



ANIMAL HEALTH CARE SERVICE

Level -I

Learning Guide #24

Unit of Competence:Apply knowledge of animal welfare and behaviours

Module Title:Applying knowledge of animal welfare and behaviours

LG Code: AGR AHC1 M8 LO1LG24

TTLM Code: AGR AHC1 TTLM 0919V1

LO1: Explain the concept of animal behaviour and welfare

This learning guide is developed to provide you the necessary information regarding the following **content coverage** and topics –

- Defining animal welfare and stating the five animal *welfare* freedoms
- Identifying the major animal welfare problems in Ethiopia
- Identifying clinically important behaviors of animals
- Identifying animal welfare legislation, regulations and codes of practice.

This guide will also assist you to attain the learning outcome stated in the cover page.

Specifically, upon completion of this Learning Guide, **you will be able to –**

- States the five elements of animal freedom and defines animal welfare.
- Identifies Major animal welfare problems in Ethiopia.
- Identifies Clinically important behaviours of animals are
- Identifies Animal welfare legislation, regulations and codes of practice are

Learning Instructions:

1. Read the specific objectives of this Learning Guide.
2. Follow the instructions described in number 3 to 20.
3. Read the information written in the “Information Sheets 1”. Try to understand what are being discussed. Ask you teacher for assistance if you have hard time understanding them.
4. Accomplish the “Self-check 1”2,3,and 4 **in page -**.
5. Ask from your teacher the key to correction (key answers) or you can request your teacher to correct your work. (You are to get the key answer only after you finished answering the Self-check 1).
6. If you earned a satisfactory evaluation proceed to “Information Sheet 2”. However, if your rating is unsatisfactory, see your teacher for further instructions or go back to Learning Activity #1.
7. Submit your accomplished Self-check. This will form part of your training portfolio.

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| Information Sheet-1 | Defining animal welfare and stating the five animal <i>welfare</i> freedoms |
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1. Concept of animal welfare

The term "welfare" refers to the state of an individual in relation to its environment, and this can be measure. The concept of animal welfare includes three elements: **the animal's normal biological functioning** (which, among other things, means ensuring that the animal is healthy and well-nourished), **its emotional state** (including the absence of negative emotions, such as pain and chronic fear), and **its ability to express certain normal behaviours**. This notwithstanding, not all behaviours are equally important in terms of animal welfare. From a practical standpoint, the clearest indication that a given behaviour is important is whether the animal shows a stress response or exhibits abnormal behaviour when prevented from performing it. A sow's prepartum nesting behaviour or the foraging behaviour of pigs are examples of such important behaviours. These three principles do not necessarily contradict one another; indeed, they are often complementary.

Animal welfare uses a multidimensional approach

All three of the aforementioned principles are included in multiple 'official' definitions of animal welfare. Thus, for example, the World Organisation for Animal Health considers an animal to be in a good state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable, well-nourished and able to express innate behaviour and not suffering from pain, fear or distress.

2. The Five Freedoms

in accordance with the 'Five Freedoms' principle, an animal's welfare is ensured when the following five conditions are met.

- **Freedom from hunger or thirst:** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- **freedom from discomfort,** by providing appropriate environment shelter and a comfortable resting area
- **Freedom from pain, injury and disease,** by prevention and/or rapid diagnosis and treatment
- **Freedom from** to express normal natural behavior by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and the company of other animals of its kind.
- **Freedom from fear or distress,** by ensuring the conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

The 'Five Freedoms' principle offers a very useful and practical approach to the study of welfare and, especially, to its assessment on livestock farms and during the transport and slaughter of farm animals. It has moreover served as the basis for many animal protection laws in the European Union and other parts of the world. However, despite its clear usefulness, it has two shortcomings. First, it is sometimes too generic. Second, there is a certain overlap between some of the five freedoms.

To remedy these problems, slightly different approaches based on the same concepts have been proposed. Of particular note is the Welfare Quality® project's proposal for assessing animal welfare. The Welfare Quality® project was a five-year European Union research project launched in May 2004 and involving more than 40 scientific institutions from 15 different countries. One of its objectives was to develop European standards for animal welfare assessment. Unlike other protocols, which mainly use environment-based parameters, the protocols of the Welfare Quality® project are primarily founded on animal-based measures.

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| Self-Check -1 | Written Test |
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Directions: Answer all the questions listed below. Use the Answer sheet provided in the next page:

1. What are the three elements in animal welfare concept? (5points)
2. Write the five animal *welfare* freedoms(5 points)

Note: Satisfactory rating - 5 points Unsatisfactory - below 5 points

You can ask you teacher for the copy of the correct answers.

Answer Sheet

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| Information Sheet-2 | Identifies Major animal welfare problems in Ethiopia. |
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1.2. Animals welfare problems in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, animal welfare problems mostly seen in marketing places, during transporting, farming places, abattoir (slaughtering) houses, feeding areas, sheltering areas and watering places. Ethiopia has several marketing systems existing for trading animals in different locations.

