

Animal Welfare

This campaign is brought to you
in partnership with the RSPCA



The British love animals. Did you know the RSPCA (the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), besides being one of Britain's best known and respected charities, is also the oldest charity? With a legacy stemming back to 1824, it was even founded before the police force or the NSPCC. Yet unfortunately cruelty to animals is still an on-going daily problem, whether it is in the processes used to manufacture our food, or animal abuse on farms and homes.

Naturally as Muslims our reference point in life is Islam. Alongside our duties to our Creator, like the daily prayers and fasts of Ramadhān, Islam also teaches us about the rights of the creation itself, which includes not only our fellow human beings, but animals too. They all have rights upon us, which we need to fulfil to please our Creator. Likewise, those who neglect these rights, or worse still, wilfully harm or oppress others would be acting in way that is displeasing to our Creator.

"The merciful are treated mercifully by the Merciful. Be merciful to those on earth so that Allah will be Merciful to you in the heavens." (At-Tabarāni)

What does Islam say about Animal Welfare?

Firstly, the Qur'ān repeatedly refers to animals in numerous verses, and also has six chapters named specifically after certain species: Sūrat'l-Naml (The Ants), Al-Nahl (The Bees), Al-Baqarah (The Cow), Al-An'ām (Cattle), Al-'Ankabūt (The Spider) and Al-Fīl (The Elephant).

"There is not an animal in the earth, nor a creature flying on two wings, but they are communities like you. We have neglected nothing in the Book (of Our decrees). Then unto their Lord they will be gathered." (6:38).

Islam encourages compassion and discourages oppression. For example, we are instructed, "If you are to slaughter an animal, you should be swift and merciful in doing so." (Muslim) We are also taught to be compassionate to animals used for labour, and those kept as pets. Indeed a sinful woman was given Paradise through her action of giving water to a thirsty dog, and a woman who was steadfast in her prayers and fasts was given Hell through her action of starving a cat. (Al-Bukhāri)

Abstaining from mental cruelty is equally important. During a journey, the Prophet Muhammad (s) left his companions for a while and they took two chicks from their mother. The mother bird circled in the air, beating its wings in grief. When the Prophet (s) returned, he said, "Who has hurt the feelings of this bird by taking its chicks? Return them to her." (Muslim)

The Prophet (s) also said "There is a reward in (relation to) every living creature." (Al-Bukhāri) and "You will not have complete faith until you love one another and have mercy on those who live upon the earth." (Al-Bukhāri).

What can I practically do to be more compassionate to Animals?

Most British Muslims will probably not have worked on a farm or have animals as a pet, both responsibilities requiring care and compassion in how the animals are treated.

However all of us can look into the foods we buy such as eggs, fish and milk, as some products involve processes, which are not Harām per se, but are harmful to animals. As Muslims striving to better please our Creator and attaining Ihsān (excellence), we can support those practices which are more animal-compassionate and avoid those which cause more suffering. This can often be done by a simple swap of the types of eggs, fish and milk we buy. For example:

- Battery-caged egg hens are gravely mistreated as many are packed in small cages, with little space to move or express natural behaviour. Due to stress, hens can attack one another, thus young chicks can often painfully be de-beaked, which can also cause death. Simple Alternative: Barn eggs and free-range eggs are better as hens have space and freedom to move around and a good food supply.
- Cows that produce regular milk are injected with harmful growth hormones just to increase milk production that can make it sick or cause a painful udder infection. Simple Alternative: Cows that produce organic milk are free to graze in an outdoor environment, with no chemicals involved, which is also better for humans and the environment.
- Many fish die needlessly when dragnets are used, which cause great harm to fish stocks and other sea life due to over-fishing. Simple Alternative: pole/line-caught fish are better as this method targets specific fish, unwanted catches can be returned to the sea alive and over-fishing is avoided.

Want to get Involved?

So now that you know, it is time to act! To get involved in our Animal Rights campaign, in partnership with the RSPCA, please click on one of our easy to follow **Toolkits below, which are specifically designed for:**

[Imams](#)
[Teachers](#)
[ISocs](#)

Our nationwide team of Project Co-ordinators will help you with each step of implementing a local awareness and action campaign.

About

We at 1st Ethical recognise many British Muslims want to get involved in campaigns which help others. Our vision is to empower Muslims to benefit society through faith-based campaigns.

We have therefore partnered with leading charities and developed easy to follow toolkits to make it much easier to get involved. If you are interested, please click on the campaign links below:

[Money Matters Campaign](#) in partnership with [Al-Qalam](#)

[Food Drive Campaign](#) in partnership with the [Salvation Army](#)

[Bequests and Islamic Wills Campaign](#) in partnership with [Islamic Relief](#), [Muslim Aid](#), [Muslim Hands](#) and [Ummah Welfare Trust](#)

[Zakah Campaign](#) in partnership with [Al-Qalam](#)

The Sharī'ah compliancy of this document has been approved by Mufti Zubair Butt and Shaykh Abu Eesa Niamatullah

1st Ethical Charitable Trust
Unit 3A Springfield Court
Summerfield Road
Bolton
BL3 2NT

Email: info@1stethical.com

Tel: 01204 557 918

www.1stethical.com