ID: 25

USING A NUMERICAL SCORING TOOL TO IMPROVE ANIMAL BASED WELFARE OUTCOMES IN A BEEF SLAUGHTERHOUSE

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Topic: 1. Animal Welfare / Slaughter

The pre-slaughter handling of animals is critical to meat quality and food safety. A numerical scoring assessment as described by Grandin (2001) and available at the following link http://www.grandin.com/cattle.audit.form.htm was used to assess the pre-slaughter welfare of cattle in a slaughterhouse over a three year period. Every 3 months 50 animals were numerically scored to determine percentage of animals that:

(a) were stunned correctly on the first attempt (target:>95%),
(b) were sensible at bleeding rail (target:0%),
(c) an electric goad was used on (acceptable performance:<25%, excellent,<5%)  
(d) slipped or fell within the facility (target:<3%) and
(e) vocalise during handling or stunning (target:<3%).

Figure 1 demonstrates that over the study period goad use has decreased from an unacceptable level of 72% to a current level of 5%. The initial high goad use prompted a review of facility design and work practices. Measures taken by the slaughterhouse to reduce goad use included:

(a) sheeting the side rails of the race to create solid walls  
(b) supporting the floor of the stunbox to remove the hollow sound when the animal walked into it.  
(c) stowing the goad away from the race so it was not so readily to hand.

Trend lines presented in Figure 2 demonstrate that other parameters while from the outset were within the target performance limits, also improved over the study period.

Numerical scoring promotes good welfare practice by making it possible to objectively determine if practices or the animal's condition is improving or worsening. It forces the facility to manage what they measure and encourages continual improvements.

Figure 1
ANIMAL WELFARE ASPECTS IN SLAUGHTERING IN ISLAMIC RULES

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Topic: 1. Animal Welfare / Slaughter

Slaughtering of animals for food is one of the oldest human activities and continues until the present day. Even though this activity prepares food for human food and it aids our survival, most people agree that attention should be paid to animal welfare.

As Islamic rules have teachings relevant to every type of normal activity, it has pertinent to observe that there are several precepts for slaughtering of animals. Most of these rules comprise animal welfare and ethic themes. There are four (Vajeb) obligatory instructions for slaughter. Meat becomes Haraam (unlawful) if one of them is omitted. In addition, there are six Mostahab (recommended) rules for slaughtering that most people respect them since they came directly from prophet Mohhamad and their followers. Ignoring these rules is Makruh (not recommended) during slaughtering.

All of these rules and instructions could support animal welfare and avoid suffering from pain that is strictly recommended in Islamic scripture. According to these scriptures, ignoring these instructions could result in divine punishment.
ID: 194

**ANIMAL WELFARE, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION IN SPAIN**

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**Topic:** 1. Animal Welfare / Animal Welfare Toolbox

Information and formation are two essentials pillars for the development of the welfare animal politics. Without information is not possible to be aware of the problems, and without education is not possible to valuate adequately the true consequences of this issue. This assumptions applied to welfare animal continue in full force.

In this paper we will analyze the level of information and education of the different stakeholder of Spain about rearing conditions of domestic animals for productions and the welfare conditions in which they are. Also we will study the level of the awareness of the citizens role in the development of animal welfare in their double aspect, as consumer and as citizen right holders.

We use different bibliographical sources, level of accomplish of different European Directives, like CD 1999/74/EC about the protection of laying hens, CD 2008/120/EC about protection of pigs and CR 1099/2009/EC on the protection of animals at the time of killing. Also we will compare data from the two Eurobarometer published about welfare animal (2005 and 2007) and will be study the results achieved in the Econwelfare project related with Spanish results and compared with the other European countries studied.
EFFECT OF ENVIRONMENT CHANGE ON MILK YIELD AND BEHAVIOUR IN COWS

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The purpose was to determine a hypothesis that the housing change of cows decreases their milk production and affects behavior. 41 Holstein cows were relocated from the tie-stall barn into the free-stall barn with herringbone parlour. Milk yield was decreased after relocation (23.8 kg) compared with 31.0 kg last day before relocation. Milk performance increase close to the last day yield on the third and fourth days (30.72 kg and 30.72 kg). Milk yield exceeds before relocation till 13th day (31.82 kg). Multiparous cows entered into parlour earlier than primiparous cows, equally during morning and evening milkings. Cows of second parity and non-pregnant cows lay down faster than cows in the first lactation and pregnant cows. Primiparous and pregnant cows had shorter lying episodes following the relocation. Latencies for total lying and lying on the left side were progressively shorter from the first milking session to the fourth milking session. Cows in second lactation and non-pregnant cows began ruminating sooner than cows in first lactation after the first and fourth milking sessions. We concluded from the analysis, that the effect of the relocation with housing and milking change was manifested significantly in the milk yield. The results of this study suggest that relocation may alter behavioural measures. However, changes after milking sessions observation indicate that older and non-pregnant cows are more able to quickly adapt to environmental change. This work was possible through projects APVV-0632-10 of the SRDA Bratislava and MLIEKO No. 26220220098 supported by the OPRaD from the ERDF.
PROMOTING LIVESTOCK WELFARE IN AN AFRICAN ENVIRONMENT

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This presentation outlines the history of the animal welfare movement in South Africa and the many interlocking systems and organisations that work together towards the betterment of the lives of animals. This can serve as a realistic exemplar and inspiration for other countries in Africa.

