

Module 28

Human Conflict and Animal Welfare



This lecture was first developed for **World Animal Protection** by Dr David Main (University of Bristol) in 2003. It was revised by **World Animal Protection** scientific advisors in 2012 using updates provided by Dr Caroline Hewson.

Free online resources

To get free updates and additional materials, please go to www.animalmosaic.org/education/tertiary-education/

This module will teach you

About the different types of human conflict

How human conflict affects animal welfare

- ❖ **Animals living in areas where conflict is occurring**
- ❖ **Animals used in conflict**

How animal welfare might be supported in areas of conflict

Definitions (UCDP, 2012)

Uppsala University, Sweden

Conflict Encyclopedia; online

Conflict

- ❖ **Disagreement between at least two parties**
- ❖ **Their demands cannot be met by the same resource at the same time:**
 - ❖ Territory with commodity such as oil, etc.
 - ❖ **Armed force**
 - ❖ **Results in at least 25 battle-related (human) deaths in one calendar year**
- ❖ **>1,000 deaths p.a. = war**

Human conflict (UCDP, 2012)

Africa, South Asia

Between countries or within countries

- ❖ State or non-state
- ❖ + / - foreign involvement

State conflict

- ❖ Other countries (e.g. Iran vs Iraq, 1980-1988)
- ❖ Civilians (e.g. Syria, 2011-)
- ❖ Organised armed groups:
 - ❖ Political (e.g. Kashmir)
 - ❖ Criminal (e.g. drug cartels, Mexico)
- ❖ In 2010, there were 30 ongoing state conflicts

Human conflict (UCDP, 2012)

Non-state conflict

- ❖ Two or more organised armed groups
- ❖ None of which is the state
- ❖ Varying levels of organisation
- ❖ 1991-2009: 434 non-state conflicts

One-sided violence (Sundberg, 2008)

- ❖ Violence against unarmed civilians
- ❖ The poorer the country, the more attacks on civilians by governments and non-state forces

General effects of human conflict (FAO, 1996)

Destruction

- ❖ Social and economic infrastructure; corruption
- ❖ Environment

Injury, disability and death

- ❖ Human and animal

Displacement

- ❖ People and their animals
- ❖ Refugees and internally displaced persons in camps

Insecurity, e.g.

- ❖ Violence

Summary so far

Different types of global conflict

Next: how human conflict affects animal welfare

- ❖ **Animals living in areas where human conflict is occurring**
- ❖ **Animals used in human conflict**

Animals living in areas where conflict is occurring

Human conflict and animals 1

Animals in low-income countries

- ❖ ~766 million rural livestock-keepers living on less than US \$2 per day (FAO, 2011)
- ❖ Presence of urban livestock (Richards & Godfrey, 2003), e.g. Africa, South Asia
- ❖ Integral part of food security, income, economy, health, culture (Campbell & Knowles, 2011)

Human conflict and animals 2

People unable to care for animals – vicious circle, leading to

- ❖ **Malnutrition – made worse by drought, heavy rain, etc.**
- ❖ **Economic loss**
- ❖ It is cheaper to overuse animals, and replace them with others sold by destitute farmers, e.g. overuse of BST and oxytocin in water buffalo and dairy cattle (Grandin, 2010)

Human conflict and animals 3

- ❖ **Lack of normal services because of breakdown in security and infrastructure**
- ❖ Owners cannot go out to harvest or buy food
- ❖ Spread of disease, e.g. foot and mouth disease

Example: Kuwait 1990–1991 **1**

Inter-state conflict: Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, August 1990–March 1991

(Loretz, 1991; Al-Duaij, 2002)

- ❖ Dairy cows: reduced from 15,000 to 2,500
- ❖ Sheep: reduced from 800,000 to 10,000
- ❖ Camels: reduced from 8,000 to 2,000
- ❖ Horses: reduced from 3,000 to <500

Kuwait 1990–1991 **2**

(Loretz, 1991; Al-Duaij, 2002)

~30,000 marine and migrating birds died

- ⌘ Exposure to oil
- ⌘ Toxic smoke from oil fires

Terrestrial animals killed by military vehicles running over them and their burrows



Donkeys in Darfur (Osman, 2006)

Sudan: intra-state conflict, Darfur region

- ❖ **2 million internally displaced people**
- ❖ **Donkeys very important**
- ❖ For transport of people, water, firewood
- ❖ As a cash asset
- ❖ **75 per cent of the donkeys in the camps died in 2004, due to lack of food and water and stress**
- ❖ Increased frequency of water collection when on foot
- ❖ This puts women and children at greater personal risk

Transport and pack animals

Fuel supplies reduced due to loss of infrastructure and insecurity ❖ **Use of equids and other draught animals**

- ❖ For refugees and internally displaced people
- ❖ To carry ammunition?

