

LIVING AND WORKING SAFELY WITH ANIMALS IN GHANA

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION FLIP CHART



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1. **SHOW** the picture
2. **ASK** how the picture is understood
3. **THANK** them for their ideas
4. **EXPLAIN** the key messages
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6. **ANSWER** any questions

How to Use this Community Discussion Flip Chart

- The purpose of this Community Discussion Flip Chart is to help you talk with community members about how to live and work safely with animals, individuals, families, and communities.
- Key messages on what to do, how to do it, and why we should do it are on the back of each picture.

To use this flip chart, follow the steps below for each page in the flip chart.

1. **SHOW** the picture to the people you are talking to.
2. **ASK** them what they see or understand by the picture.
3. **THANK** them for their ideas.
4. **EXPLAIN** the key messages and information on the back of the picture.
5. **CHECK** if the information was understood and clear up any misunderstanding.
6. **ANSWER** any questions.



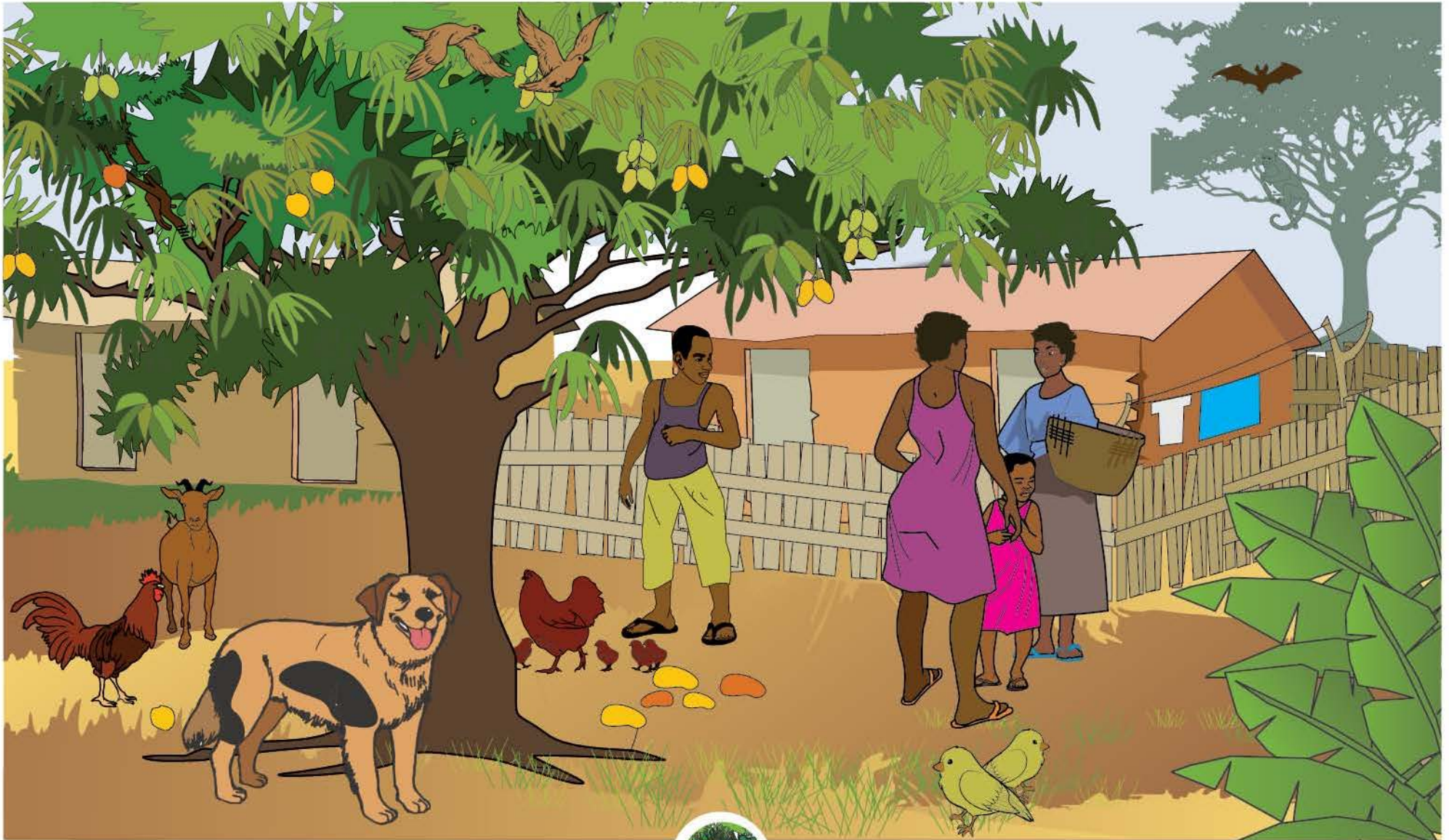
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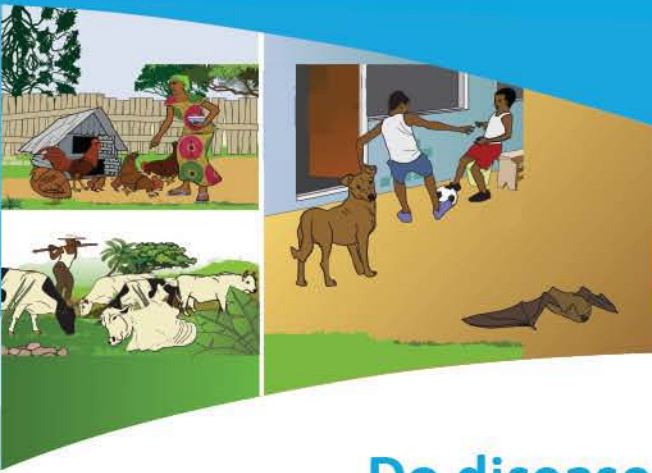
Why is it important to talk about living and working safely with animals?

