



ANIMAL RIGHTS

حقوق الحيوان

Objectives >>>

Students should:

- That Islam has rules and rights related to animals and their welfare
- That while we can use animals for their proper use, we are not allowed to torture or hurt animals
- That Islam encourages us to take care of animals
- That we are not allowed to have dogs as pets

SOCIAL ISLAM

LEVEL 2

Caring for Animals

Our religion, Islam, has guidelines for us with regards to everything. It teaches us how we should behave when it comes to dealing with other people and also how we should treat and take care of our world and environment. This includes the rights of animals.

Animals are a creation of Allah (SWT) and therefore need to be treated in a certain way. Unfortunately, some people abuse animals by throwing rocks at them, poking them with sticks, or even buying them as pets and then not taking care of them.

The Qur'an mentions that animals were created to assist humans in their life. Centuries ago, people would use animals for transportation and nowadays we use animals for food. For example we slaughter chickens and cows for our food. Islam allows this, and this is part of the

circle of life. However, we are not allowed to kill or hurt an animal for no good reason. So hunting for fun, or hitting an animal for amusement, are not allowed.

TAKING CARE OF ANIMALS

If we have an animal or a pet at home that we cannot eat or do not want to use it as food, then it is our responsibility to take care of the animal. Taking care of an animal means doing the following:

1) Food – we must make sure that we are giving our pet enough food to meet their dietary requirements. We should make sure we are not over feeding them as in some cases this could kill the pet.

Jurisprudence: *Islam and the Environment*, Level 2

2) Drink – we need to ensure that there is always clean water for our pet. Furthermore, that water must be available for them to drink whenever they require.

3) Suitable Accommodation: It is our responsibility to ensure that our pet has got comfortable place to live and sleep in.

4) Medication: These days all pets need to have vaccinations to avoid them getting any sort of disease. It is our duty as good Muslims to make sure that our pet has the necessary vet care as well.

There is an important rule to remember when it comes to pets. In Islam we are not allowed to have dogs as pets because they are unclean animals. This does not mean that we can hurt or harm dogs. It just means that we cannot keep them as pets or let them enter our house.

Review Questions

Q1. We are allowed to use animals for:

- Playing a game with our friends to see who can aim the stone at the dog
- A proper use e.g. eating or transportation
- To see which animal is the strongest by sitting on them

Q2. We are not allowed to have dogs as pets because:

- They are Najis
- They could bite us
- They can be scary sometimes