Poor welfare includes

- ❖ Malnutrition
- ❖ Pain (lameness, ill-fitting harnesses)
- ❖ Lack of shade, water, etc.

Urban livestock

Poultry, rabbits, small ruminants

- ⌘ Personal consumption (e.g. eggs, milk, use manure for fuel)

Civil war, Republic of Congo (Richards & Godfrey, 2003)

- ⌘ Brazzaville: population fled, leaving animals behind
- ⌘ Army killed all the livestock
- ⌘ Feed mills destroyed

Special populations, e.g. zoos

Inability to care for captive populations
– zoo (intensively farmed animals)

E.g. Kuwait International Zoo

⦿ ~85 per cent died (~412) 1990–1991



Wild animals: bushmeat

Killed by combatants and civilians for food

More weapons ❖ easier

❖ **Concern re humane slaughter**

Endangered species: conflict disrupts normal protection

E.g. Liberia: civil war 1989–1996, and 1999–2003. Trade in meat from wild animals continues during peace-time, e.g. red colobus monkey; sea turtles (UN, 2010)



A snare used in Africa

Wild animals: landmines and small arms (UN, 2010)

Angola (civil war 1975–2002)

- ❖ Many thousands of wild animals killed and injured by landmines
- ❖ Ivory sold to finance the war

Central African Republic

- ❖ Imported small arms from Chad and Sudan
- ❖ 90 per cent of the elephant population killed or died
- ❖ All rhinoceroses killed or died

‘No man’s land’ – a positive outcome for wild animals?

Wild animals: naval exercises

(Parsons et al., 2008)

Mass stranding of whales

- ❖ Common pathologies, e.g. decompression sickness symptoms and acoustic traumas
- ❖ Coincides with local naval exercises

Aversion to

- ❖ Higher-frequency sonar (50–200 kHz)?
- ❖ Volume (dB)?

Controversial

- ❖ Publication bias? (Wade et al., 2010)

Animals used in conflicts

Animals used in conflict

Transport

Military working dogs – tracking, guarding, detecting explosives

De-mining land after the conflict – dogs, rats

Marine mammals – detecting mines and swimmers intruding into restricted waters Research into injuries and weapons

Military working dogs

Welfare concerns

- ❖ Training methods
- ❖ Housing conditions
- ❖ Stress in kennels (Rooney et al., 2009)
- ❖ Disease
- ❖ Injury
- ❖ Development of behaviours indicating fear, anxiety, etc. (Evans et al., 2007)
- ❖ Re-homing?



Detecting unexploded landmines and munitions (LMM, 2011)

In 2010, 72 countries were affected by landmines

- ❖ **8 countries in Central and South America**
- ❖ **11 countries in Europe**
- ❖ **22 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, etc.**

In 2010: 4,191 new casualties

Detecting unexploded landmines and munitions (GICHD, 2012)

Dogs

- ❖ ~US \$10,000 each
- ❖ ~ 500-900 dogs around the world
- ❖ Work 6-7 hours per day

Rats

- ❖ African giant pouched rat: 0.7–1.5 kg

Intentional herding of livestock

Mine detection: dolphins and sea lions (NMMP, 2011)

US Navy Marine Mammal Program (NMMP)

- ⌘ Bottlenose dolphins
- ⌘ California sea lions

Trained to detect swimmers and mines

Use of animals in military research (Martinic, 2011)

Burns and blasts

Radiation

Diseases and biological warfare

Wounding, e.g.

- ❖ Training medical personnel in how to deal with haemorrhage – goats and pigs

Weapons testing for safety

- ❖ Killing animals, usually pigs

Examples of how animals may be helped during conflict

Rescue, feed and support

Several international organisations rescue, feed and support animals displaced or threatened by war



Example: Afghanistan (WSPA, 2009)

80 per cent work in agriculture
– donkeys, horses, camels

Under Taliban rule

❖ Dehydration, exhaustion, lameness

WSPA et al., 2003–2007

- ❖ Mobile clinics, harnesses, training, wells, shelters from sun
- ❖ >35,000 equids were wormed and ~25,000 camels treated
- ❖ ~500,000 people benefited



Example: zoo animals, Kabul



Example: donkeys, Darfur (Osman, 2006)

IDP camp of Abu Shouk

45,000 IDPs, 1,400 donkeys

December 2004–July 2005

- ❖ **Wormed and fed donkeys** ⇒ improved health and survival
- ❖ **Bought hay in November when prices were low because grassland was rich**
- ❖ **Treated store walls and floor with salt to prevent termites**
- ❖ **Active involvement of the community (sheikhs, paravets, beneficiaries) led to unproblematic distribution**

International conventions?

