



GAU GAATHA

Tale of the cow

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Report of FIAPO's
Nationwide Investigation of Gaushalas

About Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO)

FIAPO is India's apex animal rights organisation, founded in the year 2010. As the collective voice of the animal rights movement in India, FIAPO is the catalyst that protects the interests and rights of animals at 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. We work in collaboration with more than 102 members, 200 supporter organisations and 1000 individual activists in over 70 cities.

Supporting, collaborating and training forms a major part of what we do. At the same time, we also run national campaigns, to ensure that we save and protect countless animals from mindless suffering, on an everyday basis - by fighting for better laws and investing heavily in spreading awareness and education.

FIAPO, with support from its member organisations and activists has helped achieve a ban on cetaceans in captivity as well as stopped the establishment of India's first mega dairy that was proposed to be set up with 40,000 cows. It has also rescued animals from over 16 circuses and has set up local networks in 70 cities initiating over 10 different campaigns.



Preface

In the social construct of our country, the cow is a revered animal. Despite enjoying such an important stature in the society, a large number of cows and other bovines across the country suffer from abuse, neglect and abandonment. The institution of gaushalas (bovine animal shelters) has been our most prominent response to providing care and support for these neglected bovines. However, the management of these institutions varies across different regions of the country and despite the best intentions; the well-being of animals is severely compromised in some cases.

Gaushala Samvardhan Campaign is FIAPO's initiative to ensure ideal housing, veterinary care, feed, water, and sustainable management of gaushalas.

To understand and systematically document the true condition of bovines in gaushalas, FIAPO conducted an investigation in 13 states and 2 Union Territories and recorded the present standard of living for animals in these gaushalas. Apart from this, data on registration of gaushalas, revenue model, number of animals and management regime was also collected with the aim to bring reforms for animal welfare and sustainable management of these institutions.

This report- **Gau Gaatha**, meaning the tale of the cow- presents the findings of the investigation. It forms the basis of the gaushala Samvardhan campaign, which bridges the gap between an ideal gaushala and the ones that are unable to provide adequate care to their animals.



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Executive Summary

The gaushala movement is synonymous with the protection of cows and other bovines of our country. The origin of gaushalas can be traced in the Vedic period when social customs and rules laid great emphasis on protection, preservation and development of cows and oxen. In the present day, gaushalas are the only institutions providing care and shelter to stray, abandoned and 'unproductive' bovines. They are a significant part of the animal protection movement in India and culturally the strongest reinforcement of our doctrine of Ahimsa.

Known by different names like pinjrapole, kanji house, gau vatika etc., these bovine care centers are present in almost all municipalities of the country. They undertake the critical function of preventing the suffering of bovine animals by offering them care and shelter. These functions of gaushalas are in line with article 51A (g) of The Constitution of India, which says that it is the duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment and to have compassion for living creatures. Specifically, they uphold the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 (PCA) by helping avoid the unnecessary pain and suffering related to slaughter and abandonment of bovine animals. In addition to aligning with statutory provisions of animal care, many gaushalas demonstrate a higher ethical standard by voluntarily undertaking rescue, rehabilitation, conservation and adoption of animals.



Many gaushalas associate themselves with traditional, agrarian lifestyles, and promote simple living sustained by local produce. This is also in line with the new-age organic movement which departs from an exploitative approach to nature and returns to farm practices which are sustainable and eco-friendly. Bovine products like gobar gas, organic fertilizers and pest management systems based on cow urine are an integral part of this approach. New-age gaushalas are catering to and are in the forefront of this resurgence.

Therefore, gaushalas are important centers for bovine animal care, supported by our cultural history, having statutory approval and with enormous potential to be leaders in animal care. They assume a greater importance in the present socio-political context of the country, where considerable importance is given to the protection of cows. A summary of regulations related to bovine animal slaughter in different states is in Annexure 1.

All bovine animals go through the cycle of continuous forced breeding, life-long abuse for milk, separation of the mother and calf, abandonment, cruel transport and slaughter. Few animals are exceptions to this cycle, and they are cared for in gaushalas. The country's dairy industry has grown at a rate of 15% during 2010-2016, and is expected to maintain the same rate of growth till 2020. In this context, the impending responsibility on gaushalas to provide care and shelter for the 'useless' and live by-products of the dairy industry is enormous.

FIAPO recognises that gaushalas are the only hope for life-long care of bovine animals. We are committed to ensuring that animals live better lives in gaushalas than in dairy farms. As a first step in this direction, a snapshot of the present status of gaushalas in India was required, to assess our preparedness in caring for these animals.

This investigation, which covered **179 gaushalas** in **13 states** and **2 union** territories, reveals that animals still live in small spaces, get little access to soft ground, have poor veterinary care, and go through continuous breeding. Most of the gaushalas with ill, injured and distressed cows were found to be still dependent on their milk for sustaining themselves, making them similar to dairy farms. In many instances, conditions required for the basic well-being of the animals were missing.

Three Key Challenges that Gaushalas Face

1



Optimal care
for animals

2



Fundraising

3



Effective use
of cruelty-free
bovine products

Problems with animal care included lack of adequate space, absence of proper flooring, unhygienic conditions, repeated breeding, separation of the calf from the mother and high dependence on milk, amongst others.

Most gaushalas visited struggled to secure adequate funds to comfortably house all animals. Only a handful of gaushalas got any government support. Others depended on donations from people or religious institutions, or on sale of milk and milk products. Lack of adequate funding is an alarming trend which has already resulted in many gaushalas being shut down, in the abandonment of their animals, and in the death of a large number of animals due to disease and starvation.

We found that 50% of the gaushalas were not using cow by-products like bovine dung and urine at all. Unlike milk, these are natural and cruelty-free products from cows and can be used in multiple ways. Many studies have shown them to be the basis of setting up a zero-input revenue model, which can make a gaushala completely self-sustaining.

Gaushalas of different regions and of different types of management faced the above key challenges, albeit to different extents. Taking this into consideration, FIAPO has developed a grading system for gaushalas, from which critical problems can be identified and corrective measures put in place.

FIAPO, in consultation with experts, has also put together detailed recommendations for bovine animal care, which can be used by all gaushala managers.

The report calls for more support to gaushalas from the government in terms of funding and capacity-building. Initiating sustainable management practices is the need of the hour. These must be augmented with promotion and market-creation for alternative cow products, based on cow dung and cow urine.

The support measures should be followed by stricter implementation of the existing laws of animal welfare, along with mandatory guidelines for gaushala management. Additional regulation of gaushalas in areas with significant violation of animal welfare needs to be taken up.



Scope of Gaushalas

India has 11.9 crore bovines, according to the latest livestock census. This is approximately 30% of the world's bovine population. Most of these animals are kept principally for their milk, as confirmed by the 35% increase in exotic high milk yielding breeds of cattle since the previous census.

Once these animals become 'dry' or incapable of producing milk, most of them are either slaughtered or abandoned. This is substantiated by the fact that in 2016, India did 18.7% of the world's bovine meat exports amounting to 1.2 million tonnes, despite no bovines being raised for their meat. The 5.2 million stray cattle (National livestock census 2012) on Indian streets are also the by product of the burgeoning dairy industry.

Bovines slaughtered for meat suffer extreme cruelty. After leading a life of continuous breeding and milking cycles worsened by the use of hormones and antibiotics (for details of cruelty in the dairy industry, please refer to our report **Cattle-ogue**), they are transported to slaughterhouses in the most inhumane and illegal ways possible. Chili powder is rubbed into their eyes and their rectum to keep them awake and walking along a journey which usually takes many days. If transported by vehicles, they are tied too close together to even be able to move. Many times, they die due to trampling on one another or due to the hunger, thirst and injuries sustained during transport. Animals are also smuggled in oil tankers with no ventilation. Once they reach the slaughterhouse, which usually lacks any facility for humane slaughter of these animals and processing carcasses, they are slaughtered while fully conscious, often in front of one another.



Those animals that are not sold for slaughter by dairies are abandoned. Such cattle are a common sight in most Indian cities, and are often seen scavenging from garbage dumps. As a result, they suffer from consumption of large amounts of plastic, mostly from bags in which vegetable waste is discarded. Their rumens become clogged with compacted plastic, which then causes their eventual death. As much as 70kg of plastic has been removed from the rumens of some cattle (source: The Plastic Cow Project). Abandoned cattle are frequently injured in road accidents, sometimes succumbing to the injuries. They are also a hindrance for vehicular traffic, and cause injuries and death of motorists. In 2016 alone, stray animals caused 1604 road accidents in which 629 people died (source: report- Road Accidents in India 2016, Government of India, Ministry of road transport and highways, transport research wing). This means, almost two people die every day due to street animals, which is a serious cause for concern. There is no doubt that stray cattle should be taken off the streets for their own well-being and safety of the people.

