

Livestock and livelihoods in Africa:

Maximising animal welfare and
human wellbeing

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How do animals contribute to human wellbeing in Africa?

- ❖ Animal products
 - ❖ Farming
 - ❖ Pack animals
 - ❖ Transport
 - ❖ Trading
 - ❖ Tourism
 - ❖ Store of value
 - ❖ Social rituals
 - ❖ Social status



Food – meat

Meat market in Lagos, Nigeria



Food – milk

Himba woman milking a cow
in Namibia



Food – eggs

Poultry farmer selling eggs in
Mpumalanga, South Africa



Leather

Leather tanning and dyeing in Morocco



Farming

Ox-ploughing in northern
Uganda



Farming

Animal manure is used to
fertilise fields in mixed
crop – livestock farming



Pack animals

A salt caravan of camels in
Afar, Ethiopia



Pack animals

Donkeys carrying water in
Kenya



Pack animals

Donkey mobile library in Ethiopia



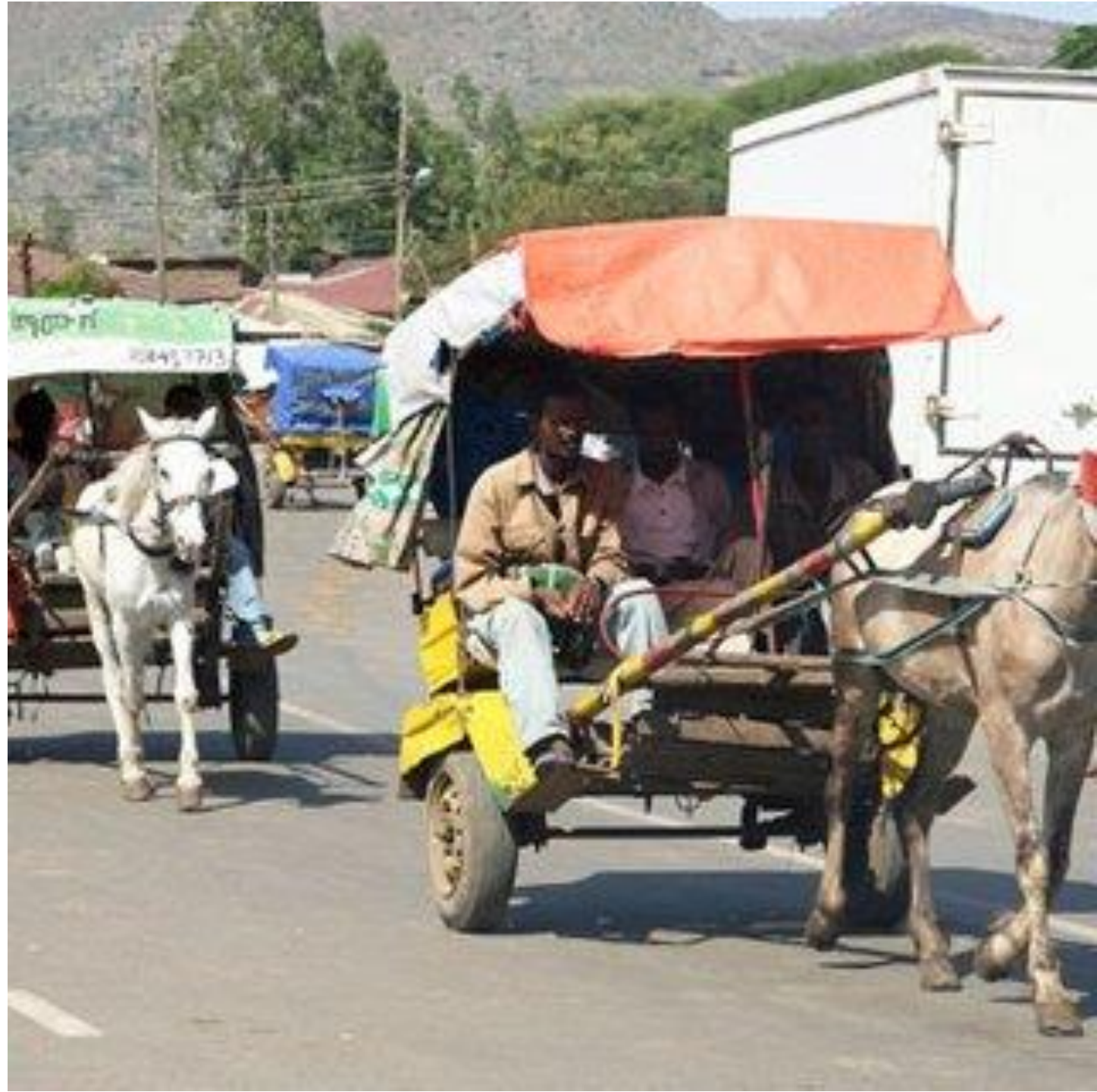
Transport

Donkey-carts as a means of transport in Namibia



Transport

Horse-taxis in Ethiopia



Trading

Sheep and goat market in
Somalia



Tourism

Gorilla trekking in Rwanda
and Uganda



Store of value

Animals are kept as a form of savings: “a bank on legs”



