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# THE FORGOTTEN PAIN: INVESTIGATING THE GLOBAL CRISIS OF ANIMAL ABUSE

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## Abstract

Animal abuse is a serious problem that still affects civilizations all over the world, including India, where incidents of animal cruelty vary from brutal acts of torture to neglect. This essay examines the many types of animal maltreatment, the laws intended to safeguard animals, and the structural issues that make it difficult to effectively implement them. It explores actual case studies, including the terrible death of a pregnant elephant in Kerala and the frequent occurrences of animal cruelty and violence in cities like Hyderabad. By looking at these instances, the study emphasizes the psychological and physical harm that animal maltreatment causes, underscoring the close relationship between social indifference and human brutality. The article also addresses current preventive strategies, such as stronger legislation, improved law enforcement, and the contribution of education to the development of animal empathy. Lastly, it demands a cultural change, imploring people and groups to oppose cruelty and pledge to defend those unable to express their suffering. The study's conclusion emphasizes that stopping animal mistreatment is a reflection of our society's ideals as well as a legal and moral obligation. We cannot create a society where animals are treated with respect, dignity, and compassion unless we work together.

## I. Introduction

Introduction Animal abuse is a multifaceted and deeply troubling issue that encompasses the social, psychological, and legal dimensions. Beyond being a moral shortcoming, it is a criminal offense that often acts as a precursor or indicator of other violent behaviours, including harm to individuals.

Understanding the underlying causes, extensive consequences, and interconnected nature of animal abuse is crucial for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. This urgent global issue has affected millions of animals, including pets and farm animals, and wildlife. It appears in various forms, such as physical cruelty, neglect, exploitation, and the inhumane treatment of profit, entertainment, and personal benefits. Despite existing legal protections in many nations, cases of animal

cruelty continue to rise, highlighting the urgent need for stricter law enforcement and increased public awareness.

This article explores the complex nature of animal abuse by investigating its various forms, its significant effects on both animals and society, and the actions that can be taken to address it. By highlighting the seriousness of this issue, we aim to encourage a collective effort toward creating a world in which animals are treated with respect, dignity, and compassion they inherently deserve.

II. Animal abuse categories  
Animal mistreatment includes a variety of cruel behaviours directed at animals, which can reflect broader trends of abuse and disregard. Effective preventive and intervention strategies depend on the ability to identify the many types



of animal abuse. Animal abuse may take many different forms, such as intentional brutality, neglect, or exploitation. Among the primary types of animal abuse are the following:

A. Physical Abuse:

1) Intentional Violence: Aggressive behaviours with a specific goal, such as striking, kicking, stabbing, or burning animals. Events like dogfighting and cockfighting, where animals are forced to fight for amusement or financial benefit, are examples of organized cruelty.

2) Mutilation: Needless operations carried out without good medical justification or consideration include declawing, ear clipping, and tail docking.

B. Neglect:

Not giving animal food, water, shelter, or medical attention is an example of neglecting their basic needs.

1) Abandonment: The act of leaving animals unattended or unsupervised.

2) Unsanitary Living Conditions: Keeping animals in unsanitary, crowded, or dangerous settings.

C. Psychological Mistreatment:

Using loud noises, threats, or other means to purposefully scar or traumatize animals is known as intimidation or terrorizing.

1) Isolation: Animals kept in prolonged isolation are deprived of opportunities to socialize with people or other animals.

2) Coercive Training Methods: Teaching animals to perform or work by using extreme force, fear, or pain.

D. Animal exploitation:

1) Entertainment: Using animals in rodeos, circuses, or other entertainment venues where they could be subjected to stress, harm, or unnatural circumstances.

Overbreeding, puppy mills, and the use of animals for financial gain in ways that compromise their welfare are examples of commercial exploitation.

2) Exploitation of wildlife includes unlawful

hunting, poaching, and the capture of wild animals for the exotic pet trade.

E. Animal Hoarding:

Keeping too many animals without the means to care for them properly can result in filthy conditions, overpopulation, and starvation.

F. Mistreatment in Science and Industry:

1) Animal experimentation Without adequate ethical considerations or substitutes, animals were used in unpleasant or damaging studies.

