blaszak

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTs? (I've also added a paragraph on opportunities :)

Many of the challenges were listed in the outputs of the RAWs workshop session, again attached. Low levels of understanding of the responsibilities and technical needs and various benefits of animal welfare hinder PICTs. Additionally, entrenched traditional practices or practices that result as there are no other apparent options or resources for alternatives, hinder animal welfare. For example: inhumane killing of livestock as no or inadequate slaughter facilities, a lack of vets and technical staff with welfare capacity, training resources and models among the PICTs and a lack of money and access to assistance can lead to neglect and poor welfare. (Nb: We provided a lot of training and information resources at the November workshop to SPC and all attendants (n a USB drive) but this is just a start. It will take Pacific and PICT ownership and drive to develop animal welfare.

Land access, market access, dispersed communities with many islands may hinder the flow of information and development of animal welfare, though may also convey opportunities for smaller, simple valued added industries with good animal welfare eg. free range and humanely raised small farms, labels and markets. Generally, informal markets, fluctuating product prices and lack of product diversification, labelling and consumer awareness compounds existing practices while there is a likely trend in some PICTS of an increase in highly intensified farming which has a range of welfare risks. For companion animals, there are some possible cultural aspects that confuse or hinder animal welfare development, particularly with regard to dog welfare, as well as a lack of vets, funds and access to vets/animal care. Underlying socioeconomic aspects again compound many of these concerns.

However, I think there is great opportunity for the development of animal welfare in PICTs- as the islands are usually cohesive in community, resourceful and with basic guidance can simply apply many good animal management practices without huge cost. Other industries are just emerging or developing further, and this also provides a key opportunity to integrate welfare guidelines and product development. There are also some better welfare examples, where small islands are progressing to manage their dog populations more humanely and such models can be replicated by other PICTS. Plus the limited island context and relatively small humane population are more conducive to strategic dog population management. USP and SPC also have a key position and role to enable animal welfare development in PICTS and in the region. It's good to see SPC is leading with the recent workshop and of course this monthly promotion, while the University is reviewing paravet training and could incorporate AW into broader agriculture and vet training (in Fiji University).

2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?

There are many – in summary, good animal management and improved production, improved economic, market and export access, meat, egg and milk product quality and consumer assurance. Wider benefits include: public health in terms of reduced zoonoses, meat hygiene and environmental sustainability and general food security (with pig effluent, reduced land clearing, competition with human grains as feed etc respectively), as well as benefits to disaster preparedness and recovery, a more compassionate and humane society and education for children and families. (I can refer you to the UN policy briefs for Sustainable Development relating to some of these areas, plus we have a range of humane and sustainable agriculture case studies: all of which are on the USB provided to paravet but I'll attach some here for posting). We also have case studies and policy papers for humane management of dogs and mass vaccination not culling for rabies control with a range of economic and safety benefits, as well as humane slaughter and meat quality information, if detail is sought). (See humane farming case studies attached and the IFC 2014 document has more excellent business and economic case studies).

3. How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?

Animal Welfare can be promoted via the SPC, industry, education in schools, training and tertiary (USP and new vet school in Fiji). We have the Advanced Concepts in Animal Welfare syllabus under the education tab on Animal Mosaic, and also a Common Ground programme and resources for teacher and school education. Industry can integrate good management practices, implement standards that also assist with product consistency and healthy competition (eg. Indian dairy good management and welfare code just passed to SPC). Model farmers and farmer associations, can also lead by example, innovate and work together to overcome some of the root cause challenges. I understand there is a strong farmer association in Fiji for example, which could be an important avenue to welfare promotion and development. Farmers can be good innovators and leaders, form farmer groups and other trade or industry bodies. Governments can promote good welfare policy, develop legislation, training and awareness as well as encourage humane and sustainable agriculture and related markets. NGOs (local and international) can advocate good practice, responsible animal ownership and duty of care. Wildlife, ocean and conservation areas can also send a broader and synergistic message about animal welfare, as can humanitarian NGOs with regard to Disaster Management, food security and sustainable farming.

4. Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTs?

From the workshop participants, and knowledge of the region, it is reasonably clear that enforcement of legislation may not be the main method for improving animal welfare but legislation with the ability to be enforced is important as a foundation and framework for society. The prosecution enforcement of animal welfare legislation usually focuses on the worst cruelty situations and cases, which also provide resounding messages to society that certain behaviour and practices are not tolerated. In some contexts, (e.g.. Dog registration, care and responsible ownership, or humane slaughter etc) the enforcement of welfare or welfare related legislation exists to establish a constructive system that is considerate of all parties as well as protecting the welfare of animals. Legislation becomes the backbone for community awareness and education and training should be the first line of approach to enable animal owners, farmers, industry etc to be compliant with legislation. (My colleague: Ingrid Giskes has already emailed about the Model Legislation and we look forward Pacific examples of uptake and use of this document, as Samoa proposes).

