

**SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF
ANIMALS – GHANA (SWAGH)**



(PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN ANIMAL WELFARE)

INFORMATION PACK - 2008

CONTACTS:

Address 1:

C/O Ujakpa Martin M.
Valley View University
P.O.Box AF 595
Adenta, Accra.
Ghana, W/A.

Address 2:

C/O Ujakpa Martin M.
EPC
P.O.Box 7
Nkwanta, V/R.
Ghana, W/A.

**Email: swagh2009@yahoo.co.uk
ujakpamabeifam@yahoo.co.uk**

**Tel: +233 246 754889
+233 246 495356
+233 245763281**

SWAGH – A NATIONAL REGISTERED NGO WITH REGISTRATION NUMBER: G – 27, 709

Table of Content

SR.	Content	Page
1.	Introduction	3
2.	General Principle	3
3.	Government Involvement	4
4.	Companion Animals	4
5.	Farm Animals	5 - 11
6.	Wild Animals	11 - 13
7.	General policy on Animals in Sports, Entertainment, Education and Fashion	13 - 15
12.	Declaration	16

POLICIES OF
SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS – GHANA (SWAGH)
(PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN ANIMAL WELFARE)

First **written** and **adopted** in **2005**

First **revised** and **adopted** in **2008**

1.0 SWAGH Policies

1.0.0 Introduction

These are the policies and principles on Animal Welfare that SWAGH uphold. These policies are subject to regular review to match changes in time with respect to the animals concerned.

1.0.1 General Principle

SWAGH believes in the five freedoms of animals and therefore encourages it's promotion.

The five freedoms are as follows:

- (a) Freedom from fear and distress
- (b) Freedom from discomfort
- (c) Freedom from pain, injury and diseases
- (d) Freedom to express natural behaviour
- (e) Freedom from hunger and thirst.

1.0.2: Government involvement

SWAGH advocates that, Government and Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies set laws and bye laws respectively that protect the welfare of Animals nationally and locally.

2.0 COMPANION ANIMAL

2.0.1 Companion Animals and Responsibilities

SWAGH believes that anyone who wants to own a companion animal must be one who is **responsible**. Hence SWAGH

advocates that someone who isn't responsible must not be allowed to own companion animals. A responsible person is anyone who has:

- (a)time for his companion animal.
- (b)the necessary financial means to meet the needs of his companion animal.
- (c)the facilities that would ensure that the welfare of his companion animal is not compromised.
- (d)Long-term commitments to the companion animal.
- (e)Interest in his companion animal

3.0 Farm Animals

3.0.1 General farm state

SWAGH believes that the better the care of an animal, the better the food got from the animal or the better the animal performs if raised for any other activity than food It is therefore opposed to animal farming system that does not result in better care to animals. Better care is a one that keeps to the minimum or eliminates completely distress or suffering of animals. SWAGH encourages farming systems and practices that allow animals to live naturally or near natural lifestyle.

3.0.2 Free Range System of Farming

SWAGH Supports free range system of Farming but discourages irresponsible ownership.

3.1. Poultry

3.1.0: Egg Production

SWAGH is opposed to the egg **productions** in which animal welfare are undermined or not considered. One such system is the battery cage System.

3.1.1: Suitable egg production

A suitable egg laying system is one with a sand bath, a perch, a nest and an appropriate colony size.

3.1.2: Government and Legislature involvement

SWAGH advocate that the Districts Assemblies and legislature set up bye laws and laws respectively that bans the battery cage system.

3.1.3: Selective Breeding

Selective breeding programs and management factors that compromise on the welfare of birds are opposed by SWAGH

(a) Certain selective breeding methods allow animals to grow at a very fast rate. This in no doubt makes animals products readily available to market within the shortest possible time. Though seems to very beneficial, it compromises on the welfare of animals. Effects of this is outlined in (b) and (c) below.

(b) Methods that enable broiler chicken to attain slaughter weight

At the of six to seven weeks is opposed by SWAGH. This is because; some birds which attain the slaughter weight at that age develop joint and limb weakness.

(c) Due to the colony size of the poultry in particular apartments, stronger birds might tend to peck weaker birds to have access to resources. This pecking may cause injuries or even death. To avoid injurious or distractive pecking or discourage pecking completely among birds, most farmers trim the beaks of birds. Other farmers subject their birds to low light intensity. SWAGH is opposed to beak trimming because it causes feeding problem and suffering to birds.