2) Factory farming: the cruel treatment of animals in large quantities for the production of meat, dairy, or other goods; frequently, this involves mutilation, overcrowding, and subpar living circumstances.

G. Cultural or Ritualistic Mistreatment:

Often, practices that injure or kill animals as a component of religious or cultural rites ignore the pain of the animals.

H. Sexual Mistreatment:

In many places, bestiality and other types of animal sexual exploitation are regarded as harmful and prohibited.

I. Mistreatment of the Environment:

1) Pollution, habitat loss, or other human actions that negatively impact ecosystems and wildlife's.

For the animals concerned, any kind of abuse has detrimental effects that frequently lead to physical suffering, mental distress, or even death. To ensure a safer and more compassionate future for animals, the first step in addressing and eliminating certain types of cruelty is identifying them.

## II. Laws and Legal Framework

Our legal systems should safeguard animals because, despite their inability to communicate with us, they are in real agony. However, despite increased awareness, many regions of the world still have insufficient legal protections against animal abuse. Although it was a landmark law in India at the time, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, is now out of



date after more than 60 years. The fact that offenders are frequently released with penalties as small as ₹50 hardly acts as a deterrence. Despite the planned improvements, their implementation is still uneven and delayed.

The legal disregard for sexual abuse against animals is even more alarming. Bestiality is rarely prosecuted, is frequently concealed in shame, and is commonly concealed in silence. Even though bestiality was once classified as a "unnatural offense" under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, the law is still ambiguous following the liberalization of consensual same-sex actions. There is currently no explicit legislation protecting animals from such heinous crimes. The 2020 Kerala case, where a pregnant cow was fed explosives concealed in food, is a startling example. The cruelty caused national indignation but also demonstrated how lax the system still is.

The disparity is seen on a global scale. Sweden expressly forbids having intercourse with animals, and Germany has strong animal protection legislation under its Animal Welfare Act.

On the other hand, nations such as the United States and India have disparities between states and union territories. Millions of animals are left without protection because of this inconsistency.

Law enforcement is woefully inadequate, even in cases when laws are in place. Particularly if the victim is a farm animal or a stray, police may choose not to report the incident or handle it indifferently. Abusers frequently escape punishment because they are confident that there won't be any significant repercussions for their acts.

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." If we, as a society, fail to demand justice for the voiceless, we fail not just animals we fail our humanity. Strengthening legal frameworks, increasing penalties, educating enforcement

authorities, and creating public awareness are no longer optional they are urgent moral imperatives.

### III. Psychological and Social Dimensions

Animal abuse extends beyond being merely a physical or legal concern, as it is closely linked to psychological and social factors. Grasping these elements is essential for tackling the underlying causes of abuse and crafting effective solutions. The primary psychological and social dimensions of animal abuse include:

#### A. The Psychological Aspects of Animal Mistreatment

##### 1). Association with Human Violence:

i. Animal cruelty is often an indication or prelude to other violent acts, particularly in settings involving people. There is evidence that people who abuse animals are more likely to commit crimes such as child abuse or domestic violence.

ii. We call this interaction "The Link," highlighting the connection between human aggression and animal abuse.

##### 2) Psychological illnesses:

i. Conduct disorder, antisocial personality disorder, or psychopathy are among the psychological illnesses that some people who hurt animals may have.

Animal abuse may be a sign of impetuous behaviour, a lack of empathy, or a lack of moral discernment.

##### 3) Trauma and Learned Behaviour:

i. People who have experienced trauma, abuse, or neglect may be more likely to mistreat animals thereafter. This conduct can be taught or used as a tool to manipulate other people.

ii. Children who witness or experience violence may, as a coping mechanism, imitate this behaviour in animals.

##### 4) Desensitization to Violence:

i. People who are repeatedly exposed to violence, especially animal



abuse, may become less sympathetic and more accepting of cruel deeds.

5) Power and Control:

- i. It is possible for someone to use animal abuse as a way to show dominance, control, or power over a helpless animal, which frequently points to more serious psychological problems.

B. Social Dimensions of Animal Abuse

1) Cultural Norms and Practices:

- i. Some cultures tolerate or even celebrate some types of animal abuse, such ritual sacrifices, bullfighting, or the use of animals for entertainment.
- ii. It will be necessary to confront deeply ingrained cultural ideas and traditions in order to change these habits.

