

## Animal Welfare in Pakistan: Educating All Age Groups on Animal Suffering

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### ABSTRACT

Animal welfare is a reflection of society's compassion and empathy. In Pakistan, animal welfare has become a prominent topic due to cultural and religious teachings, social media, and the connection between animal welfare and public health and societal well-being. However, there are challenges in implementing and enforcing animal welfare laws. Welfare organizations are doing their best to rescue and rehabilitate animals, provide veterinary care, and raise awareness. However, they cannot address the widespread animal suffering alone. Education is a key to transforming societal attitudes towards animals. Animal welfare should be included in school curricula and continuous learning for adults. Individuals can also contribute by being responsible pet owners, supporting animal shelters, spreading awareness, and advocating for stronger animal protection laws. By recognizing the intrinsic value of all living beings, Pakistan can pave the way for a more compassionate and humane future.

**Keywords:** Welfare, empathy, public health, care, awareness shelters, protection, humane future

### Introduction

Animal welfare, a subject of increasing global importance, holds a mirror to a society's compassion and empathy. In recent years, it has emerged as a hot topic of discussion, raising awareness about the treatment and rights of animals [1]. In Pakistan, a country with a rich biodiversity and a long history of coexistence with animals, the welfare of these sentient beings has garnered significant attention. This article aims to shed light on the concept of animal welfare, explore its status in Pakistan, and recognize the invaluable contributions of animal welfare organizations operating in the country.

Animal welfare encompasses the ethical responsibility humans have towards animals, ensuring their well-being, protection from cruelty, and providing them with dignified lives [2]. It encompasses considerations such as proper nutrition, access to clean water, appropriate shelter, medical care, freedom from pain and suffering, and the promotion of natural behavior.

In recent years, the awareness surrounding animal welfare has gained momentum in Pakistan. The compassion and empathy embedded in the teachings of various religions and cultures in the country have contributed to the increasing concern for animals' well-being [2]. The rise of social media and the internet has also facilitated the sharing of information, raising awareness about animal rights abuses and inspiring individuals to take action (Buller & Henry, 2020). Additionally, the correlation between animal welfare and public health, environmental sustainability, and overall societal well-being has led to an intensified focus on this crucial issue [3].



**A.** **B.**  
**Figure1:** Animals with compromised health conditions

Pakistan, blessed with diverse flora and fauna, faces numerous challenges in ensuring animal welfare. While the Constitution of Pakistan includes provisions to prevent animal cruelty, implementation and enforcement remain key concerns. Animal welfare laws are still evolving, and there is a need for comprehensive legislation to address all aspects of animal well-being [4].

Science and observation have unequivocally established that animals possess consciousness and emotions. They experience joy, fear, love, and pain, just as humans do. Acknowledging their sentience is a crucial step towards developing empathy and compassion for all living beings. Teaching this fundamental truth to children and individuals of all ages is essential in fostering a more harmonious relationship between humans and animals.

Despite the challenges, several dedicated organizations in Pakistan have taken up the cause of animal welfare, working tirelessly to improve conditions for animals. Prominent organizations such as the Pakistan Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Animal Friends Pakistan, and the Society for the Protection of Animal Rights (SPAR) are leading the charge. These organizations undertake a wide range of activities, including rescue and rehabilitation efforts, veterinary care, and sterilization campaigns, awareness campaigns, and advocacy for stronger animal welfare laws.

Animal welfare organizations in Pakistan have made significant contributions to the cause. Through their relentless efforts, they have rescued and rehabilitated countless animals, provided medical aid, and promoted

responsible pet ownership. Their awareness campaigns have helped change public attitudes, highlighting the importance of compassion towards animals. Moreover, these organizations have been actively involved in advocating for stronger animal welfare laws, pushing for more robust legal protection [5]. Animal welfare organizations undoubtedly play a pivotal role in protecting and advocating for animals. However, their efforts alone are insufficient to address the vast scope of animal suffering. These organizations face numerous challenges, including limited resources, human resources, and legal constraints.



**C.** **D.**  
**Figure2:** Animals with emaciation and low welfare score

Additionally, the scale of animal cruelty and neglect often surpasses the capacity of welfare organizations to address them comprehensively. Hence, the active involvement of every individual is imperative to effect meaningful change.

Education serves as a powerful catalyst in transforming society's attitudes towards animals. By incorporating animal welfare into school curricula and educational programs, children can learn about animal sentience, their needs, and their right to live free from suffering [6]. Such education fosters empathy, compassion, and responsible stewardship from an early age. However, education should not be limited to children alone; adults and individuals of every age group should also be engaged in continuous learning about animal welfare.

Promoting animal welfare is not the sole responsibility of a few organizations; it requires a collective effort from society. Every individual can contribute to animal welfare in various ways. By adopting responsible pet ownership practices, such as providing proper care, nutrition, and veterinary attention, we can ensure the well-being of our animal companions [7]. Supporting local animal shelters and rescue organizations through donations or volunteer work can make a tangible difference in the lives of abandoned and abused animals [8]. Additionally, spreading awareness through social media, organizing community events, and advocating for stronger animal protection laws are powerful means to effect change.

Recognizing and addressing animal suffering resonates deeply within the human heart. Witnessing acts of cruelty or neglect can evoke a profound sense of sadness, empathy, and a call to action. Teaching children and individuals about the realities faced by animals elicits compassion and nurtures a sense of responsibility towards their well-being. [9]. Such education empowers individuals to become advocates for change, helping to create a society where animals are treated with kindness, dignity, and respect.

### Conclusion:

Animal welfare is a growing issue in Pakistan, as individuals and organizations join forces to protect and improve the lives of animals. It is crucial to recognize that animals are sentient beings capable of experiencing pain, emotions, and suffering. Educating the public about animal welfare is a moral imperative, and the collective effort of society is indispensable in safeguarding the rights and well-being of animals. We must embrace our collective responsibility to educate, foster empathy, and actively contribute to animal welfare initiatives (Miller & Lance J, 2020). Let us embrace this responsibility wholeheartedly and take meaningful action to protect and uplift the lives of our fellow beings.

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