



A Monthly e Magazine
ISSN:2583-2212
September 2024 Vol.4(9), 3587-3590

Popular Article

Take special care of animals in hot weather

Dr. Deepak Kumar Chaurasia

Assistant Professor Department of Veterinary Gynaecology and Obstetrics, IVSAH, SOA-DU,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha – 751030, India

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13772832>

Special care needs to be taken during the summer months. Because in extremely hot weather, when the temperature of the atmosphere reaches 42-48 ° C and the hot heat waves begin to move, the animals come under pressure. This pressure condition has a bad effect on the digestive system and milk production capacity of the animals. The slightest carelessness in taking care of new born animals while rearing in summer can have a lasting effect on their future physical growth, health, disease resistance and productivity. There is a great need to take precautions to protect the livestock from the ill-effects of extreme heat, heat and temperature. In the days of summer, the effect of strong hot weather and strong hot winds affects the normal routine of the animals. Special management and measures need to be taken to keep the livestock safe in extreme heat conditions, in which attention needs to be paid to cool and shady animal habitats, clean drinking water, etc. The following measures should be taken to take care of milch and new born animals while rearing in summer.

Housing Management:

There should be clean and airy shelter for the animals, the roof of the shelter should be heat conductive so that it does not get too hot in summer. Asbestos seats can be used for this. On days of more heat 4 to 6 inches thick layer of hay or thatch should be put on the roof. This layer acts as a heat insulator due to which the temperature inside the animal house remains low. It has also been found beneficial to paint the roof of the cattle shed white or to put bright aluminium sheets to reflect the sunlight. The height of the roof of the animal shed should be at least 10 feet so that there is proper circulation of air in the animal shed and the animal can be saved from the heat of the roof. Water should be sprinkled by hanging sack or sack etc. on the windows and doors of the animal shed and other open places from where hot air comes. The presence of feathers in the animal shed is also

beneficial. So, if possible, it should be done. There should not be much crowd in the shelter home of the animals. Allow enough space for each animal. An adult cow and buffalo need 40 to 50 square feet of space. Cows and buffaloes should be provided 35 and 40 square metre covered space respectively and 7 and 8 square metre open enclosure per animal in open house arrangement. A covered area of 12 square metres and an equal amount of space should be provided as open area for the fast-moving animals. For breeding, the covered area for the bull should be 12 square meters and the open area should be 120 square meters, so that the bull gets enough exercise, which is very important to maintain its fertility.

Food Management:

During summer, the animals graze less. In summer the water atmospheric temperature becomes more than the body temperature of the animals then the animals eat less dry fodder because in digesting dry fodder more amount of heat is released in the body. Therefore fodder should be provided to the animals in the morning or evening only and as far as possible the amount of green fodder should be kept more in the diet of the animals. There are two advantages of providing more amount of green fodder to the animals while rearing animals in summer, one is that the animals feed their stomach by eating tasty and nutritious fodder with more rice, and second is that green fodder has 70-90 percent water content, which replenishes water from time to time. If animals are taken to pasture then grazing should be done only in the morning and evening when the atmospheric temperature is low. The cattle rearers should sow maize, cowpea etc. in the month of March-April for green fodder in the summer season so that green fodder is available to the animals in the summer season. Animal husbandry which does not have irrigated land should be prepared by cutting and drying green grass before time. The grass is light, nutritious and rich in protein.

Water Management:

During summer season animals feel less hungry and thirsty more. Therefore, the animal should be watered at least three times a day. This helps in controlling the body temperature. Also, the animal should be watered with a small amount of salt and flour in the water. Drinking water should be provided. For this, there should be a shade on the water tank. Water pipes should not be exposed to direct sunlight and should be laid underground as far as possible to prevent the water from heating up during the day. You can also use tap water for your pet. Although the effect of summer has been seen on almost all kinds of animals, but the maximum effect is on cows, buffaloes. This is due to the buffalo's dark complexion, reduced sweat glands, and the effects of specific hormones.

Symptoms of Heat Stroke in Animals:

Anorexia in feeding animals, decreased milk production in milch animals, nose bleeds and loose motions, redness of the eyes and nose, and rapid heartbeat. The deep breathing of animals,



coming out of the mouth, shortness of breath in the last stage, excessive salivation of the animal, frothing around the mouth, the animal shows restlessness, looks for shade and does not sit.

Slowing down of reproductive process. During this season, the fertility of buffaloes and cross-bred cows slows down, the milk cycle lengthens and both the duration and ferocity of the milk stage increases. Due to which the chances of pregnancy in animals are greatly reduced.

The amount of fat and protein in the milk of cows and buffaloes decreases, which affects the quality of milk. Increase in the rate of embryonic mortality in females, abnormal behavior of animals, decrease in the fertility of male animals, increase in the rate of sperm mortality in the semen obtained from male animals, increase in the maturity period of male and female animals, increase in the death rate of children at a young age. The death of a sick animal due to lack of proper care.

Protect the animal from heat stroke:

Some precautions should be taken to protect animals from heat waves:

Make the dairy in such a way that there is proper place for all the animals so that there is space for air to come and go. In order to save the animals from direct sunlight and heat, the main gate of the animal shed should be covered with a jute bag. To protect cattle from heat, ranchers can install fans, coolers, and fountain systems in their habitat. The temperature of the animal house can be reduced to about 15°F by fans or fountains. The presence of shady trees around the animal shed helps in keeping the temperature of the animal shed low. Animals should be kept in a cool, shady place. Keep them inside during the day. Always make sure there is plenty of fresh, clean water available. Drinking water should be kept in the shade. After removing the milk from the animals, they should be given cold water if possible. If there is a large number of animals in the animal house, then water should be arranged at least 2 places, so that the animal does not have difficulty in drinking water. Normally the animal needs 3-5 litres of water per hour. To achieve this, the animal must be given a sufficient amount of water. Bathrooms and showers should always be clean. And the water temperature should be 70-80 degrees Fahrenheit, which the animal prefers. Food should be cleaned at regular intervals. Stale and rotten food should not be fed to animals. Foods high in carbohydrates such as flour, bread, rice, etc. should not be fed to animals. In the balanced diet of the animals the ratio of the grains and fodder should be kept 40 and 60. Sorghum grown in summer season may contain poisonous substance which is harmful for animals. Therefore, if there is no rain in this season then before feeding sorghum one should feed sorghum only after watering the farm 2-3 times. The amount of acid soluble fibre in fodder should be more than 18-19 percent. Apart from this animal feed ingredients like yeast (which is helpful in digesting fibre), fungal cultures (e. g. *Aspergillus oryzae* and niacin) which increase energy should be given. Since the animal's ability to absorb grain decreases, fats in the animal's food are a good source of energy, to supplement this, the animal should be fed oil-containing foods such as mustard oil, linoleum, soybean oil, or oil or ghee separately. The



amount of fat in animal feed is up to about 3 percent in the dry matter fed to the animal. Apart from this, 3-4 percent of the animal should be fed separately. In total, the animal should not be fed more than 7-8 percent fat.

In this season, the animals must be vaccinated to protect them from diseases like laryngitis, whooping cough, etc. so that they can be protected from these diseases in the coming rains. In summer the animal should be fed the amount of protein in the form of grains up to 18 percent of the milk yielding animal. If this quantity is more than excess protein is excreted through animal capsules and urine. For the supply of calcium to the animal amount of limestone should also be given in the form of calcium. This ensures normal milk production. Immediately show the animal to the doctor in case of heat stroke, by adopting these measures and instructions, the care of milch animals and the care of new born animals can be done in a proper way and the outbreak of heat and diseases can be avoided and the production can be increased.