Your views and inputs regarding the theme will be most appreciated, and will also assist the PAWCWG in its work.

12. Mr. Samu Turagacati

I have been reading the responses with a lot of interest and it is really overwhelming the level of concerns raise on the questions below. I may have repeated some good issues raised but I will try again..

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTs?

Lack of, or inconsistent advocacy on the importance of animal welfare. However, if we may say that we have advocacy plans and strategies in place, we have insufficient resources to support the implementation. If by any chance we have implemented all strategies in the next 5 years, do we have the resources or funding etc to maintain animal welfare on a sustainable level.

2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?

There are many benefits, and I won't get too deep but cite few examples. In Australia there are many livestock farmers that keep a good number of trained dogs. They are more effective than having a dozen men that are paid attractive salaries. Second, a big company in Nadi airport way back in the 1980s was complaining of regular thefts in his warehouse. Four security guards were there on shifts 24/7 and two more at night but thieving was always on the rise. The boss came up with a strategy to reduce the men to 2 and provide extra support by introducing 2 dogs (less cost). Thefts reported was reduced by 80 % in the next month. So the boss did a further trial by completely eliminating the men for one month and put 4 dogs as security_____ theft was brought to zero level. After a while, the boss reduced to only 2 dogs and still zero theft was maintained right through.. Mr X says he has more confidence and trust with dogs than men to watch over his expanding business.. So looking at things from that angle we should treat animals just as we are....

13. Mr. Uatea Vave

Some of my view the 4 questions

1. I believed that things that hindering animal welfare in the PICT`s is that people first priority are themselves not animal, the lack of interest of people towards animals, they only fed animals just for to own used not for commercial in which they have to apply animal welfare practices to their farms, on the other hand for an examples people in Tuvalu have only 4-5 pigs per household which is very small compared to commercial farms where animal welfare should be apply, lastly animal welfare is too expensive to farms and it not aware by the people of the PICT`s

2.I think that there are lots of benefit that the farm received from animal welfare such as good income, good companion, security purpose and happiness for the farm

3. I think animal can be promoted in the region through awareness to the public, education from primary to territory level or using all methods of promoting that can be reach by the people

4. May be yes may be no, but it all depended to the leaders who are in time of the enforcement, but it only apply to commercial farmers

14. Mr. Reini Baer

There are different ways of implementing animal welfare in the PICTs. The most prominent problem in most of the PICTs is an overpopulation of dogs and cats that are semi wild or wild in the island towns. In Fiji it was often joked that the only time dogs got a good feed was when it was garbage collection day and they tipped over the bins and foraged on the spilled garbage. To solve this problem there was a dog control team which carried out 1080 poisoning in an attempt to control this over population, Town council collected the dead dogs the next morning and the control team collected the un-eaten baits. This method of dog control was not very effective in the long run as the dogs left behind were breeding up almost as rapidly as the control team could euthanase the dogs. An attempt was made by the SPCA vet and two government vets to do a spay clinic and about 15 bitches were spayed. This was not repeated as it was considered that there was no real interest and the people just loved the puppies too much.

My personal experience was being chased by a pack of dogs while riding a bicycle and one dog actually got his teeth into me. This tends to dampen the animal welfare enthusiasm

After an episode of poisoning and doing spay clinics it is felt that the basic animal welfare requirement is responsible ownership of animals. If people cannot look after their pets then this borders on animal cruelty. The law in some countries restricts a person convicted of animal cruelty from owning or possessing any animal for a set time. This stops that person from inflicting cruelty on any other animals.

It is every ones responsibility to take care of animals and the best method is by being responsible and taking care of animals.

15. Ms. Elenoa Salele

Some thoughts from my end:

1. ***What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTs?***
 - The lack of animal welfare awareness issues and the importance of treating your animals right.
2. ***What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?***
 - Love and affection
 - Protection

- Companionship
- Good health and well being
- Grow faster
- Be more productive
- Suffer less stress than animals that are treated cruelly.