Social rituals

Among the Maasai of Kenya & Tanzania
“Cattle are part of a young woman’s
bride-price, delivered by the groom
to the bride’s family”



Social rituals

Bull-jumping ceremony in southern Ethiopia, “when a boy becomes a man”



Social status

Ankole cattle in Uganda:
“the cattle of the Kings”



Social status

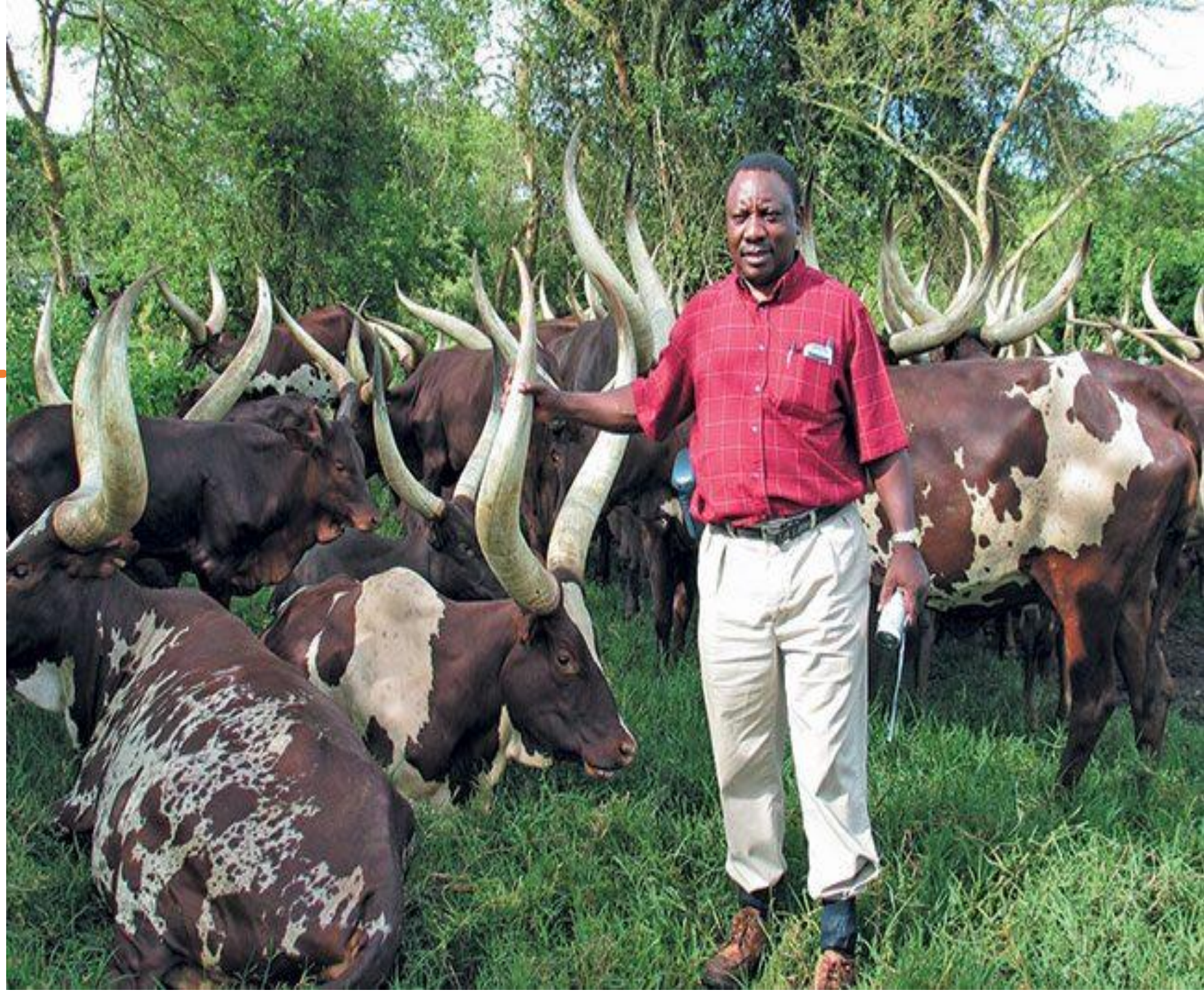
Cyril Ramaphosa, President of South Africa, was so impressed by the Ankole when he visited Uganda – “their majesty and the awe they inspire” – that he brought some to South Africa to breed. And he wrote a book.



