



THE ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY BILL, 2026

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THE ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY BILL, 2026

A Bill for;

AN ACT of Parliament to provide for the identification and traceability of animals and animal products; to provide for animal identification, registration and traceability systems and facilitate surveillance, control and identification of animal diseases; and for connected purposes.

ENACTED by the Parliament of Kenya, as follows—

PART I—PRELIMINARY

Short title. **1.** This Act may be cited as the Animal Identification and Traceability Act, 2026.

Interpretation. **2.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“animal” includes mammals, birds, reptiles, aquatic animals, molluscs, insects or bees, except humans;

“animal holding” includes shelters, pounds, quarantine or other constructions or open-air farms where animals are held, kept or handled before transport, slaughter or any other purpose;

“animal identification” means a combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group with a unique group identifier;

“animal identification device” means a tool used to permanently or temporarily mark animals for individual or batch identification, tracking and management;

“animal owner” includes any person possessing jointly or severally any right, title or interest in any animal or having the charge, control or management of an animal;

“animal product” includes a material derived from the body of an animal or any part, portion or

product that has been processed or manufactured;

“animal registration” means the collection, recording and storage of information on animals including identification number, health, movement, and geographic location;

“animal traceability” means the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of life;

“animal tracking” means the ability to follow the movement of an animal at any given time;

“authorized person” means a person who has been granted access to the Animal Identification and Traceability System by the Director of Veterinary Services, Registrar or County Director;

“batch” means-

(a) a group of animals reared under the same management system with the same age and production groups and similar disease risk profiles; or

(b) a group of identical or similar products manufactured together under the same conditions, tracked as a single unit for production, quality control, and traceability purposes;

“Cabinet Secretary” means the Cabinet Secretary for the time being responsible for matters relating to animal identification and traceability;

“central database” means a centralized computerized system for collection, storage, retrieval, analysis and use of data that is managed by the Director of Veterinary Services;

“County Executive Committee Member” means a County Executive Committee Member responsible for matters relating to animal identification and traceability in a respective

county;

“complementary identification systems” means identification devices, systems and procedures for on farm productivity and health management used together with the adopted national animal identification system;

“County Director” means the County Director of Veterinary Services;

“Director” means the Director of Veterinary Services;

“inspector” means a person designated as an animal identification and traceability inspector under this Act;

“premises” includes facilities for moving or lairaging animals, used for the slaughter of animals to produce animal products and approved by the Veterinary Services or other competent authority;

“product traceability” means the ability to track and document a product’s history, location and movement throughout its supply chain from raw materials through manufacturing, distribution and final delivery to the consumers;

“quarantine station” means a place where animals are maintained in isolation with no direct or indirect contact with other animals, to prevent the transmission of specified pathogens while the animals are undergoing observation for a specified length of time and, if appropriate, testing and treatment;

“Registrar” means a person designated as the Registrar under this Act;

“regulatory body” means the Kenya Veterinary Board or a body regulating animal production professionals in Kenya;

“termination” means the update of an animal’s database record to indicate that it has

been removed from the active population through slaughter, death or other loss; and

“stages of life” means all the phases from birth to termination.

Object of the Act.

3. The object of this Act is to—

(a) provide for the identification and traceability of animals and animal products;

(b) facilitate surveillance, control and eradication of animal diseases;

(c) improve quality and safety for animals and animal products to safeguard public health;

(d) increase production and productivity;

(e) improve market access of animal and animal products;

(f) increase producer access to credit and animal insurance facilities using animals as collateral;

(g) curb animal theft and related insecurity;

(h) promote and support sustainable public and private investment in the livestock sector through a proper animal identification and traceability; and

(i) support breeding programs in animals and exchange of animal genetics.

Application of the Act

4. (1) This Act shall apply to the territory of the Republic of Kenya.

(2) Despite subsection (1) this Act shall apply to—

(a) all animals to which this Act applies;

(b) animal products of an animal born in Kenya or imported into Kenya; and

(c) any animal or animal product designated as such by the Cabinet Secretary, from time to time and published in the Gazette.

PART II— COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT

Role of the Cabinet Secretary.

