

# Animal Welfare policy & Practice: Cultural and Religious Issues

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# Introduction

- The slaughter of animals for human consumption has been practiced since the beginning of animal domestication during prehistoric times. Killing animals, the most brutal act in the relationship between human beings and domestic animals, is an inevitable stage in food production. Recognition that animals are sentient, i.e., capable of feeling and suffering, has led humans to work to minimize their suffering during all stages of life, including slaughter.

# Preview

- Kosher Slaughter Requirements and Practices
- Halal Slaughter Requirements and Practices
- Other Religions' Slaughter Practices
- Animal Handling in East Africa
- Animal Handling in South Asia
- Animal Handling in China
- OIE Guidelines for Animal Handling
- Conclusions & Recommendations

# Kosher

- Deuteronomy XII:20-21
- When the Lord thy G-d shall enlarge thy border, as He hath promised thee, and thou shalt say: I will eat flesh, because thy soul desireth to eat flesh; thou mayest eat flesh, after all the desire of thy soul. If the place which the Lord thy God shall choose to put His name there be too far from thee, then thou shalt kill of thy herd and of thy flock, which the Lord hath given thee, as I have commanded thee, and thou shalt eat within thy gates, after all the desire of thy soul.

# An Actual Kosher Slaughter (Historical)



# Kosher

- Only a shochet, specially trained religious slaughter man may slaughter an animal (mammal or fowl)
- He has the special training, both religious (Jewish law) and the practical training needed to “do the slaughter” properly
- Requires a certificate of training (Kabalah) that includes a practical test

# Chalef (Slaughter Knife)

Shochet must use the Chalef (a special slaughter knife) that:

Must have a straight blade

Must be at least twice the size of the animal's neck

Must be extremely sharp

Must be checked after each use

He uses the fingernail to test before and after slaughter to check the knife for any nicks

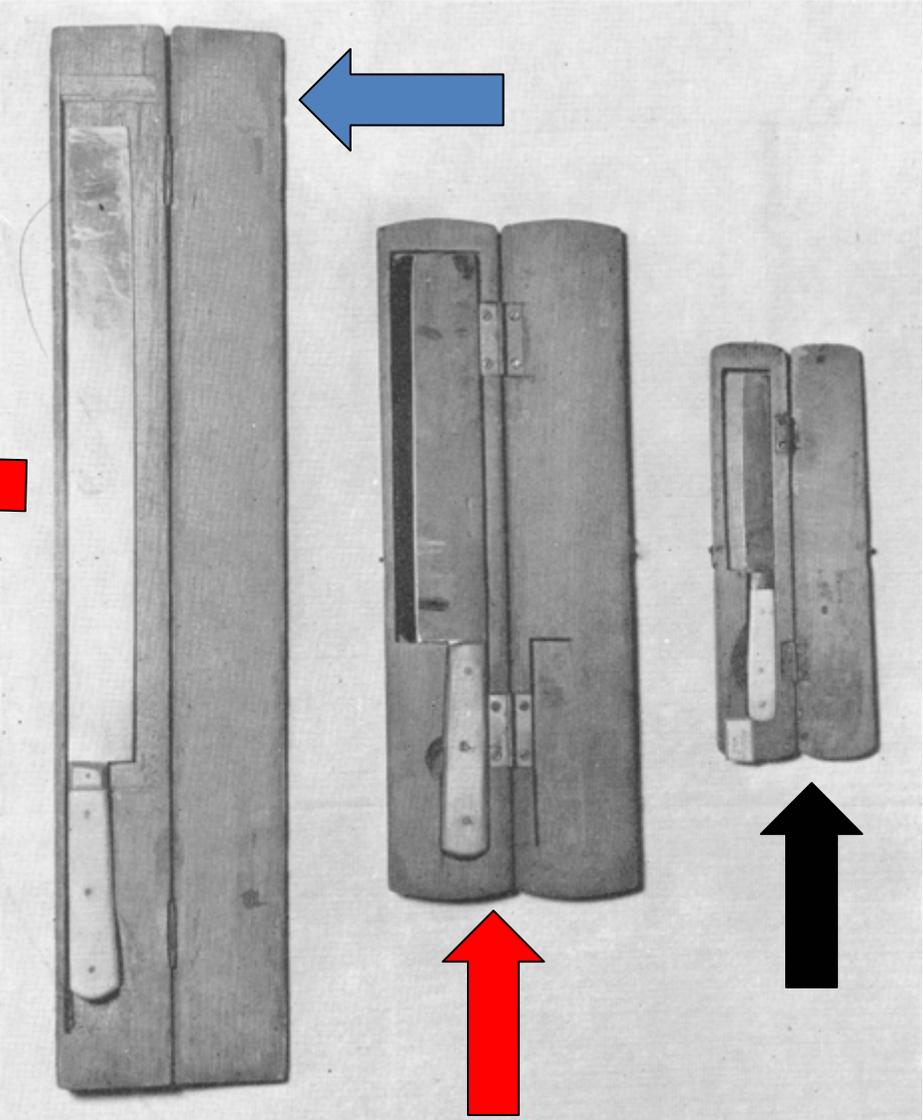
If the knife fails the test, the previously slaughtered animal(s) must be rejected