A key contribution is educating and persuading the public at large that animal welfare is a commendable and worthwhile goal.

This process must be taken further at tertiary education level, and most institutions with animal science, zoology or veterinary science courses address the issues of ethics in dealing with animals.

The second major area needed to protect animals is the support of major animal owning, and processing organisations. Breed societies, farmer organisations, feedlots, transporters, auctioneers, sellers and abattoirs must take an active part by setting down and promoting series of minimum expectations in the form of a Code of Best Practice.

A third requirement, linked to the first two, is a legislative framework that must underpin all other initiatives. In this respect South Africa is well advanced and some of the legislation dates back nearly half a century.

The fourth major requirement is a comprehensive set of organisations, both outside and inside government, to promote and defend the care of and respect for animals. South Africa is well endowed with active, committed NGO’s that do an admirable job of protecting the interests of a wide variety of animals.
ID: 252

SPECIESISM IN CITIES - RELATION BETWEEN PEOPLE AND ANIMALS

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While we are facing new sets of laws and requirements considering animal welfare in farm, drug and cosmetic industries, we seem to be blind to common people’s wrongdoings against city animals. It is estimated that every stray dog is exposed to at least five highly stressful situations a day. There is an obvious relation between urbanisation and a higher level of aggression of strays. Our paper aims to point out this relation and to connect it with the lack of moral responsability of citizens, all leading to new acts of cruelty.

Data used in this paper give us evidence that high percentage of people in urban areas lack empathy to animals who live on the street. While there is an utilitarian relation between animals and people in villiages, there is new wave of speciesism in cities. Even though rural people use their animals for work and food, they have some respect for their lives. On the other hand, urban people have low, or no repsect for animals at all. Without moral obligations and without understanding animal behaviour, city people ignore laws, hoping their cruelty will go unobserved.

Animal welfare has its foundations in empathy and ethics. Therefore it is time we turn back to the begining and start paying attention on how ordinary people perceive animals and, more so, how they perceive pet and stray animals. This paper aims to raise the question of ethical status of those animals once again as well as of our moral responsibility towards them.
MASS DEPOPULATION OF CULL HENS USING A PORTABLE MODIFIED ATMOSPHERE CHAMBER AND LIQUID CARBON DIOXIDE: EVALUATION OF WELFARE IMPACT

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Emergency disaster preparedness is a key priority for Canadian agencies to allow effective response to avian disease outbreaks. Rapid, humane, and safe depopulation techniques are needed for poultry that can be applied across a range of farm settings. Large scale depopulation using a modified atmosphere chamber and vaporized carbon dioxide (CO₂) was investigated as a humane means of killing poultry.

Chamber gas dynamics and filling characteristics were evaluated using an empty chamber and then with previously euthanatized hens. Subsequently, cull hens were surgically instrumented with telemetry transmitters to record EEG, ECG, body temperature, and activity. The day following surgery, instrumented hens were placed in cages, and lowered into the chamber to evaluate time to unconsciousness and brain death following CO₂ inhalation. Instrumented birds were monitored by infrared thermography, and ambient temperature, CO₂ and O₂ concentrations were recorded. Finally, a 60 bird trial was conducted to further evaluate chamber characteristics. Results indicate that continuous addition of birds to a pre-charged chamber alters gas concentrations, particularly in the top third of the chamber. Mild to moderate head shaking, gasping and clonic muscle contractions were noted in hens prior to unconsciousness. This technique may result in unacceptably long delays to loss of consciousness.
CAPTIVE ELEPHANT WELFARE: PERSPECTIVES FROM SOUTHERN INDIA

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Topic: 1. Animal Welfare / Veterinary Leadership

There are nearly a thousand captive Asian elephants in southern India and majority of these animals are owned by private individuals and a lesser number are owned by religious institutions and forestry departments. Most of the privately owned elephants are hired out on daily rent by their owners and cater to the needs of specific social as well religious ritualistic practices of the people. The Captive Elephant Management Rules prescribed by the Kerala State Forest Department are aimed to ensure the welfare of captive elephants. However, lack of knowledge on the specific biologic needs of this wild animal among owners and mahouts, often result in compromises in the prescribed welfare norms. While certain management practices directly attribute to cruelty, ignoring certain practices compromise the welfare of the animals indirectly. Overwork, social isolation, inadequate training of both the elephant as well as mahouts, undernourishment, faulty musth management practices and higher incidence of wounds and injuries in working elephants are the commonly observed welfare issues. Even though veterinarians directly involve in healthcare of captive elephants, their involvement to address the welfare related issues of these animals has been minimal. Strict enforcement of the management rules by the authorities as well as raising awareness of the public are essential to adequately address the welfare of these wild animals in captivity. This poster gives a pictorial description of the situations in which welfare of captive elephants were observed to be compromised and also gives a description of the ideal management practices.