

GUIDELINES FOR MANAGEMENT OF **GAUSHALAS**



Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations

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About Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO)

FIAPO is India's apex animal rights organisation.

As the collective voice of the animal rights movement in India, FIAPO is the catalyst that protects the interests and rights of animals on local and national levels - through education, research, lobbying, mobilisation, networking, training and direct action.

Created for the movement, by the movement, FIAPO is India's only national federation.

It has over 83 members and over 200 supporter organisations across the country.

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INTRODUCTION

Gaushalas are sanctuaries for bovine animals whose origins can be traced back to the Vedic Period ('Rigveda' refers to cow as 'Aghnya', one which must never be killed). Historically, our social customs and rules laid great emphasis on protection, preservation and development of cows and its progeny. But with the passage of time, our treatment of 'Gau' and management Gaushalas have encountered new challenges as cows & their progeny are mainly seen as a source of income. By conservative estimates, India has about 4,000 Gaushalas, operated under varied management practices..

The need of the hour is to set standard practices for the management of Gaushalas which adequately address the overall welfare needs of the cattle they house. Gaushalas also need to explore sustainable practices from use of non-dairy by-products, which can reduce the strain on state resources to support them. Milk should not be the primary income generator for any Gaushala (not more than 10% income should be through milk or milk products). Gaushalas can be set up using Eco technologies; involving women and the underprivileged.

The following document focuses on the welfare of animals in Gaushalas and lays down basic minimums for their housing, husbandry and overall management. Ideas for how to sustainably run a Gaushala are given in the business section of this document.



Daily Routine of Gaushalas

Animals at a Gaushala are mostly those who are unproductive/rescued/malnourished/abandoned or abused. These animals need special care and feed. The animals need regular balanced diet at least twice a day. Fresh green fodder should be served to them every time in the morning and evening for them to stay healthy.

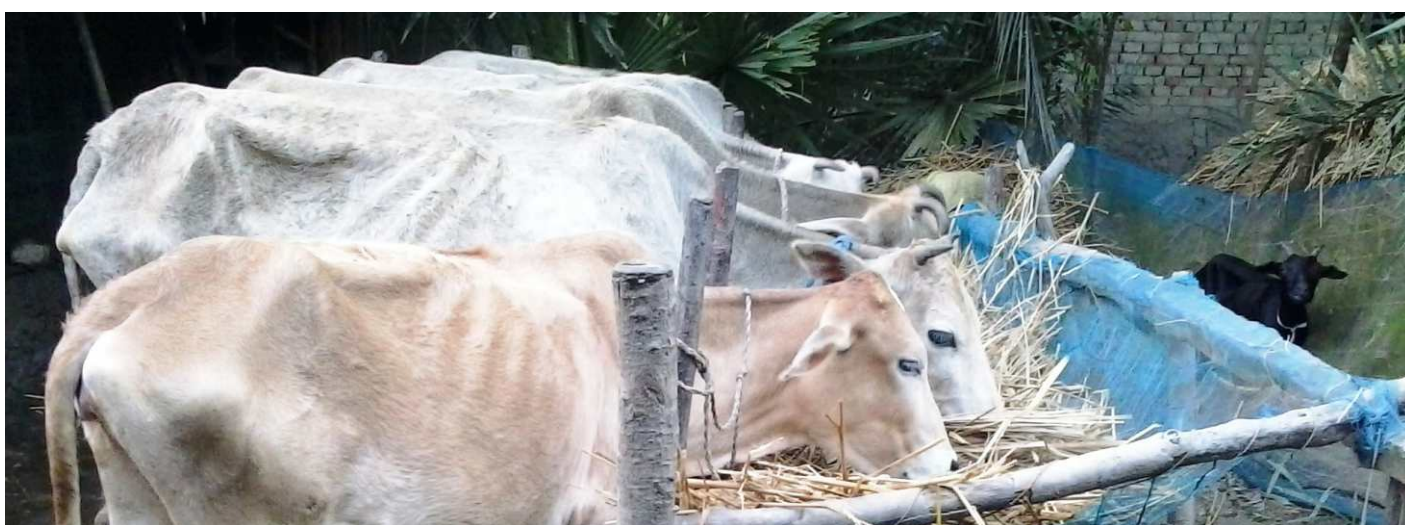
The suggested timing module for both the seasons that is summer and winter are given below:

