

**Indian Farmer**

Volume 11, Issue 08, 2024, Pp. 293-296

Available online at: www.indianfarmer.net

ISSN: 2394-1227 (Online)

Original Article

Humane aspect for controlling the emerging problem of stray cattle on road and trails

Anshul Gautam¹, Nistha Yadav¹, Bhavinkumar Dhandhala², D. Sreekumar¹**¹*Arawali Veterinary College, Bajor, Sikar, Rajasthan, 332403*²*FVASC, Skuast, Shuhama, Kashmir, 190006Corresponding author: anshulgautam789@gmail.com**Received: 09/08/2024**Published: 12/08/2024***ABSTRACT**

One of the biggest problems of today's circumstances is the number of abandoned cattle roaming the streets. Although cows are sacred in our culture, over 5 million cattle roam the streets of our nation in search of food and water. These roaming creatures pose a serious threat to human health as they can spread disease and cause major traffic accidents (stray cattle are responsible for about 5% of accidents in India). On the welfare grounds, it is also detrimental to them, and frequently they also pass away from illnesses, injuries, and malnutrition. Therefore, it is imperative that this issue be given careful consideration.

Key words: cattle, population, stray, welfare**INTRODUCTION**

In our nation, excessive stray cattle population, particularly in urban areas, pose a serious threat to animal welfare and public health (Rao et al., 2016). Unowned, roaming, homeless, abandoned, or street cattle are known as stray cattle (Abdulkarim et al., 2024), and you can find them in big groups near dumpsters and dumping yards (Arya et al., 2020). India has more than five million stray cattle (20th Livestock census), which is a matter of concern for the livestock industry in the nation. The term "stray cattle" refers to cows, bulls, and calves. Even though cows are highly revered in our society, they stop being profitable for farmers after the sixth lactation period and start to strain their owners financially. In addition to producing little or no milk, a number of systemic and reproductive illnesses also cause cows to become abandoned. Dairy farmers strongly prefer female calves for milk production due to economic considerations. The usage of male cattle has significantly decreased as a result of increased mechanization, particularly among large farmers. According to estimates, the percentage of male animals used for draught decreased from 71 percent in 1961 to 23.3% in 1991, and the trend is still downward. Male animals are burdening farmers because there are limited supplies of grain and fodder for them. The national policy that forbids the slaughter of cows has

made these issues worse. The farmer is forced to give up these cattle and the male calf because of all these issues.

Along with the remaining food, they consume plastic bags, pins, shoe straps, and other metallic waste. Cattle that walk freely and coexist with people in public spaces are becoming a major source of concern. In addition, they sleep in the center of highways (Radhakrishnan et al., 2021) and metropolitan roadways, hang out near houses of worship, and saunter through markets in search of food. It is against the IPC-428 and 429 to punish or kill stray animals cruelly.

This huge stray cattle population is harmful for the humans, environment and also for animals themselves on the welfare grounds. Therefore, in order to implement appropriate mitigation techniques, it becomes crucial to comprehend the grave repercussions of the stray cattle population.

Annoyance brought on by stray cattle

- By defecating and urinating in public areas and water streams, stray animals raise the danger of contracting zoonotic diseases such FMD, HS, brucellosis, rabies, and skin conditions.
- In addition to overgrazing areas, stray animals can harm farmers' crops owing to inadequate nourishment, resulting in significant financial losses for the farmers.
- Animals frequently stray onto public roadways, which causes traffic congestion and accidents. Stray cattle on the road are the cause of about 5% of accidents that occur in India (Sri et al., 2019).
- Humans and other animals are injured by stray cattle, especially bulls. In the past few years, there have been multiple incidents where bulls have gravely hurt people, occasionally even resulting in fatalities.
- Numerous stray animals breed, which raises their population and raises the danger of predators, auto accidents, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases (Choudhary & Palsaniya, 2024).

Methods for mitigating the problem of stray livestock

- Preventing their population from growing is the first and most important approach. A qualified veterinarian should castrate male animals. Early castration is preferable to later castration as an adult. Chemical castration with intratesticular hypertonic sodium chloride solution works very well for male calves up to 20 days of age (Neto et al., 2014).
- To lower the prevalence of abandoned male calves, the government ought to offer sexed semen at reduced prices throughout the nation (Kumar,2019; Sharma et al., 2018)
- It is necessary to develop Gosadan and Goshala for animals in discomfort. In India, it is customary to house elderly, infertile, and abandoned cows in traditional cow shelters (Ayman et al., 2022; Sharma et al., 2019). The public, corporations, charitable organizations,

government, temple trusts, and corporate philanthropy all contribute to the funding of these shelters (Kennedy et al., 2022). There are currently about 7676 gaushalas in India that are registered. The idea of Gai Aadharit Unnati might be applied to raise public donations to these shelters (Kedia et al., 2022). With the assistance of a nearby NGO that can arrange for the fodder via a corporation, the idea focuses on supplying the impoverished animal shelter with food using donations.