It is important to talk about living and working safely with animals because the health of humans is connected to the health of animals and the environment they live in.

- Many animals help grow the fruits that we eat by spreading the seeds. Without these animals, the plants will not multiply and produce fruits.
- Some animals help the crops we grow stay healthy by eating the insects that damage the crops.
- Domesticated animals and wild animals are a source of food enjoyed by many.
- Cows, goats, chickens, pigs, and sheep are examples of animals that are important to our lives and an important way to make money.
- Animals that live around us can get sick just like people, so it is important to learn to live with them safely.

Why is it important to talk about living and working safely with animals?





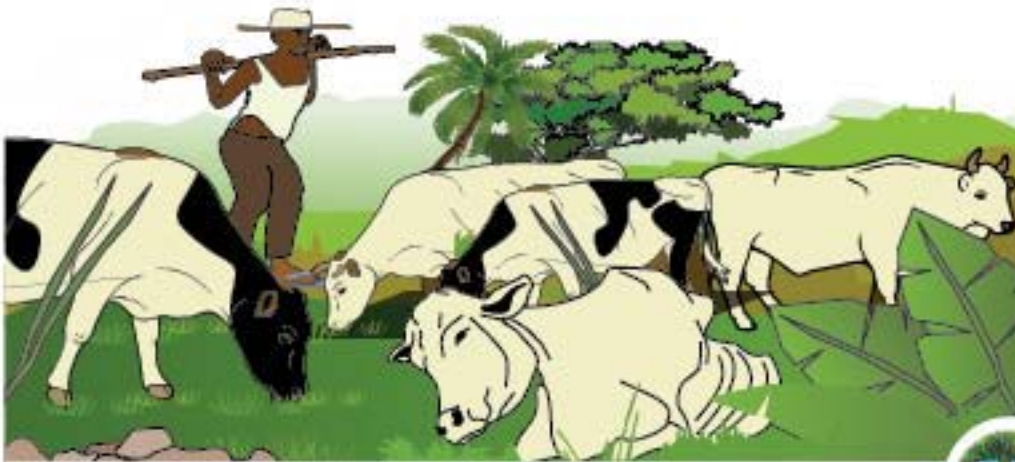
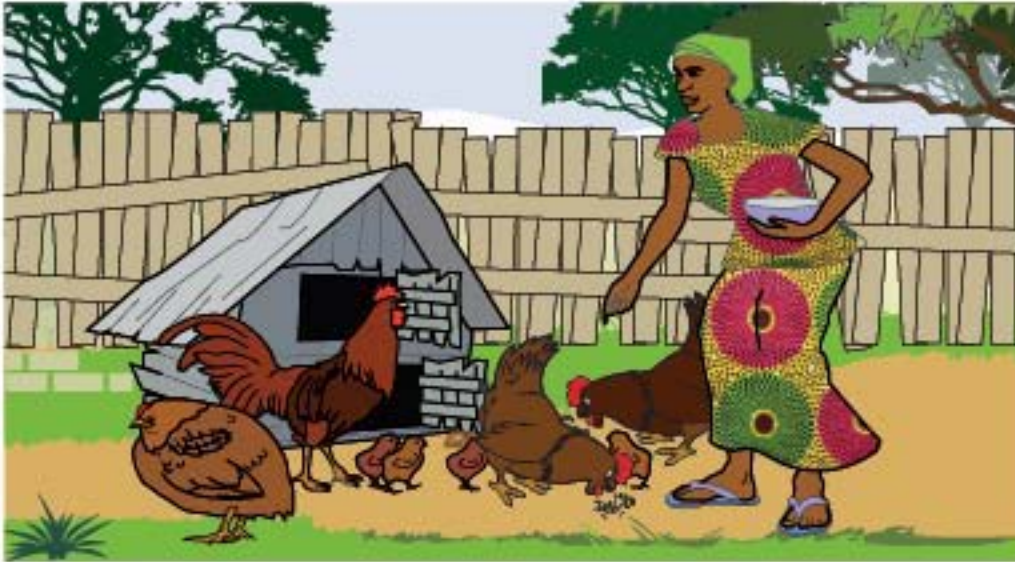
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Do diseases spread between animals and people?