PARTICULARS	SUMMER	WINTER
Suggestions	Cattle should be allowed to stay out in open at night because sheds will be very hot.	Cattle are kept inside the sheds during night.
Feed		
Morning	Inside the shed at 6 am	Outside the shed at 7 am
Evening	Outside the shed at 4 pm	Inside the shed at 5 pm
To Pick Cow Dung	From 8 am to 10 am	From 9 am to 11 pm
Cleaning of Outside Area	From 8 am to 10 am	From 5 pm to 7 pm
Cleaning of Sheds	From 5 pm to 7 pm	From 9 am to 11 pm
Fresh Water Availability	Both inside and outside the shed	Both inside and outside the shed



FEEDING

1. Dairy animals should spend as much of the day as possible outdoors, with as much access to natural vegetation as possible, unless extreme weather conditions mean that indoor housing is beneficial. Grazing lands/ gauchar land should be developed around dairies. They should be planted with vegetation that can be grazed by animals. Animals should not have to walk long distances, and the ground should not be very rough or stony, to avoid foot damage.
2. Grazing land should be developed by the Gaushala committee in association with the local government
3. Animals should have continuous unrestricted access to clean drinking water, with sufficient trough space and flow rate to ensure this.
4. Animals should be given adequate quantities of fresh wholesome feed for their nutritional and behavioural needs, including at least 10% of long fibre roughage to ensure normal rumen function. As much of this as possible should be obtained from natural vegetation. At other times, palatable fibrous feed such as silage, grass or hay should be made available in unrestricted quantity. Animal products should not be permitted in the diet, including meat and bone meal.
5. Animals should be given 90% fodder such as grass or hay or Bhusa (powdered rice husk) and 10% fruit and vegetables. Jaggery can be added to diet if affordable to provide well needed energy. Pure sugar, rice (cooked or raw) and jackfruit should not be given in large quantities, as this will cause acidosis, leading to death
6. In loose enclosures, the length of the manger should enable all the animals in the shed to eat at the same time to avoid competition during feeding. Where feed and water troughs are provided in the loafing area, the access areas should be sufficiently wide to permit free movement of animals and prevent routes becoming wet and slippery. The feeding and watering space requirement as per BIS are given in the table below:



Sr. No	Type of animal	Feeding (manger) space per animal (cm)	Water trough space/ animal (cm)
1	Young calves (< 8 weeks)	40- 50	10-15
2	Older calves (> 8 wks)	40-50	10-15
3	Heifers	45-60	30-45
4	Adult cows	60-75	45-60
5	Adult Buffaloes	60-75	60-75
6	Down calvers	60-75	60-75
7	Bulls	60-75	60-75
8	Bullocks	60-75	60-75

* The actual length and width of water through may be decided as per the strength of group



HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Animals should be kept in small, stable groups at low stocking density in an enriching environment, such that they can express their natural behaviour like lying down for as long as they want, scratching, walking, grazing, feeding calves etc. Individual housing should not be used except temporarily or for veterinary reasons.
2. Housing should provide bedded lying areas. Sand or straw bedding should be provided in the lying area for all animals to reduce the incidence of lameness and to ensure a comfortable lying area for any lame animal.
3. Animals housed outdoors need shelter from adverse weather and protection from predators and other sources of stress such as noise generated due to traffic and densely populated urban areas. The housing system must provide adequate climatic protection and comfort to the animals.
4. Housing should provide natural lighting and ventilation and an uninterrupted, dark resting period at night. Extreme temperatures and humidity should be prevented. Good air quality should be ensured (a useful guide is that if air quality is unpleasant for humans it is also likely to be a problem for dairy animals).
5. The space allowance for animals housed in groups should be worked in view the age, sex, live weight and behavioural needs of the group and the size of the group. There should be enough space for animals to move around and interact with each other. The accommodation should provide enough space for a subordinate animal to move away from a dominant one.