# Pictures of Historical Chalefs of Various Sizes

- Beef ←

- Sheep/Goat/Veal ←

- Chicken ←



# Rules for Kosher Slaughter

- Rules for Kosher Slaughter
  - No Pausing (Shehiyyah): Can be multiple continuous strokes
  - No Pressure (Derasah): Concern that the head falls back on the knife
  - No Burrowing (Haladah)
  - No Deviating (Hagrama)
  - No Tearing (Ikkur): If the neck is too tight, tearing may occur before the cutting

# Kosher Slaughter

The jugular veins, the carotid arteries, and the windpipe must be cut using a horizontal cut across the neck

Need to cut the animal at the proper point along the neck

If improperly done, animal is rejected

Nevelah (carrion)

An animal that is not slaughtered properly

Treife (torn)

Is physically defective and therefore unacceptable

# Halal

- Muslim animal handling and welfare guidelines date back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century of the common era
- There are comprehensive rules for treating animals, both food animals and others
- Traditional methods are still practiced by Muslims around the world, especially in Muslim dominant regions
- Commercial slaughterhouses often compromise their AW requirements with the pretext of being exempt from humane slaughter laws

# Halal

- God, the Creator of human beings and animals, has made animals subservient to us. We depend on animals for the food we eat and the milk we drink
- “And the cattle, He has created them for you. You have in them warm clothing and (other) advantages, and of them you eat....

# Halal

... And therein is beauty for you, when you drive them back (home) and when you send them out (to pasture). And they carry your heavy loads to regions which you could not reach but with great distress to ourselves.

Surely your Lord is Compassionate, Merciful.

And (He made) horses and mules and asses that you might ride upon them and as an ornament. And He creates what you know not.”

(Quran 16:5-8)

# Humane Treatment in Islam

- Islam prohibits cruelty to animals.

Fourteen hundred years ago, long before the modern animal rights movement began with the 1975 publication of Peter Singer's book, "Animal Liberation," Islam required kindness to animals and cruelty to them was a sufficient reason for a person to be thrown into the fire of Hell!

# Humane Treatment in Islam

- Once, Prophet Muhammad told his companions the story of a man who got thirsty, went to a well and quenched his thirst. He noticed a dog panting out of extreme thirst. The man went back to the well fetched some water for the dog. God rewarded this man. The companions asked, 'O Prophet of God, do we get rewarded on humane treatment of animals?' He said, '*There is a reward in (doing good to) every living being.*'

# Humane Treatment in Islam

- On another occasion, Prophet Muhammad, described God's punishment to a woman who was sent to Hell because she kept her cat locked up, neither feeding it nor setting her free to feed itself.

