

ANIMAL CRUELTY AND WELFARE CONDITIONS AT THE AKINYELE ABATTOIR IN IBADAN

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INTRODUCTION

Animal welfare in livestock production remains a neglected issue in Nigeria, especially during slaughtering. Goats and sheep exhibited welfare-related consequences, including stress, fatigue, thirst, hunger, pain, fear, and distress, due either to inadequate facilities or poor training and regulation. The purpose of an abattoir is to ensure the humane handling of animals using hygienic techniques for slaughtering and dressing to produce hygienically prepared meat, which was largely absent in this study.

METHOD

This study assessed animal cruelty and welfare conditions at the Akinyele Abattoir (the small ruminant slaughter ground) in Ibadan, where Halal slaughtering without stunning is predominantly practised. The slaughtering process was examined in two phases: pre-stunning (arrival, unloading, lairage, and handling) and bleeding. Welfare consequences associated with each phase were then identified using animal-based measures.

RESULTS

PRE-SLAUGHTER WELFARE CONSEQUENCES

- Exposure to excessive heat and cold due to a lack of proper lairage
- Pain, distress, and discomfort due to inhumane handling and restraints.
- Unclean Environment



Figure 1: Ram being pulled and dragged to the slaughter ground. Notice: a. reluctance of the ram to follow the lead. (b) The environment the ram is being dragged across.



Figure 2: Goats being inhumanely restrained and handled. Notice: a. environment- blackened from the previous burning of slaughtered animals b. Rough handling and restraints are being used

SLAUGHTER/ BLEEDING WELFARE CONSEQUENCES

Lack of stunning before slaughter leading to

- Extreme Pain, distress, and discomfort



Figure 3&4: Goat and Sheep being slaughtered without stunning while still alive

CONCLUSION

The findings highlight that structural and managerial improvements are essential to reduce cruelty and enhance animal welfare standards at Akinyele Abattoir/slaughter slab and similar facilities in Nigeria.

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