Social status

“I am sure my late cattle-loving father would have been proud to see that I have become a breeder of three stud cattle. I take joy in being the largest Ankole breeder in the country.”

Cyril Ramaphosa



So: animals are central to lives and livelihoods of most Africans.

But this is a National Geographic vision of animals in Africa.

Animals are valuable assets that are protected and nurtured.

Some fortunate animals might even be loved and respected.

But animals are also subjected to exploitation, abuse and violence.



Exploitation

Pretoria Zoo in South Africa



Child jockeys race camels in Egypt



Abuse

Hyenas and monkeys kept as exotic pets in Nigeria



Violence

Trophy hunting



Rhino poaching



One explanation:
commodification



One explanation: commodification

Commodification: the action or process of treating something as a mere commodity.

Animals regarded as commodities may be bought, sold, given away, bequeathed, killed, and used as commodity producers: producers of meat, eggs, milk, fur, wool, skin and offspring, among other things. The exchange value of the animal does not depend on quality of life.

One explanation: commodification

“Positive” commodification

Animal owners or keepers
have incentives to maximise
the welfare of animals

Free range chickens



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Battery chickens

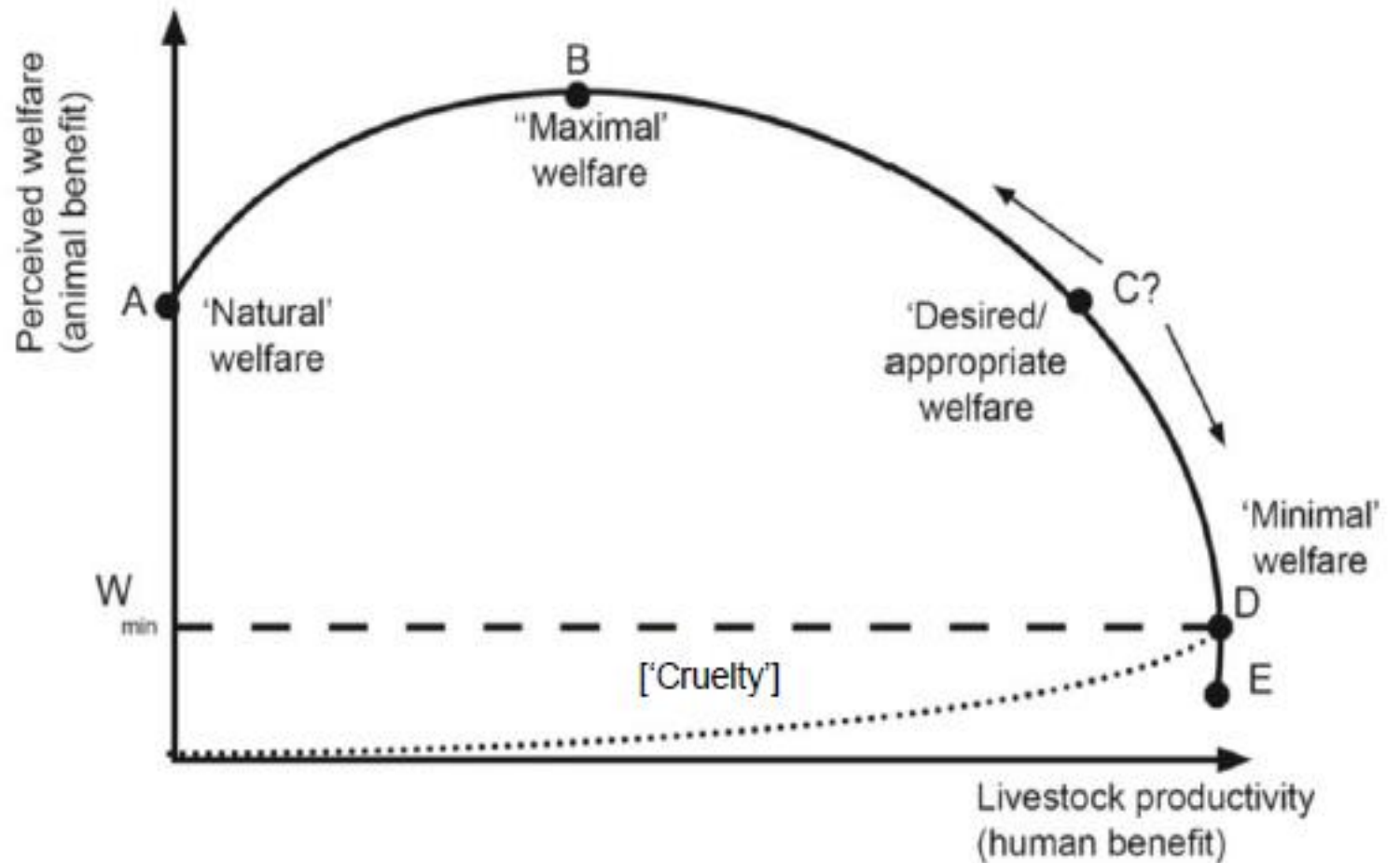


“Negative” commodification

Animal owners or keepers
have incentives to maximise
the productivity of animals

Animal welfare *versus* animal productivity?

- **A \Rightarrow B** = “win-win”: investment in animal welfare (veterinary services, feeding) improves their productivity
- **B \Rightarrow C** = acceptable balance between animal welfare and human benefits (livelihoods) derived from animals
- **C \Rightarrow D** = commercial exploitation of animals violates their “5 freedoms”: hunger and thirst; discomfort; pain, injury and disease; fear and distress; ability to express normal behaviour