# Humane Treatment in Islam

- Islam requires that pets and farm animals be provided food, water and shelter
- An animal should not be beaten or tortured
- Animals or birds should not be used as shooting targets [except when hunting for food]
- Do not separate nestling birds from their mothers
- It is forbidden to mutilate an animal by cutting its ears, tail or other parts w/o reason
- A sick animal should be treated properly

# Basic Requirements of Halal Slaughter

- Animals must be of a Halal species
- Animals must be slaughtered by a sane Muslim
- A very sharp knife must be used
- God's name must be invoked
- The front of the neck must be cut to sever all passages
- The blood must be completely removed from the carcass
- No further action is permitted until the animal is dead

# Practices by Other Faiths

- Jhatka by Sikhs. Decapitation or cutting the head off with a sharp knife or sword
- Oral cut in poultry by Chinese
- Spearing the rib cage by Turkana Tribesmen in Kenya
- Clubbing to death by Masai Tribesmen in East Africa

# Animal Handling in East Africa

- In Kenya 70% of live stock are raised free range by communal groups like the Boran, Somali, Turkana, Samburu, Masai, Pokot, Mijikenda, and Orma
- Goats, sheep, cattle, donkeys, camel, and chicken are common food animals
- Animals are used for multiple traditional purposes, besides food
- Animals are often walked several miles when being brought for sale and slaughter

# Slaughter Practices in East Africa

- Various methods of slaughtering may be used by different communities
- 78% of Kenyan population is Christian and 10% Muslim. Slaughter in urban abattoirs is usually done by Muslims.
- Slaughter with a spear through the rib cage is done by the Turkana, and Pokot communities
- Killing by clubbing is done by the Samburu and Masai tribes

# Slaughter Practices in East Africa

- Somali Muslims and Christians practice Muslim-type slaughter
- Cutting of the jugular vein with a kitchen knife is done by the Boran and many smaller tribes
- The most modern practices are in Nairobi, where animals are first made unconscious and then Muslim males cut through the jugular veins

# Slaughter Practices in East Africa

- Blood is saved and drunk fresh by some tribes and made into food by other tribes
- During food scarcities in the arid lands, some tribes cut into the veins of live cattle to extract blood for drink or food

# Animal Handling in South Asia

- The Bangladesh study presents a typical picture of animal handling and slaughter in India, Pakistan and other South Asian countries
- Although a Muslim majority country, animal welfare concepts are a recent concern
- Farm animals include cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and chickens
- Majority of the cattle are slaughtered on one day a year, i.e., at Eidul Azha (Feast of the Sacrifice)

# Slaughtering in Bangladesh

- Bangladesh has a large number of slaughterhouses owned by local municipalities, which are then operated by contractors
- Slaughter houses are usually just a slab type facility; contractors charge a fee per animal so many butchers slaughter their animals away from the slaughter houses
- These contractors are economically motivated and do not pay attention to animal welfare

# Slaughtering in Bangladesh

- Most modern slaughter houses are in Dhaka, although even those lack basic sanitation needs
- The worker attitude towards the animals is quite negative
- Animals are walked to the slaughterhouse and held (often without feed and water) until early morning when the slaughter starts; the animals rarely get any rest in transit

# Slaughtering in Bangladesh

- Cattle are cast with a rope, usually many animals at a time in a series and they may stay cast up to two hours before their turn to meet the knife
- The knives used are very dull; hacking and sawing are very common
- Some animals are stabbed on the neck several times before the butcher hits the right spot for bleeding
- Animals show clear signs of struggle and stress