- Electric cum solar fencing can be placed around the crops to prevent invasion by stray cattle
- Research is required to create agricultural implements and tools that work better with draft animals.
- Animal identification and registration should be made compulsory. A better solution is to implant a chip in the animals so they are not abandoned by owners or left to roam on the streets.
- Road and highway collisions involving vehicles and animals can be minimized by drivers with the assistance of an effective automatic animal detection system and a warning system. (Sharma & Shah, 2016)
- In Goa, to control the stray cattle menace, the government has appointed an agency to impound the stray cattle by transporting them in specialized vehicle to the Cattle Pound where arrangements are made to look after them. The Scheme encourages the citizens to inform the respective agency on mobile about the presence of the stray cattle in their area and the mobile number is widely publicized and displayed at all the Municipalities, Panchayats and public places. Such strategies should be followed throughout the country.
- In order to control stray cattle population, the government should place a high priority on owner education, required identification, registration, and environmental management.

CONCLUSION

It is incorrect to view stray cattle as a burden on society. Creating a sustainable long-term plan is essential. The goal is to maintain the animals' wellbeing and health while also shielding humans from these kinds of animals. It is crucial that our native breeds be carefully managed on dedicated shelter farms in order to protect them. It's critical to inform the public about the problems produced by roaming animals and offer remedies in order to monitor and manage their number. It is imperative that the relevant authorities enforce strict measures immediately.

REFERENCES

Arya, S., Swain, R. K., Nayak, H. K., & Pati, A. K. (2020). Circadian variations in foraging and resting/standing activity patterns of stray street cattle of urban Sambalpur, Odisha, India. *Biological Rhythm Research*, 51(7):1053-1065.

- Abdulkarim, A., Khan, M. A. K. B. G., & Aklilu, E. (2021). Stray animal population control: methods, public health concern, ethics, and animal welfare issues. *World's veterinary journal*, (3): 319-326.
- Ayman, N., Malik, A. A., Hamdani, S. A., Akand, A. H., Rasool, S., Hai, A., & Shubeena, S. (2022). Transformative Role of Gaushalas in Conversion of Waste to Wealth: A Way Forward to Curb the Stray Cattle Menace. *Acta Scientific Veterinary Sciences*, 4 (10).
- Choudhary, K., & Palsaniya, V. K. (2024). "Overview of the Stray Animals in India and Their Regulation". *Journal of Advances in Biology & Biotechnology*, 27 (7):893-99.
- Kedia, G. K., Garg, A., Mishra, P. K., Krishna, N., & Mishra, A. (2022). Gai Aadharit Unnati (GAU)*: Modernizing Cow based Economy through Application of Advanced Technology (No. WP 2022-05-03). Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Research and Publication Department.
- Kennedy, U., Sharma, A., & Phillips C. J. (2018). The sheltering of unwanted cattle, experiences in India, and implications for cattle industries elsewhere. *Animals*, 8(5):64.
- Kumar, P. (2019). Role of Sexed Semen in Augmenting Dairy Animal Production and Managing Stray Cattle Menace Model Training Course On Innovative Entrepreneurial Approaches in Hill Farming System for Doubling Farmer's Income, 105-115
- Neto, O. A., Gasperin, B. G., Rovani, M. T., Ilha, G. F., Nóbrega Jr, J. E., Mondadori, R. G., & Antoniazzi, A. Q. (2014). Intratesticular hypertonic sodium chloride solution treatment as a method of chemical castration in cattle. *Theriogenology*, 82(7):1007-1011.
- R., Radhakrishnan, R. V., Jain, M., Sasnal, P. K., Hansda, U., Vuppala, S. K., & Doki, S. K. (2021). A study of the pattern of injuries sustained from road traffic accidents caused by impact with stray animals. *Journal of Emergencies, Trauma, and Shock*, 14(1): 23-27.
- Rao, T. K. S., Chaurasia, S., Singh, A., & Gamit, V. V. (2016). Management of Stray Cattle in Urban Area. *Indian Farmer* 3(6), 455-459
- Sharma, S. U., & Shah, D. J. (2016). A practical animal detection and collision avoidance system using computer vision technique. *IEEE access*, 5, 347-358.
- Sharma, N., Chand, D. K., Rawat, S., Sharma, M., & Verma, H. (2018). Effect of sexed semen on conception rate and sex ratio under field conditions. *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies* 6(1): 702-705.
- Sharma, A., Schuetze, C., & Phillips, C. J. (2019). Public attitudes towards cow welfare and cow shelters (gaushalas) in India. *Animals*, 9(11):972.
- Sri, T., Varma, R., Krishna, V. H., & Chowdary, K. V. (2019). Automated Street Lighting System. *International Journal of Innovative Technology and Exploring Engineering*, 8(7).