

ETHICAL AND WELFARE

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Challenges to a Whole Chain Approach to Meat Quality and Safety

25-26 March 2007, Cairo, Egypt

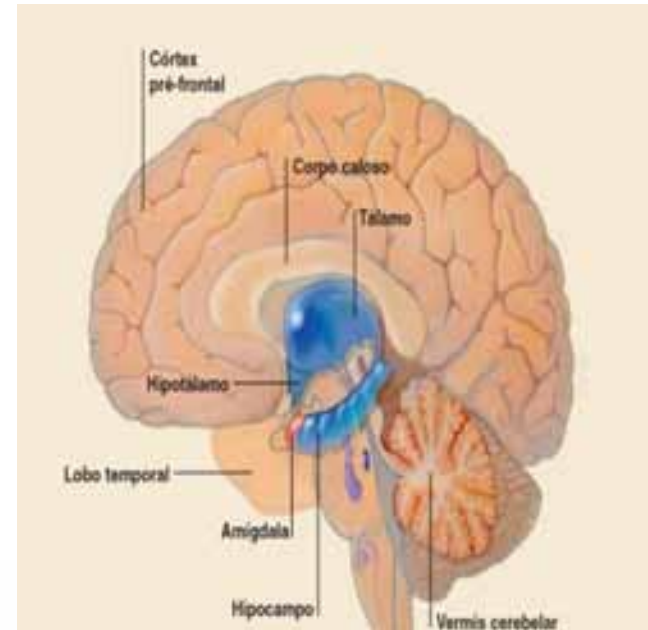
Interest in Animal Welfare

- Can animals experience emotions?
- Can animals suffer?
- Are we worried about it?

Can animals experience emotions?

Probably they can

- Analogy principle
 - The structures responsible of emotions in humans are similar to those in the rest of mammals



It doesn't exist an objective indicator to measure emotions

Are we worried about AW?

- Amsterdam Treaty (1997)

In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, as sentient beings, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.

What we are talking about?

There are different definitions of animal Welfare

- 1. A feeling-based approach**
- 2. An environment-inherent nature approach**
- 3. A functioning-based approach**

A feeling based approach

- **Will be improved by positive states.**
- **Will be reduced by negative states such as pain and fear.**
- **Based on the observation of the subjective experiences of animals.**
- **Preference test.**

How to know they are feeling?

The preference it is not indicating suffering

An environment-inherent nature approach

- **The animal must have the capacity to develop their own natural behaviour**
- **Observation of animals in natural or seminatural conditions**

Domestic vs wild species

What can we define as natural behaviour?

A lack of behaviour-welfare problems?

A functioning based approach

- The welfare of an individual is its state as regards its attempts to cope with its environment

Stress is the physic pressure made on an object

Factors against the homeosthasis

Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenocortical axis



1. The individual can overcome the situation with a low biological cost

2. The individual fails to overcome the situation (injuries, diseases, etc.)

3. The individual can overcome the situation with some biological cost

It is not considering emotions
Stress is a physiological response

Farm Animal Welfare Council

5 Freedoms:

- **From hunger and thirst**
- **From physical and thermal discomfort**
- **From pain, injury or disease**
- **From fear and distress**
- **To express normal behaviour**