The minimum floor space allowances for animals should be:

Type of animal	Floor space per animal (m ²)	
	Covered area	Open Area
Young calves (< 8 weeks)	1.0	2.0
Older calves (> 8 wks.)	2.0	4.0
Heifers	2.0	4.0-5.0
Adult buffaloes	4.0	8.0
Adult cows	3.5	7.0
Cows approaching calving	12.0	20-25
Bulls	12.0	120.0
Bullocks	3.5	7.0

6. If there are cubicles, they should be large enough for comfort, without restricting rails, and their number should be atleast 10% more than the group size. Cubicles should allow the animal to lie down and stand up easily without injuring themselves.
7. Housing should allow free movement (for example, passageways should be wide enough for two animals to pass each other easily), without restrictions such as overhead electric wires.



FLOORING

1. Floors should not be totally slatted, slippery, hard or too rough, and should minimise contact with slurry. Roughened concrete floors should be avoided as they abrade the hooves and cause injuries



HUSBANDRY

1. Animals should not be tied continuously and tethering should preferably not be used; where it is necessary the tether should not be shorter than 5m and the animal should be released daily for exercise for at least 2 to 4 hours.
2. Mutilations must not be undertaken for any animal unless for healthcare, and then only by a veterinary doctor, with pain relief. Mutilations include branding, nose-ringing, tail docking, dehorning and disbudding.
3. Handling facilities such as races gates and crushes should be designed and managed to minimise stress. Animals should be moved by low-stress methods, using implements such as flags and rattles rather than sticks.
4. All new animals should be isolated for a sufficient period (minimum 30 days) before allowing full entry to the facility.
5. Dry cows must be inspected, and treated as necessary, to ensure udder health, particularly after drying off and in the final weeks before calving.
6. Bovine Somatotropin (BST), also known as Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH), should not be used, as it has negative effects on animal health. Banned and illegal drugs such as Oxytocin shall not be used for increasing the let-down of milk. Oxytocin is a Schedule-H drug under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and is required to be supplied on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner only.
7. Contingency plans should be in place for emergencies such as breakdown of equipment vital to the animals (e.g. feeding or ventilation equipment), fire or flood. Emergency sources should be available of power, water etc.



MILKING

1. Milking should only be done to prevent discomfort. Milk and milk products should not be the primary income generator for the Gaushala and should not account for more than 10% of the Gaushalas income
2. Milking equipment must be well maintained, and good hygiene practiced during milking, to avoid discomfort to the dairy animal and injury or infection of the udder.
3. If milking is by hand, milking should be done by way of 'full hand' method and 'knuckling' should be avoided as it is painful to the animals and may damage the teats.



HEALTH CARE

1. The herd should be thoroughly inspected each day and each animal treated appropriately (body condition scoring is useful for this), Particular causes for concern in animals, which may be addressed by both management and genetic selection, are lameness, mastitis and reproductive, metabolic and behavioural disorders. In some areas parasites and other pests also cause serious problems. Sick animals should be segregated and housed separately and the sick animal shed should have provision for feeding, watering inside the shed.
2. Caretakers should be trained and assessed for competence in looking after dairy animals and should manage the herd to avoid fear and distress. They should be in sufficient number to ensure good animal care.
3. The unit should have regular contact with a veterinary surgeon, a health plan should be documented, and the vet should be consulted whenever the best way to safeguard animal's welfare is not clear.
4. Regular foot inspection and locomotion scoring should be used to check foot health, with foot trimming and other care used as appropriate.
5. Regular vaccination programme, parasite control programme and prophylactic measures should be in place against prevalent bovine diseases. Animals should be vaccinated against Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) every 6 months as a preventative. At 90 days of age, every animal should be vaccinated against Rabies.
6. A regular deworming programme and other measures to control external and internal parasites should be used throughout the life of the animal. Young animals (up to 18 months) should be dewormed more frequently (at least 4 times in a year and if necessary monthly) than adult animals, depending on the climate and management.
7. All health and welfare assessments and outcomes should be recorded, as well as the results of all environmental controls.
8. Biosecurity should be ensured at the facility. Unit should be enclosed by fences and gates, with proper procedures in place for hygiene of the people, vehicles and equipment entering and leaving.



