**A review of animal welfare developments in Bangladesh**

**Mohammad R. Alam\***

Department of Physiology, Biochemistry and Pharmacology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Khulshi-4225 Chattogram, Bangladesh

**\*Correspondence:** Mohammad Rashedul Alam, email: [rashedul2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rashedul2000@yahoo.com)

**Abstract**

In Bangladesh, animal welfare has begun to attract professional interests after first being introduced to veterinary professionals at the International Scientific Conference of the Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) in 2006. The aims were to develop education and research expertise, and to improve awareness of animal welfare in Bangladesh in academia, research and policy culminating with the veterinary faculties including in their mission statement the inclusion of animal welfare courses in their curriculum. The course on animal welfare was incorporated in an updated veterinary curriculum at CVASU and has been providing veterinary students with a better understanding. Other veterinary schools in Bangladesh are in the process of incorporating a similar course in their curricula. With respect to policy and legislation, Bangladesh has had century-old legal support for the welfare of animals under “The Cruelty to Animal Act, 1920”, which has been barely functional. Fortunately, a newer act “The Animal Welfare Act, 2019” has amended and modernized the previous law. The first research and exchange program between CVASU and the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), UK on animal welfare started in 2008. The project focused on the welfare of food animals transported across borders. The goals were to enhance animal welfare awareness and create research skills in Bangladesh. Other projects in CVASU have mainly focused on on-farm welfare assessments of dairy animals and meat birds, mammalian slaughterhouses, meat birds during transport and at live-markets, and welfare assessments of backyard goats. An applied project on the management of the free-roaming dog in Bangladesh used neutering and mass vaccination against rabies. In summary, in Bangladesh animal welfare activities started as a conference concept, and after only one decade, Bangladesh is trying to match the developed world in almost every area of animal welfare.

**Keywords:**  animal welfare, review, farm animals, CVASU, Bangladesh