Transporting to markets mostly done in Ethiopia by trekking just like most African countries, due to lack of suitable vehicles, and there has been a research performed on how many animals die and injured during transport . It has been shown that, transport conditions, level of vibration on vehicle and the behaviors the animal expresses and changes of stress hormones, contradict animal welfare largely.

The common challenge in walking animals by foot often leads to accidents such as injured, dead or stolen of animal's cases. Likewise, lameness and injuries such as swelling of legs commonly occur. Similarly, the above has also been proven a problem when animals are also transported by vehicle indicating the problems which accompany a lack of rest, water and feed.

Mostly the handling of animals in developing countries has been an issue of subject for critical discussion since a long many times before and is in need of further research. Stakeholders in ethiopia handle animals in a bad way, which increased the prevalence of death and injuries. By measuring behavioral or physiological conditions, animal handling can be explained to a higher extent and a welfare concept implemented in the particular area.

For instance when adult male cattle are mixed in large or during transport, they express higher levels of fighting behavior which can be recorded and measured as a poor welfare indicator. Farm animals can remember the previous challenging situation during transport or handling by the stakeholders, where a larger hesitance reflected by the animals indicate, the greater the previous bad exposer that must have been experienced .

In this regard animal welfare situation in Ethiopia has multi directional problems that have not been dealt by the stakeholders and not covered even by the present non-governmental organizations working with this issue. In Ethiopia, farm animals such as oxen generally subjected to plough for long period without having rest and supplied adequate feed and water. Pack animals such as horses and donkey are forced to carry overload weight for long distances without proper harnessing materials and inadequate feed and water provisions, despite their contributions is high in the daily activity of the owner directly or indirectly.

Pet animals such as dogs will be killed by poison inhumanly yearly for the sake of rabies control and prevention in most areas of the country. Sick animals will not be taken to clinics for treatment. The farm animals in most parts of the country are openly housed without appropriate shelter and are exposed for intensive direct sunlight and erratic summer rainfall.

Animals will be forced to stay for long time in the market even for days without water and feed in harsh handling manner. However, a number of Veterinary schools and Animal science fields of study departments are graduating professionals yet the services in health care and keeping the welfare of animals is lagging behind the expectation.

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| Self-Check -1 | Written Test |
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Directions: Answer all the questions listed below. Use the Answer sheet provided in the next page:

1. Where is the animal welfare problem of ethiopia mostly seen? (5points)

Note: Satisfactory rating - 5 points Unsatisfactory - below 5 points

You can ask you teacher for the copy of the correct answers.

Answer Sheet

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Information Sheet-3

Identifies clinically important behaviors of animals

Animal behaviour is the expression of an effort to adapt or adjust to different internal and external conditions, i.e. behaviour can be described as an animal's response to a stimulus. Animals develop a range of behaviour problems, such as aggression, destructiveness, inappropriate toileting, self-mutilation, inappropriate vocal behaviour, nervousness, and phobias, beating of head, beating of body, Fighting, Kicking, Jumping, Vocalization, Lameness such behaviour can be inconvenient for you, the owner, but more importantly it is often a sign that your pet's welfare is poor.

- Diagnosis of diseases: change in behavior is first signs of disease (loss of appetite, altered activity, loss of grooming)
 - E.g. horse suffering from colic
- Diagnosis and treatment of different behavioral problems in pets (behavioral therapy)
 - Examples include pets with unacceptable elimination behaviors or are aggressive to people or other animals.



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| Self-Check -1 | Written Test |
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Directions: Answer all the questions listed below. Use the Answer sheet provided in the next page:

1. Mention some behaviour problems that animals develop? (5points)

Note: Satisfactory rating - 5 points Unsatisfactory - below 5 points

You can ask you teacher for the copy of the correct answers.

Answer Sheet

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1.4.1. Animal welfare legislation

In the development of legislation on animal welfare, many national governments and international organizations rely on multi-disciplinary animal welfare science in addition to broad animal welfare principles such as those just reviewed.

In Europe, animal welfare has been the subject of national legislation and regional agreements for more than a generation, largely due to more exposure to and discomfort with the treatment of animals in industrialized farms and slaughterhouses. In light of increased international trade, globalization of animal health concerns and pressure for harmonization of food safety standards, many other countries are also choosing to regulate animal welfare.

To improve their legislative frameworks, some countries use or adapt pre-existing legislation on the prevention of cruelty to animals, while others draft new animal welfare laws, blending national and local concerns with international animal welfare principles. Because the earliest animal welfare legislation was developed in countries where industrialized production is the norm, these legislative instruments tend to focus on farm animals housed, transported and slaughtered in high-technology environments designed to intensify production.

However, animal welfare legislation need not be limited to industrialized production. Well-drafted legislation can and should apply to other types of production such as subsistence farming and small-scale commercial production. Different scales of production raise different concerns.

