

Basic Animal Husbandry

Caring for the Needs of Farm Animals



A person wearing a light-colored hooded coat and dark trousers stands in the center-left of the frame, surrounded by several sheep. The sheep are of various breeds, including some with thick wool and others that are more lean. They are in an indoor setting, likely a shed or barn, with a concrete floor and a white wall in the background. The lighting is somewhat dim, and the overall tone is slightly desaturated.

Animal Requirements

- Adequate fodder quality and quantity
- Sufficient access to clean drinking water
- Clean sheds of sufficient size and with adequate light and fresh air
- Sufficient freedom to move around

A person wearing a light-colored hooded coat and dark pants stands in a dusty, outdoor environment. They are surrounded by several sheep of various breeds, including some with dark wool and some with lighter wool. The background shows a simple, light-colored wall and some distant structures. The overall scene is in a muted, blue-toned color scheme.

Animal Requirements

- **Healthy conditions**
- **Sufficient contact with other animals, but no stress due to overcrowding**
- **For herd animals: an appropriate age and sex distribution within the herd**

A person wearing a light-colored hooded coat and dark boots stands in a snowy field, herding a group of sheep. The sheep are of various breeds, including some with thick wool. In the background, there are some buildings and a fence. The entire image has a blue tint.

Animal Requirements

Factors Determining Numbers

- Fodder Availability
- Carrying capacity of pastures
- Size of shelters
- Amount of manure the fields can handle
- Available labor for looking after the animals

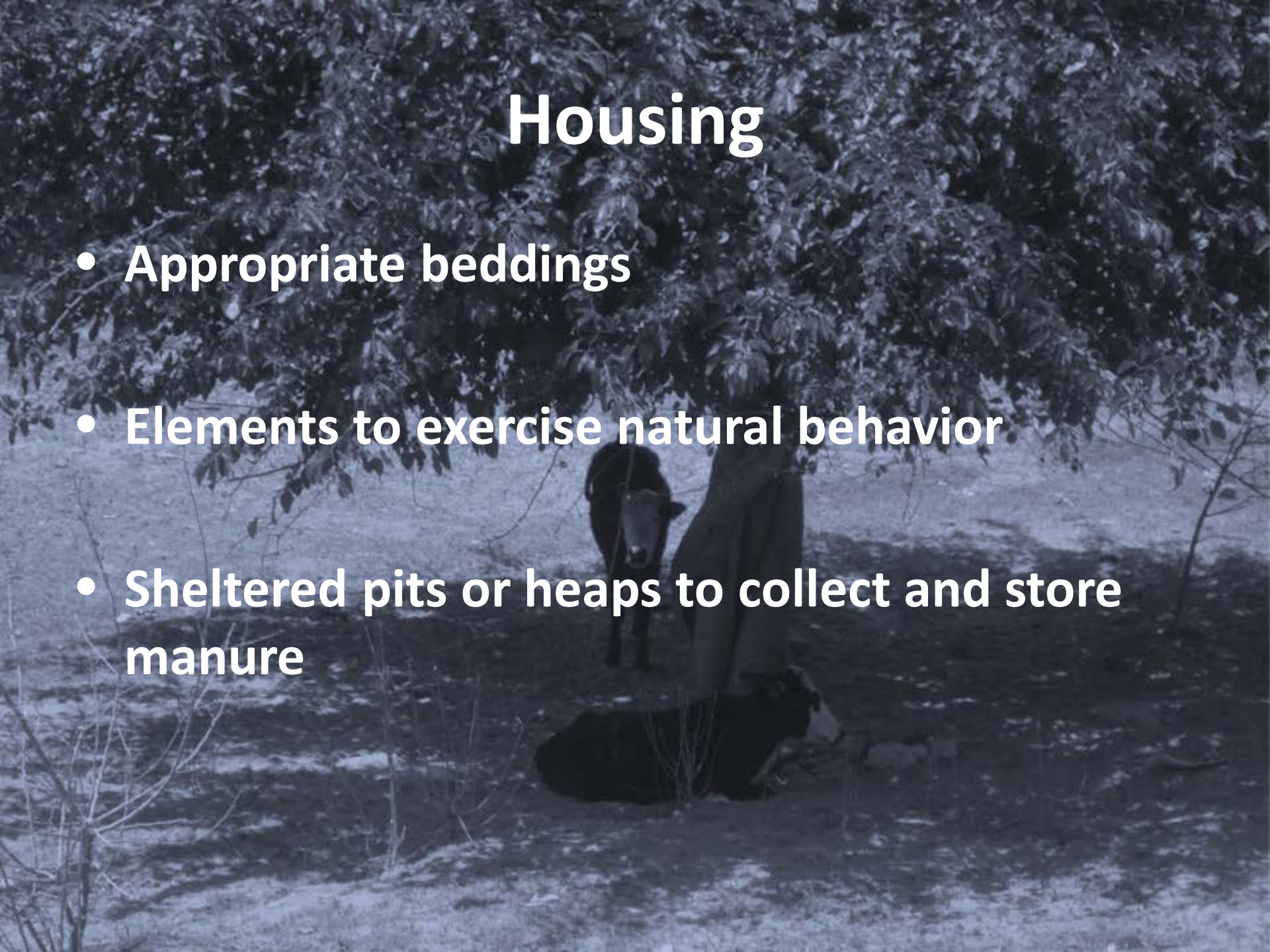
Housing

- Sufficient space to lie down, stand up, move
- Sufficient light
- Protection from sunlight, rain, and extreme temperatures
- Sufficient ventilation, but no draft



