



One Welfare Position Statement

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'One Welfare serves to highlight the interconnections between animal welfare, human wellbeing and the environment. It fosters interdisciplinary collaboration to improve human and animal welfare internationally. One Welfare also helps to promote key global objectives such as supporting food security, sustainability, reducing human suffering and improving productivity within the farming sector through a better understanding of the value of high welfare standards.' One Welfare 2019¹

One Welfare describes a framework for approaching animal welfare and ethics through a broader inter-disciplinary lens in order to benefit not just animal wellbeing, but human and environmental health alike (Colonus and Earley 2013²). It recognises that animal welfare, biodiversity and the environment are connected to human wellbeing. It calls for greater recognition of the key contribution that animals make to human society through food production, companionship, biomedical research, education and ecosystem services. One Welfare practice promotes collaboration to address complex global problems like climate change, drought and water supply, food security and nutrition, conservation and the changing human-animal interface with resultant disease emergence.

Kyeema Foundation was founded and is run by a respected team of veterinary and development experts who work to empower women and men with education and training to improve nutrition and livelihoods for families in resource-poor communities globally. We use a One Health approach in our projects, aiming to deliver the following outcomes that are linked to improved animal welfare:

- Improved farming productivity and improved food safety and security
- Improved food security/livelihood resilience and resultant improved human wellbeing
- Increased biodiversity and resultant improved human wellbeing

We promote and practice One Welfare in our projects specifically through:

- Supporting improved and sustainable smallholder (extensive or semi-intensive) livestock production using local breeds adapted to the local environment where possible;
- Promoting better welfare of livestock (food, water, housing, space, natural behaviours (e.g. scratching and roosting) and the positive outcomes on production, food safety and security;
- Promoting environmentally regenerative practices by farmers, (e.g. use of chicken manure for soil improvement, chickens as pest control, responsible effluent management);
- Promoting complementary, biodiverse and culturally appropriate agricultural practices through a multi-disciplinary nutrition and gender sensitive lens – we work with nutritionists and social scientists (including anthropologists and economists) on our project teams;
- Promoting regular Newcastle disease vaccination in chickens using methods that involve a drop of avirulent, live ND vaccine to the eye of the chicken which is least invasive and most effective in individual birds;
- Promoting improved and sustainable smallholder livestock production (e.g. chicken and goat keeping) as an alternative animal-source food to wild sources for households, decreasing biodiversity loss (e.g. less reliance on bushmeat, particularly in Africa and Asia, and marine fish-stocks as food sources); and



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- Promoting local feed formulation using locally available crops and animal protein sources (e.g. insects) not in competition with human consumption.

On sustainability and intensified animal-source food production

We agree that intensive production of aquatic and terrestrial animals (high-density animal units, often reliant on imported feeds and antibiotics as growth promotants and/or feed that is also suitable for human consumption) is not sustainable^{3,4}. For example, massively growing human consumption rates of intensively reared chicken meat is accelerating deforestation (particularly in South America) and climate change through the huge reliance on soy-based feeds for chickens. It is certainly no longer the healthy choice, with today's improved breed commercial chickens having over twice the fat content of those in the 1970s⁵. Intensive poultry systems also have significant animal welfare implications, with 27-30% of intensively reared broiler (meat) birds having significant lameness, likely to be painful. We do not promote intensified production systems as realistic or desirable goals for the communities we work in.

Where we do support semi-intensification of smallholder livestock units, we do so with trained master farmers using agroecological principles^{6,7} for the purposes of conserving the genetics and growing the productive capacity of local breeds in places where they are critical components of food and nutrition security. Local breeds are usually leaner, more nutritious and well-adapted to the local environment with far fewer inputs required for survival and productivity than imported commercial breeds.

Our ultimate goal for agricultural sustainability involves a triple-bottom line approach⁸ - promoting economic, environmental and social sustainability. By this we mean there should be fair remuneration and payment to women and men family producers and value-chain actors who can deliver safe, nutrient rich food and other natural products at affordable prices to consumers. This should be done using regenerative agricultural practices that capture carbon, increase soil and water quality and promote biodiversity; and with the ethical use and recycling of key nutrients along the value chain and food system. Furthermore, the non-farming community should trust and value these practices as fair, just and operating in harmony with nature, including considering animal welfare as an important factor in the success of the farming system.

Authorisation

Signature of Policy Officer

Date 19 May 2020

Robyn Alders

Name of Policy Officer

References

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