1.4.2. Animal welfare regulations

As any African countries, Ethiopia has not formulated regular ways of awareness creation to the public and is not aware of what the minimal animal welfare standards to be esteemed. There are few attempts made by few non-governmental organizations such as The Donkey Sanctuary Project, Homeless Animals Protection Society introduction of Animal welfare to the curriculum of animal science and veterinary medicine fields of study from the government side.

It is true most proportions of Africans Livestock owners do not realize as animals are sensitive to beatings and mistreatment. In addition, many of them make branding or knives in order to identify their animals on prominent parts of the animal body.

Ethiopia as a country participated in development of animal welfare strategy and guidelines in IGAD wide conferences. The IGAD conference dealt issues like developing relevant policy, national legislations and clear strategies on animal welfare matters, adoption of the existing international animal welfare standards in a science based animal welfare standards and guidelines.

Ethiopia also move a goodstep in integrating the animal welfare issues in the educational system(curriculum) in particular in at the university level, specifically in veterinary and animal science fields of study. Ethiopia support and facilitate the exercise of animal welfare, it has the legal frame in encouraging active participation of animal science professionals in the activities of animal welfare institutions through membership and active participation by offering advice, professional services, to these organizations and/or their representatives.

In Ethiopian, various proclamations tried to show as it condemn aversive actions done on animals. For instance, crime proclamation No.414/2004 of Ethiopia stated that contamination of water, feed and pasture counted as a crime. Crimes committed through production and distribution of substances hazardous to animal health, manufacture, adulteration and sale of fodder and products injurious to livestock and scandalous treatment of animals are included indicating animal welfare issues lightly in different articles on the Criminal Code of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. Federal Negarit Gazeta of Ethiopia under the Proclamation No.267/2002 stated about the prevention and control of animal diseases.

In this proclamation, the primary concern is to prevent and control animal diseases in order to maximize the benefits obtained from the extensive livestock resource by keeping the wellbeing or welfare of animals. Whereas the Civil Society Organization stated as the Ethiopian government promotes nongovernmental societies to organize and work on animal welfare issues in the state.

Ethiopian Veterinary Drug and Feed Administration and Control Proclamation No. 728/2011 also stated as clinical test shall be conducted with due care to animal welfare requirements.

1.4.3. Codes of Animal welfare practice

The original goal of the world organization for animal health(OIE) was to work towards international cooperation and the creation of a communication network among countries in case of an animal disease outbreak; today, the organization also provides sanitary and scientific information and develops guidance on various aspects of animal health. OIE's codes, guidelines and science-based standards are intended to be used by the veterinary authorities of member states.

The OIE has devised a variety of guidelines to address the treatment of animals used for scientific research or kept for companionship, and has elaborated health standards for intensive farming. These standards are found in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Code).The Code aims **to ensure the health of terrestrial animals and the safety of animal products in international trade**. It establishes detailed measures to be implemented by the veterinary authorities of **both importing and exporting countries to prevent the transfer of pathogens without creating unjustified barriers to trade**.

Accordingly the Code regulates import and export procedures and specifies the diagnostic tests to be applied before export. Since 2005, the Code also addresses some animal welfare issues, particularly those arising (1) during the transport of animals by land, sea or air; (2) the slaughter of animals for human consumption; and (3) the killing of animals for purposes of disease control.

The incorporation of animal welfare standards into the Code is the result of the OIE's having identified animal welfare as a priority in its 2001-2005 Strategic Plan.

In 2002, the OIE created a permanent Working Group on Animal Welfare, whose first task was to develop a set of guiding principles to serve as the philosophical foundations of all OIE work on animal welfare.

These principles were adopted by the International Committee of OIE member countries during the 72nd General Session in May 2004 and are now included in the Code as follows:

1. There is a critical relationship between animal health and animal welfare.
2. The internationally recognized "Five Freedoms" (see Chapter I, Section 1.3) provide valuable guidance in animal welfare.
3. The internationally recognized "three Rs" (reduction in number of animals, refinement of experimental methods and replacement of animals with non-animal techniques) provide valuable guidance for the use of animals in science.
4. The scientific assessment of animal welfare involves diverse elements which need to be considered together, and selecting and weighing these elements often involves value-based assumptions which should be made as explicit as possible.
5. The use of animals in agriculture and science and for companionship, recreation and entertainment makes a major contribution to the well-being of people.
6. The use of animals carries with it an ethical responsibility to ensure the welfare of such animals to the greatest extent practicable.
7. Improvements in farm animal welfare can often improve productivity and food safety and hence lead to economic benefits.
8. Equivalent outcomes based on performance criteria, rather than identical systems based on design criteria, should be the basis for comparison of animal welfare standards and recommendations.

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| Self-Check -1 | Written Test |
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Directions: Answer all the questions listed below. Use the Answer sheet provided in the next page:

1. What are the aims of the codes practices in animal welfare? (5points)

Note: Satisfactory rating - 5 points Unsatisfactory - below 5 points

You can ask you teacher for the copy of the correct answers.

Answer Sheet

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