

WORKSHOP ON HEALTH AND WELFARE OF LIVESTOCK HELD IN KENYA

John E Cooper

A Workshop on the Health and Welfare of Livestock was held in Kenya on Wednesday 16th July 2008. It was directed primarily at Animal Health Assistants and others concerned with domesticated animals in Kwale, Coast Province, a region where agriculture is a vital part of the livelihood of the local rural community.

The Workshop was organised by Dr Ronald Nderingo, District Veterinary Officer, Kwale and Dr Francis Awich, District Veterinary Officer, Kinango, in collaboration with Professor John and Mrs Margaret Cooper from the School of Veterinary Medicine, The University of the West Indies. It was supported by the International Agricultural Training Programme (IATP) and literature was provided by various organisations, including the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth, CTA, The Tear Fund, WHO, the British Veterinary Association, The Donkey Sanctuary, the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) and the Humane Slaughter Association. Course Notes and publicity material were designed and produced by Miss Sally Dowsett.

The programme for the Workshop consisted of a series of lectures together with practical sessions. Oral presentations were given on the importance of animal health and welfare, its assessment in livestock (with particular reference to cattle, small ruminants and poultry), legal and ethical aspects and local considerations. Practical sessions comprised visits to two local *shambas* (small, traditional, farms) where zebu cattle, goats and poultry could be handled and to examined, and a practical demonstration of field diagnostic techniques. Participants were shown how to assess and to quantify the health of animals and how to take samples for examination in the field or back in the laboratory.

This Workshop was an opportunity to provide theoretical and practical training to 23 Animal Health Assistants, Livestock Officers, Veterinary and Veterinary Research Officers and others involved in animal husbandry in Kwale District. It also served to assist local farmers and others who keep or tend domesticated animals.

A full report of the Workshop is in preparation. Further information is available from Professor John E Cooper, DTVM, FRCPath, FIBiol, FRCVS, School of Veterinary Medicine, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, e-mail: NGAGI2@gmail.com.

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