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## Behaviour with Stray Animals from an Islamic Perspective: A Survey Study in Rawalpindi

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## ***Behaviour with Stray Animals from an Islamic Perspective: A Survey Study in Rawalpindi***

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### **Abstract:**

In Islam, animals are considered to be creations of Allah Almighty and are deserving of respect and kindness. Prophet *Muhammad* (ﷺ) is reported to have said that a person who shows kindness to animals will be rewarded by Allah Almighty. However, when it comes to dealing with stray animals, Muslims are encouraged to show compassion and mercy but the people of Rawalpindi have the opposite behaviour toward them. The main aim of the study is to assess the behaviour of people of Rawalpindi towards stray animals. A Historic Record-based literature review was done to establish baselines and a survey study was conducted on the topic in the city of Rawalpindi Pakistan. Furthermore, it's important to note that there may be practical considerations when dealing with stray animals, such as ensuring public safety and preventing the spread of disease. In such cases, it may be necessary to involve local authorities or animal welfare organizations and government institutions to properly address the situation. The study concluded that the Islamic perspective on dealing with animals emphasizes compassion, kindness, and responsibility towards Allah Almighty's creations but the behaviour of the people of Rawalpindi with stray animals is not positive.

**Keywords:** *Behaviour, Stray Animals, Kindness, Safety, Islamic Perspective.*

### **Introduction**

The study investigated and evaluated the behaviour of people with stray animals from an Islamic perspective. This study provides a detailed account of the welfare of stray animals from an Islamic perspective. Islam provides extensive ethics that require a human to treat animals with mercy and kindness. Today, negligence of these Islamic ethics on the streets of Pakistan can be seen. It became normal to see that stray animals are being unethically treated by the people and shooting or poisoning them to reduce their population is also initiated at the governmental level.

The study collected Primary data from the *Qur'an* and *Hadīth*. Secondary data is collected data is through books, articles, and surveys. Moreover, this study uses the sample of people of Rawalpindi, to investigate their behaviour toward stray animals. This research increases the understanding of Muslims towards stray animal welfare emphasized in the *Qur'an* and *Hadīth*. This research is beneficial for students, researchers, readers, NGOs, and governmental institutions as they become aware of Islamic teachings to treat stray animals. This research encourages the higher governmental authorities to opt for efficient and successful ways to deal with stray

animals. Moreover, the research is also helpful for stray animal rescue organizations and animal welfare organizations to advocate the rights of stray animals and promote animal welfare in Pakistani society.

### Literature Review

The early discussion on stray animals includes animal welfare in Islam, the animal liberation movement, classical Muslim scholars' opinions on animal cruelty, the human-animal bond, the prevention measures to avoid unwanted pet animals and the unethical practices prevailing in Pakistani society. The contemporary issue of behaviour especially with stray animals and the study's basic aim is to assess people's behaviour toward stray animals and analyse the behaviour of people toward stray animals and analysis it from an Islamic perspective.

### Definition of Animals

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED, 2011) defines "animal" as "a living organism which feeds on organic matter, typically having specialized sense organs and a nervous system and able to respond rapidly to stimuli; any living creature including man."<sup>1</sup>

### Islamic Teachings Regarding Animals

Islam is the religion of affection and mercy. All living creatures on the earth whether animals, humans and birds deserve respect and are worthy of consideration as to the Islamic peaceful view. Islam commands its followers to treat animals with mercy and kindness. Allah, The Exalted created the universe for all living beings:

وَالْأَرْضَ وَضَعَهَا لِلْأَنْعَامِ<sup>2</sup>

And the earth: He has put down (laid) for all creatures.

This verse shows that Allah has created the world for all living beings whether they are insects, birds, animals, rodents, and sea creatures. Man has been given temporary ownership by Allah in this world, who has to kindly treat his creation and benefit it without abusing them.

وَلِلَّهِ مُلْكُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَاللَّهُ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ<sup>3</sup>

And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth, and Allah has power over all things.

The Prophetic traditions also gave great emphasis on kind behaviour with animals. Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said:

قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَإِنَّ لَنَا فِي الْبَهَائِمِ لِأَجْرًا فَقَالَ " فِي كُلِّ ذَاتِ كَبِدٍ رَطْبَةٌ أَجْرٌ"<sup>4</sup>

The people said, "O Messenger of Allah! Is there a reward for us in serving the animals?" He replied: " Yes, there is a reward for serving any animate (living being).