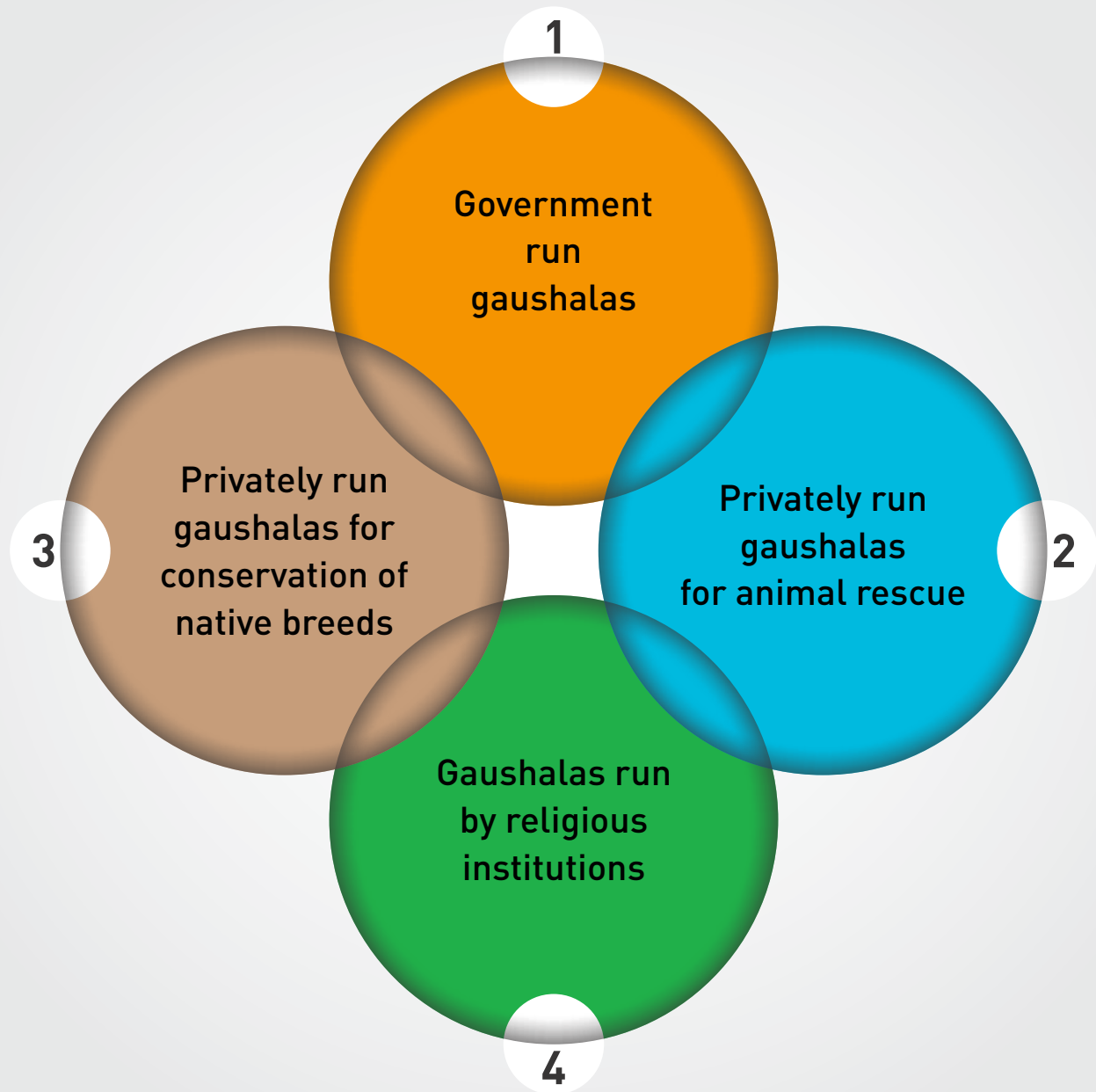
Commodification and barbaric treatment of bovines, for whom there is such a high regard in our culture is shocking. These animals deserve to live a life of dignity beyond their lives in dairy farms. Presently, gaushalas are the only institutions that offer shelter and care for bovines which are useless for the dairy industry. From rescuing animals from illegal slaughter to providing medical treatment to sick and injured animals, gaushalas perform a critical role in conserving bovine animals. Additionally, many gaushalas are linked to spiritual institutions and uphold our tradition of ahimsa by promoting a cruelty-free lifestyle.

There is, at present, no mandatory system under any central/local rule for 'spent' dairy animals and male calves to be sent to gaushalas for care. Most of the times, they end up being abandoned or illegally sold for slaughter.



Current Management and Types of Gaushalas

There are more than 5000 gaushalas in the country under different management regimes. Some are privately run, some with support from the government, and some by religious institutions and trusts. Principally, these can be grouped into four types:





1 Government Run Gaushalas

Many municipal bodies in the country round up stray cattle (including sometimes, sick and injured animals) and take them to Panjrapoles/ Kanjihouses/ Gaushalas, where they are kept till their owner claims them, in which case, they are released after a fine. If this does not happen, as is the case with 'spent' animals from dairies, they end up spending the rest of their lives in the gaushalas. These Pinjrapoles house both cows and buffaloes, and the males of the species. The financial burden of these gaushalas rests with the local government. In some cases, local governments transfer the day to day operation of the gaushala to an organisation, based on a tender system. They then support the gaushala according to pre agreed terms, which many times include a fixed cost per animal.



2

Privately Run Gaushalas for Animal Rescue

Some privately run gaushalas actively patrol key areas and rescue bovines transported for slaughter illegally. They also host helpline numbers for rescue of injured animals. This type of gaushalas mainly caters to cows, and more specifically, the Indian breed of cows. In recent days, these gaushalas and people associated with them have been in the heart of controversy, as their effort to save the 'holy cow' has also resulted in them taking the law into their own hands and injuring/ killing cow traffickers. Such gaushalas frequently become cow hoarding centers and accept more animals than they can provide a comfortable life to. As a result, animals in such facilities suffer from lack of space, grazing area, bedding, adequate medical support and feed.



3

Privately Run Gaushalas for Conservation of Native Breeds

The third type of gaushalas is run as conservation centers, sometimes for indigenous breeds of cattle. They are open to progressive management practices and encourage sustainable infrastructure, growing nutritious fodder, use of cow urine, cow dung and 'panchgavya' (milk, curd, ghee, cow urine and cow dung) products. These facilities accept a limited number of animals based on their carrying capacity. Many such facilities have also developed into resource- and information centers for supporting other gaushalas. They undertake activities like trainings for farmers in vermicompost manufacture, use of gobar gas, advantages of cow urine based pest management etc. Capacity building for other gaushalas in fundraising, best care for animals, and systematic management is done. However, they are under considerable pressure by the local population and the government to accept more animals than they can adequately care for. This is a direct result of the output of 'unproductive animals' and stray animals by the dairy industry.

4

Gaushalas Run by Religious Institutions

Another category of gaushalas is those run by religious institutions. These bodies offer shelter to abandoned animals, accept 'unproductive' animals from farmers, and usually offer tours for visitors, urging them to practice gau seva (service to the cow). Gaushalas in the northern part of the country, specifically in Mathura, Rishikesh and Haridwar are best examples of this type of gaushalas. They are the most open to public and focus on the deity status of the cow to encourage reverent behaviour towards them. However, due to their reinforcement of our cultural dependence on milk, many of them depend on the sale of milk for a considerable part of their revenue. As a result, they create the same problems for animals as dairies that use them as milk machines. Their traditional management practices make it difficult to bring about change in the way animals are treated, and the running of the facility.

The last three types of gaushalas are privately managed by trusts, or institutions supported partially by local/state/central governments.

Government Support and Regulation of Gaushalas

National Level Support

A total of 1837 gaushalas are recognised by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)- the statutory body under the central government's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 (PCA). Through the AWBI, they receive some financial support and management advice. Gaushalas being premises that house cattle, fall specifically under the purview of the Registration of Cattle Premises Rules (RCPR) under the PCA act.



State Level Support

Many states have also constituted gau seva ayogs, which offer advice and financial assistance to gaushalas. Most prominent of these are the ayogs of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Some state urban development acts and Panchayati raj acts have provisions to move dairies and gaushalas out of urban areas, accommodate them in rural areas and provide necessary facilities and care for the animals.

Various courts have directed state and local governments to ensure the well-being of bovine animals by establishing care facilities for them. The latest order being in the high court of Uttarakhand at Nainital, in Writ Petition (PIL) No. 43 of 2014, Narayan Dutt Bhatt versus union of India & others.

State governments support gaushalas under various schemes. They are also the implementing agencies for many national schemes, like the newly launched Rashtriya Gokul Mission and Gobar Dhan Yojna under which gaushalas can be supported.

Local Government Support

Many local governments have their own rules/bylaws for keeping bovine animals, which are applicable for gaushalas. Some District Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)s or district administrations support gaushalas in various forms- by allotting land, allocation of funds for feeding and maintenance per animal etc.

Sustainable Gaushalas and the Role of Alternative Cow Products

Raising funds and operating in a sustainable manner was reported to be the biggest concern by gaushalas during the investigation. It was also observed that many gaushalas were still dependent on milk as their primary source of income. As a result of this, gaushalas were unwittingly adding to the problem of abandoned male calves and 'dry' cows, which the commercial dairy industry has created.

There are many profitable alternative cow products that can be made from cow dung and urine, which also promote local economies. It is critical to make gaushalas sustainable by the promotion of these products for two main reasons:

Gaushalas help sick, dry, injured animals and males of the species. A majority of these animals don't produce milk, and thus it is unfair to expect them to depend on a revenue generation system centered around milk.