2) Economic Considerations:

- i. People who are poor or lack resources may find it difficult to provide their animals the attention they need, which can result in neglect or inadvertent cruelty.
- ii. Profit is frequently given precedence over animal welfare in industries like industrial farming and puppy mills.

3) Inadequate Education and Awareness:

- i. Many people may not recognize certain behaviours as abusive, including as neglect or inappropriate training methods.
- ii. Public education campaigns are essential for raising awareness of appropriate animal care and the consequences of abuse.

4) Socialization and Peer Influence:

- i. Group dynamics or peer pressure, particularly among teens, can have an impact on animal abuse. Young individuals may injure animals, for example, in an effort to get approval from others or impress their friends.

5) Legal and Institutional Failures:

i. The problem may persist if animal protection laws are not adequately enforced or if offenders are not given enough punishment.

ii. Systemic abuse occurs in certain places because animals are not recognized as sentient creatures deserving of legal protection

6) Family Dynamics:

- i. Animal abuse frequently takes place in households when there is child abuse or spousal violence.
- ii. In order to control or threaten family members, abusers may injure pets.
- iii. Children raised in these kinds of settings may imitate the harmful behaviours they observe.

7) Social Stigma and Reporting:

- i. In close-knit communities, people may be reluctant to report animal abuse out of fear of condemnation or reprisal.
- ii. Abusers may be discouraged from getting help due to the social stigma associated with mental health disorders.

C. The Broader Impact on Society-

1. Normalization of Violence: Tolerating the abuse of animals can encourage a culture that normalizes violence, making people less sensitive to suffering and cruelty. Public Health Issues: Abuse of animals is frequently linked to other types of violence, raising issues related to public health and safety. Moral and Ethical Implications: A society runs the danger of compromising its own moral principles and empathy for all living things if it accepts or ignores animal abuse.

D. Addressing Psychological and Social Aspects-

1) Education and Awareness: Foster empathy and compassion through school programs, community outreach, and media campaigns.



2)Mental Health Support: Offer counselling and intervention for individuals displaying abusive behaviours.

3)Stronger Legislation: Implement stricter animal protection laws and ensure accountability for offenders.

4)Community Involvement: Encourage communities to report mistreatment and support animal welfare initiatives.

5) Cultural Change: Collaborate with cultural and religious leaders to challenge harmful traditions and promote humane practices. By addressing the psychological and social roots of animal mistreatment, we can cultivate a more compassionate society that values the well-being of all living beings.

#### IV. Case Studies: The Silent Death of a Pregnant Elephant – Kerala, 2020

A tragic event that rocked India in May 2020 revealed the terrible extent of animal abuse committed by people. A 15-year-old pregnant elephant ventured into a village in Kerala's Palakkad district in quest of sustenance. She accepted a pineapple because she trusted human hands, not realizing it was loaded with potent firecrackers. The apple burst in her mouth as she bit into it, seriously hurting her jaw and tongue.

The pain that ensued was unbearable. The elephant, unable to eat or drink, trudged through fields and woodlands for days in excruciating pain. She was then seen by locals standing motionless in the Velliyar River with her trunk submerged in water, seemingly in an attempt to dull the excruciating pain. Despite her suffering, witnesses said she was quiet and composed and did not hurt anyone. On May 27, 2020, she passed away while still submerged in the ocean, her unborn child passing away beside her.

This case caused indignation across the country. Anger and sadness erupted on social media. Millions were moved by the narrative since it dealt with treachery as much as animal abuse. When a creature trusted mankind, it was

met with unthinkable violence. Her passing served as a reminder of how seriously we have failed animals, even though we are capable of protecting them.

Legally, the culprits were booked under sections of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and the Indian Penal Code. But many questioned: Was that enough? Would the outcome have been different if India had stronger, stricter animal abuse laws – ones that didn't treat such crimes as minor infractions? This wasn't an isolated tragedy. In India, countless cases of animal abuse – from beating, poisoning, to sexual assault – go unreported or are ignored. If the elephant hadn't been pregnant, if the photos hadn't gone viral, would the world have even noticed?

