



Commonwealth Veterinary Association

NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ANIMAL WELFARE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Veterinary College, Hassan, India

17th –18th September 2026

-A REPORT

A National Workshop on Animal Welfare Research and Education was organized by the Commonwealth Veterinary Association (CVA), KVAFSU/CVA Animal Welfare Research Centre, Veterinary College, Hassan, and Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), Bidar, with support of Coefficient Giving.

The objective of the workshop was strengthening awareness, research capacity, practical understanding and institutional approaches towards animal welfare.

The programme brought together a diverse group of 65 participants, comprising: 40 KVAFSU staff members: 10 officers from the Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services (AH & VS), Government of Karnataka and 15 postgraduate students

The participation of University faculty and staff, government veterinary officers and postgraduate students provided a valuable platform for academic–government interaction, knowledge exchange, practical learning and networking in the field of animal welfare.

The major objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Create awareness about contemporary concepts and developments in animal welfare research.
2. Strengthen understanding of animal welfare standards and capacity building.
3. Discuss practical approaches for incorporating welfare principles into livestock production systems.
4. Highlight the relationship between animal welfare, animal health, productivity and sustainable livestock farming.
5. Familiarize participants with practical methods of assessing animal welfare at farm level.
6. Discuss climate-related challenges such as heat stress and their implications for animal welfare.
7. Highlight welfare considerations associated with the lesser-known animal genetic resources of Karnataka.
8. Provide hands-on exposure and practical demonstrations related to animal welfare issues.
9. Facilitate interaction between KVAFSU personnel, Government AH & VS officers and postgraduate students.
10. Promote future collaboration in animal welfare research, education, extension and field level implementation.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. K. C. Veeranna, Vice Chancellor, KVAFSU, Bidar in the presence of Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Executive Director CVA) and Dr. O. R. Nataraju, Dean, Hassan Veterinary College and Dr. R. Guruprasad, Head, Department of Livestock Production Management (LPM), Veterinary College, Hassan and Organizing Secretary of the workshop



The workshop formally being inaugurated by the guests (Hon'ble Vice chancellor, KVAFSU, Bidar; Dr. S. Abdul Rahman, Executive Director, CVA, Dr. O. R. Nataraju, Dean, Hassan Veterinary College)

Day 1: 17th September, 2026

Technical Session – I

Animal Welfare Research, Standard and Capacity Building

The first technical session was Chaired by Dr. S. S. Abdul Rahman, Executive Director(CVA) and Co-chaired by Dr. G. M. Satheesha, Associate Professor, Department of LFC, Veterinary College, Shivamogga, The following were the presentaons:

1. Poultry Welfare: Indicators, Management & Practices : **Dr. O. R. Nataraju, Dean, Veterinary College, Hassan**

This presentation focused on the importance of identifying appropriate welfare indicators in poultry, sound management practices and approaches for improving welfare under production conditions. The topic was particularly relevant because poultry welfare requires the integration of appropriate housing, management, health care and production practices.

2. Recent Developments in Farm Animal Welfare: **Global Perspective; Dr. B. Veeranna Gouda, Professor & Head, Department of LPM, Veterinary College, Shivamogga**

The presentation provided a global perspective on recent developments in farm animal welfare and helped participants understand the changing importance of welfare in modern livestock production. The topic enabled participants to relate contemporary international developments with the requirements of Indian livestock production systems.

3. Dairy Herd Welfare: Methods for Practical On-Farm Assessment and Low-Cost Remedies to Improve Welfare; **Dr. M. D. Gouri, Associate Professor, Department of LFC, Veterinary College, Bengaluru**

The lecture emphasized practical approaches for assessing dairy herd welfare at the farm level and discussed low-cost interventions for improving welfare. This was particularly relevant to field veterinarians and livestock professionals because welfare improvement does not necessarily require expensive interventions and can often be achieved through appropriate management practices.

Technical Session – II

Animal Welfare Application for Improved Animal Health and Production

The session was chaired by Dr. Dr. M. D. Gouri, Professor, Department of LFC, Veterinary College, Bengaluru and Co-chaired by Dr. Basavaraj.

The following presentations were deliberated in the session;

1. Animal Welfare and Sustainable Livestock Farming; **Dr. G. M. Satheesha, Associate Professor, Department of LFC, Veterinary College, Shivamogga**

The presentation addressed the linkage between animal welfare and sustainable livestock farming. The session emphasized the importance of considering animal welfare as an integral component of sustainable livestock production rather than treating it as a separate activity.

