

Introduction to Farm Animal Welfare

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What is Animal Welfare

- Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives
- An animal is in a good state of welfare if it is
 - Healthy,
 - Comfortable,
 - Well nourished,
 - Safe,
 - Able to express innate behaviour,
 - If it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress



Good Animal Welfare requires

- Disease prevention and veterinary treatment,
- Appropriate shelter,
- Good management and nutrition,
- Humane handling
- Humane slaughter of food animals
- Humane killing (e.g. stray dogs)
- Appropriate transportation



The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare

- Freedom from hunger and thirst, by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor
- Freedom from discomfort, by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- Freedom from pain, injury, and disease, by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment



The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare

- Freedom to express normal behavior, by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
- Freedom from fear and distress, by ensuring conditions and treatment that avoid mental suffering



Humane Handling and Transportation of Poultry

- Everyone involved in handling must accept the responsibility of humane handling and minimizing stress to the birds during catching, loading, transporting, unloading and processing
- Actions of farmers, catchers, transporters and un-loaders have a direct impact on both the physical and mental well-being of birds
- Improper catching, handling, and loading practices create distress and may cause injury to the birds



Transporting Animals - Poultry

Bad Animal Welfare Practice



Transporting birds using crates



Proper Handling and Transportation of Poultry will:

- Improve the well-being of chickens by reducing stress
- Address customer concerns
- Have positive financial implications because it minimizes mortalities, maximizes yields, protect meat quality and shelf life
- Safeguard product integrity
- Acceptance for international trade



Transportation - Cattle

- Appropriate methods of moving cattle are on hoof, by road motor vehicle or by rail wagon
- Moving cattle on hoof (trekking) is suitable
 - only where road and rail infrastructure does not exist, or
 - when distances from farm to destination are short



