

# Assessment of donkey body lesions and work types using the Brooke's Standardised Equine Based Welfare Assessment Tool (SEBWAT) in Kenya

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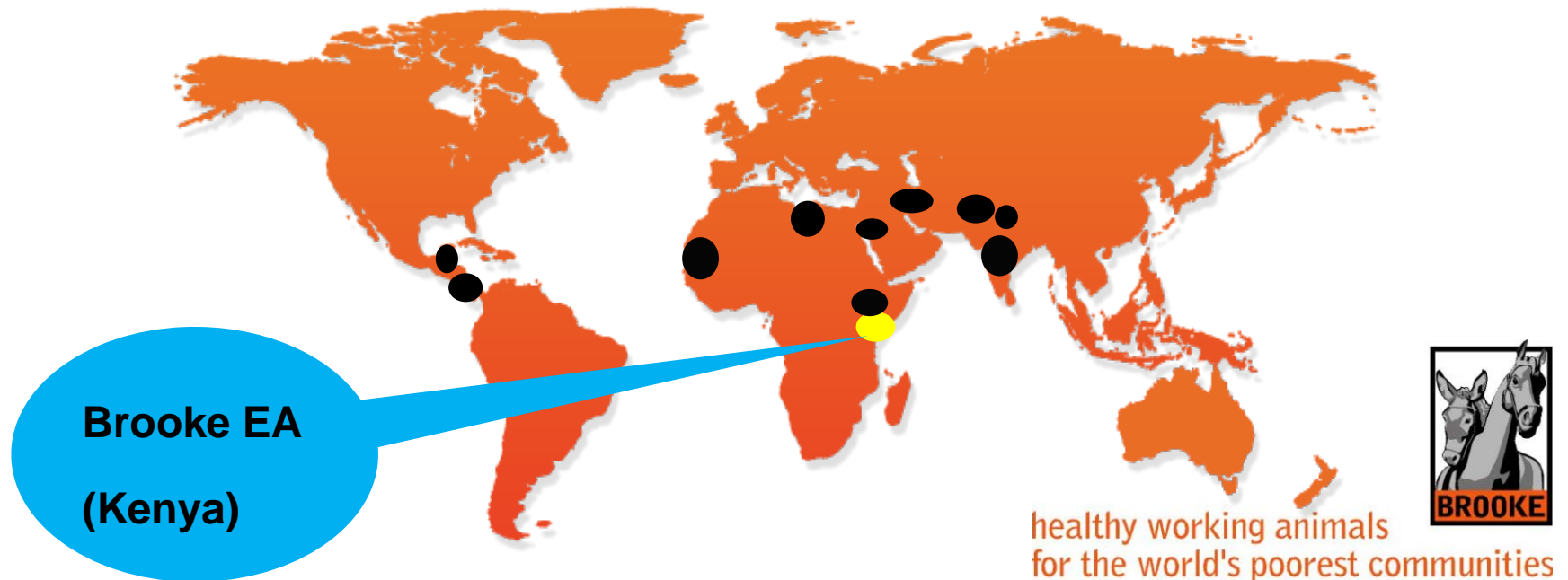
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# Background

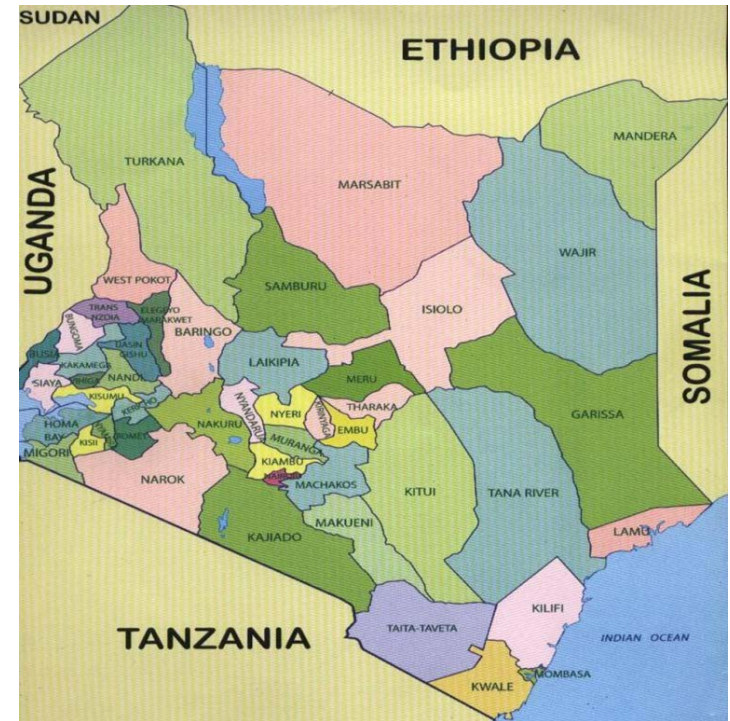
Brooke EA is a branch of the Brooke UK; which is an international animal welfare charity committed to improving the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules in some of the world's poorest communities.






# Background

 National donkey population is 1.8 million.