5. The Cabinet Secretary shall have the following functions under this Act—

(a) mobilize resources;

(b) provide policy direction on matters related to animal identification and traceability;

(c) overseeing the administration of this Act;

(d) formulating the National Animal Identification and Traceability Strategy;

(e) collaborate with the Inspector General of the National Police Service to give effect to the objects of the Act; and

(f) coordinating the adherence to national, regional and international obligations relating to animal identification and traceability.

Role of the Director
of Veterinary
Services.

6. The Director shall—

- (a) be the competent authority;
- (b) coordinate animal identification and traceability;
- (c) build capacity of technical officers on animal identification and traceability matters;
- (d) undertake monitoring and evaluation of animal identification and traceability implementation in collaboration with county governments and relevant stakeholders;
- (e) be responsible for data collation, maintenance, analysis and information management, for purposes of this Act;
- (f) perform any other function as may be assigned by the Cabinet Secretary;

Role of County
Governments.

7. For purposes of animal identification and traceability, the county governments shall in line with Part II of the Fourth Schedule to the Constitution —

- (a) develop county policies on animal identification and traceability;
- (b) implement strategy on animal identification and traceability at the county;
- (c) mobilize resources for the implementation of the Act at the county;
- (d) build capacity of animal owners on animal

identification and traceability; and

- (e) oversee integration of the county systems into the National Animal Identification and Traceability System.

Role of a county
Director of
Veterinary Services.

- 8.** A county Director of Veterinary Services shall—
- (a) undertake identification and registration of animals;
 - (b) register animal holdings;
 - (c) coordinate application of identification devices on animals;
 - (d) collect and upload data to the central database;
 - (e) certify animals and animal products for trade;
 - (f) issue animal movement permits incorporating identification information;
 - (g) coordinate recovery of identification devices from slaughtered or dead animals;
 - (h) coordinate reporting of treatments, vaccinations, ownership changes, sales, movements, or deaths by animal keepers and service providers; and
 - (i) perform any other function necessary for the promotion of the objects of this Act.

PART III—ANIMAL REGISTRATION, IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEM

Establishment of
Animal Identification
and Traceability
System.

- 9.** (1) There is established an Animal Identification and Traceability System which shall support—
- (a) application of identification devices on animals individually or in batch;
 - (b) electronic transcription of identification codes using readers and use of transmission devices to upload information to the central database;
 - (c) registration of kept animal owners and premises; and

(d) maintenance of county registers by county Director of veterinary services.

(2) There shall be in the system a central database for management of the Animal Identification and Traceability System.

(3) The Cabinet Secretary may prescribe regulations to give effect to this section.

System capabilities.

10. (1) The Director shall ensure the confidentiality, availability and integrity of the System.

(2) The System shall be designated as a critical information infrastructure and be accorded all the necessary safeguards to ensure protection from internal and external threats.

(3) The Cabinet Secretary may prescribe regulations to give effect to this section including capacity building initiatives.

Identification devices and identification of animals.

11. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may from time to time by notice published in the Gazette—

(a) declare animals to be identified and registered; and

(b) declare devices to be used in animal identification.

(2) The Cabinet Secretary may prescribe guidelines for animal identification devices for use in the country.

Purpose of animal traceability.

12. (1) The purpose of animal traceability includes—

(a) disease control, surveillance and management;

(b) food safety and product traceability along food value chains;

(c) animal and animal product certification for international trade;

(d) animal identification and tracking

management;

(e) data and information necessary for financial credit and insurance; and

(f) input to national policy development and planning programmes and interventions

Attainment of
animal traceability.

13. (1) Animal traceability shall be attained through linkage to the following—

(a) animal premises name and location captured in the animal identification and traceability database;

(b) animal movement records throughout production value chain captured in the animal identification and traceability database; and

(c) transportation, trade or transfer and termination records.

(2) Animal product traceability shall be attained through the use of a combination of records, including—

(a) animal identification and movement records from the animal identification and traceability database;

(b) animal premises name and location record from the animal identification and traceability database;

(c) veterinary health and management records from the animal identification and traceability database;

(d) veterinary product movement certification records prescribed in the regulations;

(e) product supply chain information;

(f) supplier declarations;

(g) health and identification marking or labeling;
and

(h) a reference identifying the lot, batch or consignment, as appropriate.