Yes! Animals like bats, monkeys, dogs, cats, rats, chickens, and pigs can spread some diseases to other animals and to people.

- Some of the diseases that can be spread include Ebola, Lassa Fever, Rift Valley Fever, Marburg, Rabies, Anthrax, Zoonotic Tuberculosis, Trypanosomiasis and Influenza-like illness such as Bird Flu.
- Some of these diseases can cause death in animals and people.
- It is important we take care when working with and living near animals because we cannot always see the signs that they are sick.

Do diseases spread between animals and people?





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How can diseases spread from animals to people?

A disease can spread from an animal to a person through:

- getting a bite or scratch by the animal with the disease;
- eating the meat or consuming raw dairy products like milk, yoghurt, or cheese from a sick animal;
- touching a sick animal with a disease or its faeces or body fluids such as urine, blood, saliva or discharge from the nose;
- touching, eating, or drinking anything contaminated with the faeces or body fluids such as urine, blood, saliva or discharge from the nose of an infected animal; and
- breathing in germs from a sick animal through the air when working with them or when working with their skin or hides.

We cannot always see the signs and symptoms of diseases in animals and cannot know for sure which animals have a disease. That is why it is important to be careful with all animals.

How can diseases spread from animals to people?



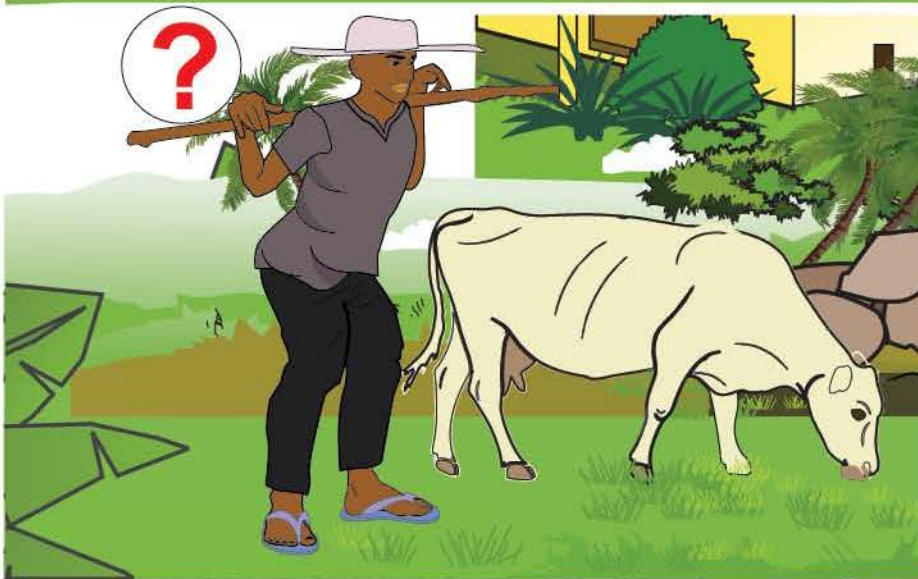


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How can we protect ourselves, our animals and our communities from the diseases spread by animals?

