

Unit

6



Animal Welfare Legislations

In this Unit, students shall learn about various forms of cruelty inflicted upon farm animals. This will help them identify instances of animal cruelty and report those to the authorities concerned. Animals are the worst sufferers during a natural disaster. Therefore, emphasis is laid on preparedness for disaster management to save their lives.

Animal welfare must take into consideration the health and well-being of animals. The signs of health in animals have been discussed in this Unit.

Signs of a healthy animal

The alertness of a farm animal indicates its health and that it is being taken care of. If the animal is healthy, it is active, holds its head up and keenly watches its surroundings (Fig. 6.1 and 6.3). A healthy animal stands on all four feet and does not limp. If an animal stays away from other animals in a herd, it signifies that it is unwell and needs attention. A sick animal (Fig. 6.2 and 6.4) is not interested in its surroundings and does not want to move.



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Table 6.1: Difference between a healthy and sick animal

Healthy animal	Sick animal
Alert	Lethargic
Chews cud	Does not chew cud
Sleek coat	Rough coat
Bright eyes with pink eye membrane	Dull eyes
Normal faeces and urine	Abnormal faeces and discoloured urine
Normal temperature	High temperature
Steady gait; does not limp	Limps
Normal respiration	Laboured breathing
Stays in a herd or flock	Isolates self from herd or flock
Eats and drinks normally	Loss of appetite
Normal pulse rate	Abnormal pulse rate



Fig. 6.1: A healthy Sahiwal cow



Fig. 6.2: A sick Sahiwal cow



Fig. 6.3: A healthy Murrah buffalo



Fig. 6.4: A sick Murrah buffalo



ANIMAL WELFARE

The concept of welfare is composed of an animal's health and well-being and reflects the quality of life it lives. Freedom is the basic need of every animal. The different types of freedom for animals and ways to achieve them are shown in Table 6.2.

Table 6.2: Types of animal freedom and ways to achieve them

S. No.	Freedom	Achieved by
1.	from hunger and thirst	providing access to drinking water and a balanced diet to maintain health and vigour
2.	from discomfort	providing a comfortable environment, including shelter
3.	from pain, injury or disease	preventing injuries and diseases, and rapid diagnosis and treatment
4.	to express normal behaviour	providing sufficient space, adequate facilities and companionship of other animals of the same kind
5.	from fear and distress	ensuring conditions and treatment that can avoid mental suffering

Besides these five types of freedom, a farm animal must enjoy four basic freedom as depicted in Fig. 6.5.

The evaluation of animal welfare must consider the scientific evidence available, concerning the feelings of animals derived from their behaviour. Animal welfare describes how an animal copes mentally and physically with the conditions where it lives. Signs that an animal is in a good state of welfare includes its longevity, reduced incidence of diseases, display of normal behaviour and reproduction.

Animal welfare regulations

The importance that India accords to the protection of animals and their rights is reflected in the Constitution, which recognises the need for their protection. Article 51A(g) of the Constitution enshrines and casts upon every citizen of the country the fundamental duty to have compassion for all living beings. India is also one of the first countries in the world to enact a law on animal cruelty, i.e., Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

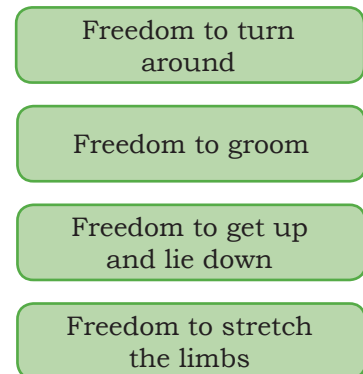


Fig. 6.5: Four more basic freedom for farm animals

Prevention of cruelty towards animals

Cruelty towards animals means willfully causing unnecessary pain or suffering to them. Major forms of cruelty committed on animals include the following.