(3) Product business operators shall ensure that the information concerning consignments of animal products is made available to the product business operator to whom the product is supplied and, upon request, to the competent authority without undue delay.

(4) The information requested shall be clearly and unequivocally available to and retrievable by the business operator to whom the product is supplied.

(5) The information under this regulation shall be updated on a daily basis and kept at least available until it can be reasonably assumed that the product has been consumed.

Registrar of Animal
Identification and
Traceability.

14. (1) The Director shall designate an officer within the Directorate to be the Registrar of Animal Identification and Traceability.

(2) A person designated under sub section (1) shall be an animal health professional in the rank of senior management and served for at least ten years in veterinary service.

(3) The Director may assign other officers as may be necessary to support the Registrar in the discharge of the Registrar's function under this Act.

(4) Upon designation, the Director shall within fourteen days forward the name of the officer designated under subsection (1), to the Cabinet Secretary for publication in the Gazette.

Functions of the Registrar.

15. The Registrar shall—

- (a) coordinate the implementation of the Animal Identification and Traceability System;
- (b) be the custodian of the Animal Identification and Traceability System central database;
- (c) authorize coding and printing of Animal Identification and Traceability System devices;
- (d) advise the Director of Veterinary Services on specifications for animal identification and tracking devices; and
- (e) perform any other function as may be assigned for the successful implementation of the Animal Identification and Traceability System.

Power of the Registrar

16. The Registrar shall have all the powers necessary to discharge their functions under the Act.

Vacancy.

17. (1) A person shall cease to be a Registrar where the person—

- (a) dies;
- (b) resigns;
- (c) retires from the service; or
- (d) is removed from office on any other lawful reason prescribed under this Act.

(2) A vacancy in the office of the Registrar shall be filled in accordance with section 14.

Designation of inspectors.

18. (1) The Director of Veterinary Services shall designate national inspectors for purposes of fulfilling the objectives of this Act.

(2) The County Directors of Veterinary Services shall designate county inspectors for appointment and gazettelement by the County

Executive Committee Members.

(3) The Inspectors shall—

(a) verify that animal keepers and producers, processors and manufacturers of animal products comply with the requirements of the Act;

(b) prepare inspection report and submit to the Director and County Director, as the case may be; and

(c) perform any other Animal Identification and Traceability System functions.

Qualifications of
animal identification
and traceability
inspector

19. A person shall qualify for appointment as an inspector if the person—

(a) is an employee of the national or county government;

(b) is a registered veterinary surgeon, veterinary paraprofessional, animal production professionals; and

(c) has at least five years' experience, in senior management.

Powers of
Inspectors

20. Inspectors shall have power to—

(a) enter any farm holding, premises, establishment or place to verify compliance with the Act;

(b) access animal identification, registration and traceability registers kept by animal owners and use the information therein to update the central database;

(c) cause registration of animals, animal owners, premises, establishments, where such registration has not been done; and

(d) supervise the application or use of premises,

establishment or farm holding identification codes or animal identification numbers and devices.

PART IV— REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

Identification of animals.

21. (1) Every animal owner shall in the manner prescribed, ensure that his or her animals are identified.

(2) Owners of animal or animal products may use complementary identification systems and devices so long as the complementary system or device shall not replace or compromise the adopted animal identification system or device.

(3) The Cabinet Secretary shall, in consultation with the County Executive Committee Member determine and gazette an appropriate color coding of identification devices for animals in particular counties, zones or compartments.

(4) Animal owners shall bear the cost of identification devices and their application as prescribed.

(5) The Cabinet Secretary may make regulations to give effect to this section.

Application of animal identification devices.

22. (1) The animal owner shall cause the identification device to be applied on his or her animals by a registered veterinary surgeon or registered veterinary paraprofessional.

(2) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1), the animal owner, if suitably proficient, may apply the animal identification devices to his animals only, provided that the County Director of Veterinary Services shall verify, within thirty days, that the animal identification devices were correctly applied.

(3) Where animal identification device is

retrieved, the device shall be surrendered to the county director.

Suppliers of
identification and
tracking devices.

23. Suppliers of identification and tracking devices shall supply identification and tracking devices to the Directorate of Veterinary Services as prescribed.