Space and behaviour restriction

Laying hens

Battery cages → 550 cm² per hen

Laying hen size → 475 cm²

4 hens → $(550 \times 4) - (475 \times 4) = 300 \text{ cm}^2$

hens stretching their wings → 890 cm²

wings stretching → $890 - 475 = 415 \text{ cm}^2$

hens flapping their wings → 1876 cm²

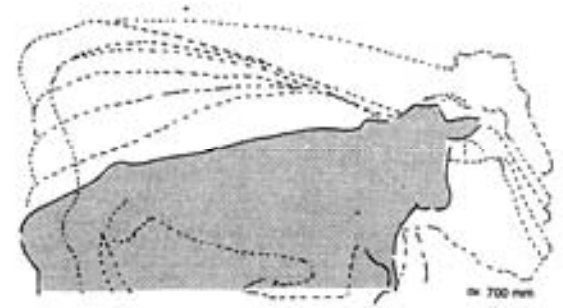
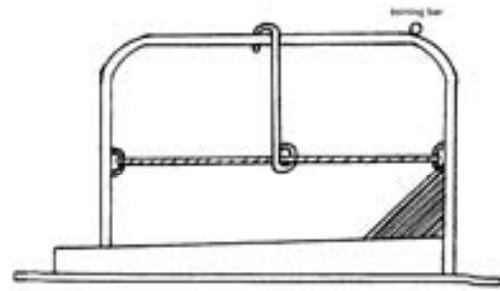
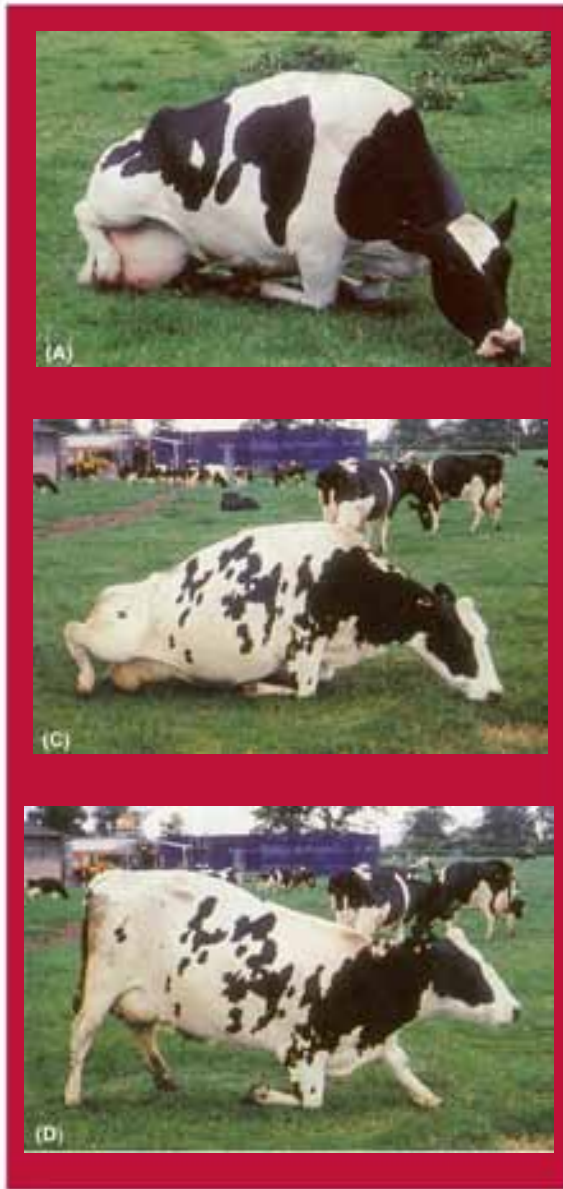
wings flapping → 1401 cm²

Broilers

11-25 broilers per m² (38 kg/m²)

10-30% painful lameness

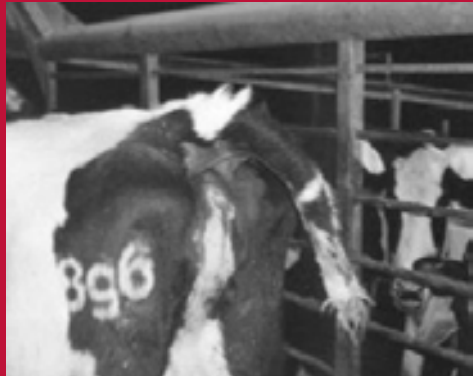
Space restriction and Behaviour



Food and water deprivation

Long Transports





Pain and stress

- Diseases and Injuries (lameness)
- Mutilations
 - Tail cutting in cattle
 - Debeaking in hens
- Different stress causes
 - Social behaviour (new animals, competence)
 - Human-animal relationship
 - New environment

ANIMAL HANDLING AT THE ABATTOIR

Animal handling at the abattoir

Handling



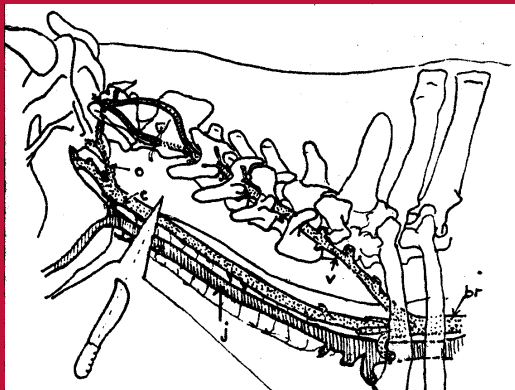


Stunning

Council Directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing (1993):

Slaughter without stunning impairs animal welfare:

1. Stressfulness of restraint method
2. Pain due to incision
3. Latency of onset of complete insensibility





Grandin, T

Stunning

- Legislation in EU requires pre-slaughter stunning
- Exemption for animals slaughtered by religious methods
- Bovines, sheep, goats and poultry
- Muslim method for the production of Halal
- Jewish method for the production of Kosher

DIALREL

- EU is promoting the social dialogue to find a consensus:
- Religious slaughter: improving knowledge and expertise through dialogue and debate on issues of welfare, legislation and socio-economic aspects
- 16 participants from 11 countries (also Turkey and Israel)
- Explore the conditions for promoting the dialogue between interested parties and stakeholders and facilitating the adoption of good religious slaughter practices

www.dialrel.eu



Animal Welfare in other studies

Replacement

Reduction

Refinement



Thank you for your attention

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