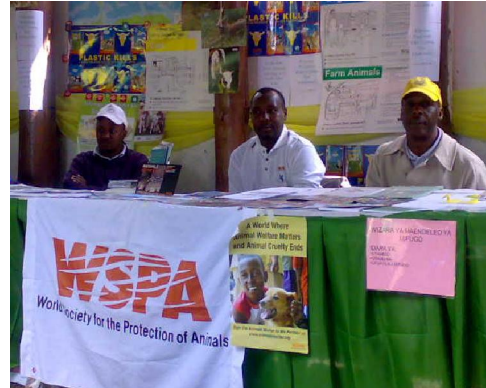


TANZANIA TO MARK THE WORLD ANIMAL DAY (WAD) (4TH OF OCTOBER) AND THE WORLD ANIMAL WEEK (WAW) -4TH -10TH OCTOBER IN DAR-ES-SALAAM



Article by Dr.Mohammed M.Bahari –Director of Livestock Identification, Registration & Traceability in the Ministry of Livestock Development

Tanzania will observe the World Animal Day this year 2007 under the auspices of leading Animal Welfare Advocacy Groups in the country - Dar Animal Haven, Tanzania Society for Protection of Animals (TSPCA), Roots and Shoots and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

The government through the Ministry of Livestock Development has given its blessing for the occasion to be held .This is implemented as one of the strategies to raise public awareness on Animal Welfare in the country at this time when the government is contemplating to put in place a specific law for the matter–the Animal Welfare Act.

The envisage Animal Welfare Act will replace the old and defunct legislation –The Animal Protection Ordinance Cap 153 of 1926 and Animal (Pound) Ordinance Cap 154 of 1930 that have failed to arrest the abuse of animals through maltreatments in their handling, transportation, slaughter and their use in sports and works. Often caring people have raised concern on the increasing maltreatments of animals in particular pets and farm animals a matter that has transcended up to high levels in the government machinery. Honourable Abdallah Mtutura (MP) Tunduru Constituency voiced his concern while contributing to Ministry of Livestock Budget Speech of 2007/2008 during the August Parliament Session on the way chickens, goats and other animals are being subjected to cruelty acts in the country through head down hoisting, transporting in small crates, bus under cabins, bus carriers, bicycles and non-standardized vehicles both on land and marine transport. The new act will provide for and promote humane treatment and responsible care for the animals.

The World Animal Day was first launched in 1931 at a convention of ecologists to draw attention to the plight of endangered species. Its scope has since developed to encompass the animal kingdom in general. The 4th of October was chosen for the day because it is the Feast Day of St Francis of

Assisi, the patron saint of animals. The WAD is intended as a day of celebration for anyone in the world who cares about animals. It is not restricted to any one nationality, creed, religion, political belief or ideology.

Many other countries, including United Kingdom, Ireland, Nigeria, Botswana, Zambia, Cameroon Singapore, Malta, Lithuania and Australia celebrate the World Animal Day annually and posts in the World Animals Day (WAD) website plans and reports on how the events are or have been organized. Co-ordinating bodies for these events are normally Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) -Animal Welfare Advocacy Groups in those countries such as the Singapore Society for the Protection of Animals; WSPA UK, RSPCA Ireland, Forum for Animal Welfare Cameroon, Animal Matter to Me South Africa, the Education Division of the Maltese Government; the Lithuanian Society for the Protection of Animals; and the Australian Veterinary Association. Dar Animal Haven, TSPCA, Roots & Shoots and WSPA Africa Region Office are organizing the 2007 WAD for Tanzania for the first time.

The World Animal Day will be preceded with events marking the Animal Action Week (AAW) or World Animal Week that is marked in some countries from the 1st to 7th of October to coincide with the 2nd of October that is the World Farm Animal Day (WFAD) after Mahatma Gandhi and the 4th of October which is the Feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint Of Animals. In other countries the World Animal Week runs from the 4th to the 10th of October to avoid mixing the aims of the two animal supporters groups –the Animal Rights Group that observes the 1st of October as the World Farm Animal Day and the 10th of December as the International Animal Rights Day campaigning for total non-exploitation of animals for what ever reasons and that of Animal Welfare Group that in principle allows the use of animals for human advancement but with humane treatment and responsible care for them.

Tanzania will observe the World Animal Week from the 4th 2007 to 10th of October 2007 in Dar-es-Salaam with the opening procession and opening remarks at Makumbusho Grounds .Animal lovers and those using animals as food, work/draught power ,companion/pets and security guards as individuals or firms are invited to participate at this event to make the occasion liveable. The theme for this year WAD is Make a Voice for the Animals by Supporting the Legislation of the Animal Welfare Act to promote humane treatment and responsible care for the animals. The theme is drawn from the WAD Mission Statement that include celebrating animal life in all its forms, celebrating humankind's relationship with animals, acknowledging the diverse roles that animals play in our lives from being our companions, supporting and helping us to bringing a sense of wonder into our lives and lastly acknowledging and being thankful for the way in which animals have enriched our lives.

LET US PUT AN END TO THIS



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