- Beating, kicking, over-driving, over-loading, torturing, etc.
- Employing an animal for a work that it is unfit for
- Unreasonable administration of injurious substance(s) to an animal to artificially boost its performance
- Transporting animals in a manner that causes pain or suffering to them
- Keeping the animals in close confinement and crowded conditions
- Making the animals starve or keeping them thirsty for long
- Using animals for public entertainment

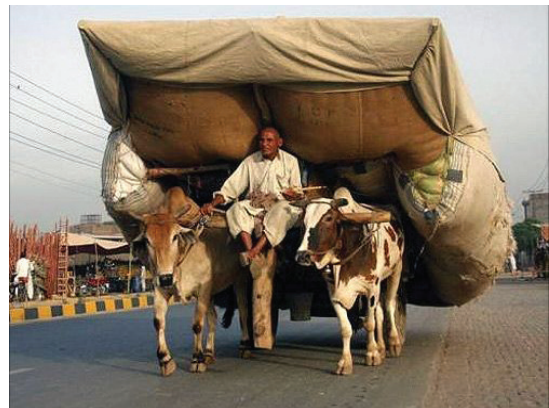
The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was enacted in 1960 to prevent unnecessary pain or suffering on animals and to amend the laws relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals. After the enactment of this Act, the Animal Welfare Board of India was constituted for the promotion of animal welfare. The headquarters of the Animal Welfare Board of India is situated in Chennai. Various rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 have been framed from time-to-time on the following aspects.



(a)
Cattle being transported in an overcrowded truck



(b)
Cattle being transported in an inhumane manner



(c)
Bullocks carrying excess load

Fig. 6.6 (a to c): Various forms of cruelty animals are, usually, subjected to



- Birth control in dogs
- Control and supervision of experiments on animals
- Prevention of cruelty towards animals in slaughterhouses
- Welfare of draught animals
- Prevention of cruelty during transportation

Practical Exercise

Activity

Identify an injured animal in a nearby cow shed. Find out the cause of its injury and write the steps that can be taken to improve its health.

Material required: notebook and writing material

Procedure

- Visit a nearby cow shed.
- Identify an injured animal in the shed.
- Find out the cause of injury. You can talk to the shed's caretaker.
- Ask the caretaker about some of the steps that are being taken to improve its health.
- Make a note based on your findings
- Now, share your experience and findings with the class.

Check Your Progress

A. Multiple Choice Questions

1. Rules under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 exist _____.
 - (a) for the welfare of draught animals
 - (b) against cruelty to animals in slaughterhouses
 - (c) for birth control in dogs
 - (d) All of the above
2. Animal welfare practices are based on _____.
 - (a) heresay
 - (b) religious opinions
 - (c) scientific evidence
 - (d) None of the above
3. A healthy animal is _____.
 - (a) active and alert
 - (b) aware of its surroundings
 - (c) holds its head up
 - (d) All of the above

NOTES

4. Article 51A(g) of the Constitution of India is about the _____.
 - (a) Fundamental Rights of citizens
 - (b) freedom of expression
 - (c) freedom to rear animals
 - (d) Fundamental Duties of being compassionate to all living creatures
5. A sick animal _____.
 - (a) eats and drinks normally
 - (b) has bright eyes
 - (c) has normal respiration
 - (d) None of the above

B. Fill in the Blanks

1. Freedom from hunger in case of animals means providing _____ and _____.
2. Ruminants not chewing cud is an indicator of _____.
3. The headquarters of the Animal Welfare Board of India is located in _____.
4. The four basic types of freedom of farm animals are freedom to _____, _____, _____ and _____.
5. Staying in a herd is a _____ sign for cows and buffaloes.

C. Mark True (T) or False (F)

1. Law allows using animals for public entertainment.
2. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act was enacted in the year 1960.
3. Human beings can draw any work from all kind of animals for economic progress.
4. Animals do not experience fear and distress.
5. A dog has no freedom to bark at night if residents of a colony do not like it.