3. *How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?*

- Implement public and educational (i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary institutions) awareness programme.
- Conducting awareness programs via social media, radios, pamphlets, extension work etc.
- Establish animal welfare organisations.
- Enforce laws for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

4. *Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTs?*

- Yes, animal welfare enforcement legislation does have a place in PICTs. After having witnessed the amount of cruelty animals go through in the PICTs, it is apparent that there is a lack of animal welfare awareness, legislation and enforcement. PICs also need to develop animal welfare legislation that would be easier and more practical than those designed for developed countries.

16. Abner Yalu

My comments refer to livestock:

Pacific Island countries are lucky we are not living in extreme environment such as the African deserts.

In such places human survival is very much dependent on livestock such as cattle and goats that can survive in extreme environment.

These animals convert unconsumable vegetable matter, fungi ,dirt, etc and dirty water or saline water even, into food products such as milk, blood and meat that can be consumed by humans.

These people take great care of these animals because their very lives depend on it. In the PIC meat is a delicacy, milk not really a traditional food in villages and blood, well lets just say not many cultures in PIC drink raw blood, etc. Not meaning to undermine everything that is said so far, food is plentiful in PIC as such no matter what level of awareness or education, it will still take generations, to build a culture of proper animal welfare and importance.

Animal welfare is important but not very much understood as yet as not all villages feed milk to the children from their goats and cows every morning. Ensuring that happens first will slowly see change in animal welfare culture within our PIC traditional practice and improvement of livestock management practice over generation slowly.

17. Mr. Maikali Drauna

Sorry for the late reply because I was out in the Western Division on consultation with Ministry of Agriculture Project Officers in regards to 2015 implementation of the AH&P Economic Development Programs

1) The major thing that hindering Animal Welfare in the Pacific is our traditional view of Animal, What purpose it plays in our tradition life and Culture.

- Animal are just for traditional functions
- It is way down there in the ladder of care

2) I believe some of the benefits of Animal Welfare

- Production of healthy and diseased free animal for human consumption
- Create a healthy family environment as we consider animal as man best friend
- Mentoring and Fostering a sense of responsibility to our younger generation
- Reducing Animal mortality
- Economic Growth through Livestock Production

3) Animal Welfare can be promoted in the region through the establishment of model farms to carry through Animal Welfare issues

We need people who can walk the talk and only attending numerous workshop coordinated by SPC, coming back doing nothing.

4) I certainly agree but there is a need for long term awareness on the issue because animal as part of our tradition is embedded deeper than what other culture think.

18. Mr. Itaia Lausaveve

Q1

i. There are some cultural issues that do not agree with animal welfare. One has to understand their

culture. These exist to this day! Not even legislation will stop some of these special practices for justified community reasons, normally requiring community consensus;

example; community slaughtering of all dogs to keep island clean and safeguard of visitors in preparation for National Conferences hosted by outer islands. In other cases, a control measure after several times dogs hunting down pigs in pig pens at night falls.

ii Lack of understanding on how much Animal welfare will cost a country?

iii Lack of sense how long is the transitional period for PICs to fully embrace Animal welfare starting from today? 1, 2...7, 10 years..??

iv "Animal Welfare" is an introduced culture into PICs? What is the percentage of the people in each

PIC know and heard about ANimal Welfare?? I think only 5% in my country?? So the biggest facing hinder is 95% of my population need to understand this like $1 + 1 = 2$, to fully accept animal welfare into their household and become an accepted culture like other special issues that have found their way into our culture; eg; church/religion overtime

Animal welfare is similar to a "belief" or "religion" and will take some time to fully absorb some of its principles to be fully practiced.

Q2.

Just add one little point to the many benefits shared before ie; respect for animals/pests/livestock they deserve for what they provide us to our living environment in the foreseeable future!

Q3.

1. National Commitments; Develop National Animal Welfare Stakeholders Association to coordinate awareness activities; national summits, workshops training urban and rural, radio programs, seminars, debates, kindergarten and primary to secondary curriculum and Animal welfare integrate into national policies and an issue to raise in parliament for national debate!

2. Regional Commitments

Bring Animal Welfare to the forefront, Develop Regional Guidelines in Animal Welfare from a regional summit of important stakeholders from all sectors; private sector, farmers, vets, NGOs, Churches, policy makers, Ministers. Also bring it up in Ministers Meeting and an issue to take up right to the Forum Leaders,

Q4

Animal Welfare has its place in legislation but only after the majority of the people (young and old) know well and fully understand AW in the country!