Housing

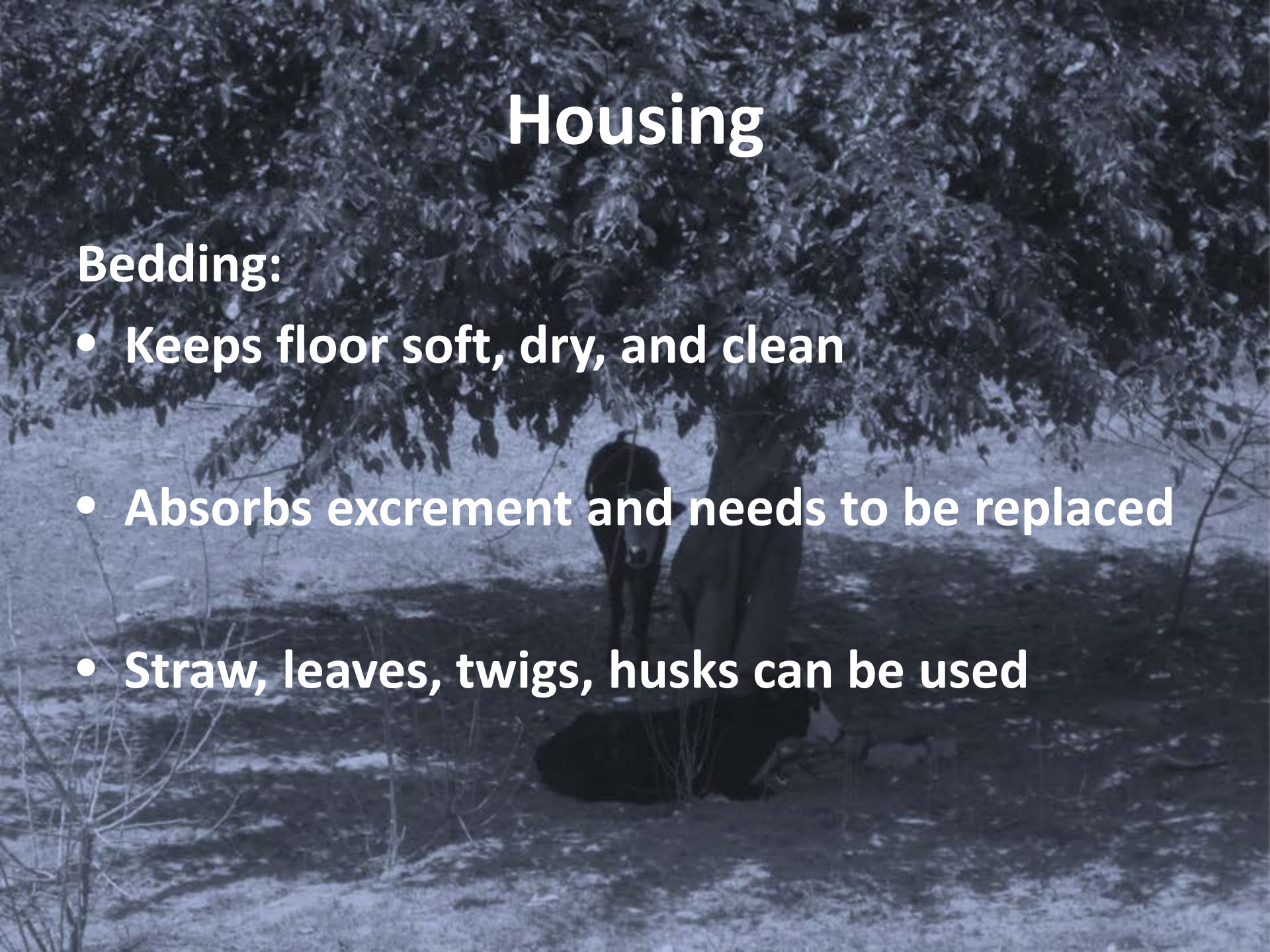
- **Appropriate beddings**
- **Elements to exercise natural behavior**
- **Sheltered pits or heaps to collect and store manure**



Housing

Bedding:

- Keeps floor soft, dry, and clean
- Absorbs excrement and needs to be replaced
- Straw, leaves, twigs, husks can be used



Feeding

- Diverse and balanced mixture of food
- Grazing and shed feeding have advantages & disadvantages
- Fodder cultivation can be integrated
- Overgrazing is a major threat to soil fertility

Feeding

Grazing:

- Less labor
- Requires more land
- Productivity lower
- More exercise
- Dung spread on pasture

Shed Feeding:

- More labor
- Requires less land
- Productivity higher
- Less exercise
- Dung easily collected

Feeding

- Pastures must be managed
- Overgrazing is most significant threat
- Rehabilitate pasture land with improved grass varieties



Animal Health Care

A blue-tinted photograph of a man and a child on a beach. The man is leaning over, looking at a dark-colored dog that is lying down. The child is also looking at the dog. The background shows the sand and water of the beach.