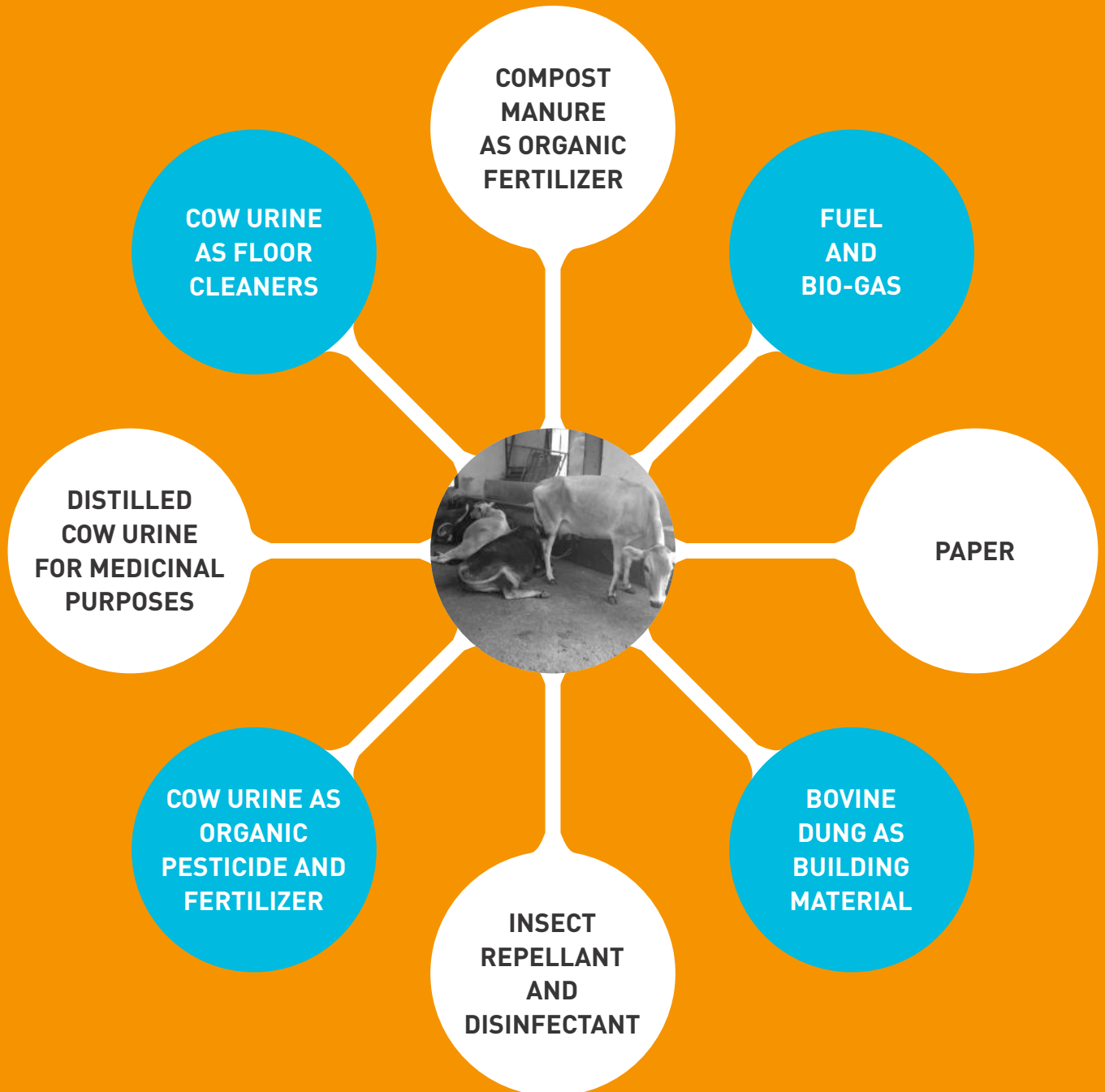
In gaushalas where milking is practiced as the primary means for revenue generation, cows end up being 'machines for milk' similar to dairy farms. This defeats the purpose of gaushalas and exposes them to the danger of turning into facilities that abuse animals for commercial gains.



After consultation with experts in the field of animal welfare and gaushala management, it is realised that a revenue model (based on alternate bovine products like cow dung and cow urine) is best suited for gaushalas. This section brings together research and practical experience from scientific institutions and managers of gaushalas to present a quantitative guide to management based on non-dairy cow products.

Bovine animals, by nature of their digestive tracts, produce large amounts of manure. A cattle facility, with 2,500 animals, produces as much waste as a city with around 411,000 people. This waste, including urine may be used to produce a variety of products by gaushalas which may further be used for organic farming and to create zero cost gaushalas.

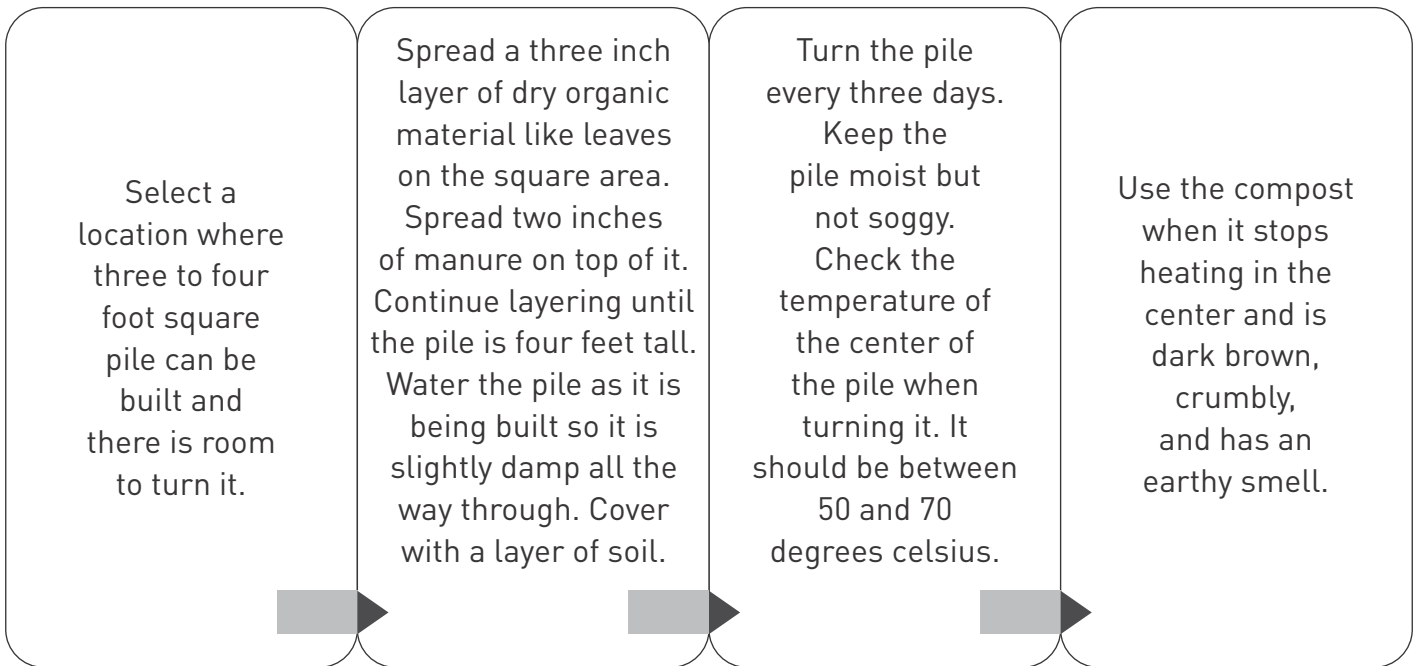
Alternate Revenue Models for Gaushalas



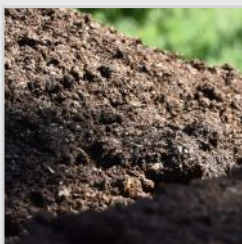
Compost Manure as Organic Fertilizer

Bovine dung is a good organic fertilizer. Cattle manure is basically made up of digested grass and grain. Bovine dung is high in organic materials and rich in nutrients. It contains about three percent Nitrogen, two percent Phosphorus, and one percent Potassium (3-2-1 NPK). Except for a lot of organic matter, N, P, K and other essential plant nutrients, bovine dung contains a variety of enzymes and microorganisms. After being made into organic fertilizer, bovine dung can improve soil fertility, organic matter, soil physical and chemical property and microbial environment. (Nagavellamma, et al, 2004)

Here is a simple procedure for converting manure into organic fertilizer



Things needed



Manure



High carbon material (leaves, dry grass clippings, weeds)



Spading fork, pitchfork or shovel



Thermometer

This fertilizer makes an excellent growing medium for garden plants. When turned into compost and fed to plants and vegetables, bovine manure becomes a nutrient-rich fertilizer. It can be mixed into the soil or used as top dressing. Most composting bins or piles are located within easy reach of the garden. Heavy manures, like that of cows, should be mixed with lighter materials, such as straw or hay, in addition to the usual organic substances from vegetable matter, garden debris, etc. Small amounts of lime or ash may also be added.

The average yearly cost to income ratio of bovine manure fertilizer from a gaushala with 100 cattle is presented in the table below:

Cost of digging compost pit- depth 2 meters, length and breadth 7 meters	Rs.1500
Annual cost of turning the compost once every month	Rs. 2400
Yearly income from sale of fertilizer	Rs. 36000
Net income per year	Rs. 33600



Fuel and Bio-Gas

According to the International Energy Agency, bioenergy (biogas and biomass) have the potential to meet more than a quarter of world demand for transportation fuels by 2050. Biogas is produced from organic waste (carbon) which biodegrades by means of bacteria in an anaerobic environment. This process is expedited at a temperature of 38°C to 52°C in a biogas plant. The gas can then be used for cooking/heating etc. or to generate electricity. Such plants can be of enormous use to power gaushalas, making use of the waste from the animals they shelter. The manure and waste are mixed in the plant's receiving tank before being heated to 38-52°C and pumped into the digester in which the biogas is produced. The biomass stays in the digester for two-three weeks and the fermented slurry can subsequently be used as crop fertilizer. This fertilizer has improved qualities such as less odour inconveniences when spreading the slurry and significant reduction of greenhouse gasses.

The average yearly cost to income ratio of a biogas plant for a gaushala with 100 cattle is:

Cost of setting up biogas plant- 15 to 20 cubic meter (one time investment)	Rs. 500000
Yearly maintenance cost	Rs. 50000
Value of electricity generated per year	Rs. 438,000



Paper

Waste from bovine animals contain a lot of cellulose because of the grass and roughage they consume as part of their diet. This can be used to produce paper in a cheap and environmentally friendly way. As animals already process the cellulose in their bodies, less energy and chemicals are needed to turn this partially digested cellulose into usable paper. After treating the manure with sodium hydroxide, to remove impurities, the material is bleached with sodium hypochlorite to make white pulp for paper. This cellulose then needs minimal grinding to break it down into the small fibers necessary to make paper. In contrast, when isolating cellulose from trees, much more processing and grinding is necessary. The cellulose from animal dung could likely be processed in the same factories where tree pulp is made.

Bovine Dung as Building Material

A mud and cow dung paste is often applied to the floors of rural homes in India and may be applied to the walls as well. The mixture reportedly forms a waterproof layer and helps to insulate the house from heat. A relatively new process is to make building bricks from cow dung mixed with straw dust. The bricks are much lighter than conventional ones. These cow dung bricks can be produced and used within gaushalas or sold to generate revenue.

A brief procedure for making cow dung bricks is as follows:

The manure is treated with hydrochloric acid to kill possible worms and bacteria. After it dries, brick moulds are filled with the treated manure and are compacted. After drying in a well-ventilated area for two days, the bricks are removed from the moulds and stacked in a spread out or criss cross pattern so that air can circulate between them. After drying like this for a further three to four weeks, the bricks are ready to be used. For increased hardness, the bricks are sometimes heated in an oven to make them stronger and firmer.

