



# HISTORICAL OUTLINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK ANIMAL WELFARE IN SOUTH AFRICA

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# WHY WORRY ABOUT HISTORY?

- Lessons for the present
- Planning for the future
- Understanding of developments



- Records of the past
- Pride in achievements
- Curiosity or interest
- All of the above – and more
- When does history start?



# PRE-COLONIAL TIMES

- Africans with domestic animals arrive about 500 AD
- Traditions and customs were followed
- Animal welfare as it affected humans



# COLONIAL TIMES

- Dutch 1652 – 1805 (Cape)
- British 1805 – 1910 (Cape, Natal, Republics)
- European norms and influences
- African states
- Animal Disease Control





# BRITISH INFLUENCES



- Jeremy Bentham – Philosopher
- Anti-Vivisection movement
- Circus Cruelty: “Disgraceful and degrading misuse of animals for entertainment”
- Cruelty to Animals Act 1876
- Humanitarian League 1891 – George Bernard Shaw, Thomas Hardy, and especially Jack London
- Protection of Animals Act 1911
- Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)

# SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS



- First SPCA established Cape Town 1872
- Federation of SPCAs established in 1956
- 1972 – 65 member SPCAs
- 1977 – 90 member SPCAs
- Name change to National Council of SPCAs in 1988
- Structural changes – Act 169 of 1993 (SPCA Act)
- 2016 – 80 individual SPCAs plus 6 satellites
- 5 Full time staff at Farm Animal Protection Unit
- 27 Full time senior inspectors at SPCA branches
- Also 103 inspectors and 42 field officers

# LEGISLATION (SOUTH AFRICA)

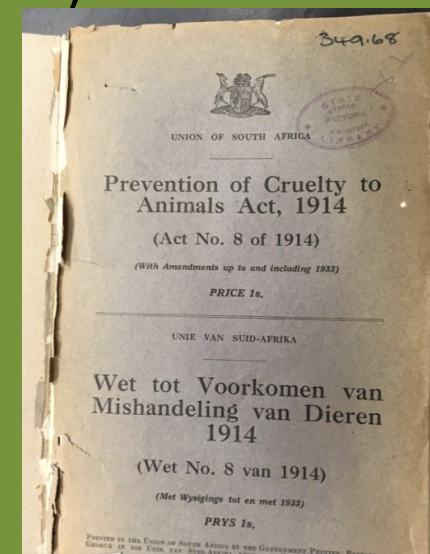
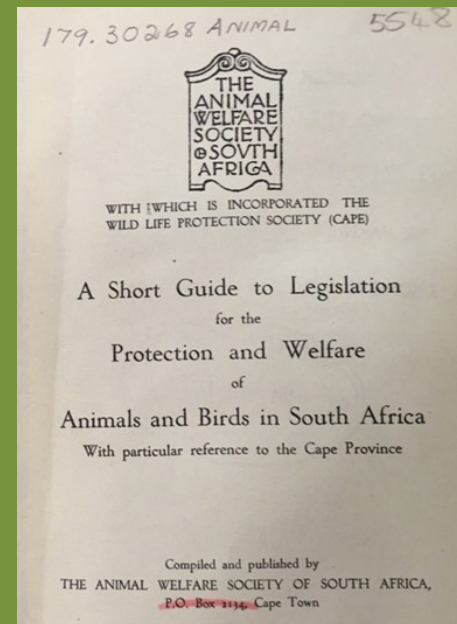
- Act for the Preventing of Cruelty to Animals (1856)
- The Cruelty to Animals Act 31 of 1874 (Natal)
- The Cruelty to Animals Act 18 of 1888 (Cape)
- The Cruelty to Animals Act 13 of 1895 (Cape)
- Ill-Treatment of Animals Law 3 of 1888 (ZAR)  
and revision VRR 1889
- Chapter CXLV (Orange Free State)
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 8 of 1914 (Union)
- Performing Animals Protection Act 24 of 1935
- Animals Protection Act 71 of 1962

Short Title and Commencement of Act.

14. This Act may be cited for all purposes as the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1914* and shall commence and come into operation on a date to be fixed by the Governor-General by proclamation in the *Gazette*.