# Casted Cattle



# The Slaughter House



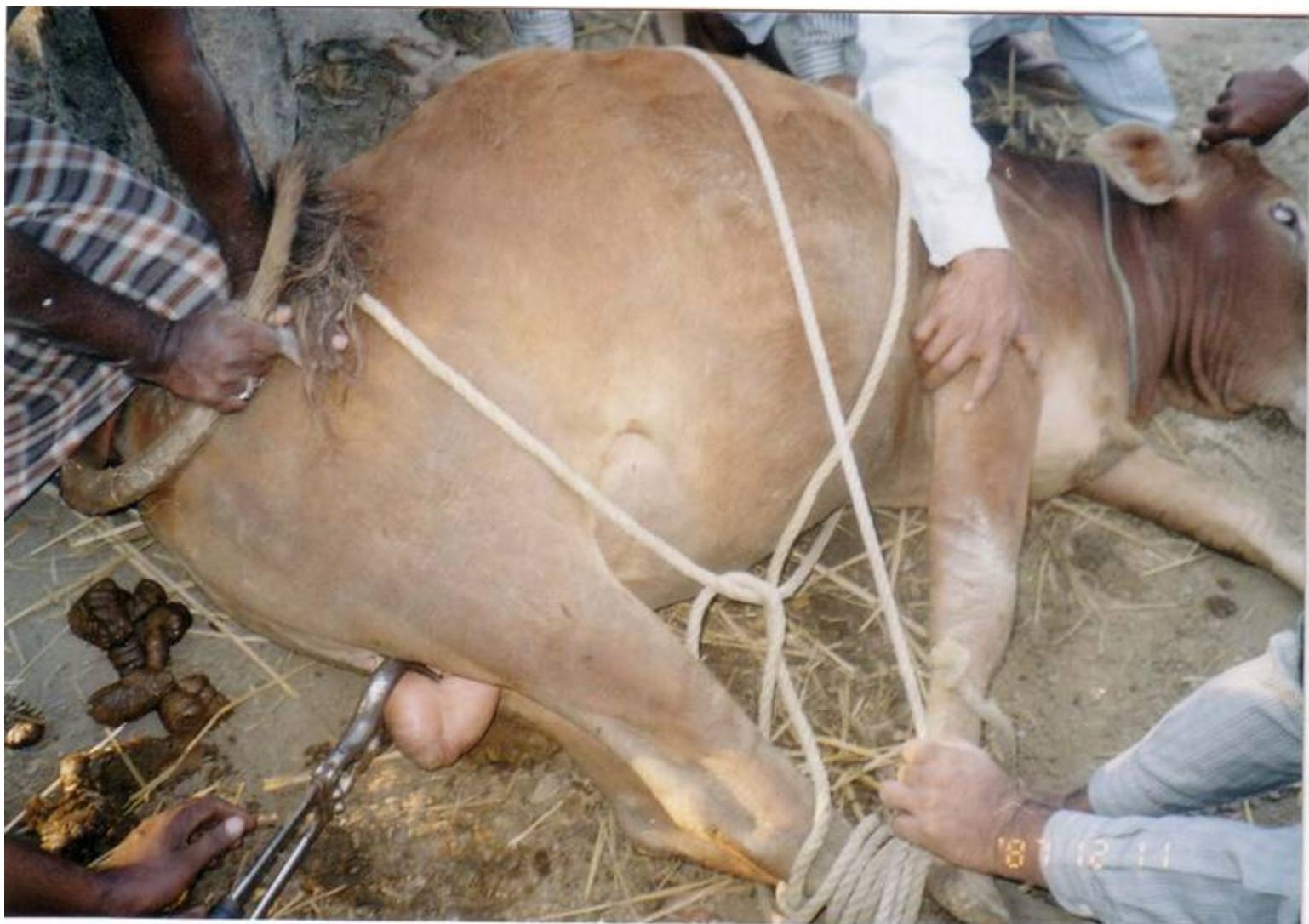




# Slaughtering



# Castration of an Adult Animal without Anesthesia (Unacceptable)



# Slaughtering in Bangladesh

- One wonders what happened to the traditional Muslim religious directives while animals are being slaughtered in Bangladesh?
- Especially in the light of following prohibitions.....

