ANIMAL WELFARE

of the
North-east Tobago UNESCO
Man and the Biosphere Reserve
Management Plan

SUMMARY SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

NE Tobago is still stuck with outdated, inhumane, and often appalling animal welfare conditions exemplified by stray dogs, slaughtering conditions, and inconsiderate fireworks. Our communities have never seized the opportunities and realised the benefits that that can demonstrably be derived from best animal welfare practises, esp. regarding social health, domestic violence, tourism, high value agriculture, and reduced pollution. The Animals Act states that any person who treats an animal with cruelty is liable to a fine of 200,000TTD and imprisonment of 5 years. Unfortunately, the regulations, laws, and international conventions addressing animal welfare issues are not implemented. There are very applicable international guidelines that can be used to improve animal welfare in the Biosphere Reserve to significant achieve socio-economic gains while maintaining reputable ethical standards.

HIGH LEVEL GOAL

Treatment of animals is characterised by adhering to best international animal welfare practices, applying One Welfare principles, and creating tangible community benefits that are an inspiration for other Caribbean islands.

PRIORITY NEEDS

- Animals are recognised as sentient beings and treated as such.
- The internationally recognised five freedoms of animal welfare:
- are respected and implemented wherever human and animals interact.
- Stakeholders experience tangible benefits from improved animal welfare.

STRATEGIES

- Establish a One Welfare stakeholder advisory group.
- Conduct a KAP survey to provide guidance for further and continued outreach.
- Formulation locally applicable animal welfare guidelines based on the One Welfare approach.
- Identify key animal welfare stakeholder groups and implement annual awareness workshops.
- Support local animal welfare groups and create international linkages to facilitate financial and PR support.
- Facilitate and coordinate the actualisation of tangible benefits to stakeholders that apply the best possible animal welfare practises.
- Knowledge sharing with other Caribbean islands and BR networks.

KEY PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

TOBIMA

- facilitates establishment and ongoing operations of One Welfare Advisory Group;
- implements ongoing communication campaign based on KAP study;
- collaborates with One Welfare Advisory Group to formulate locally applicable guidelines, seeks voluntary buy-in, and lobbies for policy inclusion;
- facilitates the creation of local and international partnerships, funding opportunities, and knowledge sharing.
- provides stakeholders with guidelines to communicate and their One Welfare efforts for PR purposes
- communicates lessons learnt within the BR networks.

Resources:

Video on animal welfare:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZHlknHGGL0

Example on animal welfare in NE Tobago:
Phoenix before his rescue



Phoenix after his rescue



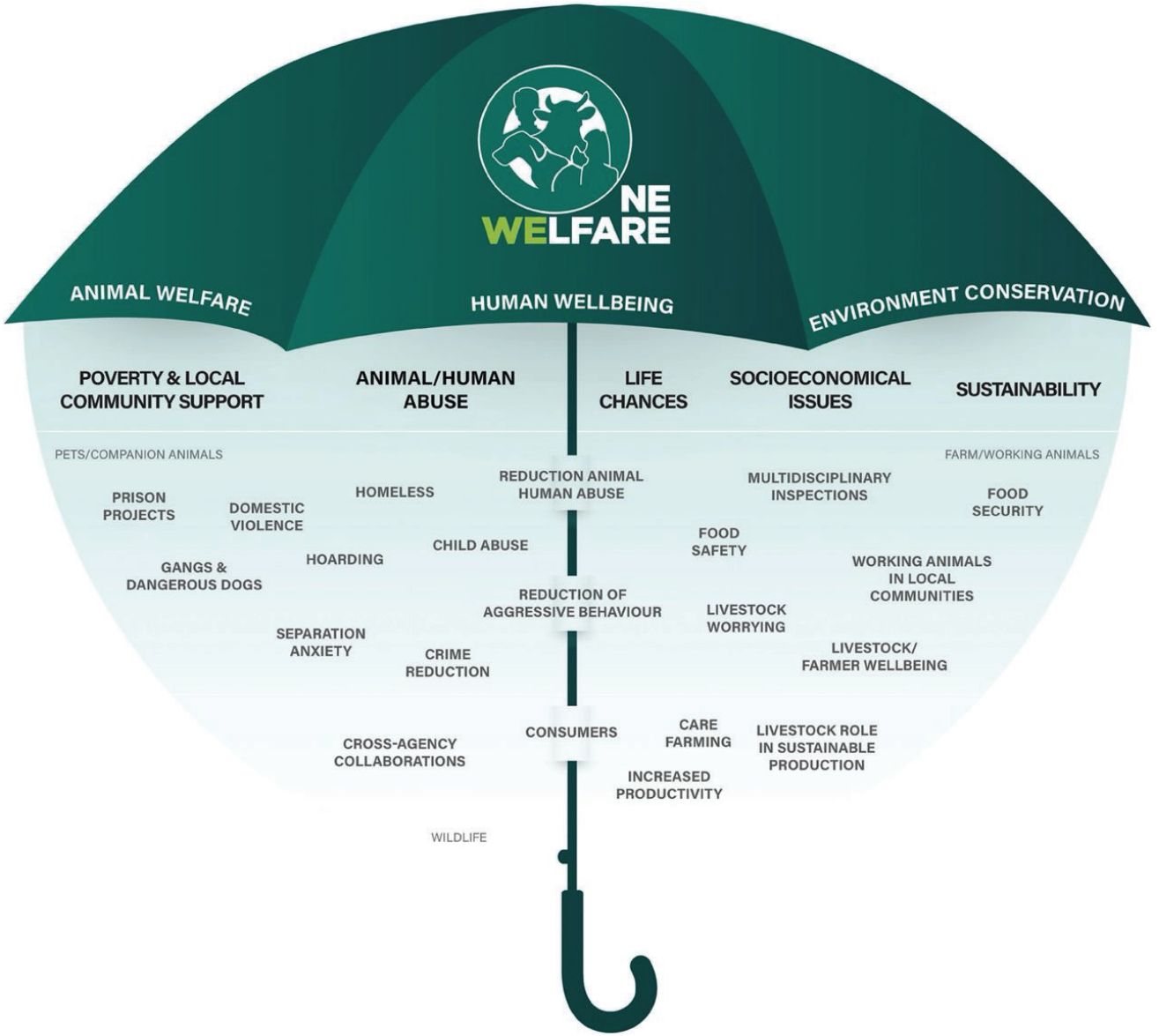


Figure: Topics that fall under the umbrella of One Welfare, Pinillos RG et al (2016) Veterinary Record.