



Animal Welfare, Breed Conservation and Disaster Management

INTRODUCTION

In this unit, the animal health worker will learn about various forms of cruelty to animals and poultry birds. This will help them to identify and report the same to the appropriate authority. This unit also discusses the importance of rearing pure-bred indigenous animals and government projects related to their promotion. Animals are worst sufferers during a disaster. Therefore, the topic of preparedness for saving animals during a disaster is also discussed.



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SESSION 1: PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

Cruelty to animals means willfully causing them unnecessary pain or suffering.

The following are the major forms of cruelty to animals (Fig. 3.1)—

1. Beating, kicking, over-driving, over-loading, torturing the animal, etc.
2. Employing any animal for a work that the animal is unfit to perform.

3. Unreasonable administration of any injurious substance to artificially boost the performance of an animal.
4. Transporting animals in a manner that causes them pain or suffering.
5. Keeping animals in close confinement and overcrowded conditions.
6. Starving or keeping the animal thirsty.
7. Using animals for public entertainment.



Transportation of cattle in an overcrowded vehicle



Loading of animals in an inhuman manner



Carrying cattle in an inhuman manner



Beating of animals



Carrying poultry in unethical, stressful and painful conditions



An overloaded bullock cart

Fig. 3.1: Various forms of cruelty to animals



Fig. 3.2: Notched ear indicating that the dog has been emasculated under the birth control programme

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was enacted in 1960 to prevent the imposition of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals. After the enactment of this Act, the Animal Welfare Board of India was formed and is headquartered in Chennai.

The 1960 Act is comprehensive. Various rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 have been framed from time-to-time on various aspects, such as—

- (a) Birth control in dogs (Fig. 3.2)
- (b) Control and supervision of experiments on animals
- (c) Prevention of cruelty to animals in slaughterhouses
- (d) Welfare of draught and pack animals
- (e) Prevention of cruelty during transportation of animals

Practical Exercise

1. Note down instances of cruelty being inflicted on animals in your area.
2. Note down instances of cruelty in a nearby slaughterhouse.

Check Your Progress

A. Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following conditions is considered cruelty to animals?
 - (a) Beating the animals
 - (b) Using animals for public entertainment
 - (c) Overloading of the animals
 - (d) All of the above
2. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was enacted in the year _____.
 - (a) 1960
 - (b) 1966
 - (c) 1972
 - (d) 1985
3. Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act includes _____.
 - (a) birth control in dogs
 - (b) control and supervision of experiments on animals
 - (c) prevention of cruelty during transportation of animals
 - (d) All of the above

4. Prevention of cruelty to animals in a slaughterhouse comes under the
 - (a) Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act
 - (b) Population Control Act
 - (c) Human Rights Act
 - (d) All of the above
5. Animal Welfare Board of India was formed primarily for the
 - (a) treatment of animals
 - (b) animal welfare
 - (c) formulation of the act
 - (d) all of the above

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. Willfully causing unnecessary pain or suffering to the animal is called _____.
2. Unreasonable administration of any injurious substance to artificially boost the _____ of an animal is called cruelty.
3. Birth control in dogs comes under the _____ Act.
4. Notched ear indicates that the dog is emasculated under _____.
5. The headquarters of the Animal Welfare Board of India is in _____.

C. Mark True or False

1. Starving or keeping the animal thirsty does not come under cruelty.
2. Before the enactment of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Animal Welfare Board of India was formed.
3. Supervision of experimental animals comes under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
4. Using animals for public entertainment is not considered as cruelty to animals.
5. An unfit animal can be employed for work.

SESSION 2: FARMING INDIGENOUS BREEDS OF LIVESTOCK

Livestock in a particular area have evolved over hundreds of years through selection and have carried with them various traits of economic and environmental importance of that area. These animals have adapted to the peculiar

climatic conditions and natural habitat of that region and are, therefore, termed as indigenous (native) animals.

Currently, there is a huge demand for animal products. To meet the needs of the growing human population, exotic breeds of cattle such as Jersey and Holstein Freisian have been extensively used in cross-breeding programmes to increase milk productivity in a very short span of time. In cross breeding of cattle, we produce an animal by mating two different breeds of cattle. As an example, if we use indigenous cattle breed cows and exotic bull such as Jersey, we carry out a cross breeding of cattle. Exotic breeds are high-producing but they are basically adapted to completely different climatic conditions.

Climate change and temperature rise are of great concern in the animal husbandry sector. Thus, cross-bred animals may become vulnerable to environmental changes, adverse nutritional conditions, diseases and parasites. On the other hand, indigenous livestock species have unique characteristics that enable them to survive and perform in unfavourable conditions as compared to the exotic breeds. Fig. 3.3 describes some important traits of indigenous animals while Fig. 3.4 describes some important indigenous breeds of livestock and poultry.

In India, the population size of some indigenous breeds is declining rapidly due to preference towards cross-bred animals and mixing of indigenous breeds.

The farmers also believe that indigenous animals with a slow growth rate, are low milk producers, etc., and are therefore not economically viable. The Government of India, state governments, and other organisations are taking initiatives to strengthen and promote the rearing of indigenous breeds.