# Slaughter Prohibitions in Islam

It is prohibited to:

- Slaughter an animal using a blunt knife
- Sharpen a knife while the animal is on the kill floor
- Drag the animal to the place of slaughter
- Skin a slaughtered animal until it is dead
- Slaughter an animal in front of another animal
- Completely separate the head from the body during slaughter
- Break the neck of the animal immediately after slaughter and before complete death
- Slaughter without cutting all of the four passages (trachea, esophagus, jugular veins and carotid arteries)

# Alternate Handling Methods

Following slides show a low cost retainer for small animals.

Similar equipment can be locally made for all sizes of animals.

A modern, low cost  
easy to assemble  
Halal/Humane  
restraint for sheep,  
goats and calves.



[www.spiritofhumane.com](http://www.spiritofhumane.com)

# A Modern Halal Slaughter Knife



# Humane (Halal) On-Farm Slaughter of Sheep and Goats

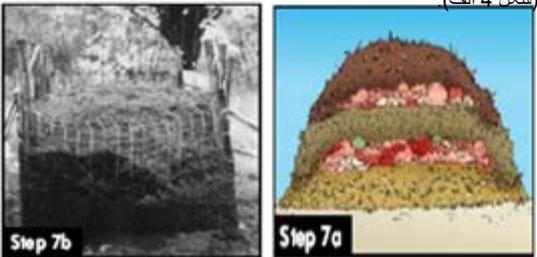


حداقل استرس در هنگام گرفتن حیوان. اجتناب از حرکات ناگهانی و سر و صدا. هدایت حیوان به محوطه ای کوچک و گرفتن حیوان به آرامی (مرحله 1). انتقال سریع حیوان به محل کشتار. چنانچه جثه حیوان به اندازه کافی کوچک باشد، با قرار دادن سر در زیر یک بازو و قرار دادن بازوی دیگر در ناحیه زیر شکم از بین دو پا حیوان حمل شود (مرحله 2الف).

برای حیوانات بزرگتر، یک نفر چانه حیوان را رو به بالا نگه داشته و شخص دیگری از پشت او را به حرکت وا می دارد (مرحله 2ب). چنانچه شخص تنها باشد، می تواند سر و دو دست حیوان را از زمین بلند کرده دام را به حرکت به جلو وا دارد (مرحله 2ج). ممکن است حیوان از میان مجاری خاص به محل کشتار هدایت شود (مرحله 2د). حیوان بنا به دلایل انسانی، نباید دست و پای حیوان در هنگام دیح بسته باشد. حیوان بر روی یک ریل دو طرفه قرار داده شود (مرحله 3الف) و با دست و پای آن به نحوی گرفته شود که حیوان و یا افراد راحت باشد (مرحله 3ب).

یک چاقوی کاملاً تیز با لبه کشیده که طول آن دو برابر قطر گردن حیوان می باشد برای انجام کشتار الزامی است. چنانچه چاقو مجهز به پوششی برای دست امنیت بیشتری خواهد داشت (مراجعه [www.dexter-russell.com](http://www.dexter-russell.com)) باشد شود به

(شکل 4 الف)



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این پوستر توسط پروژه بازاریابی گوشت گوسفند و بز شمال شرق آمریکا و توسط USDA تهیه تامین اعتبار شده است.

برای کسب اطلاعات بیشتر لطفاً با آدرسهای ذیل تماس گرفته شود.

پروژه بازاریابی گوشت گوسفند و بز شمال شرق آمریکا:

[www.sheepgoatmarketing.org](http://www.sheepgoatmarketing.org)

پروژه گوسفند و بز دانشگاه کورنل: [www.sheep.cornell.edu](http://www.sheep.cornell.edu)

انجمن غذا و تغذیه اسلامی آمریکا (IFANCA): [www.ifanca.org](http://www.ifanca.org)

معبد گراندین: [www.grandin.com](http://www.grandin.com)