Identification of
animals from
outside the country

24. (1) The Officer in charge of the border posts will verify that imported animals have all required documentation for importation.

(2) The County Director of Veterinary Services shall tag and register animals imported from out of the country upon entry in the central database together with the unique identification code of the means of identification from the country of origin where animals are so identified.

(3) The means of identification of animals referred to in subsection (1), shall be applied within thirty days of an animal's entry into the country.

Loss, removal,
modification,
replacement or
defacing of an
identification device.

25.(1) Loss of a coded identification device already recorded in the central database shall be reported to the CDVS or the police and within the shortest time possible and, in any case, not later than seventy-two hours from the day of such loss.

(2) No identification device may be removed, modified or replaced within the lifetime of an animal to which it is applied.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2) an identification device that is lost and reported to the police, may be replaced, within fourteen days, with authorization by the County Director or Director of Veterinary Services upon production of a police abstract provided that the replacement shall bear the same code.

(4) The identification device shall be replaced at the cost of the owner of the animal.

(5) No person shall intentionally deface an animal identification device.

(6) The mutilation or cutting off of organ with the identifier to remove an identification device shall be an offence.

(7) Any person who contravenes the subsections (5) and (6) commits an offence and shall upon conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine not exceeding Kenya Shillings five hundred thousand, or to both.

Retrieval of
identification
devices at slaughter
or death of animals

26. (1) It shall be the responsibility of an Inspector or officer in charge of that facility to retrieve identification devices from slaughtered animals at slaughterhouses.

(2) It shall be the responsibility of the owner of an animal to report the death of his or her animal to the County Director of Veterinary Services, Inspector, animal health service provider or other relevant government body.

(3) The retrieved devices shall be submitted to the County Director.

(4) Retrieved identification devices shall not be re-used on any animals.

(5) The County Director shall submit a monthly report of all identification numbers of retrieved identification devices to the Director of Veterinary Services.

(6) The Director of Veterinary Services shall cause animals whose identification devices are retrieved to be terminated in the central

database.

(7) Identification numbers of retrieved and terminated devices shall be retained in the database for a minimum period as provided in written law.

Animal owners to keep register.

27.(1) Each animal owner shall supply to an inspector upon request, all information concerning the origin, identification and, where appropriate, destination of animals, which he has owned, kept, transported, marketed or slaughtered.

(2) Animal owners shall register and update the information of their animals in the database.

Transfer of ownership.

28.(1) The owner of an animal shall, within fourteen days of selling an animal, notify the County Director.

(2) Sold animals shall bear their original identification devices and identification codes.

(3) Any person who acquires an animal that already bears means of identification shall, within fourteen days of that acquisition, notify the County Director of the county where the animal is kept for update of records in the county register and central database.

(4) The notification under this section may be done electronically or manually.

(5) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Section shall be guilty of an offence and if convicted shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or a fine not exceeding Kenya Shillings ten thousand or both.

Animals presented to slaughterhouses

29. The Director of Veterinary Services and the County Director of Veterinary Services shall

to bear
identification
devices

put in place mechanisms to ensure that no animal is presented to a slaughterhouse or market without an identification device as prescribed.

County Director
to keep a register
of animals

30. (1) County Directors shall—

(a) keep an accurate, up-to-date and reliable register of animals within the county; and

(b) enter accurate and up-to-date information from the registers in their custody into the computerized central database.

(2) The Cabinet Secretary may make Regulations to give effect to this section.

PART V— MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Data protection.
Cap. 411C.

31. The processing of personal data under this Act shall be in compliance with the Data Protection Act.

Collaboration.

32. The Director may collaborate with other bodies locally and internationally to give effect to the provisions of the Act.

Reporting.

33. The County Director of Veterinary Services shall submit quarterly reports to the Director of Veterinary Services on technical matters relating to animal registration and identification.

Regulations.

34. (1) The Cabinet Secretary may, make regulations generally for giving effect to this Act, and for prescribing anything required or necessary to be prescribed by or under this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), regulations made under that subsection may provide for—

- (a) fees;
- (b) transfer or change of ownership;
- (c) application devices;
- (d) movement permit;
- (e) termination or retrieval of identification

devices

(f) registers;

(g) traceability and tracking of animals; and

(h) animal registration and identification.