Insect Repellant and Disinfectant

The smoke from burning cow dung has been found to repel insects, including mosquitoes, leading to the use of cow dung as an insect repellant in some areas. Most people in rural areas use natural products such as cow dung to repel mosquitoes and other insects. In some cultures, cow dung is applied to walls and floors as a disinfectant.





Cow Urine as Organic Pesticide and Fertilizer

A fermented product of bovine urine and neem leaves has been shown to work as an excellent organic pesticide (Bambawale.O.M et al). Liquid manure from cow urine is easily absorbed by plants. The materials used to make liquid fertiliser are also easily available at a relatively low cost. Bovine urine contains 95% Water, 2.5% Urea and 2.5% of Minerals, Hormones, Salts & Enzymes. Natural fertilizers like Amrit Jal, Jeevamrutham etc. can be made using bovine urine. With the help of these natural fertilizers the growth rate of plants can be improved resulting in an increase in production. All these organic fertilizers are cost effective and eco-friendly. Jeevamrutha is a fertilizer which is made from a mixture of cow urine, cow dung, jaggery, pulse flour and rhizosphere soil.

The average yearly cost to income ratio of organic pesticides from a gaushala with 100 cattle is in the table:

Cost of heavy duty plastic barrel- 200 liters	Rs.750
Annual cost of neem leaves	Rs.1920
Cost of jaggery (yearly)	Rs.840
Packing cost (yearly)	Rs.36000
Income from sale of pesticide (yearly)	Rs.240000
Net income	Rs.200490

Distilled Cow Urine for Medicinal Purposes

Cow urine has been used for medicinal purposes and treating various ailments and diseases in Ayurveda. Cow urine distillate is reported to be an effective bio enhancer, and has shown to increase the effectiveness of antimicrobial, antifungal and anticancer drugs (Khanuja, et al. 2005). In addition to this, there are multiple claims of the medicinal and curative properties of bovine urine, especially cow urine. It is a promising area of research to develop scientifically tested useful products from bovine urine, and many academic institutions are investing in it. Gaushalas can capitalise on this trend and sell bovine urine to these institutions.

The average yearly cost to income ratio of cow urine from a gaushala with 100 cows, which can be used for medicinal purposes is in the table below:

Yearly cost for muslin cloth for filtering urine	Rs.2100
yearly packing cost	Rs.3600
yearly income	Rs.21600
Net income	Rs.15900



Cow Urine as Floor Cleaners

Cow urine and neem leaves, both of which are known to have anti- microbial and anti- fungal properties can be used as floor cleaners and disinfectants. This is environment friendly and sustainable as compared to the common practice of using phenyl as floor cleaner.

The average yearly cost to income ratio of cow urine floor cleaners from a gaushala with 100 cows is in the table below:

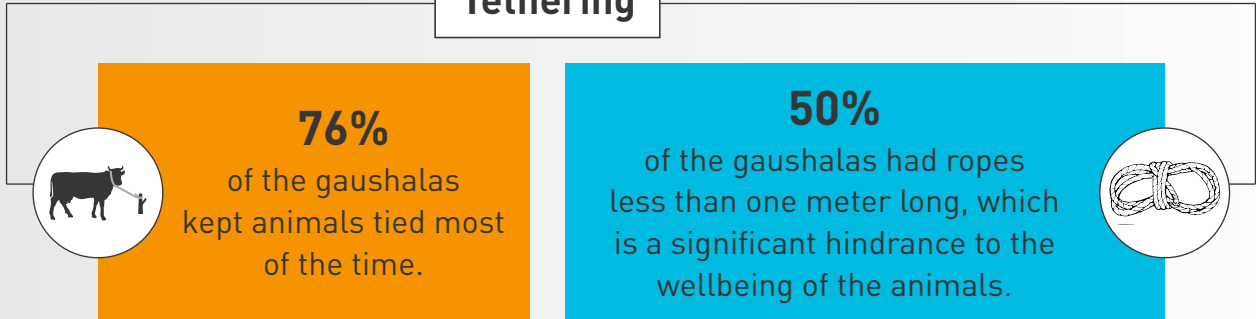
Cost of setting up distillation unit	Rs.19000
Packing cost (yearly)	Rs.36000
Yearly income	Rs.180000
Net income	Rs.125000



Key Findings

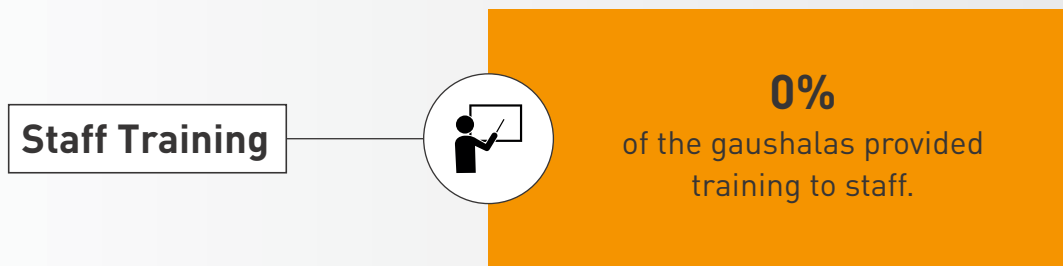
Some of the most important findings of the investigation are presented in this section.

Tethering



Such tethering **hinders cattle from even lifting their head up** and expressing behaviour that is natural to bovines.

Staff Training



Most of them learnt practices for care of animals, cleaning of enclosures, and maintenance of records etc. from senior staff, which was passed on in an arbitrary manner. This is the reason for **widespread mismanagement and lack of professional care** to the animals in many gaushalas.



Breeding

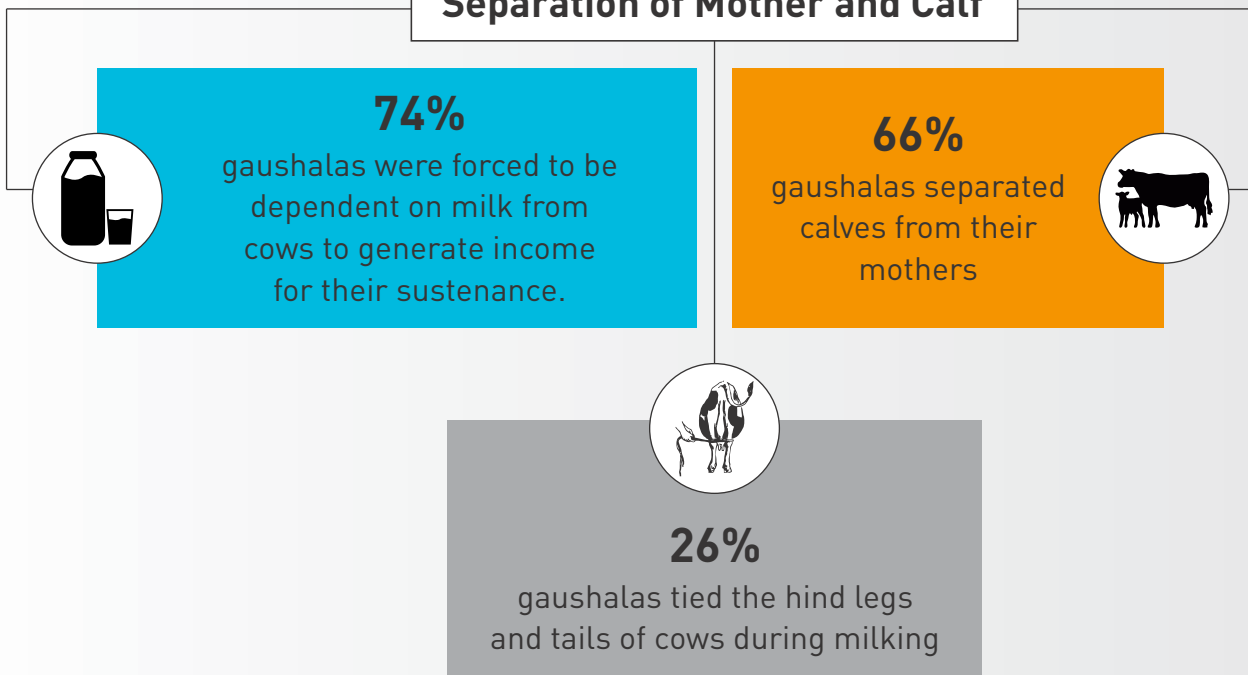


86%
gaushalas practiced
breeding of animals.

This is a serious concern, as the practice quickly **multiplies the number of animals beyond the capacity of the gaushala** and forces them to depend on milk to sustain themselves. Breeding also increases the number of 'unwanted' and 'spent' animals.

This happens due to the lack of any government funding and a dependable fundraising plan which may secure the future of animals in gaushalas.

Separation of Mother and Calf



Milking for revenue generation is a serious issue in gaushalas as this makes them similar to dairy farms. Despite the perceived benefits of A2 milk from indigenous cows, such gaushalas are more susceptible to problems associated with keeping animals for milk like use of hormones; separation of calf from mother, repeated forced pregnancies etc.

Management

PRIVATE

81%

gaushalas were run as private bodies with no support from the government.

73%

gaushalas solicited support from individuals.



Donations for fodder, infrastructure, medical treatment, expansion of gaushala and adoption of animals were the main source of funding for the gaushalas.

Revenue Model



50%

of the gaushalas did not have any system or sustainable revenue model.

Most gaushalas in the country have not been able to tap the potential of the cow byproducts like cow urine and cow dung. They are still dependent on donations and sale of milk based products.



Investigation Methodology

A procedure was developed to ensure that comprehensive information on the functioning of a gaushala is collected during the investigation. At first, we consulted animal welfare scientists who helped us develop a set of criteria which were the best indicators of well-being of animals. Parameters like length of the rope in case of tethering, types of flooring and separation of calf from mother were found to be key indicators based on the anatomical and behavioural traits of bovine animals. We also consulted gaushala managers who had an insight into the practical problems of running gaushalas, including fundraising, record keeping, managing staff, construction of enclosures etc. Their advice on mandatory sustainable practices was included in the gaushala checklist. The final checklist can be found in Annexure 2.

