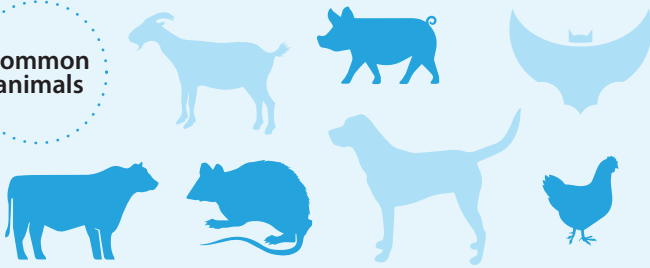


CONTEXT OF ANIMALS

common animals



Common animals include goats, cows, sheep, pigs, dogs, cats, ducks, other fowl, pigeons, rats, and bats. Forested areas have "bush" or wild animals that include cutting grass (cane rat), snails, "freetambo" (deer), snakes, and monkeys.

LOCATION OF ANIMALS

Animals are found in community spaces, homes, farms, warehouses, and surrounding forest areas

WHERE THERE IS AN EASY SOURCE OF FOOD

- "when we see the area where they eat, we would know that they are around."
- "in our farms because there is enough food for them [there] than within the community."

DEFORESTATION DURING FARMING MAY MOVE ANIMALS TOWARDS COMMUNITIES

- "The reason why we find more animals in this other communities is because there are lots of forest there, they maintain their forest so that their wild animals will not run away as compared to us here, we always set fire on bushes."

PERCEIVED VALUE OF ANIMALS

Animals that could be eaten or sold for money (ducks, fowl, pigs, goats, etc) had higher value and were provided more care than other animals (such as dogs)

- "Sometimes we contribute greatly for an animal to become stray dog because people treated animals as if they do not have life meaning."

- "This attitude of cruelty on the animals is more committed on dogs. You will see a dog passing by and without having done any bad to anyone, you will see these young boys begin to chase it and will try to harm it."

ANIMAL CARE

Few informants perceived animal care to be a responsibility of the animal owner. The amount of care and attention given to animals was influenced by their perceived worth in terms of income and food.

children & younger household members are primary caretakers

- "For us in this community, it is our children who keeps and take care of the animals, tie and untie them, feed them."

very little preventive health care

low vaccination rates

less aggressive treatment-seeking for dogs compared to animals that can be eaten or sold for money



links between animal neglect and aggressive behavior among dogs

- "[In] failing to provide daily food it might become angry and even if someone comes closer it might bite you."

seasonal differences in the care of animals

- "We always face difficulty in providing them with food especially in the dry season, therefore we leave them to fetch for themselves within the community and nearby bushes."

animals are confined during the wet season but not as much in the dry season

- "Like for now [wet season] we have the goats, in the morning we take them to their various places where they feed and in the evening or when it's raining we bring them back to their small house. Like for the dry season we leave them roam around freely because this is the period that is very difficult for them to find food and water to drink, so during that period, roaming around for themselves will help them find food on their own."

Opinions differed about whether animals should be allowed to roam freely or not.

- "For me it is an advantage because it reduces the burden on the owner to be searching for food for them, they grow faster and healthier, which will add to their value in case the owner wants to sell any of them."
- "But for the fact that they are all the time destroying our properties then I don't think we are going to be happy about them roaming."

ROLE OF ANIMALS

SECURITY

protection

“Animals like dogs are serving us our securities. They will be there lying by our doors during night hours to drive off thieves. Cats are also important to us here because they drive off rats from our houses.”

financial

“They bring income to us when we sell them.”

farms

“Cat also serve as a security for our food stuff and our harvest goods we have at home not to be destroyed by rat.”

“Livestock farmers are using these animals [dogs] to scare pest in the farm.”

CEREMONIAL RITES

“The magicians, they are using animals to perform their ceremonies. They always need them to do their work.”

“For the cow, most at times we use them for ceremonial purposes or for certain celebration when our people from outside visit us on important occasions.”

FOOD

“The first thing is that they serve us as food. Whenever we want to cook some nice sauce, we will catch one of them and use them as meat for our cooking sauce.”

HOUSING

Housing varied from cages and other structures within the house compound, shared living quarters with owners at nighttime, or no dedicated housing.

“Majority of people that own these animals has built a pen for them, it is only lawless people that haven't built for their animals until now, but they are not many.”

“Well for me we have a cage wherein the goats, chickens and sheep are kept overnight until the next morning when we release them.”



LABOR

hunting

“The reason why many people are training dogs in this community is because they are using the dogs to hunt animals in the bush; this is the main purpose why some people are training dogs in this community.”

farming

“The other role ...is they can be used in farming. We have some people here ... who have what we call “bollies” who will use animals like cows to do farming.”

COMPANIONSHIP

“the dogs like children and children also like dogs.”



Some animal owners kept their animals in their sleeping spaces at night to prevent them from being stolen.

“For fear of being stolen by thieves, some prefer to put their cages in the house. Others keep them right inside the rooms, the reason because others do not have a house on their own and others have a single room, so if you have your animal there is no place to keep except inside your bedroom to avoid thieves not to steal them at night.”

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

Data implied a purposeful ownership for dogs, with very little emotional attachment or relationship-building.

Dogs were not treated with the same attention given to other animals that are a source of income and food.