Considerations:

- Bacteria, Viruses, Parasites
- Amounts & quality of water, fodder, & exercise
- Housing
- Hygiene
- Social contacts
- Man-animal interaction
- Breed / variety
- Veterinary care

Animal Health Care

A person wearing a white lab coat and a face mask is leaning over, examining a small, dark-colored animal, possibly a dog, which is lying on a light-colored surface. The person is holding a small object, possibly a syringe or a small container, near the animal's head. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Causes of Disease:

- **Germ:** bacteria, viruses, protozoa
- **Parasites:** worms, insects
 - infestations: external parasites
 - infectious: internal disease
- **Injury:** handling, facilities
- **Inherited Genes**
- **Poor Nutrition:** easiest to correct
 - toxic materials in plants, nitrogen content
 - chemicals for insect control

Animal Health Care

A person wearing a white lab coat and a face mask is leaning over a dark-colored dog, examining its mouth. The person is holding a small object, possibly a dental tool, near the dog's teeth. The background is a light-colored, textured surface, possibly a floor or a wall.

Sources of Disease:

- **Infectious Disease**
 - spread by contact
- **Confinement Systems**
 - disease easily spread
- **Animal Waste**
 - host for germs

Animal Health Care

A man and a woman, both wearing traditional Middle Eastern head coverings and long robes, are crouched on the ground. They are examining a dead animal, possibly a goat or sheep, which is lying on its side. The man is holding a small object, possibly a piece of meat or a bone, and the woman is looking at it. The background is a dry, dusty landscape.

Sources of Disease:

- **Water & feed**
 - chemical residues, waste
- **Air**
 - germs, chemicals, mosquitos host disease
- **Soil-borne Disease**
 - live in soil
 - anthrax: bury animals deep, cover with lime or burn
 - do NOT drag dead animals
 - alternate pastures

Animal Health

Diseases divided according to how rapid they progress:

- Acute
 - rapid progression (cholera, bloat, mastitis)
 - generally have a rapid increase in body temperature
- Chronic
 - last a long time (cancer), costly to fight
- Some are localized
 - mastitis, pink eye

Animal Health

Vital Signs:

- **Pulse**
 - high under left fore flank or over jawbone
- **Respiration**
 - rate of breathing
- **Temperature**
 - rectal temperature most reliable
 - rise of 3 deg F is considered serious
- **Symptoms**
 - not eat, isolate self, lack alertness, mucous discharge, droopy, lowered head, swelling, bleeding, abnormal bowel movements, worms in feces, unusual walk, abnormal behavior

Animal Health Care

Prevention:

- Keep breeds adapted to local environment & available food
- Herd Health Plan
 - Provide adequate nutrition & clean, fresh water
 - Maintain adequate livestock facilities; avoid overcrowding
 - Keep facilities clean and disinfected
 - Use proper immunization
 - Develop procedure for parasite control
 - Isolate new or returning animals for 3-4 weeks before combining with herd
 - Rotate pastures
 - Keep animal stress to a minimum
 - Control possible disease spread by visiting humans
 - Work closely with veterinarian in developing prevention programs as well as treating diseases

Animal Health Care

A blue-tinted photograph showing a veterinary procedure. A person in a dark coat and light trousers is standing on the right, holding a goat that is restrained in a metal stocks. Another person is visible in the background on the left, also observing the procedure. The setting appears to be outdoors with a stone wall in the background.


- **Veterinary health care**
 - Vaccination: build up antibodies to fight disease
- **Some diseases (tetanus) animals can't be saved once they show signs**
 - separate from herd
 - humanely kill and dispose of
- **Parasite control**
 - worming usually done in spring

Animal Health Care

Veterinary Care Guidelines:

- Management practices should be directed toward the well-being of the animal
- Sick & injured animals should be given prompt and adequate treatment
- Vaccinations/de-worming should be used only when diseases/parasites are known or expected to be a problem in the region

Breeding Goals

- High fertility
 - Good resistance against disease
 - Long life with continuous production
 - Able to utilize roughage and farm by-products
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- A photograph of a large herd of sheep grazing in a field. The sheep are in the foreground and middle ground, some standing and some grazing. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The image is in a monochromatic blue-grey tone.

Animal Welfare

- Treat animals well
- Provide for their natural behavior
- Prevent suffering and death



Questions?

