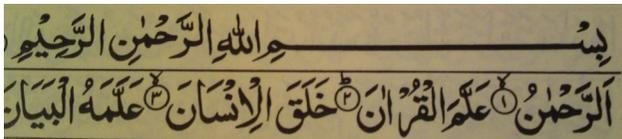


From Al-Ghazzali's *Ihya Ulum-id-din* Vol III p 98, "The Prophet said: If you do not appease the hunger of a dog by giving it a piece of bread and a pot of pure water, calamity will come to the world and its inmates." It is thus clear that even a dog is given its status by Allah. Dogs fulfil many roles in our society and we should treat them with the kindness and due consideration of their service to us.

How can we honour these verses and live in harmony with the animals?



Q55:1-4 "In the name of Allah, most Gracious, most Merciful. Most Gracious ! It is He Who taught the Quran. He has created man. He has taught man speech (intellect)"

According to Imam Al-Ghazzali's *Ihya Ulum-id-din* Vol III pp 90-96, one needs to eat only that which the body requires at a particular moment, never filling the tummy. The maximum space that food should occupy in the tummy is one-third. If we can eat less than that, it raises our ranks in piety.

If we reduce our intake of food of all kinds, the demand for the number of animals slaughtered will decrease and there will be no need for farming animals solely for the purpose of consumption. Often, because of the demand for food, animals are mistreated, abused and fed harmful substances to make them bigger, grow faster and appear stronger.

What can we do?

Support businesses known for their proper treatment of animals, which allow them to roam freely in their pastures and grow and breed according to their natural states.

Share this information with family and friends and encourage a life faithful to Quranic teachings.

Find out more about how the animals you are eating are raised, slaughtered and processed, and share the information.

Support movements and efforts that aim to promote awareness of the proper treatment of animals and their environment.

Make sure that the source of our food is Halaal in all aspects, not only slaughtering

Quranic Chapters named after animals

- al-Baqara (the Heifer)
- al-An-áam (the Cattle)
- an-Nahl (the Bee)
- an-Naml (the Ant)
- al-Ankabut (the Spider)
- al-Feel (the Elephant)

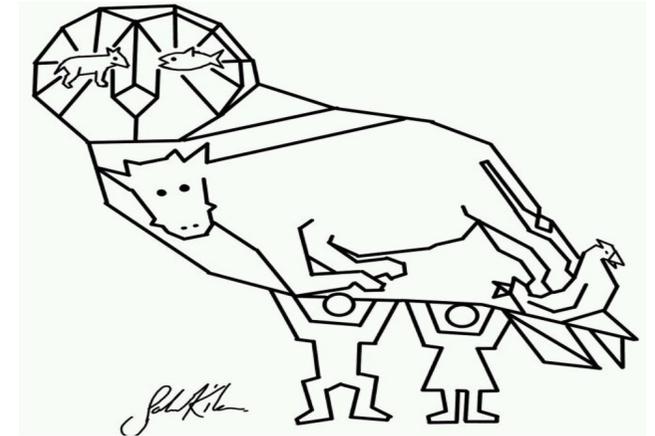
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Photo source -Flickr.com: Sheep by Marji Beach. Camels by Michal Svek

Cover illustration by Salmah Kibar



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Created by Allah, We all matter



Living faithfully



Do I give animals their right according to Quran and Sunnah?

Our interactions with animals are guided by Quran and Sunnah.

Quran 6:38 “There is not an animal on earth, nor a being that flies on its wings, but (forms part of) communities like yourselves. Nothing have we omitted from the book, and they shall (all) be gathered to their Lord in the end.”

In communities we care for one another. Animals do the same. They look after their young and care for their kind. Some hunt other animals to survive. Fights among animals are to ensure the survival of the species. Since we do not understand, it is not wise to intervene in the course of nature.

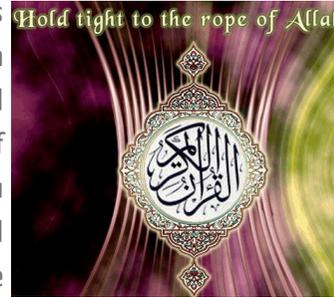
Artificially “producing” more animals of a kind can put a major strain on the environment, the natural habitat of an animal. Such animals are often fed food that is not natural for them to eat. Is it wise or ethical for humans to intervene in the reproductive patterns of animals?



Each group of animals has their function defined by Allah. The following verses spell out the role that some of them play in our lives.

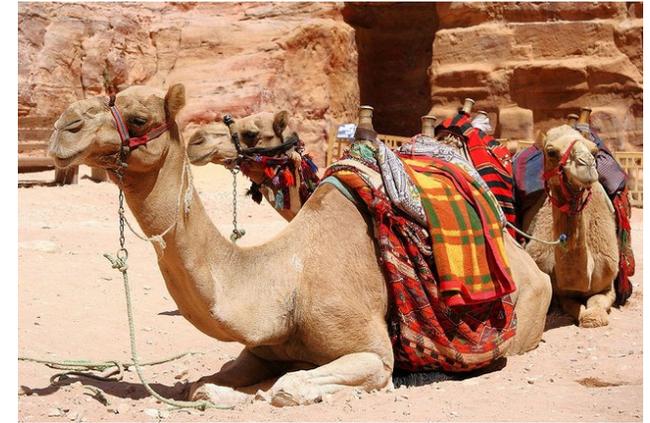
Quran 6:142 “Of the cattle are some for burden and some for meat: eat what Allah has provided for you, and follow not the footsteps of Satan; for he is to you an avowed enemy.”

Quran 16: 5-8 “And He has created cattle for you: from them you derive warmth, and numerous benefits and of their (meat) you eat. And you have a sense of pride and beauty in them as you drive them home in the evening, and as you lead them forth to pasture in the morning. And they carry your heavy loads to lands that you could not reach except with souls distressed: for your Lord is indeed Most Kind, Most Merciful. And (He has created) horses, mules, and donkeys, for you to ride and use for show, and he has created (other) things of which you have no knowledge.”



Quran 16:80 “It is Allah Who made your habitations homes of rest and quiet for you; and made for you, out of the skins of animals, dwellings, which you find so light when you travel and when you stop; and out of their wool, and their soft fibres, and their hair, rich stuff and articles of convenience for a time.”

Animals are not to be exploited. There is a cut-off time for animals to be used for the purpose for which they were created. They provide for us “for a time” and should be left to live their lives unhindered after their rightful service. We should not use horses/cattle/ donkeys until they can no longer walk or deliver the service that they did for a while.



Animals, in Islam, are a form of sacrifice. The sacrifice being made to Allah is often a gesture of gratitude or penitence. Their treatment should always be with dignity and never harsh. The act of sacrifice should come from the heart.

Quran 22:36 “The sacrificial camels We have made for you as among the Symbols from Allah: in them is good for you: then pronounce the name of Allah over them as they line up: when they are down on their sides (after slaughter), you may eat thereof, and feed such as (beg not, but) live in contentment, and such as beg with humility: thus have We made animals subject to you, that you may be grateful.”

Quran 22:37 “It is not their meat nor their blood, that reaches Allah, it is your piety that reaches Him: He has thus made them subject to you, that you may glorify Allah for His guidance to you ...”

In Surah 18, al-Kahf, Allah relates the story of the dog as a guard and companion for the Seven Sleepers. Commonly related also is the story of the woman who was granted paradise because she provided a dog with water from a well in her slipper.