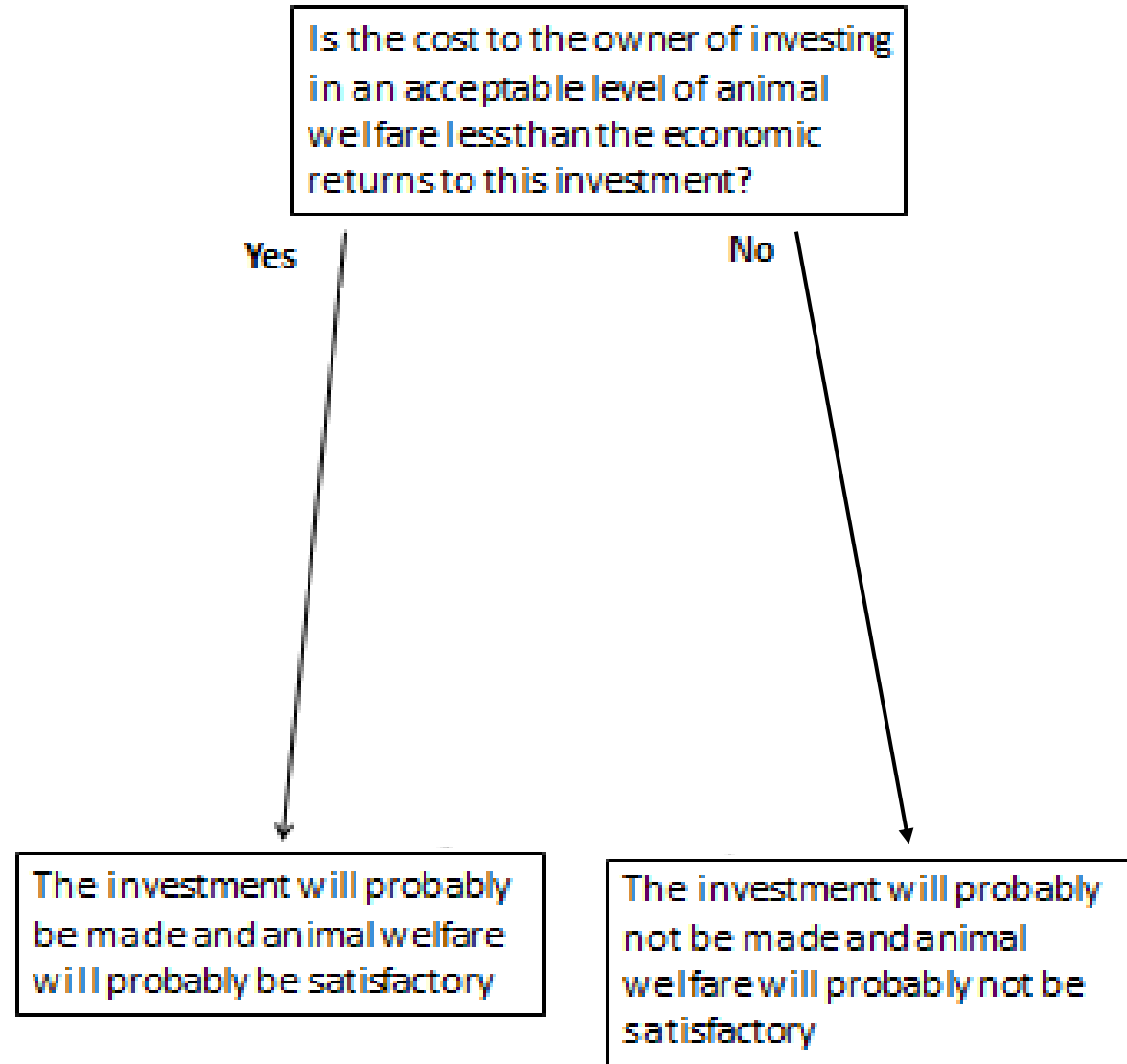
Economics of animal welfare

Is the cost to the owner of investing in an acceptable level of animal welfare less than the economic returns to this investment?

