

Fifth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an Inquiry into the adverse health effects of fireworks

Recommendation F:

That consideration be given to increasing the fines under Section 79(1) and Section 82 of the Summary Offences Act associated with the torture and maltreatment of animals.

Response:

With regards to the torture and maltreatment of animals, this Ministry has no objection to the recommendation for increased fines under Section 79(1) and Section 82 of the Summary Offences Act. However, the legislation required to increase the fines does not fall under the purview of this Ministry.

Recommendation G:

That greater role be undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries to promote the proper care of animals, especially those that are domesticated.

Response:

The MALF aspires to be a client oriented, performance driven, environmentally responsible organization delivering integrated services aligned to a changing food and agriculture system. The Ministry is in the business of championing the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development of food and non-food systems.

Pursuant to the Animals (Disease and Importation) Act of 1954, the operation of the MALF is restricted to controlling specific infectious diseases of animals and regulating the importation of animals and animal products.

The proper care of animals with specific reference to dogs, falls under the purview of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government(MRDLG) as addressed in Section, (5A) of the Dog Control Act of 2013 which states:-

“Every person who keeps a dog shall provide the dog or cause it to be provided with adequate and appropriate care, food, water, shelter, exercise, attention and veterinary care as may be required to meet the needs of the dog,”

However, there is no clearly identified authority responsible for regulating the proper care of other domesticated animals. Given the above the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries will continue to reinforce and advise farmers (main stakeholders) of the proper care of animals. It should be noted that these do not generally include pet animals.