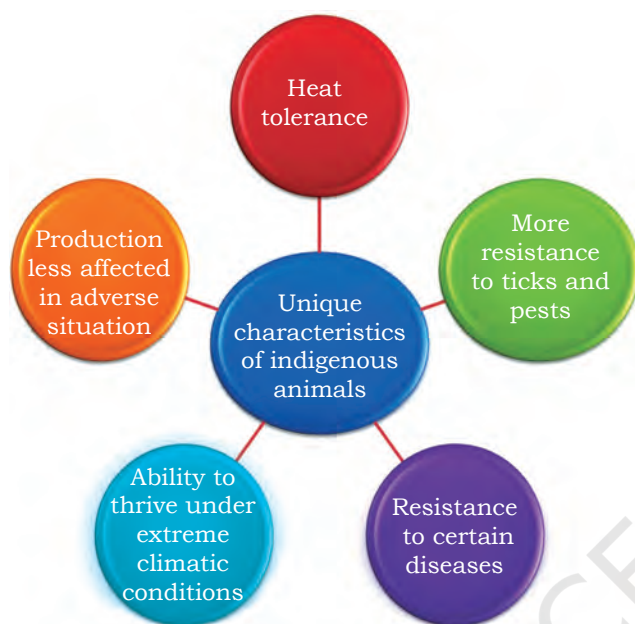


Fig. 3.3: Important traits of indigenous animals



Sahiwal cow (Punjab)



Gir cow (Gujarat)



Murrah buffalo (Haryana)



Sirohi goat (Rajasthan)



Kadaknath poultry bird (Madhya Pradesh)



Ghungroo pig (West Bengal)

Fig. 3.4: Some important indigenous breeds of livestock and poultry

NOTES

Some of the important central government projects in this area are listed below:

- Central Herd Registration Scheme (CHRS)
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)
- National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding (NPCBB)
- National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre (NKBC)
- National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBDD)

Practical Exercise

1. Note down indigenous cattle breeds found in India along with their place of origin.

Check Your Progress

A. Multiple Choice Questions

1. The great concern in the animal husbandry sector is
 - (a) climate change and temperature.
 - (b) adverse nutritional conditions.
 - (c) disease and parasites.
 - (d) All of the above.
2. RGM stands for
 - (a) Rashtriya Gokul Mission.
 - (b) Regional Gokul Mission.
 - (c) Religious Gokul Mission.
 - (d) All of the above.
3. Characteristics of indigenous animals are
 - (a) ability to thrive under extreme climatic conditions.
 - (b) can produce even with irregular feed and water supply.
 - (c) heat tolerance.
 - (d) All of the above.
4. CHRS stands for
 - (a) Central Herd Registration Scheme.
 - (b) Cattle Herd Resistant Stock.
 - (c) Cattle Herd Research Scheme.
 - (d) All of the above.
5. NKBC stands for
 - (a) National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre.
 - (b) National Kangayam Breed Centre.
 - (c) National Kaveri Breed Conservation.
 - (d) All of the above.

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. Cross-bred is developed from the cross between indigenous breed and _____ breed.
2. Gir cattle breed is found in _____ state.
3. Ghungroo pig breed is found in _____ state.
4. Sirohi goat breed is found in _____ state.
5. Kadaknath poultry breed is found in _____ state.

C. Mark True or False

1. Indigenous animals are tick and pest resistant.
2. In India, the population size of most of the indigenous breeds is declining rapidly.
3. Indigenous breed animals are low milk producers in comparison to exotic breeds.
4. Presently, the Government of India is emphasising on strengthening and promoting exotic breeds.
5. Indian cattle have not been used in cross-breeding programmes to increase milk production.

SESSION 3: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FOR SAFETY OF ANIMALS

A disaster can be either natural or man-made. Fig. 3.5 describes various types of disasters.

Disasters affect the environment and lead to financial, environmental, animal and human losses. Since emergencies appear suddenly some management strategies should be formulated to mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from the after effects. Animals are the worst affected by a disaster due to the following reasons—

- Spoilage of feed and the water supply.
- Transmission of diseases from animals to humans and vice versa (zoonoses).
- Bites of Snakes, insects, etc.
- Significant impact on public mental health due to the emotional attachment of the owners with the animals.

Natural disasters

- Flood
- Tornado
- Volcano eruption
- Earthquake or landslide

Man-made disasters

- Riots
- Accidents (train, air, ship)
- Industrial accidents
- Fires (forest fires)
- Bomb explosions
- Nuclear attack

Fig. 3.5: Types of disasters

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- Reduced animal productivity due to the scarcity of feed and water.
- High mortality of livestock.
- Damage to both domestic and wild animal species due to lack of feed and water and the diseases that spread during and after a disaster.

Preparedness is a kind of arrangement that ensures all the resources and services needed to cope with the effects of a disaster can be rapidly mobilised and deployed at the time of the disaster.