چنانچه قصاب تنها و حیوان آرام باشد، عمل کشتار می تواند با قرار دادن حیوان در بین دو پا و در کنار دیوار انجام بگیرد (مرحله 4ب). عمل کشتار باید با ملایمت، محکم، نگهداری سر به سمت عقب، سریع و ضمن یک برش با حرکت چاقو بر روی گردن حیوان انجام بگیرد. ناحیه برش باید زیر آرواره باشد و مجرای نای، سیاهرگها و سرخرگهای مقابل استخوان گردن قطع شوند (مرحله 5) (مسلمانان چاقو را در جهت مخالف بدن خود حرکت می دهند و نه به سمت آن). باید صبر کرد تا حیوان بی حس شود بنا به قوانین مربوط به کشتار (Animal welfare) (حداقل 30 ثانیه) و سپس حلال و رفاه حیوانات مراحل بعدی انجام گیرند (مرحله 6). ضایعات کشتار ممکن است تبدیل به مرغوبه شود. برای اطلاعات بیشتر در مورد کشتار (مرحله 7الف و 7ب). [www.cwmf.cce.cornell.edu](http://www.cwmf.cce.cornell.edu) گردند

Cornell

# Swine Industry in China

- China is the world's largest producer and consumer of pork, accounting for 50.1% of all pork produced globally
- More than 60% of the meat produced in China is pork.
- In 2006 pork production was 52 Million metric tons
- Farm size varies greatly from <9 to >50000

# Pig Farming in China

- | <u>Farm Size</u> | <u># of Farms</u> | <u>Percent (2003)</u> |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 – 9            | 101,964,000       | 94.4                  |
| 10 – 49          | 4,815,000         | 4.5                   |
| 50-2999          | 1,134,000         | 1.1                   |
| 3000-50000+      | 4,000             | <.1                   |
- Most of the micro farms are backyard farms with 2-3 pigs
- Small farms (<50 pigs), account for 70% of China's pigs

# Pig Farming in China

- Farming practices are actually quite organized, with backyard animals being treated like family
- Some of the animal welfare issues during farrowing include:
  - Tooth clipping
  - Tail docking
  - Castration
  - Sow tying in gestation stalls

# Pig Farming in China

- Picture of backyard farm



# Pig Transportation in China





7966.com

# Slaughter of Pigs in China

- Slaughter without stunning is the traditional way to kill pigs
- Modern facilities use 80-90% CO<sub>2</sub>, with gondola dip-lift type of system
- Head only electric stunning was done in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. It caused PSE meat and has been abandoned for the most part