**Works with 5 NGOs in 14 out of 47 Counties to cover over 200,000 working donkeys in Kenya**



Three main objects:

-  Positive change in KAP in equine owning communities
-  *Strengthening access to quality health services to the working equids*
-  Policy and advocacy on suitable laws and resource allocation to equids



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# Objectives

- **To examine the frequency of body lesions and their severity in donkeys**
- **Identify the relationship between body lesions and donkey work type that can be targeted for intervention**



# Methodology:

- **Training and standardization of assessors on SEBWAT (standardized Equine Based Welfare Assessment Tool) – a Brooke specific animal based welfare assessment tool that has fixed rubrics to identify and monitor equine welfare conditions that consists of 54 equine welfare indicators.**
- **2 assessors worked together on same animal to reach a score consensus.**



# Sampling approach:

- 1,924 out of 200,000 donkeys were randomly sampled and assessed at key watering and job waiting points where majority of donkeys meet.
- All working donkeys were eligible for sampling.
- 65 out of 125 Data collection centres were randomly selected.
- Owner consent orally sought.
- Every fifth donkey was assessed.
- Assessed donkeys were marked with animal colour.







# Donkey Handling

The trained assessors, with the help of the owner restrained donkeys in welfare friendly manner by fitting a standard head collar with a lead-rope to enable safe and comfortable handling during assessment.





# Work Types



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# BODY LESIONS SCORE

## Severity Score 0



**No Lesion:  
Skin clearly not broken**

## Severity Score 1



**A healed lesion.  
Hairless unbroken skin**



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## Severity Score 2



**Skin and immediate  
subcutaneous layers broken**

## Severity Score 3



**Lesions deep to show muscle,  
tendon or bone**



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# Key Findings:

- 44% of working donkeys sampled had severe lesions (score 2 or 3). **P Value???**
- Fisher's exact test indicated an association between donkeys TGP and severe tail base (p<0.001)





## Finding .....

- There was an association between donkeys TGC and **Breast/shoulder** ( $p < 0.001$ ) lesions, and severe neck lesions ( $p < 0.001$ ).
- In areas where the majority of working donkeys were TGC, severe lesions were predominately found on the neck region.



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# Discussion:



**Body lesions** are a **welfare issue** and they cause **pain** and **discomfort** to donkeys thus limiting their capacity to harness their potential to the maximum-resulting in low work output



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# Discussion.....



**Animal's Work type may be a risk factor for body lesion site.**



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# Discussion.....

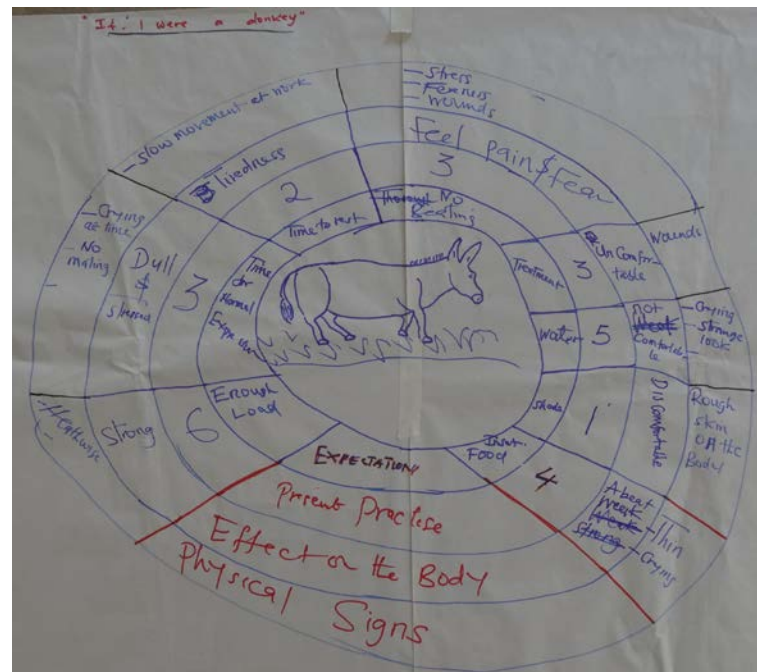


**KAP of the donkey owners and users plus the degree of padding material play a role in body lesions site and severity. The owner knowledge is monitored through HBI tool**



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# WAY FORWARD



**Negative attitudes and inadequate knowledge on correct handling.**



**Brooke EA using PRA tools "if I were a donkey" to educate owner/users.**



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# WAY FORWARD .....



**On wound management knowledge gaps**



**Brooke trains LSPs and donkey owners on causes, management and prevention of body lesions**



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## WAY FORWARD .....



**Knowledge and skills on basic wound prevention and management are being conducted and linking donkey owners to Local service providers for wounds that are infected.**



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## WAY FORWARD .....



**Brooke EA train owners on harnessing using affordable and alternative locally available materials to address body lesions in the predilection sites.**



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# WAY FORWARD .....



**Other approaches employed by the Brooke include:-**



**Formation and strengthening of donkey users and owners groups**



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# WAY FORWARD .....



## LAWS OF KENYA

### PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT

### CHAPTER 360 Revised 2015\*\*

Review of laws that promote animal welfare friendly practices



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## WAY FORWARD .....



Support a community led monitoring system (by laws) that ensures the donkey users are putting the new learnings on handling, loading and harnessing practices into action for sustainability purposes.



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Suggestions and recommendations from this audience will be highly appreciated to enhance the change of attitudes and practices amongst the donkey users in Kenya



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Thank you



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