19. Mr. Takaniko Ruabete

Stray animals are certainly a problem in many places and this discussion on animal welfare is certainly a very valid topic. Apart from stray animals there are also wild animals which to some farmers and non-farmers such as hoteliers are regarded as pests. Whilst doing pest and disease survey in Vanuatu last year we saw the destructive power of wild pigs and rats to farmers crops, quite a sight. There is also that "iguana" in Qamea and Laucala Islands near Taveuni in the northern part of Fiji which is in some way is a problem to hotels particularly in those parts...Nevertheless, if let loose I believe a lot of people will find them very tasty. Being from Rabi Island I know the people there will love the taste and probably make them reduce their heavy reliance on fishing the now almost depleted sea resources around that part of Fiji. Mind you, to look for wild pigs on Rabi island you have to be a very good hunter to find one, secondly you should have a very reliable timetable of when the wild piglets in the jungle will reached maturity. Wild pigs are almost depleted there. Also at one time a spree of dog eating took place on the island and pet owners started chaining their dogs to their houses where they can clearly see them because many also disappeared from private compounds. Some people were invited by friends to a dog feast without knowing it is their very dogs

being feasted upon. But anyway, during those times stray dog population on the island was at the very lowest...but also resulted in increased TB cases for the islanders.

As I follow the discussions in this forum with much interest I noticed that focus is heavily directed towards domesticated and farmed animals, what about those that fall in these categories - stray and wild!!! How do we address their welfare in relation to human annoyance on their menace? Just some curiosities I have because right now I'm thinking of asking the Nasinu Town Council to do what Uatea is doing in Funafuti with stray dogs in my area in Nasinu. But again, on second thoughts, their continuous irritating barking during the late hours of the nights do help in keeping intruders away from our homes and also warning us about them...stale-mate - just like in the game of chess.

20. Dr. Peter Saville

I have been following the animal welfare discussion with both interest and a little disappointment. Having commenced work in the region some 37 years ago (back in 1978) it is disappointing to see that the same issues that were current then, remain current to this day and despite the dedication and commitment of successive generations of animal health and production staff there would appear to have been limited progress.

With the benefit of hindsight, I would divide animal welfare issues into five broad areas namely:

- Ignorance – for example a lack of knowledge of the animal husbandry requirements of animals – the pig farmer who feeds pregnant or lactating sows a couple of coconuts per day and then expects them to raise a litter of 8 piglets.
- Neglect – the dog owner who refuses to seek attention for the animal with a broken leg because there could be costs attached.
- Preventable cruelty – the failure to provide anaesthesia for the castration of adult animals; leaving live turtles in the sun at the side of the road.
- Deliberate cruelty – cutting the hamstrings of cattle;
- Cultural attitudes to animals including some “sports” involving animals.

With regard to the questions raised:

1. What are some things that hinder animal welfare development in the PICTs?

A general lack of political commitment – the spey / castration clinics which we carried out in a number of countries may have benefited individual owners but had only a short term impact on the canine population. In most countries there were higher development priorities than animal welfare. A reduction in agricultural extension services and the finance to adequately resource what services remain to provide advice and training for producers.

Lack of capacity to enforce animal welfare – how many countries have a dedicated animal welfare officer and when was the last time there was a successful prosecution. How many countries have appropriate legislation.

2. What are the benefits of practicing Animal Welfare?

The benefits have been well documented in numerous papers and are not restricted to commercial farming. Previous contributors have shown that the evidence is out there in the region.

3. How can Animal Welfare be promoted in the region?

With great difficulty. I'm afraid that it comes down to our ability to promote change and the capacity of those concerned to manage change. Reluctance to change is not unique to PICT's and is not restricted to animal welfare. It's going to take a long time.

4. Do you think animal welfare enforcement legislations has a place in PICTs?

Yes – for extreme acts of preventable cruelty but where ignorance is responsible then improving education and working towards long term change would be the preferred approach.

Looking back over the 25 plus years that I spent in the region, I can recall very few cases of extreme cruelty and those that I did see were often linked to disputes between neighbours or a dismissed employee wanting to get back at his former employer. Other cases of what I would call cruelty concerned practices that had been going on for 100 years - the horse that was castrated and immediately returned to ploughing.

Since I left the region, I have been involved in investigations on properties which have involved the deaths of significant numbers of cattle and horses (in some cases hundreds) through the failure of owners or managers to provide adequate food and water. In most cases, these can be blamed on the reluctance of the persons concerned to accept change. I find that managing that change (persuading producers to modify practices which have been acceptable for the last 100 years) is just as difficult if not more difficult in parts of Australia as it is in PICT's.

Finally it was really good to see the contributions from so many former colleagues who are still working in their countries – greetings to you all.