# Effect of Religion on the Swine Industry in China

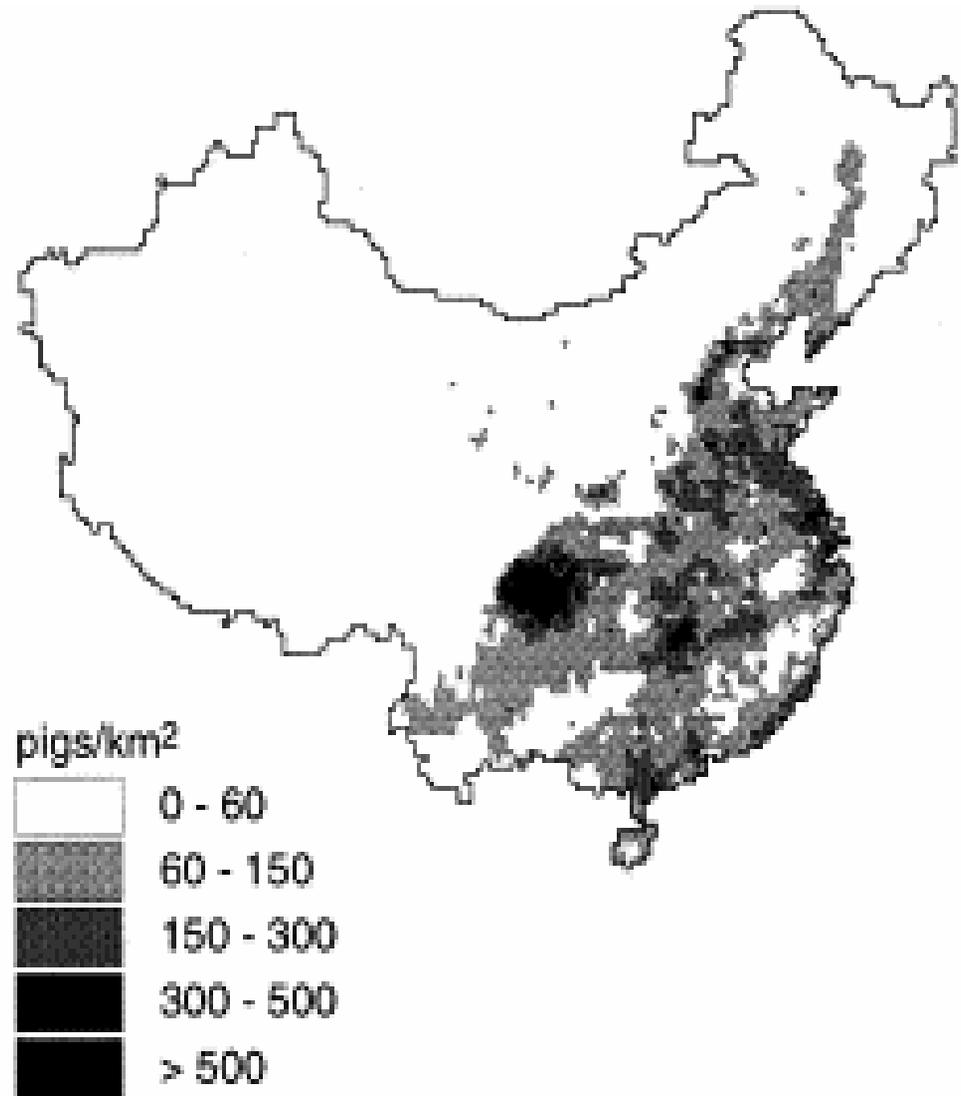
- Historically animals have played an important economic and social role in Chinese culture
- 16-21% of Chinese are Buddhists, who believe that animals are sentient beings with feelings, capable of enlightenment and rebirth in the human form, hence universally related to humans
- Ten out of the 56 recognized sub-nationalities in China are Muslim

# Effect of Religion on the Swine Industry in China

- These ten sub-nationalities mainly inhabit the western regions of the country
- Pig farming is almost non-existent in the Muslim regions of China

# Effect of Religion on Swine Industry in China

- Pig farms in China:



# OIE AW Guidelines

- The authors wish to thank the OIE for incorporating various forms of religious slaughter directly into their classification schemes with appropriate respect for the cultural differences around the world

# Conclusions

- There may be a disconnect between religious tenets and cultural practices in some areas
- Conventional practices are guided by economic conditions
- Food safety as well as animal welfare are important concerns that need to be addressed in less developed countries
- Views about what is good animal welfare and how important it is, will differ among various groups

# Recommendations

- Make animal welfare guidelines, science based,
- Be sensitive to cultural and religious factors
- Take into consideration economic factors
- Work with individual member countries to identify animal welfare issues and help them resolve them consistent with cultural expectations
- Require member countries to enact and enforce culturally appropriate animal welfare regulations

# Further Recommendations

That the use of shackling and hoisting of an un-stunned animal does not seem to be required by religious law and should be considered unacceptable

That the use of animals for fighting purposes, e.g., bull fighting and cock fighting, is inconsistent with the tenants of all religions to the best of our knowledge

# Contributing Articles

## Kenya's Cultural and religious Slaughter Practices

Michael N.I. Lokuruka, Egerton University, Egerton, Kenya, East Africa

## Animal Welfare in Bangladesh

M. R. Alam, Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University,  
Chittagong, Bangladesh

## Farm Animals: Raising Pigs in China and Its Associated Welfare Issues

Qing-ping Meng, You-ming Wang, Jia Guo, Yi-zhen Wang, Zhejiang University, China and Heng-wei Cheng<sup>2</sup> USDA-ARS, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA

# Questions?

# *Thank you*

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