- There are 10 actions that help to protect your animals, your family, and your community.
- We are going to talk about each action to understand:
 - why they help to protect our animals, our families, and our communities, and
 - how we can perform these actions.

How can we protect ourselves, our animals and our communities from the diseases spread by animals?





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Protective Action 1: Always wash your hands.

- Always wash your hands immediately with soap under running water after touching any animal even if the animal is alive and looks healthy.
- It is very important to wash your hands:
 - before and after assisting animal birth.
 - before and after caring for a sick animal.
 - before and after cleaning or touching the areas where animals are kept.
 - before and after milking animals.
 - before and after feeding animals.
 - before and after slaughtering any animal.
 - before and after preparing food.
 - before and after eating.
 - before and after playing with an animal.
 - before and after preparing animal food.
 - after working with animals.
- You cannot always see the signs of a disease. Washing hands well with soap under running water after touching an animal can help stop diseases spreading between animals and people.

Protective Action 1





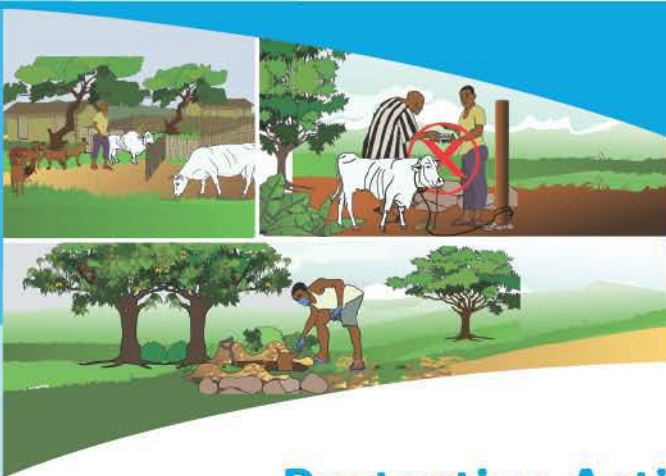
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What is the best way to wash our hands to stop the spread of diseases?

- Wet your hands with water.
- Use enough soap to cover all hand surfaces.
- Rub hands together and scrub the back of your hands.
- Scrub between fingers and under your finger nails.
- Rub your thumbs and wrists.
- Rinse hands well with clean running water.
- Dry your hands with a tissue, clean piece of cloth, or swing your hands to dry them in the air.

What is the best way to wash our hands to stop the spread of diseases?





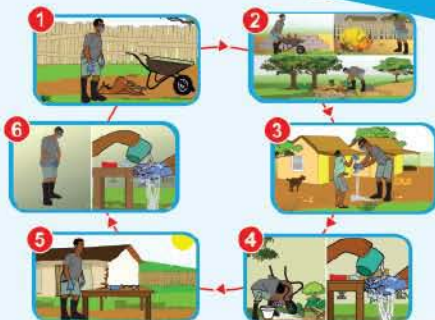
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Protective Action 2: Do not eat, sell or give away any animal that is dead or looks sick.

- Do not sell, eat, or give away milk or other animal products from sick animals or animals that have recently aborted.
- Sick animals and animals we find dead can pass their disease on to other people and animals when we touch them, eat them, or move them from place to place.
 - If you see an unusual number of sick or dead animals, this can be a sign that a disease is spreading.
- Immediately separate any sick or dead animal from your healthy animals to stop the spread of disease and inform a Veterinary Officer or Agriculture Extension Officer.
 - Informing a Veterinary Officer or Agriculture Extension Officer can help them to take action before the disease becomes a problem for people in the community and other animals in and around the community.
 - They can also advise you on any vaccines available to protect your animals such as dogs, cats, cattle, and poultry from getting diseases.

Protective Action 2





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Protective Action 3: Always cover your hands, body, face, and eyes before you touch a sick or dead animal.

- It is easy for diseases to spread when we touch the body, the faeces, or the body fluids of an infected animal and then touch our eyes, nose, mouth, food, another animal, or person.
- There are 6 key steps to handling and disposing of a sick or dead animal safely if you are unable to get help or guidance from a Veterinary Officer or Agriculture Extension Officer.
- We will talk about each one.