The elephant's quiet agony is a chilling reminder that rules require more than just words. Silence and apathy must give way to harsher sanctions, more public knowledge, and empathy. This instance emphasizes how urgently structural reform is required. We must advocate for societal accountability, improved enforcement, and updated laws. Because that elephant had more elegance and dignity in her last moments than her killers ever could. We owe her, as well as all other quiet, voiceless creatures, a safer and more compassionate world

#### V. Role of NGOs and activists

In order to prevent animal abuse, increase public awareness, and promote the rights and welfare of animals, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and activists are essential. They work to change society perceptions and governmental policies in addition to directly intervening in abuse instances.

A. Below is an overview of their roles and contributions:

1. The efforts of local animal welfare groups, WWF, PETA, and others Animal Ethical Treatment Organization (PETA):

i. Concentrates on putting a stop to animal abuse in sectors such factory farming, theatre (zoos, circuses),



apparel (fur, leather, and wool), and labs (animal experimentation).

ii. Identifies abuse and advocates for legal action through undercover investigations.

iii. Uses campaigns and educational initiatives to promote cruelty-free living and veganism.

iv. Kerala, 2020: A Pregnant Elephant's Silent Death World Wildlife Fund (WWF): - - primarily prioritizes habitat preservation and animal conservation. Strives to stop the illicit wildlife trade, poaching, and habitat destruction—all of which are considered animal mistreatment. Works together to put conservation policies into action with communities and governments.

v. Regionally specific concerns, such as stray animal numbers, local wildlife cruelty, and community education, are addressed by local animal welfare groups.

vi. Run rescue centers, shelters, and adoption initiatives for animals who have been mistreated or left behind. To report and handle incidents of animal abuse, we frequently collaborate closely with law enforcement.

## 2. Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation:

i. Rescue Activities: - - In response to complaints of animal mistreatment, NGOs and activists frequently rescue animals from cruel settings including puppy mills, the illicit wildlife trade, or uncaring households. They offer these animals emergency medical attention, protection, and refuge.

ii. Rehabilitation: A number of groups operate rehabilitation facilities where traumatized animals receive medical attention, psychological support, and trauma recovery training. While domestic animals are frequently readied for adoption, wildlife

rehabilitation aims to return animals to their natural environments.

iii. Sanctuaries: Local organizations and organizations such as PETA run sanctuaries for animals that are unable to be adopted or released, giving them a loving and secure home for the remainder of their lives.

## 3. Social media and public awareness initiatives' roles:

i. Social Media Support: - - NGOs and activists may effectively disseminate accounts of animal cruelty, rescue operations, and success stories on social media sites like Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok. Influencing legislators, putting pressure on businesses, and rallying public support are all possible with viral campaigns.

ii. Initiatives for Public Awareness: NGOs conduct public awareness campaigns regarding animal rights, cruelty-free behaviour, and the harm that animal maltreatment does to communities and ecosystems. Documentaries, ads, and celebrity partnerships are frequently used in campaigns to attract a larger audience.

iii. Volunteering and Fundraising: NGOs generate money for advocacy, shelters, and rescue efforts with the use of social media and awareness campaigns. Additionally, they encourage people to support cruelty-free policies and goods, volunteer, or adopt animals.

iv. Reporting mistreatment: - - Social media is used by activists and groups to report instances of animal mistreatment, which frequently sparks public indignation and prompts legal action against those responsible.

## 4. Advocacy and Policy Change:

i. Activists and NGOs push governments to pass stronger legislation and rules pertaining to animal welfare. They seek to outlaw inhumane farming



practices, trophy hunting, and animal experimentation.

ii. To combat cross-border concerns like wildlife trafficking, international groups like WWF and PETA frequently work with global entities.

5. NGOs and activists face the following difficulties:

i. Inadequate funds and resources for rescue and rehabilitation operations. Opposition from sectors like entertainment and industrial farming that make money off of the mistreatment of animals.

ii. Enforcing animal welfare rules can be difficult due to legal and administrative obstacles.

iii. Public awareness and the possibility of desensitization from graphic material must be balanced.

