

ANIMAL RIGHTS IN ISLAM

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Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) saw a shepherd with some sheep in a bad place and saw a place which was better than it. He told him, **"Woe to you, shepherd! Move them! I heard the Messenger of Allah salla allaahu alayhi wa salam say, 'Every shepherd is responsible for his flock' "** [Saheeh Adab al-Mufrad no. 416]

Prohibition of Torturing Animals

Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that the Prophet salla allaahu alayhi wa salam said, **"A woman entered the (Hell) Fire because of a cat which she had tied, neither giving it food nor setting it free to eat from the vermin of the earth"**. [Bukhari no. 3318]

Prohibition of Poaching Animals

Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet salla allaahu alayhi wa salam said: **"Verily the greatest sin in the sight of Allah is [then he mentioned three. From them is] . . . to kill an animal for amusement"**. [Saheeh Jami no.1567]

Slaughtering Animals Mercifully

Shaddad bin Aws (may Allah be pleased with him) said that the Prophet salla allaahu alayhi wa salam said: **"Verily Allah has prescribed Ihsan (perfection) in all things. So if you kill then kill well, and if you slaughter, then slaughter well. Let each one of you sharpen his blade and let him spare suffering to the animal he slaughters."** [Muslim]

Mu'awiya ibn Qurra reported that his father said, **"A man said, 'Messenger of Allah, I was going to slaughter a sheep and then I felt mercy/pity for it'. The Prophet salla allaahu alayhi wa salam said twice, 'Since you showed mercy to the sheep, Allah will show mercy to you"**. [Silsilatus-Saheeha no. 26]

al-Munaawi (1031 H.), may Allah have mercy upon him, said: **"Slaughter it with mercy. Do not knock it down with force, do not drag it to slaughter with force...and do not slaughter it in the presence of another animal"**. [Tayseer bi Sharh Jami as-Sagheer (1/518)]

Shaikh al-Albani (1420 H.), may Allah have mercy upon him, said: **"These are some narrations which I have found until now indicating the amount of influence the guidelines of the Prophet salla allaahu alayhi wa salam had on the earlier Muslims in regards to having mercy upon animals. This in reality is only a small portion [of the narrations] from a greater amount and a drop in the ocean. In that is a clear elucidation that it is Islam that has established the principle of kindness towards animals. Unlike what some people who are ignorant of Islam think that it was established by the disbelievers in Europe..."** [Silsilatus-Saheeha (1/69)]

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Bismillah ar-Rahman ar-Raheem

All Praise is due to Allah and may Peace and Blessings be upon the Prophet, his Companions, and his followers until the Last Day.

As for what proceeds:

This is the fifth pamphlet in the *Introduction to Islam* series, which are designed to introduce authentic Islam in a simple and clear manner. In this pamphlet, you will learn about animal rights in Islam. I ask Allah, our Lord, to guide us to the Straight Path. Verily, He is capable of all things.

Animals Have Rights

Sahl bin 'Amr (may Allah be pleased with him) said: **"The Messenger of Allah salla allaahu alayhi wa salam happened to pass by a camel whose belly was sticking to its back (because of hunger), whereupon he said, Fear Allah in respect to these animals which are unable to speak. Ride them while they are fit and slaughter them and eat their meat when they are fit"**. [Silsilatus-Saheeha no. 23]

Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) reported the Prophet salla allaahu alayhi wa salam said **"Do not treat the backs of your beasts as pulpits, for Allaah has only made them subject to you so you can reach a town which you cannot reach without difficulty. He has appointed the earth (a floor to work) for you, so conduct your business on it"**. [Silsilatus-Saheeha no. 22]

Shaikh Ibn ul-'Uthaymeen (1421 H.), may Allah have mercy upon him, said: **"From that also is that the Prophet salla allaahu alayhi wa salam ordered kindness to animals and that it is obligatory upon a person to treat them with a good treatment. He does not burden them with what they cannot bear, nor restricts them in terms of food or drink. From that also is that a person rides a riding beast alone and he can carry someone behind him with the condition that the riding beast can bear that..."** [Sharh Riyaadhus-Saliheen (4/594)]

Animals Have Emotions

Abdullah ibn Ja'far (may Allah be pleased with him) said: **"...All of a sudden when, a camel saw the Prophet salla allaahu alayhi wa salam, it wept tenderly, producing a yearning sound and its eyes flowed. The Prophet salla allaahu alayhi wa salam came to it and wiped the temple of its head. So it kept silent. He then said: "Who is the master of this camel? Whose camel is this"? A young man from the Ansar came and said: "This is mine, Messenger of Allah." He said "Don't you fear Allaah about this beast which Allaah has given in your possession? It has complained to me that you keep it hungry and load it heavily which fatigues it"**. [Silsilatus-Saheeha no. 20]

The Messenger of Allah salla allaahu alayhi wa salam once passed by a man who had his foot on the side of a sheep, and he was sharpening his knife while it was glancing at him with its eyes. So he [the Messenger of Allah] said: **"Why not before this [i.e. why did you not sharpen the knife before bringing the sheep out for slaughter]? Do you want it to die two deaths?"** [Silsilatus-Saheeha no. 24]

Giving Animals Proper Feed

Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Messenger of Allah salla allaahu alayhi wa salam **prohibited eating the animal which feeds on filth, and also drinking its milk**. [Saheeh Sunan Abi Dawood no. 3785]