Protective Action 3





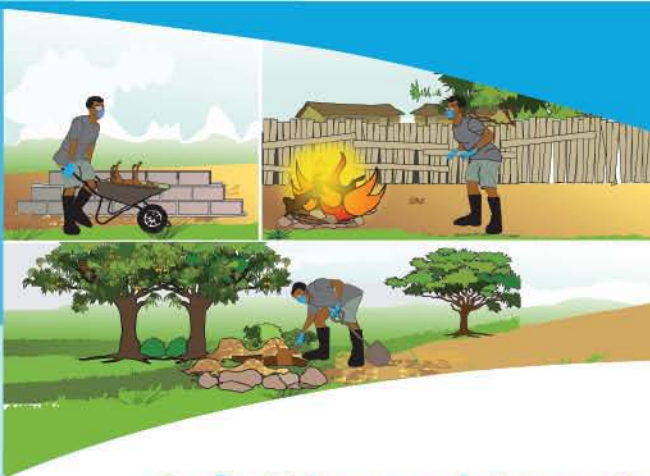
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Safe Disposal Step 1: Protect your hands, eyes, and mouth.

- Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands.
- If rubber gloves are not available, use a piece of cloth, a mat or some other item to cover the animal, to avoid touching it with your bare hands.
- Cover your eyes with glasses and your nose and mouth with a mask or cloth.

Safe Disposal Step 1





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Safe Disposal Step 2: Use tools to bury or burn the dead animal without touching it.

- Use a shovel, wheelbarrow, or other materials to move the dead animal to where you can:
 - burn it, or
 - bury it deeply in the soil.
- It is necessary to burn or deeply bury the dead animal in the soil far from where water is fetched and household activities take place.

Safe Disposal Step 2





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Safe Disposal Step 3: Wash your gloves while still on your hands.

- If gloves are used, wash them with soap and water while they are still on your hands.
- This is very important. Removing dirty gloves is one of the main ways disease can spread.
- We will wash the gloves after steps 4 and 5 before we finally take them off.

Safe Disposal Step 3





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Safe Disposal Step 4: With your gloves still on, wash your tools and hands with soap and water

- With your gloves still on, pour soapy water or disinfectant over the shovel, wheelbarrow and other tools used to move the dead animal and place the tools in the sun to dry.
- Then wash your hands and arms with the gloves still on them immediately with soap under running water.

Safe Disposal Step 4





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Safe Disposal Step 5: With the gloves still on your hands, remove and wash your glasses and mask.

- With the gloves still on your hands, remove the glasses and mask or cloth from your face.
- Wash them immediately with soap under running water and place them in the sun to dry and then immediately wash your hands and arms with the gloves still on them with soap and under running water.

Safe Disposal Step 5





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Safe Disposal Step 6: Remove the gloves from your hands for disposal and wash your hands with soap under running water.

- Remove the gloves from your hands carefully and dispose of them by burning or deeply burying them.
- Then wash your hands and arms immediately with soap under running water.

Safe Disposal Step 6





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Protective Action 4: Do not eat food or fruits that have been partly eaten by animals.

- To reduce the spread of diseases between animals people, do not eat food or fruits that have been partly eaten by an animal, such as a dog, bat, or monkey.
- Do not cut off the part that was bitten or eat any part of the bitten fruit or food.
- Do not give the partly eaten fruit or food to another animal to eat.
- Always wash all fruits and vegetables with water before cooking or eating.
- Diseases can pass from one animal to another or to people when we touch, eat, or drink something that has an animal's urine, faeces, blood, saliva, or discharge from the nose on it.