#### VI. Solutions and Preventive Measures

Tightening regulations is not the only solution to the animal abuse situation; humanity must be awakened. Like humans, animals experience pain, love, and fear. They build relationships, care for their offspring, and have faith in the world. And it becomes a stain on our collective conscience when brutality destroys that trust. However, a combination of institutional, educational, legal, and individual initiatives can bring about change. Stricter legislation and quicker justice are crucial, first and foremost. With more severe penalties and special provisions for crimes including sexual abuse, torture, and murder, India's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, has to be updated. Serious repercussions, such as incarceration, criminal records, and mental health assessments for violators, should be the norm instead than trivial fines. Justice would not be postponed or denied if a fast-track procedure for animal cruelty cases were established.

Law enforcement personnel require sensitivity and appropriate training. Animal cruelty reports shouldn't be dismissed as "low priority" by police departments. Officers need to be trained to

view animal abuse as a real crime. Local police departments with specialized animal welfare divisions, like those in the UK and Canada, can assist in handling these situations effectively and empathetically.

Education has a significant impact. Basic animal ethics should be taught in schools and universities to instill in students a respect for all living things from an early age. Early cultivation of compassion reduces the likelihood of brutality. Social media campaigns, neighborhood initiatives, and public service announcements have the power to alter attitudes and ignite change at the local level.

NGOs, animal shelters, and veterinarians are essential partners in prevention. Rescue teams, rehabilitation facilities, and shelters should get more resources. Monitoring organizations rooted in the community can also flag questionable activities and take prompt action. Government partnerships with animal welfare groups can contribute to the creation of safe areas for animals, particularly strays, who are the most at risk.

Every citizen has a role to play on a personal level. Keep your eyes open if you see brutality. Report it. Raise your voice. Encourage animal-care groups. Adopt rather than purchase pets. Give a stray food. Raise awareness via the internet. When little actions are combined, they can create large waves of change. Breaking the silence is the first step in prevention because abuse flourishes in quiet.

The foundation of all solutions is a change of perspective. Animals are not things. They're not "lesser" creatures. On this world, they dwell alongside humans as intelligent beings. It is impossible to discuss human rights without including the rights of individuals who are unable to speak for themselves. A society that genuinely cherishes justice, empathy, and peace is one that defends its most defenseless members, including animals.

Ultimately, stopping animal abuse is about protecting our humanity as much as it is about helping the animals. And each voice raised in support of them moves us one step closer to a



society in which kindness is the rule and cruelty is not tolerated.

## VII. Conclusion

Animal abuse is a reflection of our society's inability to maintain fundamental compassion and goes beyond simple acts of brutality against a helpless creature. Each time an animal is slaughtered, starved, raped, or otherwise mistreated, it exposes not just the brutality of the perpetrator but also the callousness of those who remain silent. It demonstrates how insensitive we have grown to pain, particularly when it does not resemble our own.

The several types of animal cruelty, the laws that try to stop them, the emotional impact of actual incidents, and the work required to create a safer environment for animals have all been covered in this essay. However, the fundamental reality is that animals have feelings. They reflect an increasing trend of cruelty and indifference that is driven by a lack of concern for the repercussions. Simply feeling startled or disturbed when such incidents become viral is insufficient. In actuality, the majority of instances do not go viral. The majority of animals endure silent suffering in places like trash-filled streets, confined cages, laboratories, slaughterhouses, and homes that pose as places to live. Many people cannot see their pain, yet it is extremely real to them.

Every level of change must begin, from stricter legislation and quicker penalties to improved instruction and individual accountability. Above all, though, the decision to care must be the first step toward change. To refrain from passing an animal in pain, should report any mistreatment, no matter how little. To teach in kids the idea that kindness is a strength, not a weakness. should regard animals as fellow humans and not as tools. Real change can only be possible if we acknowledge that animal rights are an essential component of a fair and compassionate society rather than a distinct problem. A world where safety, respect, and

kindness are not exclusive to one species is created when we defend the weakest members of our society.

Even while new laws and changes are necessary, it is not the only conclusion we must reach. It has to do with our desired selves. a culture that either ignores misery or decides to defend it, even when the victims are mute. Our human nature will be reflected in the world we create for animals. And now is the moment to select that reflection.

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