Additionally, specific focal areas were identified for the gaushalas in the North, South, East and Western regions, keeping in mind the recent trends in cow conservation unique to these areas. These are as below:

- East- To understand relationship between gaushalas and slaughter of male calves and 'spent' dairy animals.
- West- Documenting how 'spent' dairy animals are rehabilitated in gaushalas and how gaushalas deal with the large number of animals, especially because of ban on cow slaughter.
- South- To verify the claims that their main focus is to conserve indigenous breeds.
- North- To know how religious institutions run gaushalas- interplay of welfare and promotion of 'gau products'

Following these preparations, a total of 179 gaushalas were visited across the country over a period of three months.

Here is the zone wise break up of gaushalas where investigation was carried out:

- North: 108- Delhi, Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh
- East: 20- West Bengal, Bihar, Assam
- South: 20- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh
- West: 31- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Goa

Information on each gaushala was gathered through personal visits, with records of observations kept through photographs and videos and also through conducting in-person detailed interviews with gaushala managers and staff.

Investigation Results

The prevalent conditions in gaushalas recorded during the investigation can be presented as below:

Gaushala features	Present conditions
Tethering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76% of gaushalas kept their animals tied Often, the ropes used for tethering are less than 1 meter long, causing discomfort to the animal. Most animals are tethered continuously, with no break
Breeding	86% gaushalas practiced breeding of their animals. None of them maintained any record of the number of pregnant cows, number of pregnancies of each cow, age at pregnancy, duration between pregnancies etc.
Separation of mother and calf	66% gaushalas separated calves from mothers. This was the result of 74% gaushalas having milk as the primary source of income
Revenue Model	50% of the gaushalas did not use cow byproducts like cow dung and urine in any form.
Care Services	There were no resident doctors in 80% of the gaushalas. Washing of enclosures was practiced in all, however not always with mosquito/fly repellants.
Record keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records in all gaushalas incomplete. Tagging of animals not done. Breeding frequency of cows not recorded. Male to female calf ratio is not recorded.
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recruitment of the staff is not done through a proper channel Staff was not given training in handling animals.
Fodder	<p>About 25% of the gaushalas kept fodder in the feeding troughs all day, which left them open to contamination.</p> <p>About 70% of the gaushalas did not separate animals or bulls during feeding, which led to competition and possibility of injuries during feeding</p>
Enclosures and floors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most gaushalas did not separate sick and healthy animals, though some had specific areas for treatment of animals. Almost all the gaushalas had brick flooring.

Calves	Calves were found to be given bare minimum care in all the gaushalas. They were separated and not allowed to feed from their mothers frequently. Castration was rarely practiced.
Separation of animals	New animals and old ones, males and females were kept together in most gaushalas
Emergency Plans	There was little attention paid to emergency plans like those in case of fire, thunderstorms, harsh weather conditions or heavy rains.



Grading System for Gaushalas

Based on the above observations, gaushalas were graded as being in Red, Yellow or Green categories for each parameter, with red being poor, yellow being average, and green being good conditions. This grading forms the basis to prioritise corrective measures in each gaushala.

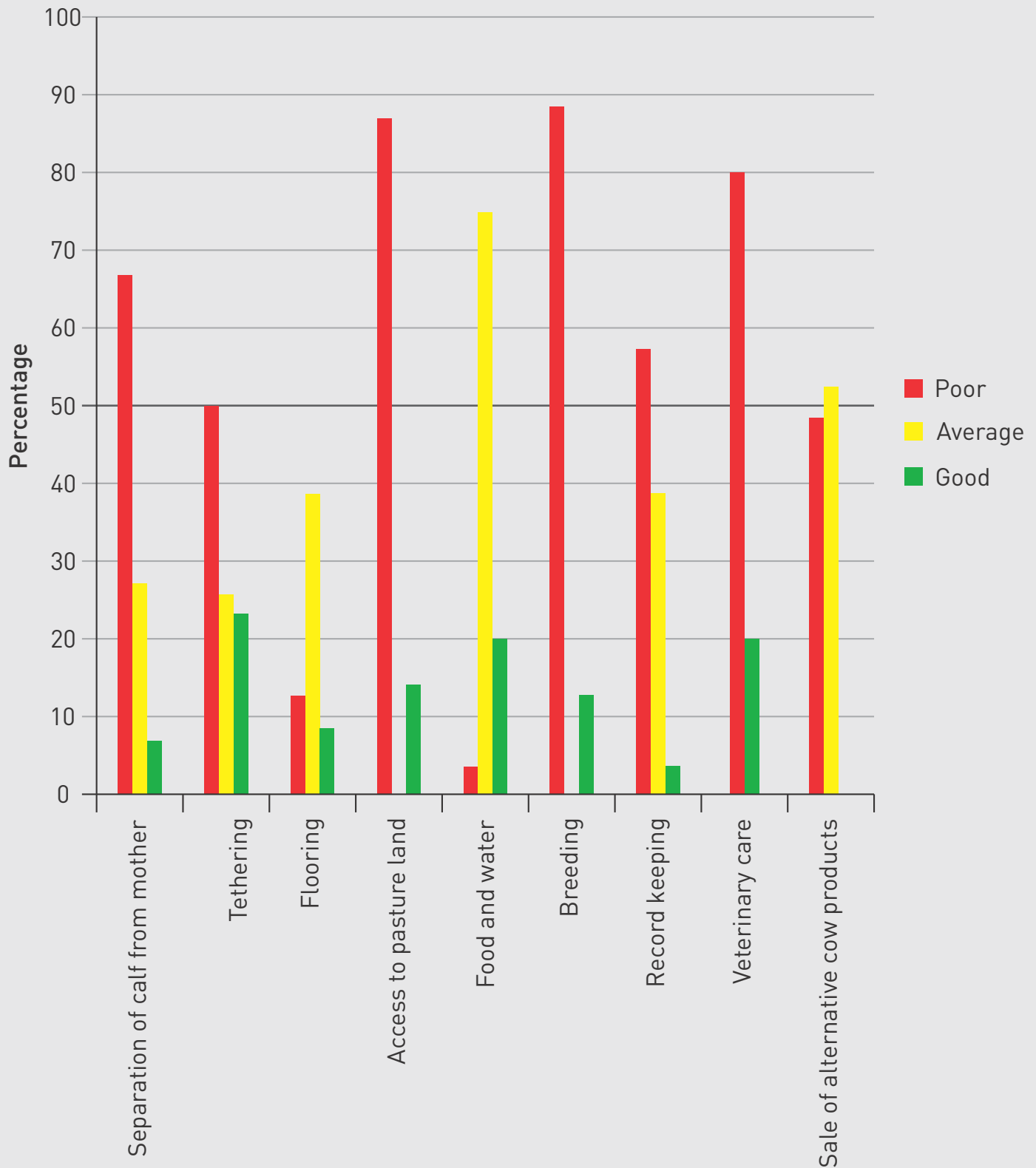
The red areas need to be corrected immediately; yellow ones post that and green areas can be promoted as ideal conditions for keeping bovines.

The summary of grades for gaushalas for key parameters is as below:

Parameter	% Red	% Yellow	% Green
Separation of calf from mother	66	27	7
Tethering	50	26	24
Flooring	13	39	8
Access to pasture land	86	0	14
Food and water	5	75	20
Breeding	88	0	12
Record keeping	57	39	4
Veterinary care	0	80	20
Sale of alternative cow products	47	53	0



Grading System for Gaushalas



Explanation- Separation of mother and calf, tethering, access to pasture land, breeding of animals, record keeping and use of alternative cow products are areas where a large percentage of gaushalas are in red category. Therefore, immediate action is necessary to improve these conditions.

Zone-wise Break-up of Key Findings

Each zone had differences in the general trend of caring for animals, management practices and focus areas. There is a strong correlation between milking of animals and slaughter. The north, east and western zones had high milking and a high incidence of trafficking for slaughter as well. Milking also correlated with a high rate of breeding of animals.

We noticed that one gaushala in Kolkata housing 800 animals was a front for illegal slaughter of bovines. Dry animals, male calves and bulls were brought illegally in trucks, trains and other vehicles across the border. They were then deliberately starved in the gaushala and a fixed number of cattle were sent to be slaughtered every week.

It was observed that almost all gaushalas tethered animals. This is an indicator of lack of space for building enclosures where animals can be left to roam free.

Many gaushalas in the West, particularly in Ahmedabad, Sirohi, Brahmanwada, and Goregaon did not practice milking of cattle. These were centers of rehabilitation of dry cows from dairies.

In the North, there was widespread promotion of Panchgavya and milk based cow products by the gaushalas, particularly those run by religious institutions.

