

Animal Welfare during Pandemics

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Abstract

Simple definition of animal welfare is how does the animal feel? In this CoVID-19 pandemic, animal welfare has become an important aspect of our lives, including pets, livestock and laboratory animals. The dangers posed to animals during COVID-19 should be considered not only from a welfare point of view but also from a zoonotic point of view. Prolonged lockdown has greatly reduced food resources for animals. Due to misconceptions such as COVID-19 can spread by animals the owners of the animals keep themselves away from the animals which has a negative impact on the welfare of the animals. This situation is worrying for all of us that so far the welfare of animals in lockdown situations has not been mentioned in the media. Effective experiments, including emotionality, are subjective, so they cannot be measured in animals, but the information contains indirect physical and behavioral indicators that can be used carefully to interpret such experiments. There are many forms of animal cruelty such as neglect of animals, misuse of animals, exploitation of animals and testing of animals. People are cruel to animals everywhere. Animals are emotional creatures that deserve our respect and protection. New research is very necessary to find out the present reasons of animal abuse and cruelty during pandemics. We can prevent animal cruelty by raising public awareness about the absence of COVID-19 zoonosis in every community.

Keywords: Animal Cruelty and Welfare; COVID-19 Pandemic; Animal Psychology; Zoonosis

Introduction

This review examines various aspects of animal welfare during COVID-19 pandemic and promoting positive animal welfare states. Cruelty to animals is the abuse of an animal. Every minute, one animal is abused. As the novel Corona virus pandemic spreads globally, animals are also becoming unnecessarily susceptible to infectious diseases due to lack of proper food and care. While there is no evidence that farm and companion animals have caused the spread of Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) but there are public concerns that COVID-19 may be transmitted through pets. Many pets are abandoned or even killed. The recent epidemic has had a negative impact on animal welfare. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the future, it is important to adopt a joint trans disciplinary one health approach for mutual

cooperation. It highlights the relationship between animal, human and environmental health [3]. Reasons of animal cruelty before and during lockdown are also discussed. It applies to the neuroscience-driven discussions of the environment and animal-to-animal interactions. It also considers factors that can affect expected intensity. This is especially true not only in developed cultures, but also in the persecution of animals around the world [1,2]. Animal cruelty can be different, but the effect is always similar. An emotional animal capable of making love and socializing is aware of pain as well as fear and it needs to stop [5]. Many people ignore animal cruelty but condole with it. Chickens are produced in poor and squalid conditions for the sole purpose of later slaughter. It is legal in many countries. What if it is not cruelty to animals? [6]. Real problematic situation is that very few people are working for the actual rights

of animals. If everyone on this planet started seeing not just dogs and cats as cute pets but also other animals also. We will have fewer cases of cruelty to animals [7].

Legislation to prevent animal cruelty in India was enacted in the early 1960s, in the form of the Prevention of Animal Cruelty Act [2]. Still cruelty to animals is a huge problem in many Asian countries. Sometimes dogs and cats are being ignored and abused in dog mills, dog fights and animal shelters. Animal cruelty deliberately put animals in a harm, danger and intimidates problematic situations that terrorizes innocent animals [8]. Animal brutality occurs when someone annoys or does not provide proper care to animals, such as not feeding or watering a dog or cat. Increasing collaborations between human welfare and animal welfare agencies and creating awareness in public about the importance of reporting animal cruelty during pandemic [4-27].

Methodology

Data is collected from various online articles, journals, and books. In particular, data are presented on how COVID-19 lockdown affects animal welfare and theories on community behavior with animals in pandemics are presented.

Animal welfare during COVID-19

In this case, animal welfare is one of the most important things. One aspect of animal welfare is animal health [25]. Today, many researchers are studying COVID-19, as a contagious disease in humans. Unfortunately, the lack of animal health education among public has become our problem in this pandemic. In this coronavirus diseases 2019 (COVID-19) lockdown, all kinds of animals, such as companion animals, livestock and laboratory animals, are treated impartially. Some important aspects, such as: COVID-19 transmission between animals, incubation time, medical symptoms, susceptible animals, and how to diagnose COVID-19 in animals should consider [26]. Another aspect that needs to be considered is the food of animals during this pandemic [25].