(d)SWAGH is also opposed to systems in which low light intensity is provided to solve the pecking to solve the pecking problem. This is because it causes sight impairment to birds that are subjected to such treatments. This is done mostly in turkey farms and must be discouraged.

3.1.4 Diets without Necessary Nutrients

SWAGH is opposed to the use of diets from which necessary nutrients have been excluded to feed poultry.

3.1.5 Non Supportive or Additional feed

SWAGH is opposed to the non-supportive or additional feed to animal's poultry

8

3.2 PIGS

3.2.0 Pigs in Barren Pens

Keeping pigs in barren pens are opposed by SWAGH except for veterinary reason.

3.2.1 Docking of Pig's tail

SWAGH is opposed to the docking of pigs' tail except for veterinary reasons or when there is an unavoidable fly strike.

3.2.2 Weaning Piglets

Weaning of piglet at an age that would result in behavioral and health problems is opposed by SWAGH

3.2.3 Castration in Pigs

Castration aids in the control of unwanted pregnancies and piglets. Through castration, SWAGH believe that management would be able to keep to planned pig's flock activities; but the castration of pigs destined to be killed before sexual maturity is opposed by SWAGH

3.2.4 Close Tethering and Gestation Stalls

The use of close tethering and gestation stalls infringes on pigs ability to behave very naturally. SWAGH therefore opposes the use close tethering and gestation stalls for pigs.

3.2.5 Non Supportive or Additional Feed

SWAGH is opposed to the non-supportive or additional feed to pigs.

3.2.6 Solid lying area

To reduce injury, a solid lying area or a form of bedding ought to be provided for pigs. SWAGH therefore opposed to the system of raising pigs in which pigs are not provided any form of solid lying area and beddings.

3.2.7 Restrictive furrowing crates

SWAGH discourages the use of restrictive furrowing crates since they impair on the welfare of a sow. During pregnancy, a sow is supposed to be actively building a nest but the restrictive furrow, which provides protection for piglets prevents the sow from actively building the nest. It prevents the sow from actively building the nest. It also restrict the sow from undertaking some movement.

3.3 GOATS AND SHEEP

3.3.0 Irresponsible goat/sheep raising system

SWAGH is opposed to the irresponsible systems of raising sheep and goats particularly subjecting the animals to bad weather and feeding.

3.3.1 Non Supportive or Additional Feed

SWAGH is opposed to the non-supportive or additional feed to feed to animals' goats and sheep.

3.3.2 Docking of Goat/Sheep tail

SWAGH is opposed to the docking of the tails of lambs/goats except for veterinary reason or unavoidable fly strike.

3.3.3 Castration in Goat/Sheep

SWAGH is opposed to the castration of lambs that are destined to be killed before the age of sexual maturity.

3.3.4 Diets without Necessary Nutrients

SWAGH is opposed to the use of diets from which necessary nutrients have been excluded to feed goats and sheep.

3.4 LIVESTOCK

3.4.0 Irresponsible cattle raising system

SWAGH is opposed to the irresponsible systems of raising cattle particularly subjecting the animals to bad weather and feeding.

3.4.1 Non Supportive or Additional Feed

SWAGH is opposed to the non-supportive or additional feed to cattle.

3.4.2 Diets without Necessary Nutrients

SWAGH is opposed to the use of diets from which necessary nutrients have been excluded to feed cattle.

3.4.3 Individual crates

SWAGH is opposed to use the used of individual crates for calves except for veterinary reasons or sick and hence has to be isolated.

3.4.4 Group rearing

Group rearing is the best but it does not guarantee that the welfare of calves moving in group is to standard. Welfare of calves moving in group is only up to standard if the following conditions exist: access to bedding and diet, milk, fibre and water and also space for comfortable movement of colony regardless of their number.

3.4.5 Housing System

SWAGH advocates the use of loose housed system or planned outdoor system. This allows for free movement and also for the calves to behave naturally.

3.4.6 Wheepling prior to Slaughter

SWAGH is opposed to cattle being subjected to wheepling before slaughter.

3.4.7 Free Range Cattle Raising system

SWAGH is opposed to irresponsible free range of raising farm animals. An Irresponsible Owner is someone who does not provide shelter, food, water and other necessary needs to his/ her cattle.