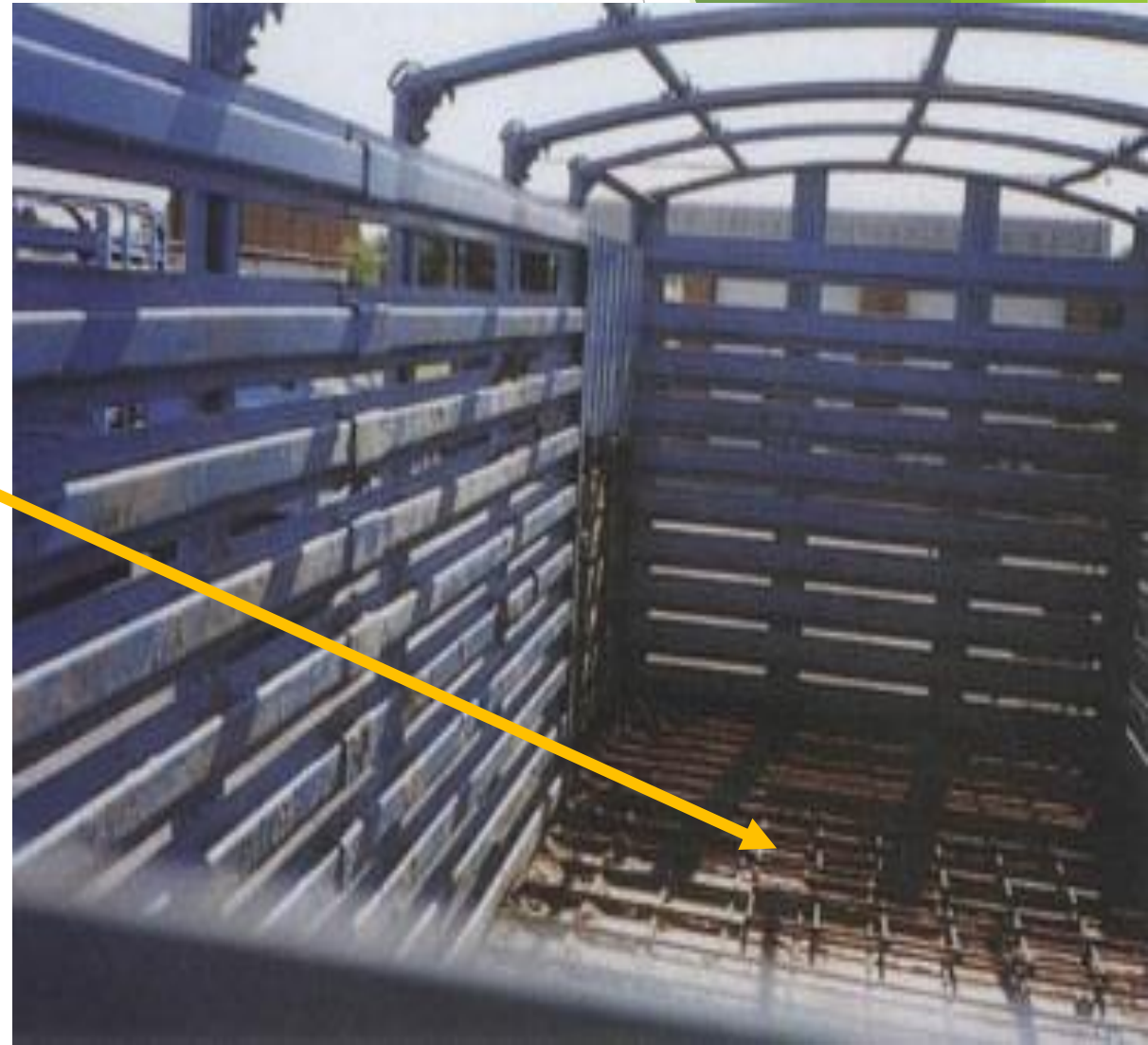
Transportation - Cattle

- Rail transport is useful for short-haul journeys where loading ramps are available at railheads and communication is direct to destination.
- Road motor transport is by far the most versatile, the method of first choice and the most user friendly



Transportation - Cattle

Cross slating of
Truck floor to prevent
Slipping of Cattle



Poor welfare of Animals

Cattle feeding from a refuse dump



Cattle walking long distances in search of food

Poor Transportation of Animals

Goats transported on a bicycle



Camel transported in a car



Transportation – Sheep/Goats

- Of the food animals these are the easiest to transport
- Generally Sheep and goats travel well on hoof, rail or road
- Double-deck trucks are also suitable (see photo)



Transportation – Pigs

- Pigs are difficult animals to transport
- A combination of high humidity and high environment temperatures is especially deadly to pigs
- Heat can rapidly build up
- The only satisfactory method is by road in suitable vehicles



Housing – Pigs

- Housing facilities for pigs should be designed so that they are able to be cleaned easily
- They should also be dry and protect pigs from adverse weather, injuries or other harm
- Pigs are susceptible to both heat and cold stress and should be housed in facilities that allow for appropriate regulation of temperatures all year round



Housing – Cattle

- Housing must provide a comfortable, clean, well-drained and dry lying area together with shelter from adverse weather, space to allow the animal to move, lie down and rise freely as well as access to adequate food and water
- All housing for cattle should include an adequate provision of calving pens and sick pens for isolation of sick or injured animals



Housing – Poultry

- There are a number of housing related issues that influence welfare to be considered, including
 - where the house is sited,
 - the environment within the house, including the ‘furnishings’ such as nest boxes, perches, feeders and drinkers, the litter,
 - access to light and the access to outdoors



Feed and Water

- Animals should receive a daily diet adequate in composition and quantity, and containing appropriate nutrients to maintain good health
- Feed should be palatable and free of contaminants, molds, and toxins
- Food and water requirements vary with feed composition, physiological state, stage of growth, size and body condition, pregnancy, lactation, exercise and activity, and climate
- Access to feed should be at intervals appropriate to the physiological needs of the animals, and at least once daily

Feed and Water



Animal Health

- Animals should be confirmed dead before disposal, and any still alive should be euthanized immediately
- Dead animals should be removed promptly and disposed of appropriately
- Veterinary care should be available at all times and medications and treatments given in accordance with advice and instructions
- Good record keeping will assist with managing health and disease problems

Animal Health



Areas for Assessing Welfare

Area	Criteria
1. Good feeding	Animals should not suffer from prolonged hunger
	Animals should not suffer from prolonged thirst
2. Good housing	Animals should have comfort around resting
	Animals should have enough space to allow ease of movement
	Animals should have thermal comfort
3. Good health	Animals should be free of physical injuries
	Animals should be free of disease
	Animals should not suffer pain caused by procedures
4. Appropriate behaviour	Animals should have a positive emotional state, and negative emotions should be avoided as far as possible
	Animals should be able to express normal social behaviours
	Animals should be able to express species-typical behaviours
	Promotion of good human–animal relationships



Poor WELFARE of working equids—
Resulting in ill health of Donkey

Nigeria Animal Welfare Strategy

Vision: A nation where welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, simultaneously with the pursuit of progress and socioeconomic development

The strategy

- **Provides direction** for development of action plans to implement existing OIE guidelines and standards
- **Provides a roadmap** for development of future animal welfare policies, based on a national consultative approach
- **Facilitates establishment of priorities** that are consistent with agreed strategic goals
- **Provides a framework** for cooperation among stakeholders in promoting and advancing animal welfare in the nation

Our Priorities

- **Developing National Animal Welfare standards** including broad consultation of industry, NGOs, etc
- **Raising awareness** at National, State & LGA levels on the significance of complying with animal welfare standards
- **Improving participation** of all stakeholders in the compliance with National Animal Welfare standards

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Thank You



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