CALVES

1. Calves should not be separated from mothers for at least 6 months of age.
2. Immediately after birth, the mother should be able to lick her calf, and the calf needs to get colostrum within 6 hours. If the mother dies or has insufficient colostrum, the calf should be given colostrum from other mothers or artificial colostrum.
3. Calves must be housed in clean, dry conditions with bedding while with the mother for at least 6 months. The weaning process must be gradual, post which calves must be housed within sight of other animals in pairs or small groups.
4. When calves are fed in groups, care is needed to ensure that all calves, even the slowest drinkers or eaters, are consuming what they need.
5. Management at calving should aim to achieve the comfort, health and welfare of both mother and calf. This will usually involve isolating the mother in a pen with dry bedding and inspecting her frequently to ensure calving proceeds normally. Calving should not be induced or accelerated mechanically for human convenience. If calving is slow but the calf is in the normal position for delivery, controlled traction may be used, but if this is not quickly successful, veterinary assistance should be obtained.
6. Male calves should be castrated painlessly with the use of anaesthesia to prevent an increase of population and reduce disease and unnecessary suffering.



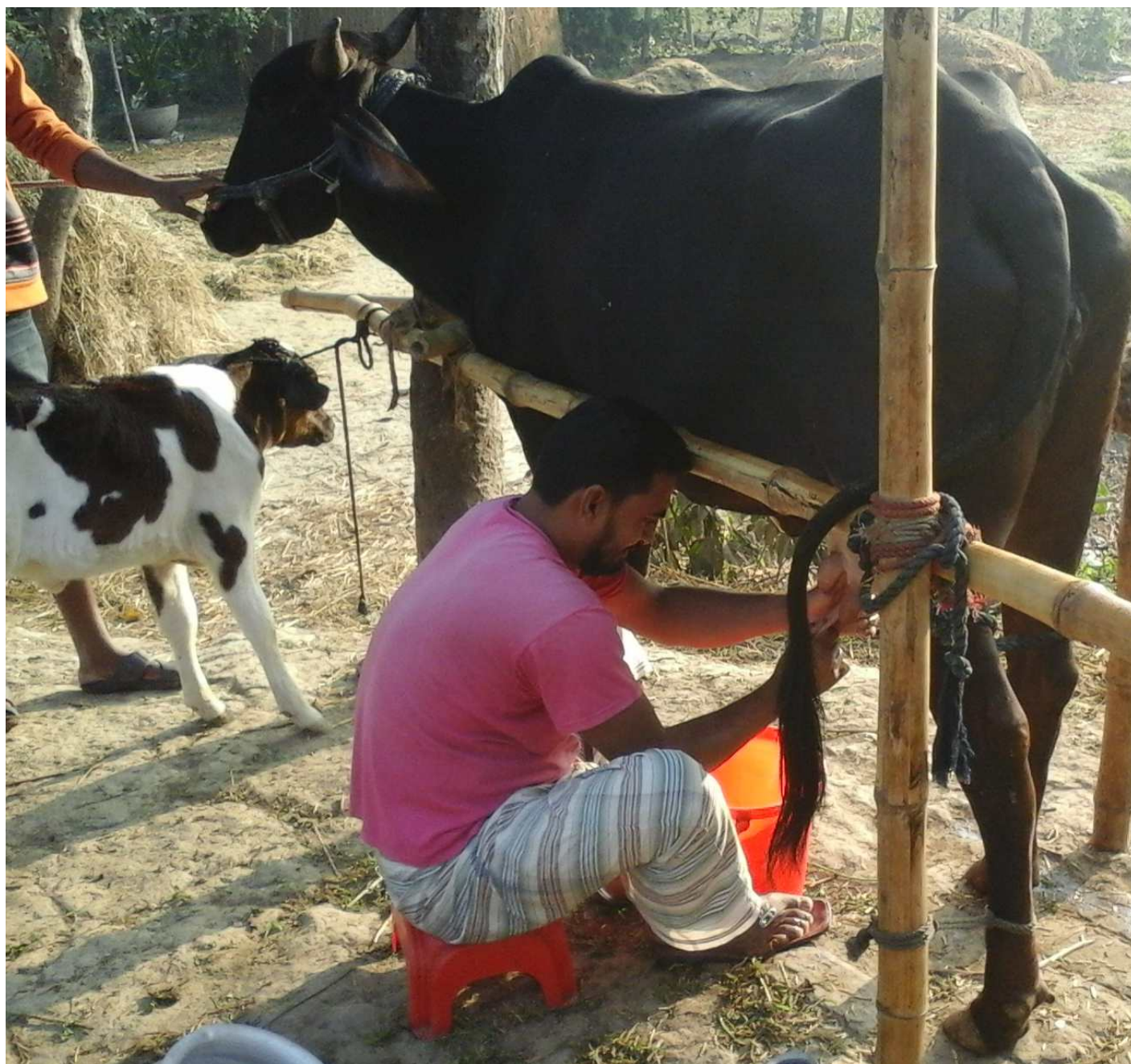
ABANDONMENT

1. No animals should be abandoned. Chronically ill animals should be given the specific care they require until natural death.