Animal cruelty falls into several categories. In many cases, animals are neglected out and ignored. This justifies the neglecting behavior of persons which keep animals but do not know how to handle them and don't take proper care of their animals. This gives us the idea that we need to educate people about animal care [7]. Negligence can also be due to the owner's lack of interest in animal and their welfare. For example, if an animal has been injured, the owner should legally and morally allow to take to veterinarian for treatment and care of the animal as soon as he sees it. Animals are considered as human property. They are never considered equal

to them [21]. Regrettably, many people are never happy by spending their time and sometimes money needed to care for their sick or injured pets [8]. Similarly, many animals can't eat properly for days or weeks because the owner is a busy person and he "just forgets" but this is a lame excuse. In addition, some animals spend their whole lives in conditions that eventually lead to death from dehydration, malnutrition, incurable diseases and some other circumstances [9]. Misuse of animals involves intentional harm to animals. There are many examples of animal abuse like when a man kills an ox for not following his instructions, or a woman buzzes a dog if it does mistake or accident at home, or if a man flogs his horse for deteriorating to obey an order. There are many examples of animal abuse such as when a man kills an ox for not following his instructions, or a woman buzzes at a dog in case of a mistake or accident at home, or if a man gives an order to his horse on failure to comply, he beats his horse [10]. It is important to consider that animal cruelty is rarely seen openly and is a concern for societies working for animal rights. Animal abuse takes place behind locked doors in farm houses or in factories or in fields that are not public [20]. Since animal abuse does not happen in front of us openly therefore we can excuse it because it does not present but for infected animals, it does exist [11]. Animal brutality and mishandling are a very common issues that stems from parents to children and culture. Incidents of violence against human and animals are common and the fact that animal abuse is a transmitter of current or future violence against people [17]. Exploitation of animals is another type of animal unkindness. Cows, sheep, pigs, ducks, geese, rabbits are all animals that exploit in the fields for their milk, eggs, skin, their meat. Now no one believes, we do it for them. We do it for ourselves: for profit, for taste and for fun [22,23]. Our conflicting relationships with other animals are most evident in whether we consider them as food or just our friends [18,19]. Exploitation is against the welfare of animal and animal face unsafe conditions. Funfair, circuses, zoos, water parks and other places often overuse or misuse animals just for fun [12]. Crowds do not know about animals which are kept in small enclosures for long durations, and they have no open access to other species. Because humans often have their own unique set of skills, they can easily master animals [24]. Humans hunt animals for food purposes. Sometimes, we hunt animals for not desire to eat but for other purposes. An important issue is the fur farming industry which is doing a big business in the world [14]. From decades new pharmacological products are tested in laboratory animals, and yet our advances in technology have made animal testing unnecessary and less useful than other testing procedures such testing examples are still found around the world [15]. The testing facilities expose the animals to all kinds of

dangerous chemical substances, these can cause itching, irritation and pain. Animal cruelty that spreads in test centers should stop now [16]. A lot of work is needed to clear these confusions. How do individuals provide physical, emotional care and nourishment to animals during a pandemic? Are there zoonotic concerns in caring for a pet? What are the medium- and long-term effects of pandemics for pet care? The answers of these questions will depend on zoonotic aspects of virus [28-30].

Conclusion

Animal deaths, barbarism and misbehavior are major problems in this pandemic. The biggest cause of animal abuse, animal suffering and wretchedness is discrimination because people consider themselves too precious and animals too low and it is a recurring theme. It is found in all kinds of animals and in all parts of the world. Owners should take care of their pets by following the guidelines by World Health Organization. Strict rules and regulations are required for everyone to be bound. New policies must be approved by political assemblies. This human coronavirus can't cause infection and symptoms in animals [31]. COVID-19 can't spread directly through animals so this information should reach to everyone [32]. Electronic, print and social media should be used effectively to raise awareness for animal welfare [33].

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