North

Tethering	Emergency Measures	Separation of mother and calf	Husbandry	Revenue Model
61% gaushalas keep their animals tied throughout the day.	93% gaushalas had no emergency plans.	76% of gaushalas separated mother and calf	95% of gaushalas were breeding animals	Only 33% gaushalas had government support

South

Tethering	Emergency Measures	Separation of mother and calf	Husbandry	Revenue Model
100% gaushalas tied their animals	No gaushala had any emergency plan	20% gaushalas separated mother and calf	20% gaushalas were breeding animals	No gaushala had any government involvement

West

Tethering	Emergency Measures	Separation of mother and calf	Husbandry	Revenue Model
96% of gaushalas tied their animals	No gaushala had emergency plans	96% gaushalas separated mother and calf	Breeding was done in all gaushalas	96% gaushalas had no support from government

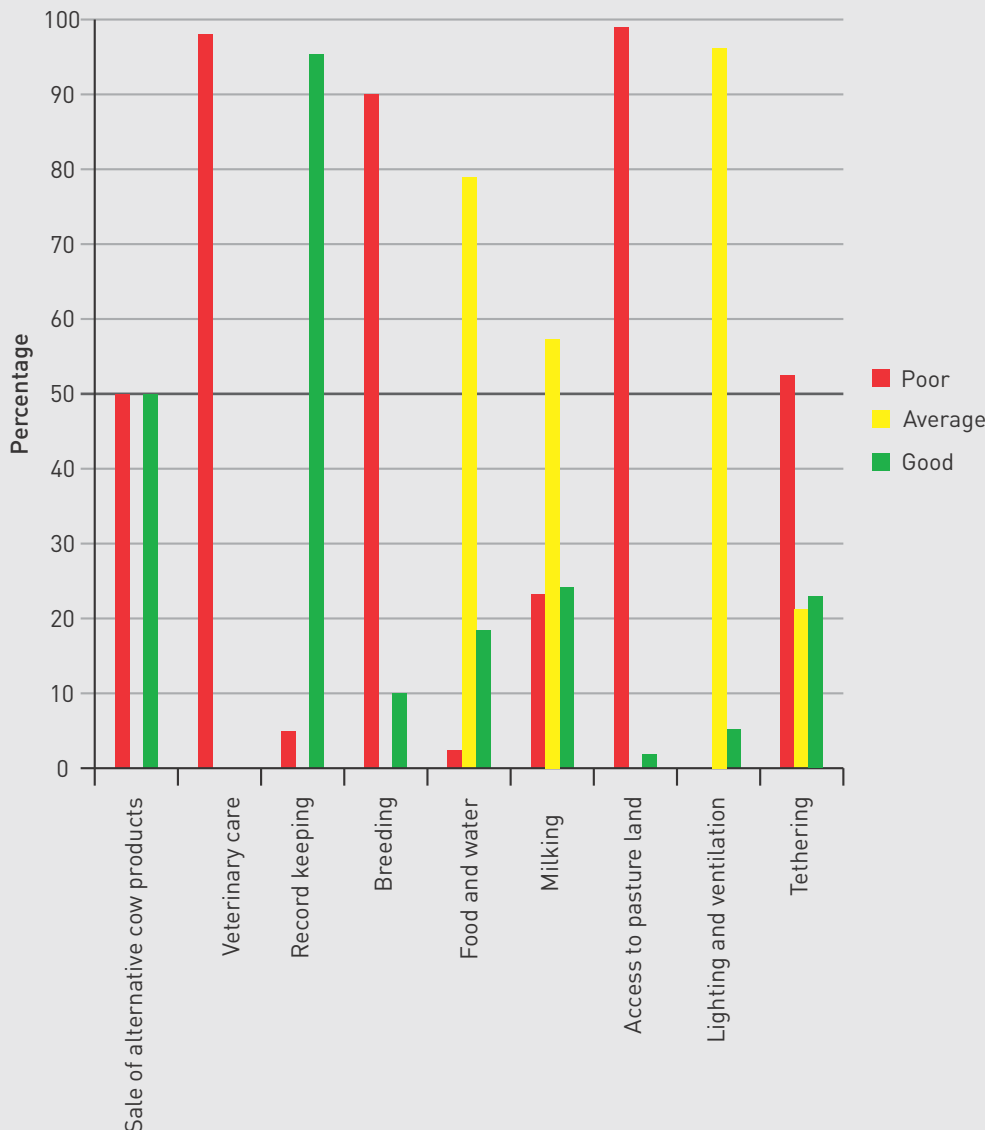
East

Tethering	Emergency Measures	Separation of mother and calf	Husbandry	Revenue Model
All gaushalas tie their animals	No gaushala had any emergency plans	100% gaushalas separated mother and calf	85% gaushalas were breeding animals	No gaushala had any government involvement



Management-wise Break-up of Key Findings

Privately Run Gaushalas with Conservation Centric Approach

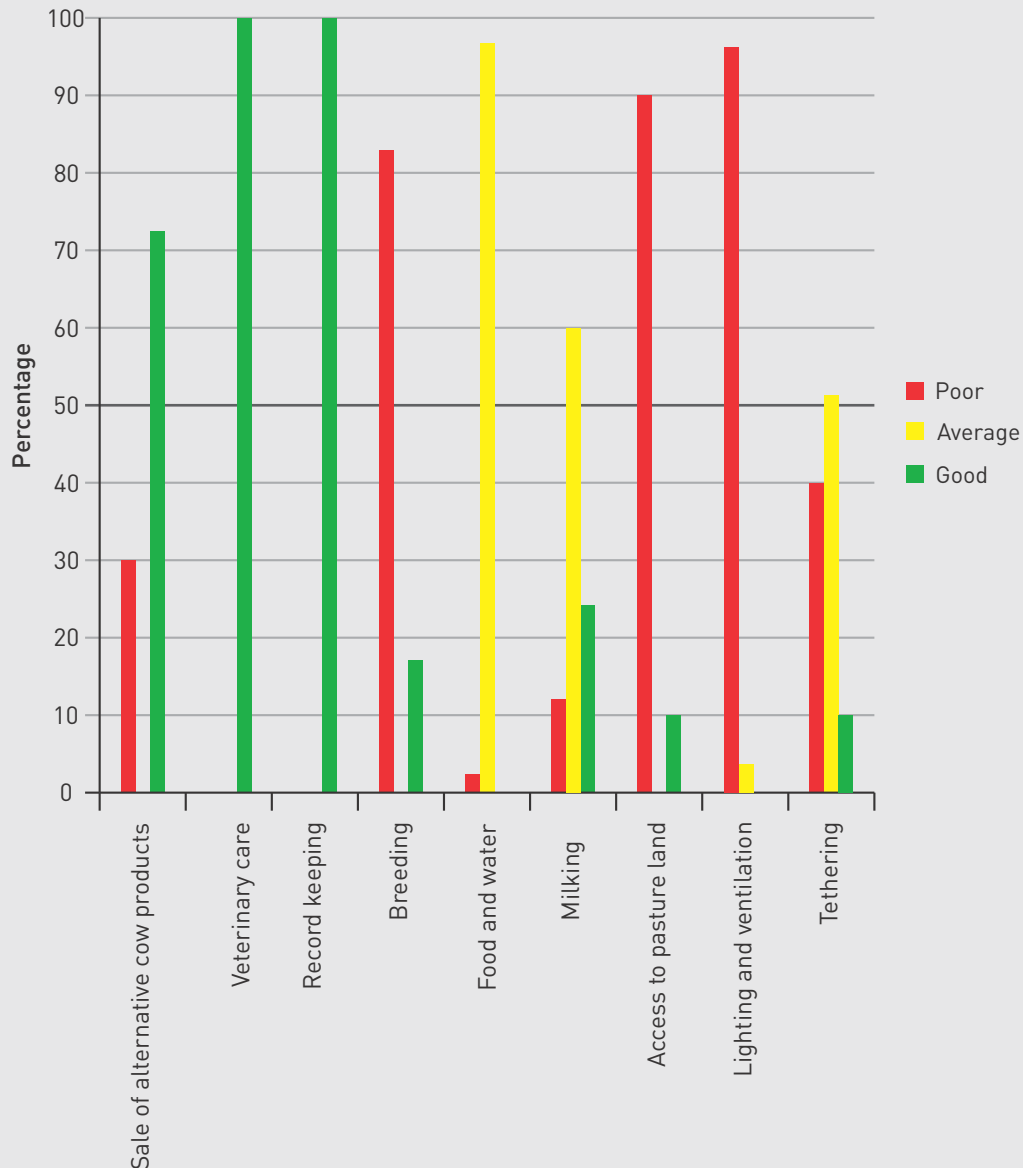


These gaushalas had detailed records of information on their animals. Breeding, deaths, reason of death, injuries/sickness along with tagging details of animals was recorded. They also recognised the importance of generating revenue from cow dung and cow urine. As a result, they were less dependent on milk. However, about 50% of these gaushalas tethered their animals continuously. Access to pasture land was poor, as none of the gaushalas had open grazing space for their animals.

Most of the gaushalas in this category practiced breeding of animals, congruent with the conventional approach to breed conservation.

Veterinary service is available in every gaushala; however there are very few gaushalas with in-house hospital and resident veterinarian.

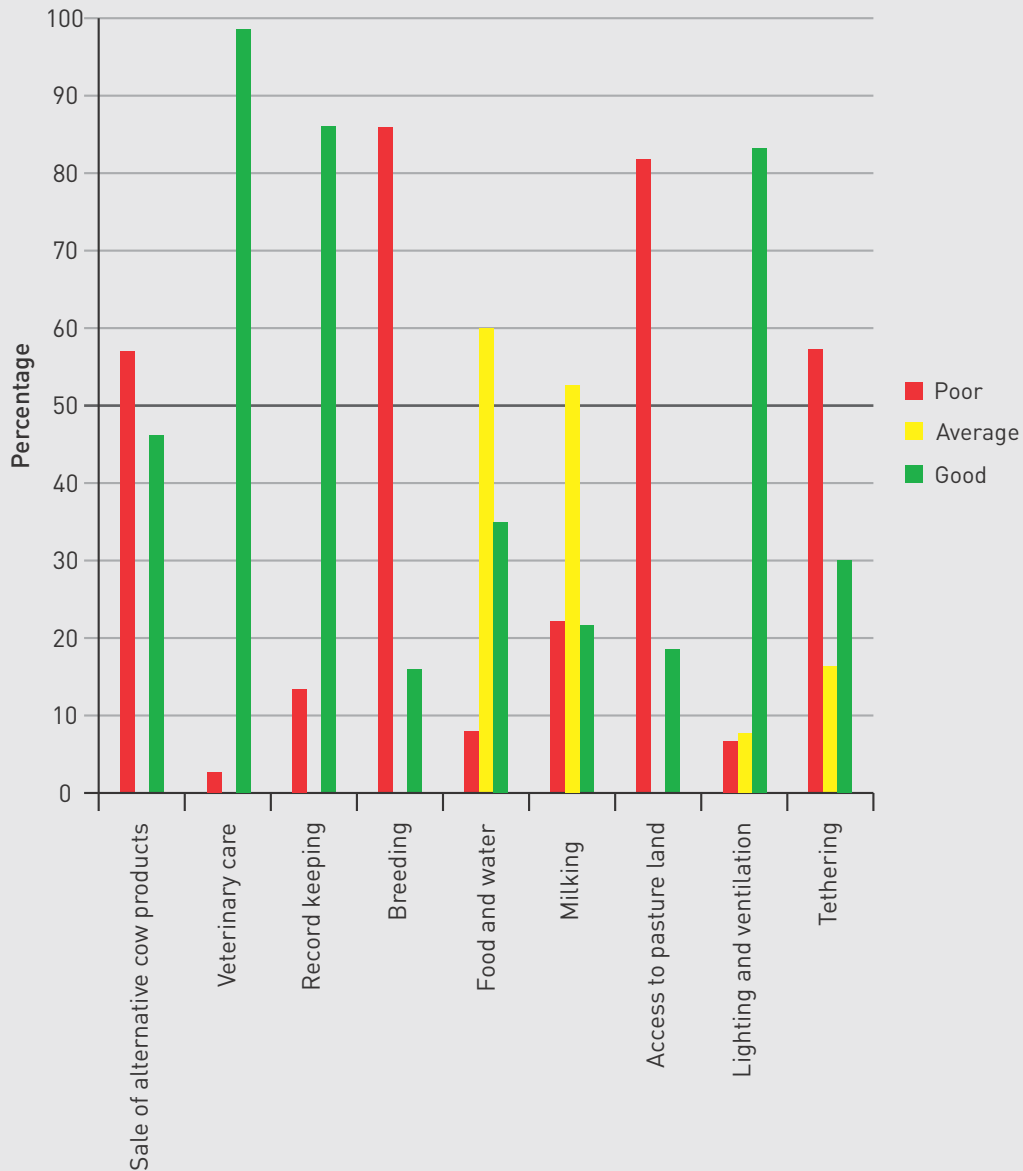
Privately Run Gaushalas with Rescue Centric Approach