Preparedness means a clear and complete plan of action for an emergency which indicates what to do before it happens. Depending upon the severity and vulnerability of the disaster, suitable preparatory measures can be taken. In some cases, such as a flood or hurricane, an early warning gives several hours to act for its preparedness. However, usually no prior warning of an emergency, such as earthquakes, tornadoes, explosions or major fires is possible. Any emergency requires a detailed and comprehensive plan for preparedness.

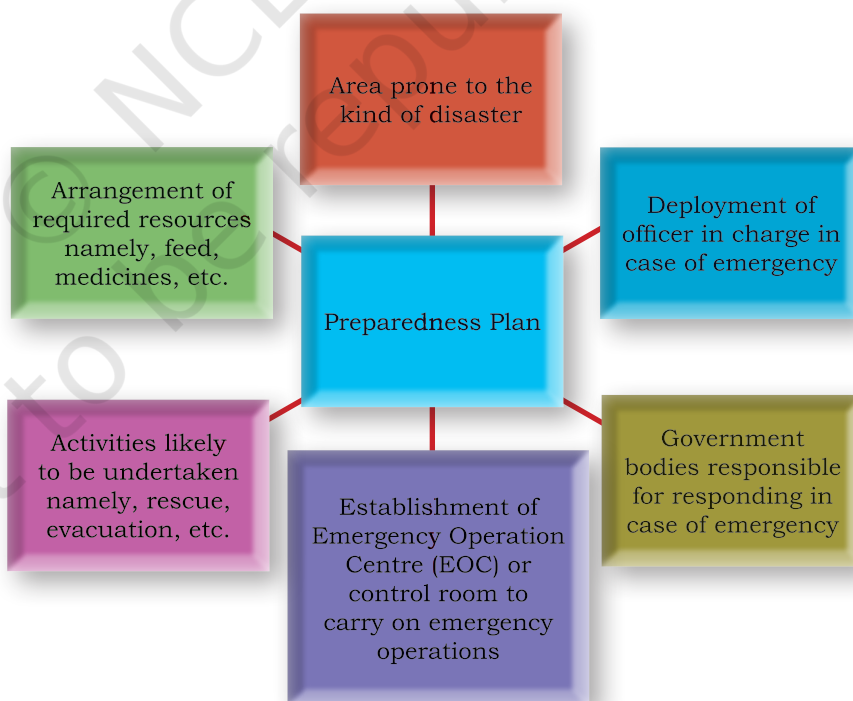


Fig. 3.6: Preparedness plan for an emergency

Preparedness plan provides a systematic way of responding to an emergency situation. The following aspects (Fig. 3.6) should get due consideration in the preparedness plan for an emergency.

Besides considering the above aspects, the following important points should be kept in mind during disaster preparedness.

Keep an emergency kit ready

The emergency kit should have

1. Handling equipment (for example, halters, nose leads, etc.)
2. Rope – 50 feet or more
3. Water, feed and buckets
4. Tools and supplies needed for sanitation
5. Flashlights
6. Basic first-aid kit
7. Animal identification kit
8. Safety and emergency items for the handlers
9. Emergency telephone number list, including workers, employees, veterinarian, local animal shelter, agency for extension service, etc.

Storage of feed and fodder for livestock

A sizeable quantity of feed and fodder is stored well in advance in suitable places. A fodder bank can be established in disaster-prone areas to supply fodder during scarcity. The fodder bank is a store of conserved fodder (hay or silage), which is purposefully stored for use in unpredictable events.

Arrangement of an emergency animal shelter

An emergency animal shelter should be arranged in advance especially in disaster-prone areas.

Practical Exercise

1. Visit any district head office of the Animal Husbandry Department and note down the detailed disaster preparedness programme.

NOTES

Check Your Progress

A. Multiple Choice Questions

1. Disaster affects the environment and leads to
(a) financial loss (b) environmental loss
(c) animal and human loss (d) all of the above
2. An example of a natural disaster
(a) flood and tornado (b) volcano eruption
(c) earthquake and landslide (d) all of the above
3. An example of a man-made disaster is
(a) riots and accidents (train, air, ship)
(b) industrial accidents and fires
(c) bomb explosions and nuclear attack
(d) all of these
4. Preparedness plan for an emergency includes
(a) arrangement of required resources namely, feed, medicines, etc.
(b) activities likely to be undertaken namely, rescue, evacuation, etc.
(c) government bodies responsible for responding in case of an emergency
(d) all of the above
5. EOC stands for
(a) Emergency Operation Centre
(b) Environment Operation Centre
(c) Ecological Operation Centre
(d) All of the above

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. In a fodder bank _____ is stored.
2. The disaster affects the _____.
3. A disaster can be either _____.
4. _____ means a clear and complete plan of action for an emergency, which indicates what to do before the event.
5. In some cases, such as a _____ an early warning gives several hours to act for its preparedness.

C. Mark True or False

1. Disaster does not affect the environment.
2. Preparedness means a complete plan of action for an emergency well in advance.
3. First aid kit is a part of an emergency kit.
4. Forest fire is considered as a natural disaster.
5. Arrangement of an emergency animal shelter is a part of disaster preparedness plan.