

Here are the 5 basic rights of animals that were written up in the West in the 1960s but in fact they were written in Islam hundreds of years before – here is the support and proof.

1. Protection from Hunger and Thirst –

by providing enough fresh water and the right type and amount of food to keep the animal healthy.

The Prophet(s) told his companions of a woman who would be sent to Hell for having locked up a cat; not feeding it, nor even releasing it so that it could feed herself." (Narrated by Abdullah bin 'Omar. Bukhari, 4:337; recorded in Riyad (Ref. No. 28), Hadith No. 1605;

The Prophet(s) told his companions of a serf who was blessed by Allah for saving the life of a dog by giving it water to drink and quenching its thirst. (Narrated by Abu Huraira. Muslim, Vol. 4, Hadith No. 2244. Also Bukhari, 3:322.

2. Protection from Discomfort

by making sure that animals have the right type of environment including shelter and somewhere comfortable to rest

"When we stopped at a halt, we did not say our prayers until we had taken the burdens off our camels' backs and attended to their needs." (Narrated by Anas. Awn (Ref. No. 32); 7:223; Hadith aNo. 5234.

Not only physical but also emotional care of animals was emphasized by the Holy Prophet that he once reprimanded his wife, Hazrat A'ishah herself narrates: "I was riding a restive camel and turned it rather roughly. The Prophet(s) said to me: 'it behooves you to treat the animals gently'. (Narrated by A'ishah. Muslim, Vol. 4, Hadith No. 2593.

3. Protection from Pain, Injury and Disease

by preventing them getting injured or sick and by making sure animals are diagnosed and treated quickly if the do.

To prevent inflammation of the udder and pain the Prophet(s) instructed- "Do not store milk in the udders of animals...." (Muslim and Bukhari)

Jabir told that God's Messenger forbade striking or branding on the face of animals...The same companion of the Holy Prophet(s) reported him as saying, when an ass which had been branded in its face passed him by: 'God curse the one who branded it.' (Narrated by Jabir bin Abdullah. Muslim, Vol.3, Hadith No. 2116. Also Awn al-Ma'bud Sharh Abu Dawud (Awn); 7:232, hadith No. 2547.

4. Insure their Freedom to Behave Naturally

by making sure animals have enough space, proper facilities and the company of other animals of their own kind.

When you journey through a verdant land, [go slow to] let your camels graze. When you pass through an arid area, quicken your pace [lest hunger should enfeeble the animals]. Do not pitch your tents for the night on the beaten tracks, for they are the pathways of nocturnal creatures. (Narrated by Abu Huraira. Sahih Muslim - Kitab-ul-Imam (Ref. No. 53); Vol. III; Chapter DCCVII; Hadith No. 4724; pp. 1062, 1063.

'It is a great sin for man to imprison those animals which are in his power' (Muslim)

All creatures on earth are sentient beings. "*There is not an animal on earth, nor a bird that flies on its wings - but they are communities like you.*" **The Holy Quran, 6:38**

5. Freedom from Fear and Distress

by making sure their conditions and treatment avoid mental suffering.

The Prophet(s) passed by some children who were shooting arrows at a ram. He told them off, saying: 'do not maim the poor beast'." (Narrated by Abdallah bin Ja'far. An-Nasai, 7:238).

We were on a journey with the Apostle of God, and he left us for a while. During his absence, we saw a bird called hummara with its two young and took the young ones. The mother bird was circling above us in the air, beating its wings in grief, when the Prophet(s) came back and said: 'who has hurt the FEELINGS of this bird by taking its young? Return them to her'. (Narrated by Abdul Rahman bin Abdullah bin Mas'ud. Muslim. Also Awn (Ref. No. 32) Hadith No. 2658.



"The Holy Prophet Muhammad was asked by his companions if kindness to animals was rewarded in the life hereafter. He replied: Yes, there is a meritorious reward for kindness to every living creature'." (Bukhari)