These gaushalas had well maintained records where information of incoming and outgoing (if any) cattle, breeding, deaths, reason of death, injuries/sickness, tagging were kept. More than 70% of these gaushalas made some effort to generate revenue from alternate cow products. Other gaushalas can learn this model by visiting these gaushalas. Veterinary service is available in every gaushala with one residential veterinarian and in some cases, hospital facility for emergency cases.

Access to pasture land and lighting/ventilation were poor in such gaushalas. These gaushalas should be supported to make a small open area available for animals to roam freely. Breeding of animals is unchecked, resulting in additional burden on these gaushalas. This needs to be addressed on an urgent basis. Enabling these gaushalas to shift to alternate cow economy which includes products made from cow dung and cow urine can be helpful for them to sustain themselves financially.

Gaushalas Run by Religious Institutions



Many of these gaushalas made open grazing land available to the animals. Adequate lighting/ventilation was ensured to animals.

Uncontrolled breeding in these gaushalas resulted in the burden of additional animals. This issue needs to be addressed on an urgent basis, by preventing/controlling breeding. Veterinary service was available in most of the gaushalas with one residential vet and hospital facility in some of them.

Recommendations

FIAPO recognises that financial sustainability and better animal care practices are the most critical needs of gaushalas. Based on the investigation and consultation with experts, we have formulated the minimum conditions that affect the quality of life of the animals and for sustainable management of the gaushalas.

A. Recommendations for Optimal Care for Animals

Gaushala features	Minimum conditions
Record keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to keep track of every animal. • Tags on every animal. • Record of cows with number of times breeding done. • Male and female calves' ratio. • Log for donations received and fodder
Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care taker should be trained and assessed for competence in looking for bovine animals. • Housing food and water facilities available to staff and security guard is a must. • 1 care giver per 20 animals. • Training by vet staff for handling of animals should be given.
Care Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 1 certified govt. doctor should visit the gaushala for 2 hours every day. • One resident doctor should be allocated to every gaushala. • Mandatory washing of enclosures once in a day. Use of mosquito- and fly repellent. • Minimum lighting at night as it interferes with animals sleep.
Enclosures and floors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaushalas should have separate hospital areas, sick and wounded animals shed, normal and healthy animals shed. • There should be an open area for these animals to roam. • Resting/sleeping areas should be covered. • Floors must be soft, made with a combination of materials like cow dung, sand, hay and saw dust.
Emergency Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two fire extinguishers, • Cemented roof for one enclosure • Drainage pipes. • Emergency resources for uncut water and power supply.

Fodder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh green fodder twice a day with inclusion of grass or hay or bhusa, jaggery if affordable. • Addition of tara mira feed. Continuous access to clean drinking water. • Animals of different age groups, and bulls should be fed separately
Separation of mother and calf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separating mother and calf is not encouraged in gaushalas. • Separation has been found to be due to heavy dependence on milk. • If milking is done, it should contribute no more than 10% of earning of gaushalas. • Calves should be allowed to have milk on priority. • Milking should not be done by tying the hind legs or by keeping the calf near the mother.
Breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breeding is discouraged in gaushalas • Medically induced early birth should not be practiced. • Feed and water should be provided separately for calves
Revenue Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have gobar gas plant • Use of cow dung as vermi compost • Practice at least one use for cow urine
Calves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calves should not be separated from mothers for at least 6 months. • Castration of male calves should be done painlessly for controlling population. Colostrum should be given to calf within 6 hours of birth.
Separation of animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two separate enclosures should be made for males and females. • New arrivals should be kept away from the previous residents for at least 15 days
Tethering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tethering should not be practiced and animals should be left to roam free • If it is absolutely necessary to tether animals, the rope should at least be 2 meters long • Tethering should not be for more than a stretch of one hour • Tethered animal should be allowed to be free for at least 4 hours a day. • Calves and sick animals should not be tethered. • Reasons for tethering should be clearly mentioned in a register

In addition to these, FIAPO has also come up with detailed guidelines for management of ideal enclosures for bovine animals. This can be used by all gaushalas as a guide for comprehensive improvement of their animal care mechanisms. Institutions like the Animal Welfare Board of India can also include these as conditions recommendations for registration of gaushalas. The guidelines can be found in Annexure 3

B. Recommendations for Improved Management

Training to gaushala staff and managers

Each State Animal Welfare board should host trainings for gaushalas in ways to ensure ideal conditions for bovine animals and ways to ensure sustainability of gaushalas. Training material in local language should be developed and published by the respective boards.

Gau seva ayogs should be set up in all states which will function as knowledge centers for gaushalas. Model gaushalas should be set up in each state, which can function as venues for the demonstration of best practices.

Registration and transparency of operations

There is a need to put in place a formal system to register all gaushalas. The govt. should define the word 'Gaushala' clearly and enlist guidelines (which can be borrowed from this report) for the management of these cattle shelters. The sole objective of gaushalas should be to provide shelter to local stray and needy bovines. Animals should not be purchased from anywhere to start a gaushala.

All gaushalas can be monitored by the state animal welfare boards. Gaushalas will have to submit a monthly report and annual report to concerned authorities showing all their activities. All gaushalas need to adopt a population control programme. No indiscriminate breeding of animals should be carried out. Male and female animals should be kept separately. All males should be castrated in the gaushala.

Funding and cash flow being the trickiest problems gaushalas face, all gaushalas will have to maintain accounts in a transparent manner. The donation boxes kept in various shops or other places should be opened in front of some public representatives and local authority to ensure transparency.



C. Recommendations for Financial Sustainability

Grants to gaushalas

There is urgent need to financially support gaushalas. All registered gaushalas need to be funded by the local government under the present SPCA's to enable them to follow guidelines for best care of bovine animals. The district administrations need to set aside a budget for funding gaushalas, similar to the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme. The AWBI should augment this funding specific animal welfare projects like creation of appropriate flooring, open pens where animals are not tethered, dispensaries and veterinary care.

Research on alternate cow products and creation of market for them

Agriculture universities should be given funding for research on alternative bovine products which are not milk based. The University Grants Commission, under the ministry of Human Resource Development is the best agency to take this up. Institutions of medical research also need to be encouraged to carry out research on the medical benefits of alternate cow products.

Standard production techniques should be established for alternate cow products like cow dung dhoop, floor cleaners, etc. which have enormous market potential. They can be locally manufactured with a low carbon footprint. Marketing these will not only ensure revenues to gaushalas, but will also encourage local businesses. Gau seva ayogs should also function as bodies to promote and ensure market linkages for alternate bovine products based on dung and urine. Both the training and market linkages should be mandatory inclusions in the RCPR, under the central Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, overseen by the AWBI.

Development of grazing land; growing nutritious fodder

Gochars or traditional grazing lands were once the lifeline for cattle in an area. However, with the advent of modern dairy farming, open grazing was discouraged and these communal pastures were disused.

Green fodder is a very important commodity that gaushalas struggle to acquire. Some gaushalas, as shown in the case studies, grow their own fodder plants. However, if the traditional practice of developing grazing lands to cater to all cattle in an area is reclaimed, shortage of fodder can be easily overcome.

The central government should make it mandatory for all districts to earmark areas as gochar lands. The district administration, along with the gaushalas in the area should be responsible for managing the gochar lands.

Nutritious and high yielding varieties of fodder plants should be grown in these areas, which sufficiently cater to the needs of all gaushalas in the district all year round.

Conclusion

This investigation is the first of its kind and unravels the way gaushalas are operated in the country. While some are adopting progressive and sustainable practices, some are crumbling under the weight of outdated management systems and misplaced priorities.

Additionally, there is a danger of gaushalas functioning as dairy farms, instead of as a sanctuary for animals in need of care. We have demonstrated the commercial viability and scientific validity of many alternate cow products in this report, which can be the lifeline of gaushalas.

The government, civil society and philanthropists must join hands to revive the traditional gaushalas and equip them to the challenges of today. Some of the options have been presented in the recommendations.

FIAPO appeals to the central and all state governments to help gaushalas by ensuring adequate grants for them. Additional investment needs to be made to develop gauchar lands and maintain them. Training institutions need to be set up to build the capacity of gaushalas in caring for animals effectively and to move towards zero cost operation. Research centers need to be started in leading agricultural and medical universities to develop new ways of using humane cow products. SOPs must be established for the design, maintenance and management of gaushalas which can be easily replicated anywhere.