Geneva conventions – people

1976 Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques

- ❖ “Care shall be taken in warfare to protect the natural environment against widespread, long-term and severe damage”
- ❖ “Prohibits the use of methods or means of warfare which are intended or may be expected to cause such damage to the natural environment”

Memorial monument



Credit: Otashiro / Wikipedia

Feedback:

Please let us know what you think

- ❖ How have you used this module?
- ❖ What did you like about it?
- ❖ What did you not like?
- ❖ Do you have any tips to share?

Please take part in our 10 minute survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BKP3D6H>

Your feedback will help other teachers like you

References

Al-Duaij, N. (2002). Environmental law of armed conflict. *Dissertations & Theses*. Paper 1. Retrieved from <http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/lawdissertations/1>

Campbell, R., & Knowles, T. (2011). *The economic impacts of losing livestock in a disaster*. Report prepared by Economists at Large, Melbourne, Australia for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA).

Evans, R. I., Herbold, J. R., Bradshaw, B. S., Moore, G.E. (2007). Causes for discharge of military working dogs from service: 268 cases (2000–2004). *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 231, 1215-1220.

FAO (1996). *Study on the impact of armed conflicts on the nutritional situation of children – a report*. Corporate document repository of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, job no. W2357. Retrieved from www.fao.org/docrep/005/w2357e/w2357e00.htm

FAO (2011). *Global livestock production systems*. Corporate document repository of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, ID 296955, pp. 83-103. Retrieved from www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2414e/i2414e.pdf

Grandin, T. (2010). The effect of economic factors on the welfare of livestock and poultry. In: T. Grandin (Ed.), *Improving animal welfare: A practical approach* (p. 224). Wallingford, UK: CABI.

Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) (2012). Mine detection dogs. Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. Retrieved from www.gichd.org/links-information-database/technologies/?tx_gichd_pi1technology_subject_id=3

Landmine Monitor Report (2011). *Landmine Monitor 2011*. Mines Action Canada, Ottawa. Available at: www.the-monitor.org/index.php/publications/display?url=lm/2011/

Loretz, J. (1991). The animal victims of the Gulf War. *PSR Quarterly*, 1, 221-225.

Martinic, G. (2011). The use of animals in live-tissue trauma training and military medical research. *Lab Animal*, 40, 319-322.

References

Parsons, E. C. M., Dolman, S. J., Wright, A. J., Rose, N. A., Burns W. C. G. (2008). Navy sonar and cetaceans: Just how much does the gun need to smoke before we act? *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 56, 1248-1257.

Richards, W., & Godfrey, S. (2003) (Eds.) *Urban livestock keeping in sub-Saharan Africa*. Report on a workshop held on March 3–5, 2003 in Nairobi, Kenya. Kent, UK: Natural Resources Limited, Development Delivery International.

Rooney, N., Gaines, S., & Hiby, E. (2009). A practitioner's guide to working dog welfare. *Journal of Veterinary Behavior*, 4, 127-134.

Sundberg, R. (2008). *Revisiting one-sided violence: A global and regional analysis*. UCDP paper no. 3, Uppsala Conflict Data Program, Uppsala University, Sweden.

United Nations (UN) (2010). Environmental and socioeconomic impacts of armed conflict in Africa. In J. Cutler & J. Cleveland (Eds.), *The Encyclopedia of Earth*, 2008. Retrieved from [www.eoearth.org/article/Environmental_and_socioeconomic_impacts_](http://www.eoearth.org/article/Environmental_and_socioeconomic_impacts_of_armed_conflict_in_Africa?topic=49473)

[of_armed_conflict_in_Africa?topic=49473](http://www.eoearth.org/article/Environmental_and_socioeconomic_impacts_of_armed_conflict_in_Africa?topic=49473)

Uppsala Conflict Data Program (2012) UCDP Conflict Encyclopaedia, Uppsala University. Retrieved from www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/database/

Wade, L., Whitehead, H., & Weilgart, L. (2010). Conflict of interest in research on anthropogenic noise and marine mammals: Does funding bias conclusions? *Marine Policy*, 34, 320-327.

World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) (2009). *Case study. Aiding post-conflict recovery: the role of animal welfare*. London: World Society for the Protection of Animals.

NMMP (2011). US Navy Marine Mammal Program. Retrieved from www.public.navy.mil/spawar/Pacific/71500/Pages/default.aspx

Osman, S. (2006). Donkey feeding in IDP camps in Darfur. Emergency Nutrition Network's *Field Exchange* (Special Supplement 3).