

State of Animal Welfare Survey Results 2024

All protocol observed.

My name is Celiwe Shivambu, I am a campaign officer for Pandemics and Climate Change at FOUR PAWS in South Africa,

Thank you all for honoring our invite and joining us for our very 1st SOAWA as FOUR PAWS.

This evening, I join on stage our country director to deliver the Survey results of the State of the Animal Welfare in South Africa through findings of a number of surveys conducted over a period of time, by FOUR PAWS. The survey's aim was to get an understanding of the state of Animal Welfare in South Africa. The findings helped to both develop the State of Animal Welfare Address (SOAWA) and best ways to respond to some of the concerns raised in the survey.

While we continue revealing, rescuing, and protecting suffering animals, Animal Welfare has not yet achieved a high political profile in South Africa. The year 2024 is election year and Animal Welfare should be on the political agenda. It is essential that government and policy makers recognise the State of Animal Welfare because Politics is there to reflect the will of the voters and through this survey, we have found that 86% of South Africans think that the state of Animal Welfare is BAD

We also understand that we cannot stand idly by whilst our government abandons promises and commitments made to both the public and animals. Especially when these broken promises result in millions of animals continuing to suffer needlessly.

As an Animal Welfare foundation, we are committed to Companion & stray animals, farm animals, Wild animals under human control and Animals in disaster and conflict zones worldwide.

These results paint a picture of the Animal Welfare we deserve, it also serves as a call to action to not only the government but to the consumer, the meat and dairy industry, the farmers, policy makers and animal welfare organizations alike.

The survey results call on us to become the authoritative voice for animals and not let their future be pre-decided. We have the power to demand that they are no longer mistreated and no longer have to endure the suffering under direct human influence.

90% of South Africans expressed that more efforts are required to make the public aware of big cat farming and trade and that South Africa's reputation is damaged due to the export of big cats and their parts.

93% call on government to avail more funding for the provision of veterinary services in under privileged communities while 86% believe that dog and cat sterilization should be mandatory for stray population management.

For farm animals, 93% of South Africans feel that we need stricter and improved laws for the protections of animals in our farms while 89% urge the government to stop promoting inhumane farming practices.

These findings further revealed that 75% of South Africans are aware that factory farming contributes significantly to climate change through GHG emissions and 85% are willing to pay more for meat, eggs and dairy if it was produced in a more humane way.

76% of South Africans are aware that all animals suffer in factory farms due to inhumane practices and a staggering 92% would prefer if all of South Africa's meat, dairy and eggs came from free range farms. We urge government to support sustainable farming models to feed South Africa's growing population **humanely, sustainably, and affordably.**

We need to do better for animals, in the wild, in our farms and in our homes for Animal Welfare. Worldwide.

FOUR PAWS will keep fighting and campaigning for animals and keep animal welfare firmly on the political agenda. We will do everything in our power to ensure the Government reprioritises animal welfare and delivers their promises. The Animals will thank you and I thank you.