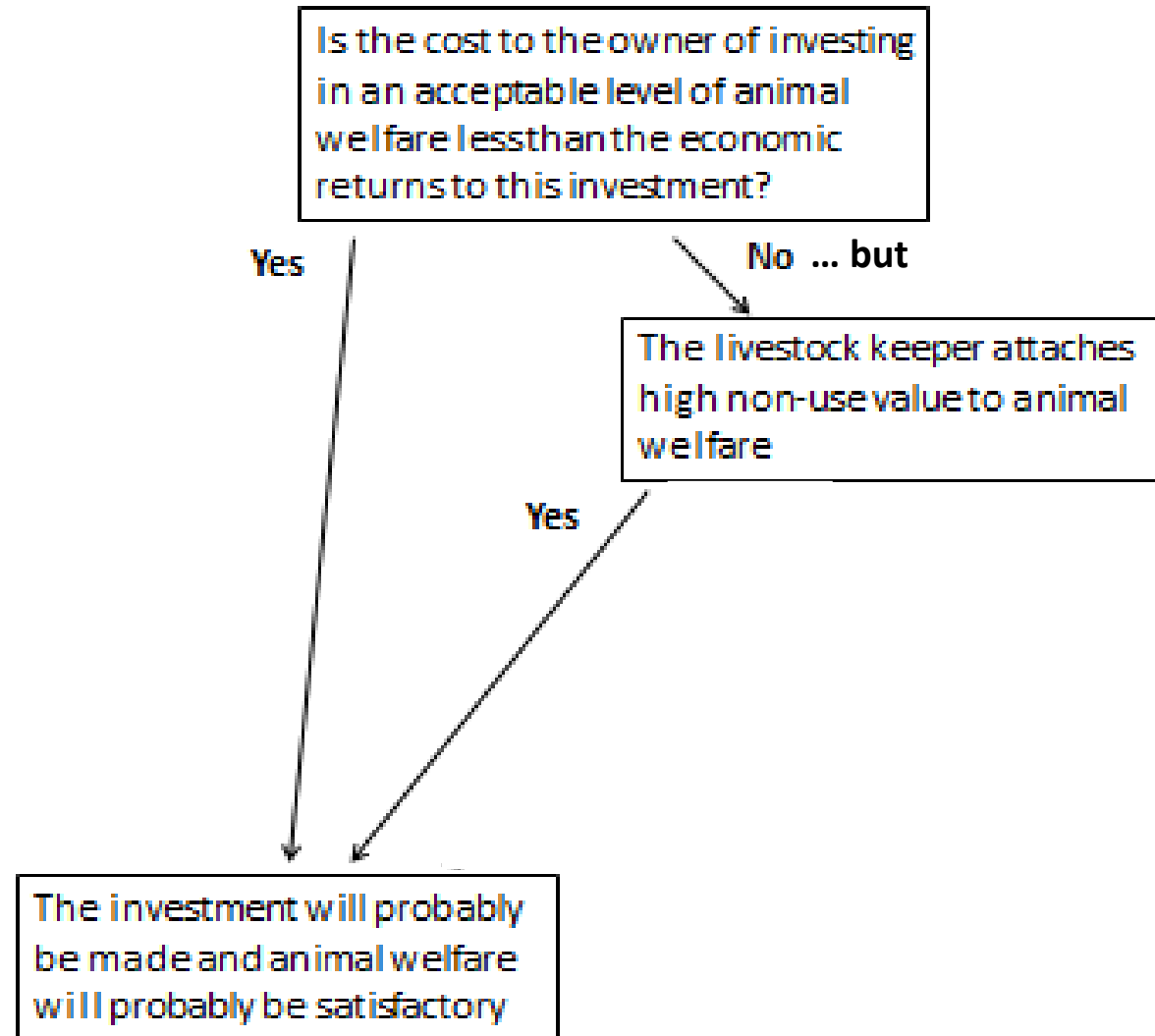
Yes

The investment will probably be made and animal welfare will probably be satisfactory