These measures need to be supported by regulatory provisions compelling dairy farms to pay for the rehabilitation of their 'unproductive' animals. A directory of registered gaushalas should be made available to the public with a detailed profile of each of them. The government funding needs to be augmented by streamlining donations to gaushalas in the directory during traditional festivals where making donations is believed to be auspicious, like during the festivals of Navaratri, Paryushana, Janmashtami, Christmas, Eid-Al- Fitr etc.

The cultural reverence we have towards cows needs to be extended to all bovine animals. Our traditional piety for these animals has to mix with modern scientific expertise and government support to make gaushalas sanctuaries for bovine animals.



Annexure 1:

Regulation related to bovine animal slaughter in different states

Sr. no.	State regulation	Interpretation	Condition
1.	Andhra Pradesh The Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Cow Slaughter and Animal Preservation Act 1977	1. Cow, heifer, cow's calf, calf of she-buffalo cannot be slaughtered 2. Bull, bullock, buffalo require certificate for slaughter	Fit-for-Slaughter Certificate Certificate not granted if animal is fit for any of the following: 1. Breeding 2. Draught/agricultural purposes Milking/Breeding
2.	Assam The Assam Cattle Preservation Act 1950	Slaughter of all cattle is legal but certificate has to be obtained	Fit-for-Slaughter Cert. Cert. given if: 1. Animal above 14 Years Or 2. Permanently incapacitated to work
3.	Bihar and Jharkhand The Bihar Preservation and Improvement of Animals Act 1955	Cow, calf, bull, bullock, she-buffalo not to be slaughtered	Upon the following conditions, the following animals may be slaughtered: 1. Bull or bullock above 25 years of age or animal permanently incapable of breeding/draught 2. She-buffalo, above 25 yrs of age, permanently incapable of breeding/milking
4.	Chhattisgarh Chhattisgarh Agricultural Cattle Preservation Act 2004	Complete ban on slaughter of agricultural cattle, namely: Cow, calves of cow and she-buffalo, bulls, bullocks, male or female buffaloes.	

5.	Delhi Delhi Agricultural Cattle Preservation Act 1994	Prohibition of slaughter of cows, calves of cows, bulls and bullocks (Implied : Buffalo slaughter is legal)	
6.	Goa Goa Animal Preservation Act 1995 Goa, Daman and Diu Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1978	Slaughter of cow, heifer and calf is illegal. Slaughter of bulls, bullocks, male calves, male and female buffaloes, castrated buffaloes and buffalo calves is legal upon procurement of certificate	No certificate to be granted if animal fit for: 1. Draught/Agricultural operations 2. Breeding Milking/Bearing off-spring
7.	Daman & Diu Goa, Daman and Diu Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1978	Slaughter of cow, heifer and calf is illegal	
8.	Gujarat The Bombay Animal Preservation Act 1954	Slaughter of cow, calf of cow, bull and bullock is illegal. Slaughter of buffalo legal upon procurement of certificate for non-religious purposes	Religious purposes – Above the age of 15 years Non-religious purposes, certificate granted if animal is: 1. Not useful/likely to become useful for draught purposes Not useful/likely to become useful for breeding and milking
9.	Jammu & Kashmir J&K Ranbir Penal Code	Killing of bovine animals (such as cow, calf, ox or bull, buffalo) is illegal	
10.	Karnataka The Karnataka Prevention of Cow Slaughter and Cattle Preservation Act 1964	Cow, calf of she-buffalo slaughter is illegal Slaughter of bull, bullock, buffalo legal with certificate	Grounds for provision of certificate: 1. Animal is above the age of 12 years. Animal permanently incapable of breeding, draught, milking

11.	Kerala	No statewide legislation. Panchayat rules followed, adopted by municipalities too. Slaughter of bull, bullock, cow calf, he-buffalo or she-buffalo or buffalo calf is legal with appropriate certificate	Conditions for granting certificate: 1. Animal to be above 10 years of age Animal to be incapable of breeding, draught, "work"
12.	Madhya Pradesh Madhya Pradesh Agricultural Cattle Preservation Act 1959	Slaughter of cow, calf of cow, calf of she-buffalo, bull or bullock is illegal Slaughter of Buffalo is legal with certificate	Certificate to be granted is cattle is: 1. Over 15 years of age 2. Permanently incapacitated for work or breeding Not suffering from disease making meat unwholesome for human consumption
13.	Maharashtra Maharashtra Animal Preservation Act 1976	Slaughter of Cow, bull, bullock is illegal Slaughter of buffalo is legal with appropriate certificate	Certificate not to be granted if animal capable of: 1. Draught and agricultural purposes 2. Milking Breeding
14.	Manipur The Proclamation of the Prohibition of Cow Killing in Manipur	Killing of cows is illegal as per Proclamation	
15.	Meghalaya	No laws on cattle slaughter	
16.	Nagaland	No laws on cattle slaughter	
17.	Orissa Orissa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1960	Slaughter of cows is illegal Slaughter of bull, bullock is legal with certificate Act is silent on buffaloes	Certificate to be granted if animal is: 1. Over the age of 14 years 2. Bull – Permanently incapable of breeding Bullock – Permanently incapable of draught

18.	Pondicherry Pondicherry Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1968	Cow slaughter illegal Slaughter of bull, bullock legal upon procurement of certificate Act is silent on buffaloes	Certificate to be granted if animal is: 1. Above the age of 15 years 2. Bull – Permanently incapable of breeding Bullock – Permanently incapable of draught
19.	Punjab Punjab Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Act 1965	Slaughter of bull, bullock, ox, heifer, calf and cow is illegal	
20.	Haryana Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Act 2015	Slaughter of bull, bullock, ox, heifer, calf, disabled/diseased/barren cow is illegal Slaughter included maiming or inflicting physical injury which is the ordinary course may cause death	Cow can be slaughtered where a certificate has been issued by Registered vet of the AH Department in the following cases : a) If the cow is suffering so much that its destruction is desirable b) If the cow is suffering from a notified contagious or infectious disease If the cow is subjected to experimentation in the interest of medical, veterinary and public health research
21.	Himachal Pradesh Punjab Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Act 1965 as applicable to Himachal Pradesh	Slaughter of bull, bullock, ox, heifer, calf and cow is illegal	
22.	Rajasthan Rajasthan Bovine Animal (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary migration or export) Act 1995	Slaughter of cow, calf, heifer, bull or bullock is illegal	

23.	Tamil Nadu Tamil Nadu Animal Preservation Act 1958	Slaughter of bull, bullock, cow, calf, he-buffalo, she-buffalo, buffalo calf is legal upon procurement of certificate	Certificate to be granted if animal is: 1. Above 10 years AND 2. Incapable of work or breeding
24.	Uttar Pradesh Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act 1955	Slaughter of cow, bull or bullock is illegal	
25.	Uttarakhand Uttarakhand Protection of Cow Progeny Act 2007	Slaughter of cow, bull, bullock, heifer or calf is illegal	
26.	West Bengal West Bengal Animal Slaughter Control Act 1950	Slaughter of bull, bullock, cows, calves, buffalo calves, buffaloes and castrated buffaloes is legal upon procurement of certificate	Certificate granted if animal is: 1. Above the age of 14 years AND 2. Permanently incapable of work or breeding



Annexure 2

Checklist for investigation of gaushalas

Gaushala name

Address

Contact number

Email

Number of staff

Tethering of animals (yes/no)	
If yes, length of rope (in meters)	
Housing Conditions	
Artificial	
Natural	
Both	
No lighting and premises is dark	
Ventilation	
Natural	
Artificial (specify if there are fans/ exhaust fans/ coolers/ air conditioning etc.)	
Both	
Access to pasture land (yes/no)	
If yes, duration (in hours) per day	
Type of flooring- describe the type of material used. Eg- concrete, saw dust etc.	
Milking	
Milking (yes/no)	

If yes, number of times per day	
Mechanised (yes/no)	
If yes, number of cows per machine	
Frequency of cleaning of machines	
Food and Water	
Fodder given	
Green	
Dry	
Seasonal	
Mixture of all	
Other (specify)	
Number of times feed is given/ feed present all day	
Water given	
Number of times per day	
Drinking water present all day	
Husbandry	
Breeding (natural/artificial/not done)	
Breeds present	
Non-descript	
Name of breed/s	
Calves separated from mother?	
If yes, age at which separated	
Branding, nose piercing etc. practiced? If yes, specify	

Management													
Staff Recruitment done by (gaushala trust/corporation/mandir/society)													
Types of records maintained Please list out													
Emergency Plans (yes/no)													
If yes, describe in detail													
Non-Productive Cows (accepted/not)													
Water supply source													
24x7 electricity (yes/no)													
Generator (yes/no)													
Medical care													
Regular veterinarian present? (yes/no)													
Frequency of visit to Gaushala (times per week/ on call)													
Sterilization of males (yes/no)													
Sterilisation of females (yes/no)													
Other systems of medicine practiced? (Ayurveda, homeopathy etc.)													
If yes, please give reason for which practiced Eg- ayurvedic pills for immunity													
Revenue model													
Panchgavya Utilisation(yes/no)													
If yes	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Products</th> <th>Amount Used</th> <th>Amount sold</th> <th>Income per month</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Products	Amount Used	Amount sold	Income per month								
Products	Amount Used	Amount sold	Income per month										

Gobar gas plant (yes/no)		
If yes, quantity produced per month		
Green fodder grown (yes/no)		
If yes, list out types of fodder and number of quintals per month		
government involvement(yes/no)		
If yes, describe nature of involvement. Eg- for funding, land, subsidized water connection etc.		
private involvement(yes/no)		
If yes, describe nature of involvement		
Support from individuals(yes/no)		
If yes, describe nature of involvement		
gaushala trust(yes/no)		
sale of other products(yes/no)		
If yes, describe products and monthly revenue from each	Product	Monthly revenue



Annexure 3: Guidelines for management of gaushalas

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 weeks)	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 weeks)	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.



Healthcare

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

- 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).
- His ID Proof.
- Certificate from Sarpanch / Councillor, as the case may be, to authenticate the genuineness of the person / requirement of bullocks.
- Affidavit for him to abide by the terms and conditions contained therein

(B) From Gaushala

- 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.
- Certificate of fitness to travel signed by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon from Animal Husbandry deptt.
- 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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GAU GAATHA

Tale of the cow



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