Protective Action 4



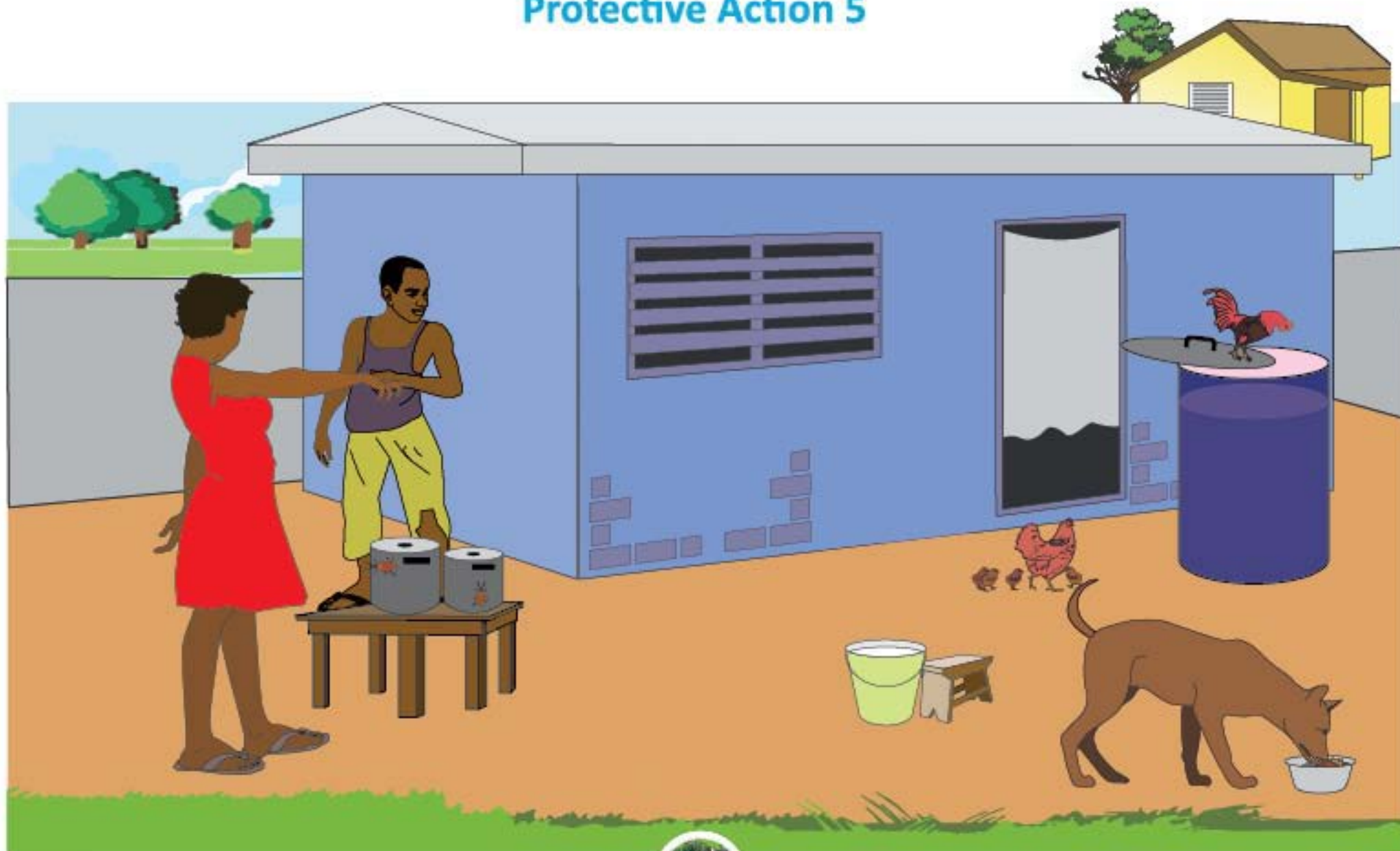


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Protective Action 5: Always cover food and water containers.

- Always cover food and water containers to make sure animals or their faeces or body fluids like blood, saliva, or discharge from the nose, flies, and dirt cannot enter.
- Keep your cooking area, food, cups, spoons, trays, and all cooking items clean and away from animals and their urine, faeces, saliva, and discharge from the nose.
- Animal urine, faeces, or saliva, flies, and dirt that enter your food, water, or containers of the food you eat or water you drink can make you sick.
- Keeping our food covered helps to stop mice, monkeys, and other animals from visiting us to eat our food and drink our water.

Protective Action 5





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Protective Action 6: Keep and slaughter animals in designated areas, outside of the house.

- To reduce the spread of diseases, it is best to keep and slaughter animals like chicken, goats, sheep, and pigs in designated areas, outside of the home.
- Keeping and slaughtering animals in designated areas outside of the house reduces the chances of you and your family coming in close contact with an infected animal's urine, faeces, blood, saliva, or discharge from the nose.
- Slaughtering animals in designated areas allows for detection of diseases by veterinary officers.

Protective Action 6





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Protective Action 7: Regularly sweep the house and wash all household items.

- Animals that come into your home may leave their faeces and body fluids such as urine, blood, saliva, or discharge from the nose in your home.
- Diseases can pass from animals to people when we touch, eat, or drink something that has the animal's faeces or body fluids such as urine, blood, saliva, or discharge from the nose on it.
- When sweeping your home after animals have been in the house, always make sure to:
 - Wet the floor with water before sweeping to stop dust from flying into the air.
 - Protect your hands with gloves or plastic bags.
 - Protect your eyes, nose, and mouth with a cloth face cover and glasses.
 - Protect your feet with slippers or shoes.
 - Wash your hands with soap under running water after sweeping.