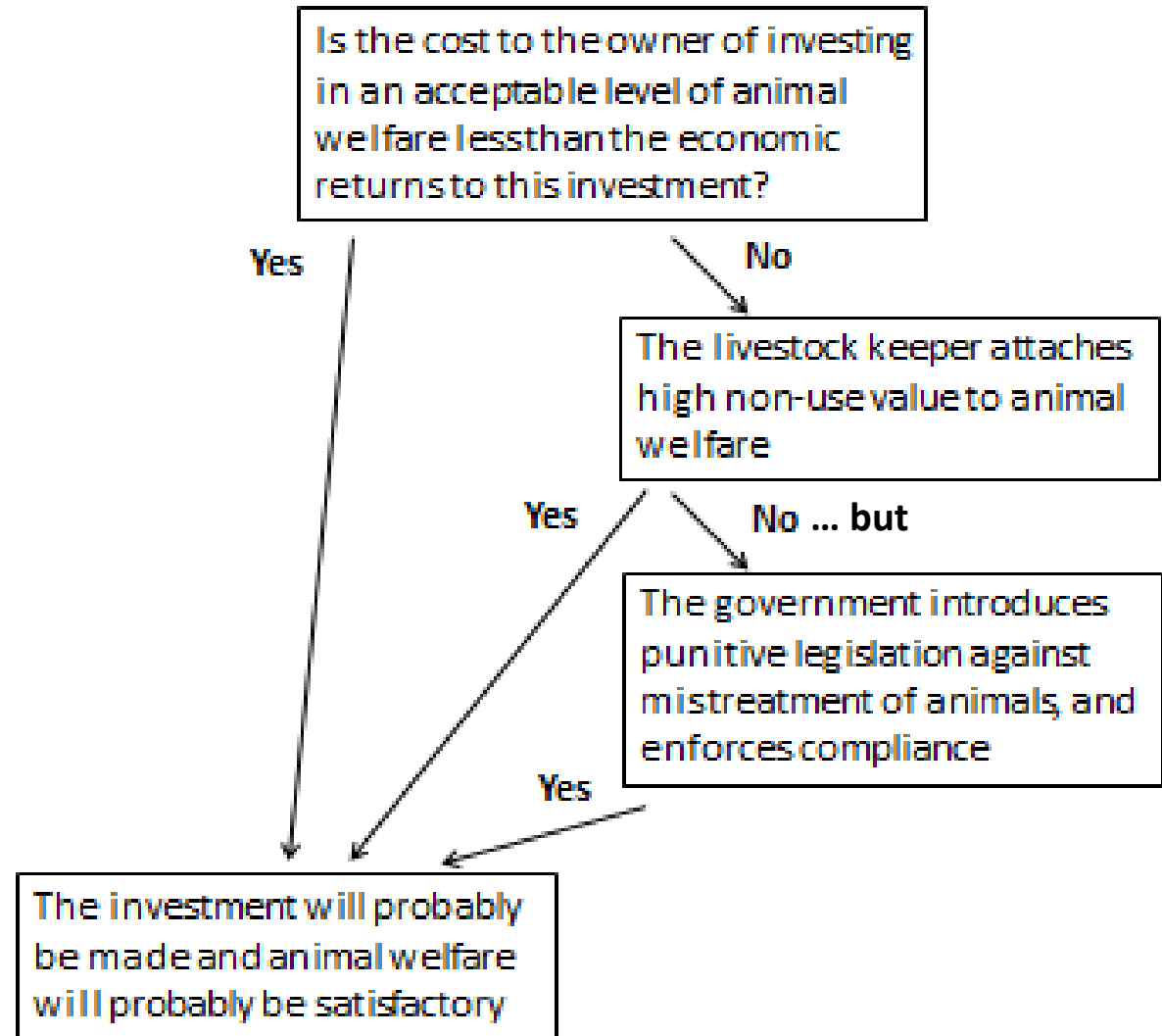
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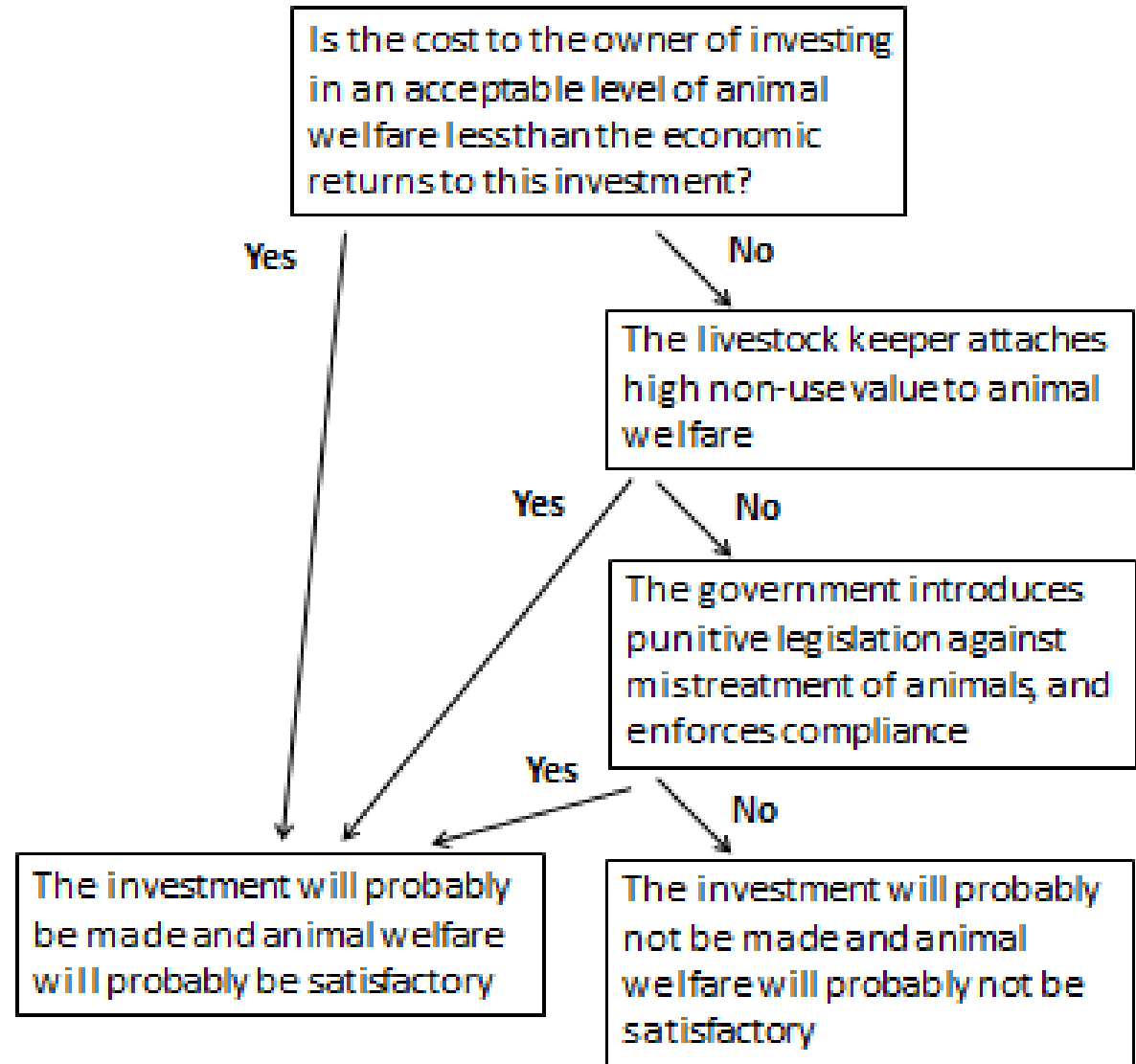
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Conclusion

Animals living in the care of humans are entitled to expect:

- ❖ Adequate food and water
 - ❖ Decent living conditions
 - ❖ Health care
 - ❖ Humane transport
 - ❖ Humane slaughter

Conclusion

Positive economic incentives can simultaneously improve animal welfare and human wellbeing:

- ❖ Higher prices for good quality livestock and livestock products (e.g. free range eggs)
- ❖ Bonus payments for adhering to socially agreed animal welfare standards

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Negative regulatory incentives can control the excessive exploitation of animals by humans:

- ❖ Legal sanctions against ill-treatment of animals (e.g. fines, no licence, prison)
- ❖ Animal welfare education, training, public awareness – underpinned by animal rights