



ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

summary of the principal legislature

THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT, [CAP. 154 R.E 2023]

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The Animal Welfare Act, of Tanzania (sometimes cited as the “Animal Welfare Act, 2008 (No. 19 of 2008)”); Cap. 154). The Animal Welfare Act is the principal Tanzanian law governing how animals are to be treated humanely. It sets legal standards for the care, treatment, use, and welfare of animals kept in captivity, working animals, companion animals, slaughter, and scientific experiments, among others. The law establishes oversight mechanisms (inspectors, advisory councils) and regulations to ensure that animals do not suffer unnecessarily.

1.1. LONG TITLE

“An Act to provide for the humane treatment of animals, establishment of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council, monitoring and mitigation of animal abuse, promoting awareness on the importance of animal welfare and to provide for other related matters.”

Its formal short title is the Animal Welfare Act, 2008 (No. 19 of 2008). It is codified as Cap. 154 in the Revised Edition of the Tanzanian statutes.

a. To ensure humane treatment of animals in Tanzania, preventing cruelty, neglect, abuse, or suffering.

b. To establish clear standards and principles of animal welfare (e.g. proper housing, feeding, veterinary care, working conditions, treatment during slaughter, etc.).

c. To regulate activities involving animals: experiments, keeping of animals in captivity, movement, impounding, etc., so that they are done safely and ethically.

1.2. REASONS FOR ENACTMENT

The Act was enacted to address several problems and fulfill certain policy goals among which were the following:

d. To set up oversight (Animal Welfare Advisory Council, inspectors) to monitor compliance, enforce laws, and raise awareness among public and institutions.

1.3. APPLICATION OF SOME KEY PROVISIONS

Here's how the Act applies in practice today, its coverage, and major features:

1.3.1. SCOPE OF THE ACT

- Animals in captivity: includes pets, animals in zoos, laboratories, etc.
- Working animals: those used for transport, agriculture, draught animals, and companion animals: pets etc.
- Scientific experiments and teaching involving animals are also regulated.
- Slaughter and related processes, there are elaborate rules governing how animals should be slaughtered to minimize suffering.
- Impounding, movement control, regulation of harmful animals.

1.3.2. KEY ENFORCEMENT INSTITUTIONS

Animal Welfare Advisory Council has the responsibility to advise the government on welfare policy standards, awareness.

Animal Welfare Inspectors are the persons appointed under the law (veterinarians, para-veterinary, livestock officers, etc.) with powers to enforce, inspect, seize animals.

There are multiple subsidiary regulations under the Act, e.g.:

- Animal Welfare (Impounded Animal) Regulations, 2020
- Care and Use of Animals in Scientific Experiments and Teaching, Transport and Transportation of Animals, Draught Animals Care.

1.4. OFFENCES & PENALTIES:

For cruelty, neglect, denial of food/water, or keeping animals in dirty, abusive conditions. A key amendment in recent years raised penalties in certain sections.

The regulatory framework also covers impounding, stray animals, fees for keeping animals in animal pounds, etc.

2.0. AMENDMENTS, REPEALS, AND REPLACEMENTS

Here are the changes and related laws to note:

The Animal Welfare Act, 2008 (No. 19 of 2008) has been amended by Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 7) Act, 2019 (No. 9 of 2019). This amendment Act changed some sections, especially relating to offences and penalties.

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Also, Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Act, 2020 amends the Animal Welfare Act, adding new sections (for example, a section 9A about the relationship between local government authorities and ministry jurisdiction, requiring local authorities to report on animal welfare policies etc.).

Subsidiary legislation (regulations) has also been added or updated: e.g. the Animal Welfare (Impounded Animal) Regulations, 2020, and regulations for use in experiments, transport, etc.

No full repeal or replacement: The Act is still in force fully.

3.0. CONCLUSION

The Animal Welfare Act [Cap. 154] R.E.2023 is a foundational statute in Tanzania's legal framework for animal welfare. It encapsulates humane treatment principles, mandates oversight and enforcement, regulates various human-animal interactions (slaughter, experiments, transport, pets, etc.), and has been refined over time through amendments and regulations.

While the law is in force and includes modern improvements (such as higher penalties, better definitions, duties for local governments, like many welfare laws, possible challenges remain in enforcement, public awareness, resources, inspector capacity, etc.

REFERENCES

The Animal Welfare (Impounded Animal) Regulations, 2020

The Animal Welfare Act, 2008 [Cap 154 R.E. 2023]

Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 3) Act, 2020

Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 7) Act, 2019 (No. 9 of 2019).

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