2. From Heat Stress to Resilience: Building Climate-Resilient Livestock Systems for Better Animal Welfare; **Dr. Shradha Shetty, Assistant Professor, Department of LPM, Veterinary College, Shivamogga**

This session examined the challenge of heat stress and the importance of developing climate-resilient livestock systems for improved animal welfare. The topic was highly relevant to livestock production because environmental stress can directly affect animal comfort, health, performance and productivity.

3. Lesser Known Animal Genetic Resources of Karnataka – Management Practices and Their Welfare; **Dr. Kotresh Prasad C, Assistant Professor, Department of LFC, Veterinary College, Bidar**

The lecture highlighted the lesser-known animal genetic resources of Karnataka and their associated management and welfare considerations. This provided participants with an opportunity to appreciate the importance of indigenous animal genetic resources and appropriate management systems for their conservation and sustainable utilization.

Discussion

The technical sessions were followed by discussion and interaction, providing participants an opportunity to seek clarifications, exchange experiences and discuss practical challenges associated with animal welfare.

The participation of 40 KVAFSU staff, 10 AH & VS officers and 15 postgraduate students created an especially useful multidisciplinary interaction among University faculty and academic staff, Field-level government veterinary officers, Researchers and Postgraduate students

Day 2: 18 September 2026

Hands-on Training and Practical Demonstration

The second day of the workshop on 18 September 2026, commenced with a dedicated hands-on training/practical demonstration on animal welfare issues. The practical component was an important feature of the workshop because it provided an opportunity to translate theoretical concepts discussed during the technical sessions into practical understanding of animal welfare, its assessment and constraints associated with it concerning various farm animal species.

The hands-on component complemented the classroom-style technical presentations by exposing participants to practical approaches for identifying, assessing and addressing animal welfare concerns.

Field Visit

A field visit to livestock farms of Hassan Veterinary College/Animal Welfare facilities and a visit to animal husbandry diploma college a Koravangala campus of KVAFSU was arranged.. The field-oriented component strengthened the practical relevance of the workshop by providing an opportunity to relate animal welfare principles to actual livestock production and animal-care environments.

Valedictory Programme

The workshop concluded with a Valedictory Function on 18 September 2026, chaired by in-charge Dean, Hassan Veterinary College who distributed the participation certificates and mementoes. The programme also included participants feedback and interaction

OUTCOME OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop resulted in several important outcomes:

- **Strengthening of Animal Welfare Knowledge**
Participants were exposed to contemporary topics covering animal welfare research, standards, capacity building, poultry welfare, dairy welfare, sustainable livestock farming, climate resilience and genetic resources.
- **Research Capacity Building**
The workshop created a platform for discussing emerging areas of animal welfare research and identifying areas where further research, field validation and technology development are required.
- **Academic–Field Linkage**
The participation of AH & VS officers alongside university teachers facilitated interaction between academic knowledge and field-level veterinary practice.
- **Capacity Building of Postgraduate Students**
The participation of 15 postgraduate students provided young researchers with exposure to current animal welfare concepts and practical issues relevant to research and professional practice.
- **Practical Orientation**
The inclusion of hands-on training and field visits strengthened the practical orientation of the programme. The schedule deliberately incorporated both practical demonstration and field exposure, in addition to classroom-based technical sessions.
- **Promotion of Sustainable Livestock Production**
The sessions connected animal welfare with sustainable livestock farming, climate resilience and improved animal health and production.
- **Awareness of Indigenous Genetic Resources**
The dedicated session on lesser-known animal genetic resources of Karnataka helped bring attention to their management and welfare considerations.
- **Networking and Professional Interaction**
The workshop provided a common platform for interaction among CVA representatives, KVAFSU leadership, university faculty, government officers and postgraduate students.

Summary

The National Workshop on Animal Welfare Research held on 17th and 18th September 2026 at Hassan Veterinary College, can be documented as a successful two-day academic, professional and practical capacity-building programme based on its broad participation, multidisciplinary resource persons and comprehensive programme structure. It provided a comprehensive platform for knowledge sharing, professional interaction and practical capacity building in animal welfare.

The carefully structured programme—from the inaugural session and expert technical presentations to interactive discussions, hands-on training, field exposure and the valedictory programme—provided a balanced combination of knowledge, practical learning and professional interaction.

The workshop served as an important capacity-building and knowledge-sharing initiative in animal welfare, strengthening awareness among participants and providing a foundation for continued collaboration in animal welfare research, education, extension and field-level application.



Speech by the chief guests during the programme



Experts presenting during the technical sessions



Participants of the workshop