Protective Action 7





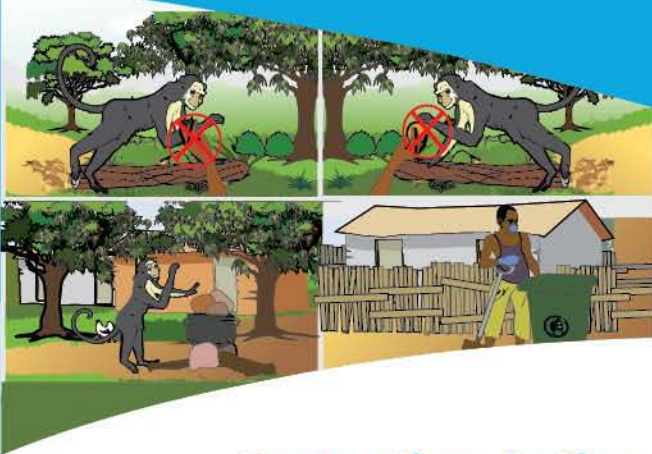
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Protective Action 8: Take extra care to live safely around bats

- Bats are important to keep the forests and crops growing well but they can carry serious diseases without showing any signs or symptoms of illness.
- We can live safely with bats by avoiding:
 - Killing them or driving them away from an area. This can stress them and make it more likely that they spread disease.
 - Hunting, butchering, and eating bats if possible. If we eat or handle bats, we may get sick.
 - Visiting caves where bats live, including using caves for shelter or cultural ceremonies.
 - Touching bats with our bare hands (see Protective Action 3).

Protective Action 8





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Protective Action 9: Take extra care to live safely around monkeys.

We can live safely with monkeys by:

- Avoiding touching, feeding or encouraging them to come close to us or our homes.
- Burying or tightly covering rubbish and spoilt food to prevent monkeys from getting access.
- Covering our food and water containers tightly so monkeys cannot access them.

These actions reduce the opportunity for direct interaction with the monkeys which could lead to a scratch, bite, or contact with its body fluids like blood, urine, faeces, saliva, or discharge from the nose.

When monkeys eat their natural foods instead of foods from our homes they spread seeds that help keep the forest growing strong. Eating their own natural forest food is better for their health and the health of the forests.

Protective Action 9





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Protective Action 10: Treat all animals bites seriously and seek immediate care.

- Immediately wash the part of your body that was bitten or scratched by an animal with soap under running water continuously for at least 15 minutes.
 - Washing a bite or scratch well with soap under running water can help stop diseases like rabies.
- After washing a bite or scratch very well, go to the nearest health centre or community health officer/nurse immediately for advice and treatment.
 - To stop rabies, you must get treatment immediately. Once a person starts to show signs and symptoms, they will not survive.
 - Any animal that has bitten someone or another animal should be examined by a Veterinary Officer and kept away from other animals and people for 10 days while it is observed for the signs and symptoms of rabies.
- If a person gets sick or dies after contact with a sick or a dead animal, inform your nearest health facility or Community Health Officer/Nurse.
 - Reporting any disease or death after contact with an animal can help to identify the cause of the disease or death and save the lives of others in Ghana.

Protective Action 10





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What Action Will You Take?

- What are the common or simple things we must do to keep our animals always healthy?
- What will you pledge to do as a father, mother, child and/or community member to protect your family from diseases spread through animals that share your house or environment?

Our house pledges to take action to live and work safely with animals.



Acknowledgement

This Living and Working Safely with Animals in Ghana Discussion Flip Chart was developed with the active participation of partners working on risk communication, social mobilization, and One Health in Ghana in line with the prevention priorities of the national Risk Communication and Social Mobilization Technical Working Group.

The USAID/Breakthrough ACTION team highly commends the cooperation and support provided by the Risk Communication and Social Mobilization Technical Working Group members and Ghana Global Security Agenda Partners especially the Health Promotion Division of the Ghana Health Service, the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission and Veterinary Services Directorate of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, in the organization of the key messages contained in this Flip Chart. The participation of these institutions in the pretesting of this tool which was carried out to ensure accuracy and acceptance of this material as a worthy community engagement and education tool is also highly recognized.

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