

# **ANIMAL WELFARE**

## **The situation in Tunisia**

---

**« Conseil National de l'Ordre des Médecins Vétérinaires de Tunisie »**  
***in collaboration***  
**« Direction Générale des Services Vétérinaires »**

## Three periods

- ✓ Before the French protectorate, 1881
- ✓ During the French Protectorate, 1881-1957
- ✓ After Independency, from 1957

# Before 1881

- ✓ Private Islamic charity foundations (Waqf) for the protection of animals in the city of Tunis
  - ✓ stray dogs and cats
  - ✓ pigeons of the Big Mosque (The Ezzitouna Mosque)

*Importance of the Islamic teachings*

# 1881 to 1957

## Penalisation of ill-treatments of animals

- ✓ Decree of 15 December 1896 (J.O.T n°26 of 26/12/1896): Tunisian Penal Code
  - ✓ Art.25 & 26: sentence of **imprisonment** for **public ill-treatment** of **domestic animals** under the **responsibility** of the offender
  
- ✓ Decree of 9 July 1913 (J.O.T n°79 of 1/10/1913): Tunisian Penal Code
  - ✓ Art.30: sentence of **imprisonment** (up to one year) for **deliberate poisoning of domestic animals**

# 1881 to 1957

*(French Protectorate)*

## Penalisation of ill-treatment of animals

- ✓ Inclusion of the “Grammont” French Law (1850) in the Tunisian Penal Code: Decree of 12 May 1920
  - ✓ Prison sentence for **ill-treatment of domestic animals belonging or not to the offender**
  - ✓ Prohibition of **public fights or games** exposing domestic animals to **death or injuries**
- ✓ Decree of 13 April 1943: penalisation of ill-treatment of animals **belonging to a third party**

# 1881 to 1957

Penalisation of ill-treatment of animals

but

Limitation to **domestic animals belonging to a person** (stray dogs and cats, wild animals not concerned)

# From 1957

- ✓ 1957-2000: concept of animal welfare still absent from the legislation, extension of the protection to wildlife
- ✓ Forester code amended in 1988 (Law 88-20 of 13 April 1988): protection of wildlife (endangered species)

# From 1957

- ✓ After 2000: emergence of the concept of **animal welfare** in the Tunisian legislation:
  - ✓ *implication of the Veterinary Services (setting of a focal point to the OIE dedicated to animal welfare)*
  - ✓ *Implication of the Veterinary Profession*

# From 1957

Decree of 31 January 2000: Veterinary Code of Deontology (Art.2: Veterinary Oath “To respect the life of animals, to play a **primordial role in the protection** of their health and **welfare**)

First legal reference to animal welfare

# From 1957

Amendment of the Tunisian Penal Code by the Law 2005-46 of 06 June 2005: prison sentence to up one year for deliberate poisoning of **animals** (*sensus lato*: **no restriction to domestic animals**)

# From 1957

- ✓ Law 2005-95 of 18 October 2005 on livestock and animal products: explicit reference to animal welfare and framework for other legal requirements
- ✓ Order of 21 October 2007 defining the norms for animal housing and relating them to **animal welfare** (cattle, poultry, small ruminants, equines and bees)
- ✓ Order of 11 January 2007 fixing the technical conditions of transport required for the **comfort** of **identified animals** (animal charge, prohibited handling and practices, etc.)

# Perspectives

- ✓ Project of Order on transport of poultries and small animals
- ✓ Project of Law on health and protection of animals:
  - ✓ Adaptation buildings, transport means and equipments to insure animal welfare
  - ✓ Use means inducing **immediate death or loss of consciousness** in control campaigns for reducing animal populations (stray dogs and wild animals)
  - ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> Legal framework for the publication of an Order fixing the conditions of use of **experience animals** and of qualification of the personnel

# Perspectives

*Strategies of communication and education*

*Moral/ethical dimension (Islamic referential: identity anchorage)*

*Economic and sanitary dimensions*

**Administration/NGOs**

**Applicable legislation**  
**Adaptation** and not  
transposition to the  
socio-cultural context



**Society / specific  
operators**

Wide Public  
Economic operators  
Local communities

*Control tools and  
mechanisms  
(Inspectors, training of  
personnel, veterinary  
education etc.)*

*Perception of AW as an  
active obligation*

**Application of legal requirements on Animal Welfare**

**+**

**Evolution of the laws**

**(Level of awareness of AW and Human Development indicators)**

# Non Governmental Organisations

## Several NGOs

### 1. Exclusively dedicated to animal protection

- ✓ **SPA** (*Société Protectrice des Animaux*) (*Society for animal protection*)
- ✓ **Association « SOS ANIMAUX »** (*Association SOS Animals*)

# Non Governmental Organisations

## 2. Concerned, among other objectives, by animal protection

- ✓ ATPNE/SPANNA (*Association Tunisienne de la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement*)  
(*Tunisian Association for the Protection of Nature and Environment*)
- ✓ AAO (*Association des Amis des oiseaux*)  
(*Birds' Friends Association*)
- ✓ ANDDCVS (*Association Nationale de Développement Durable et de la Conservation de la Vie Sauvage*)  
(*Association for Sustainable Development and Preservation of Wildlife*)
- ✓ ATVAC (*Association Tunisienne des Vétérinaires pour les Animaux de Compagnie*)  
(*Tunisian Association of Veterinarians for Companions Animals*)
- ✓ ACAM (*Association Culturelle des Arts Méditerranéens de Kélibia*)(*Cultural Association for Mediterranean Arts of Kelibia*)

# Non Governmental Organisations

## 3. Dedicated to Animal Welfare

- ✓ *ATSAL (Association Tunisienne des Sciences des Animaux de Laboratoire) (Tunisian Association of Laboratory Animals Sciences)*
  - ✓ *Protection of laboratory animals and application of welfare concepts for laboratory animals (3 R rule: Reduce, Replace, Refine)*
  - ✓ *Organisation of training sessions and courses in collaboration with ICLAS (International Council for Laboratory Animal Science)*

**Thank you for your attention**