



ROLE OF VETERINARY SERVICES AND ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS AUTHORITIES IN IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE AT SLAUGHTER.

Sira Abdul Rahman* and Hassan Aidaros**

**Chair, OIE Animal Welfare Working Group and
President, Commonwealth Veterinary Association**

****Member, OIE Animal Welfare Working Group**

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Introduction Islam and Animal Welfare



- Islam provides considerable support for the importance of animal welfare.
- The Qur'an is explicit, with regard to using animals for human purposes
- A deeper look at the teachings of the Qur'an and tradition will reveal teachings of kindness and concern for animals,
- There is a rich tradition of the Prophet Mohammad's (*pbuh*) concern for animals to be found in the Hadith and Sunna and

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Islam and Animal Welfare

- Below are just a few well-known examples from the *hadith* (traditions):
 - “There is a reward (ajr) for helping any living creature.” (Bukhari and Muslim)
 - “It is a great sin for man to imprison those animals which are in his power.” (Muslim)
 - “The worst of shepherds is the ungentle, who causes the beasts to crush or bruise one another.” (Muslim)

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Prevalent Situation Questions to Ask

- Do the current practices comply with Islamic principles mentioned above?
- With such cruelty to animals does the meat for human consumption qualify as “HALAL”
- Are the authorities and religious leaders aware of what is happening?

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Islam and Animal Welfare

- In modern times, meat labelled as Halal (Zabihah) may not even be Halal because of the manner in which the animals are raised.
- Animals are reared in confinement in intensive conditions compromising welfare of animals.
- Animals are deprived of their basic needs such as exercise, fresh air, and wholesome feed leading to ill-health.
- Current practices of animal rearing, feeding, handling, transport and slaughter do not follow strict Islamic guidelines.

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Prevalent Situation

- Handling of animals before and during transport is cruel
- Housing and holding of animals is primitive without proper shade and animals are tethered shortly
- Animals are treated as a commodity rather than a living sentient being

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Scope

- Guidelines should be prepared which shall provide requirements and procedures in
- managing animal health and welfare,
- rearing of animals,
- handling, transportation and penning
- under Islamic principles of Animal Welfare in compliance with the Halal principles of Shariah

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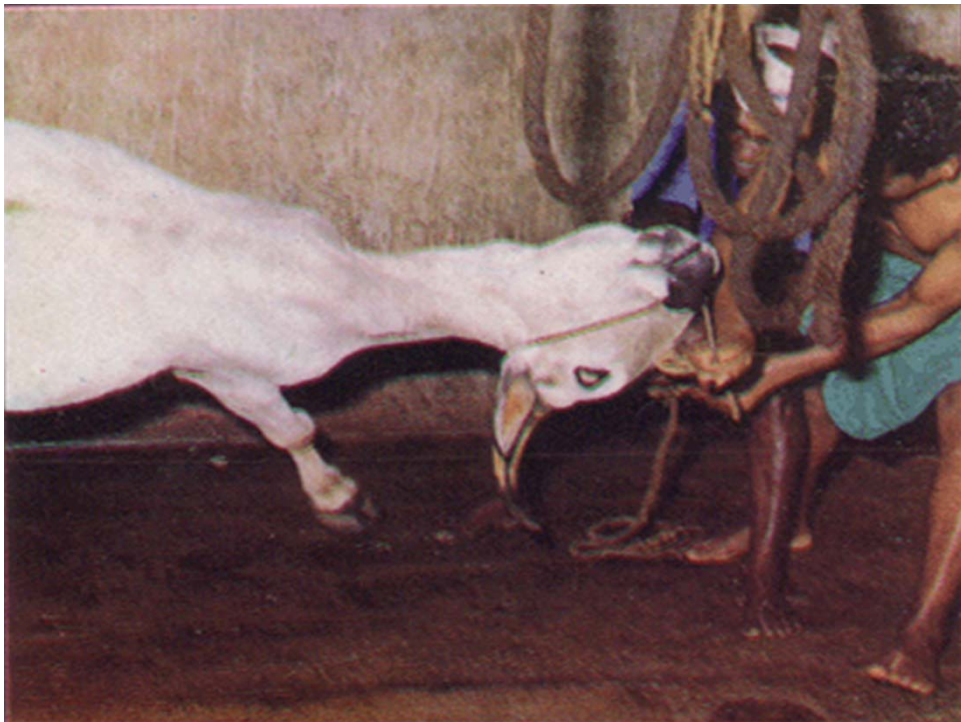
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Animal Welfare and Religion

- **At the actual point of slaughter many animals are**
- struck and beaten (Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) forbade beating animals) and as
- they resist moving towards the end they know what awaits them (they are certainly "dying twice").







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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ?

1. A campaign is needed to apprise religious leaders of the current cruelty which occurs during transport and slaughter, for example by slides and videos.

This should be done by competent and knowledgeable individuals who are also aware of the Islamic principles of animal welfare, preferably by Muslims in order to give authenticity to their claims.

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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ?

- 2. The creation of animal welfare legislation, including animal transport and slaughter, according to the OIE standards and Islamic principles.
- 3. Government officials in charge of livestock, especially at abattoirs, should be sensitised to the concepts of animal welfare and how these relate to Islamic principles.

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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ?

- 4. Abattoirs should be equipped with the facilities required for the good application of animal welfare standards, including unloading facilities, slaughtering boxes, and well-trained personnel to implement correct Halal slaughter.

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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ?

- 5. The OIE animal welfare standards, especially those dealing with land transport and slaughter of animals for human consumption which were adopted in 2005 by OIE Members, need to be more strictly implemented by governments.

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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ?

- 6. The inclusion of animal welfare as a subject in the veterinary curriculum should be encouraged, including by making available a model syllabus such as that used in the veterinary schools of India

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WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE ?

- **OIE welcomes the opportunity to enter into dialogue with governments and religious authorities with the objective of improving animal welfare in all countries of the world.**

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**Thank You
for your attention
Merci de votre attention**

**Terima Kasih untuk perhatian anda
شكرا لك، شكرا**

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