Schedule.

| Province.          | Number and Year of Law. | Title or Subject of Law.                        | Extent of Repeal. |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Cape of Good Hope  | Act No. 18 of 1888...   | The Cruelty to Animals Act, 1888...             | The whole.        |
| " "                | Act No. 13 of 1895...   | The Cruelty to Animals Act, Amendment Act, 1895 | The whole.        |
| Natal.....         | Act No. 31 of 1874...   | The Cruelty to Animals Act, 1874....            | The whole.        |
| Transvaal.....     | Law No. 3 of 1888....   | Ill-treatment of Animals.....                   | The whole.        |
| " "                | V.R.R. of 8 May, 1889   | —   | The whole.        |
| Orange Free State. | Chap. CXLV.....         | —   | The whole.        |



# FIRST LEGISLATION ON ANIMAL WELFARE IN SOUTH AFRICA

No. 10—1856.]                      AN ACT                      [June 4, 1856.

## For the Preventing of Cruelty to Animals.

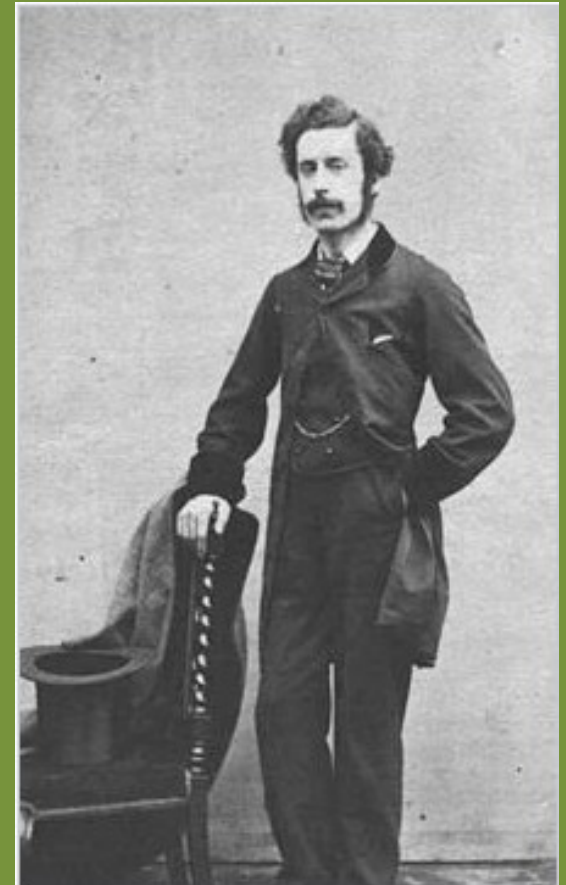
**F**OR the prevention of cruel and improper treatment of Preamble.  
animals: Be it enacted by the Governor of the Cape  
of Good Hope, with the advice and consent of the Legisla-  
tive Council and House of Assembly thereof, as follows:

I. Every person who shall cruelly beat or torture any Penalty for ill-treat-  
ing an animal.  
horse, ox, or other animal, whether belonging to himself  
or to another, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding one  
pound sterling, and in case of default, by imprisonment in  
the public gaol for not more than fourteen days.

II. All penalties imposed by this Act shall be recoverable Recovery and dis-  
posal of fine.  
before the resident magistrate of the district in which the  
offence is committed, and shall be paid into the colonial  
treasury.

III. The operation of this Act shall be confined to towns Limits of the Act.  
and villages in which Act No. 2, 1855, shall be in operation,  
and in municipalities.

IV. This Act shall commence and take effect from and When to commence.  
after the promulgation thereof.



Portrait of Sir George Grey  
as Governor of the Cape  
Colony

# LIVESTOCK WELFARE COORDINATING COMMITTEE



- Origins – conflict around handling of animals at abattoirs
- Established 1978
- Financial and administrative support – Meat Board
- Wide representation of Livestock Industry
- Developed first Codes for livestock management
- Independent entity 2008
- Support from major livestock industries
- Development of National Standards (SABS)
- Statements on welfare matters



# CODES OF BEST PRACTICE

- All major livestock sectors:  
RPO - red meat, NWGA - wool, SAMGA - mohair, SAFA - feedlots, SAOBC - ostriches, SAPPO - pigs;  
Poultry – being developed
- Conversion to Standards - SABS
- Regarded as expected conduct



# OTHER ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANISATIONS

- LAWA – the only Livestock-specific AWO
- Others – small impact

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- Revision / replacement of laws
- National strategy on animal welfare
- Livestock welfare part of many laws