STAFFING

1. The workers (Gwalas) should be trained by the Veterinary Staff on first aid, handling of sick and injured animals, maintenance of hygiene around the premises, and any special care to be given to particular animals.
2. The areas animal enclosures and the run should be cleaned every day. Washing enclosures twice a day is recommended. An anti-germ spray is necessary for sheds. to ensure there are no flies or mosquitos



RECORD KEEPING

1. An entry register should be maintained with details of Cattle received in the Gaushala
2. Daily record of treatment carried out for all affected animals should be maintained Records should also be maintained for all healthy animals and routine check-ups once a month should be given to ensure their health and well-being.
3. A record of deaths along with reasons thereof should be maintained.
4. The following records / registers should be maintained by the Gaushala
 - (a) Stock Registers for Dry & Green Fodder.
 - (b) Expendable and miscellaneous stores register.
 - (c) Necessary Accounts Documents including those for donations received in the Gaushala.
 - (d) Log books for Vehicles, generator and the Ambulance.



BUSINESS

1. Use of Cow dung for Vermi- compost should be practiced
2. Every Gaushala must set up a gobar gas plant of appropriate capacity to handle all the dung produced in the Gaushala
3. Production of herbal pesticides using herbs and cow urine, Ayurvedic medicines like Panchgavya should be promoted.
4. Cultivation of medicinal trees/plants/herbs.
5. Installation of plants for separation of methane gas and CO₂. Methane can be bottled and used as a fuel for vehicles and CO₂ can be converted into dry ice for industrial use.
6. Production of Cow dung cakes on a large scale for sale to brick kilns



ISSUE OF COWS TO INDIVIDUALS

Healthy cows and heifers maybe issued to individuals who can look after them through their life span. Such individuals should be carefully chosen by the Gaushala management committee and written records of the same maintained.

- **Documents required while issuing cattle from Gaushala**

The following documents are necessary while issuing cattle from the Gaushala:-

(A) From the Farmer:

- (a) Farmer taking custody of bullocks has to bring the 'FARD' in original (Revenue Record to prove that he is the actual owner of the land).
- (b) His ID Proof.
- (c) Certificate from Sarpanch / Councillor, as the case may be, to authenticate the genuineness of the person / requirement of bullocks.
- (d) Affidavit for him to abide by the terms and conditions contained therein

(B) From Gaushala.

- (a) Certificate for transportation of animals in term of Rules 96 of Transport of Animals Rules 2001 signed by a representative of the AWBI duly authorized to do so.
- (b) Certificate of fitness to travel signed by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon from Animal Husbandry deptt.
- (c) Photograph of the person with the animal.

Entry Procedures:

1. Each animal has to be thoroughly examined for any injury, disability or disease. The details have to be recorded with suggested line of treatment.
2. All new arrivals should be kept for 10-14 days in Isolation Ward to prevent any infection to the rest of the animals as also for better care and faster recovery.
3. Cows who don't require further treatment should be segregated into following categories and housed in respective enclosures:-
4. Milch cows
5. Heifers
6. Pregnant Cows
7. Non-pregnant and Dry Cows

8. Weak Cows.
9. Every animal should be given an Identity tag on arrival and record maintained thereof.
10. Full details of the animals received in the Gaushala on daily basis should be entered in the entry register maintained for the purpose in Manager's Office including the following :-
11. Number of Cows, bulls, bull-calves, Heifers, Calves(Male) and calves (Female)
12. Their main features like colour, breed, shape of horns etc.
13. Place from where they have been brought.
14. Weak and debilitated animals should be kept in the least crowded shed for proper care and feeding. This includes old, blind and lame animals.
15. Emergency cases have to be segregated and treated without delay.





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