3.4 WILD ANIMALS

3.5.0 General Policy

- I. Infliction of pain on wild animals is objected by SWAGH
- II. Causing or undertaking activities that would result in the suffering of wild animals is objected by SWAGH
- III. Indiscriminate killing of wild animals is objected by SWAGH

3.5.1 Poisoning of Wild Animals

- i. Animals killed by poisoning undergo considerable suffering before death supervenes. As a result, SWAGH is opposed to the use of poison in killing in animals and advocates the use of

- ii. alternative means that renders animals to insensitive pain until death supervenes
- iii. SWAGH is concerned about the use of agriculture chemicals in farms or in areas near wild where most wild animals habitat.
- iv. SWAGH is also opposed to the use of chemicals such as DDT in fishing.

3.5.2 Traps and Baits

- i. Traps used in trapping or baiting wild animals and other animals causes suffering, pain, injury and distress to victim animals. As a result, SWAGH objects the use of live traps in trapping wild animals.
- ii. Naturally there exist the need of capturing wild animals and in such cases SWAGH understands the need for the use of live traps and hence gives in to the use of live traps on the basis that it's users would conform to policy **3.5.2(iii)**
- iii. Live traps used in capturing animals must be visited in at least every 12 hours. The time of visiting live traps may differ depending on the type and species of animal in consideration.

NOTE: animals killed for destruction should be killed immediately

3.5.3 Handling of wild Animals

- I. Human contact with animals especially untamed once is very distressing to the animals. Therefore SWAGH advocates that human actions or activities such as animals transport and treatment which both require some degree of handling should be carried out with a mind of seeking to minimize distress
- II. To ensure that animals always return to their home or habitat, SWAGH advocates that sick or found wild animals should only be taken to centers or hospitals where all indications show that the handling of the animal(s) at that center guarantees it's safe return it's habitat
- III. SWAGH is opposed to uncondusive animal transportation, though it may be necessary to transport most animals from one place to another for economics reason

4.0 Sports, Entertainment, Education and Fashion

4.0.1 General Policy

Any sports, entertainment, fashion and educational activity that involves the use of animals but causes suffering, destruction or pain to the animal is opposed by SWAGH

4.0.2 Animals and performance in sports

The use of any animal anywhere for any sports is objected by SWAGH.

SWAGH advocates that all necessary

measures be put in place to ensure that animals used in films, theater, advertisement and television programmes do not undergo distress or suffer.

4.0.3 Animal and Prize Giving

- i.** Due to the future uncertainty of animals in the hands of their new owners, after being given as prizes: SWAGH advocates that animals should not be given as prizes.
- ii.** NOTE: Original owners of animals made a deliberate decision in acquiring the animals but the new owners (prize winner) only got the animals by chance and hence might not be able to satisfy its basic requirements.
- iii.** SWAGH is opposed also to the giving of animals as gift.

4.0.4 Race and Animals

- i.** The use or non-permissible whips for horses and ponies to perform to the optimum is opposed by SWAGH. Unlike permissible whips that are specially designed to provide for shock absorbing, traditional whips used cause pain, suffering and injury.
- ii.** Drugs administered to racing horses or ponies or animals taking part in sports to mask pain or increase performance has long-term effect and is therefore objected by SWAGH.

5.0 Animals and Education

- I.** The use of animals in education where pains, suffering and distress is or are caused to animals is objected by SWAGH
- II.** Due to the welfare concern of animals, raising of animals in schools is opposed by SWAGH.
- III.** Naturally untamed animals become distressed when they come into contact with humans. Hence the visit of humans to animals related venues is opposed by SWAGH.
- IV.** SWAGH advocates that alternatives where possible should be used instead of animals in educational activities.
- V.** When rising of animals in schools becomes necessary, then necessary provisions must be put in place to ensure that the welfare of animals under study are not compromised.

Declaration

This is to declaration that the entire content of this book is the constitution of SWAGH and is appropriately endorsed by the Directors, Secretary and an executive member

Ujakpa Martin Mabeifam

Gabriel Dinu

(Director)

(Director)

Godson Charnor

Amamu Stephen

(Secretary)

(Exec. Cmttee Member)

**SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF
ANIMALS – GHANA (SWAGH)**



(PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN ANIMAL WELFARE)

INFORMATION PACK - 2008

CONTACTS:

Address 1:

C/O Ujakpa Martin M.
Valley View University
P.O.Box AF 595
Adenta, Accra.
Ghana, W/A.

Address 2:

C/O Ujakpa Martin M.
EPC
P.O.Box 7
Nkwanta, V/R.
Ghana, W/A.

**Email: swagh2009@yahoo.co.uk
ujakpamabeifam@yahoo.co.uk**

**Tel: +233 246 754889
+233 246 495356
+233 245763281**

SWAGH – A NATIONAL REGISTERED NGO WITH REGISTRATION NUMBER: G – 27, 709