The Prophet (ﷺ) is a source of mercy for all creatures of the universe not only for human beings. Many incidents had been narrated by his companions and later generations which shows how kind and merciful he was towards animals.<sup>5</sup> According to Islam, animals like human beings also have rights that must be given to them. These rights include; the right to be protected, the right to be fed, and the right to be loved. It is the responsibility of humans to care for, feed, and use animals appropriately.<sup>6</sup> Hadrat 'Alī (R.A) said:

Entrust cattle to those who are trustworthy and who are kind and sympathetic towards animals, so that he may not cruelly treat the animal, may not starve them, and may not tie them during the journey.<sup>7</sup>

### Care for Animals

The Prophet emphasizes care for animals. The Prophet (ﷺ) was seen wiping the face of

his horse with his gown. When asked why he was doing that, he replied: ‘Allah reproached me tonight on account of my horse’.<sup>8</sup>

### Don’t Abandon Your Animals

Ḥadrat ‘Alī (R.A) considered “giving new life” (*Ihyā*) to an animal whose owner has abandoned it due to an inability to provide for it.<sup>9</sup> Islam strictly condemns the abandoning of your animals due to owners’ being unable to provide them with necessities or because they are aged, ill, or injured. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

دَخَلَتْ امْرَأَةٌ النَّارَ فِي هِرَّةٍ رَبَطَتْهَا، فَلَمْ تُطْعِمْهَا، وَلَمْ تَدْعُهَا تَأْكُلْ مِنْ خَشَاشِ الْأَرْضِ.<sup>10</sup>

A woman entered the (Hell) fire because of a cat which she had tied, neither giving it food nor setting it free to eat from the vermin of the earth.

### Stray Animals in Islamic Perspective

According to Islamic teachings, if a person keeps an animal in his possession, he must in any case take care of its needs and basic rights. Owners should not abandon them especially due to the inability to provide necessities and animals not being able to meet their expectations of a good pet/ideal pet. Islam stresses great care related to keeping animals, as they are the source of many benefits for human beings’ pets like Dogs are kept by the people for security purposes they are also kept as pets by many agencies for sniffing drugs, checking, etc. Similarly, Cats are also kept by people for affection and as a source to teach children about the care of animals and learn to co-exist with them. According to Islamic teachings, a person who owns animals must take care of them and provide them with necessities. Animals under the ownership of man have many rights over the owner. The owner is obliged to fulfil them. The owners who are unable to provide for their animals or the animals are ill, aged, and of no use are abandoned on the streets. Furthermore, if animals like cats and dogs don’t meet the ideal expectations of their owner then they are also considered useless and resulted on the streets. Islam greatly emphasizes the rights of animals and one of them is that pet animals should not be abandoned due to any reason. When animals are not cared for by their owners and are thrown on the streets, they come stray and suffer for their survival. The fact is that they depend on human beings for their food and other necessities thus resulting in suffering from hunger and diseases on the streets.

Dogs and cats being the most pet animals around the globe are also greater in number as stray but today in human societies pets like cats and dogs are abandoned by their owners due to not being able to adopt the ideal pet image of their owners. Sometimes the incapability of the owner to provide basic livelihood (Food, shelter, medical care, love, and affection) to his pet also cause them to suffer. These are some factors that force domestic animals to roam around the streets depending on food from pedestrians as a result of dependence causes many problems for humans and other animals like road accidents, violent interactions with humans and other animals etc. thus, the problem of stray animals as well as the measures required to avoid it, has become a serious concern in our society.<sup>11</sup>

### When it is Permissible to Kill Stray Animals?

Animals are the creation of Allah. Islam emphasizes the welfare of animals. A stray animal is permitted to be killed when they are a source of harm to human beings. This killing must be accomplished by adopting less painful methods. In Book “*Al-Mughni*” *Ibn Qudāmah* writes:

Killing every animal is permissible if it causes harm to the life of someone or hurts them because they cause harm and the ratio of benefits obtained from them is less.<sup>12</sup>

It is not permitted to kill any stray animal without any solid reason. It was narrated that The Prophet (ﷺ) says: Whoever kills a small bird for no reason, it will beseech Allah on the Day of Resurrection.<sup>13</sup>

### **Fatwa on Killing and Poisoning Stray Animals**

The Killing of stray animals is an issue of great concern, especially in developing countries like Pakistan. This killing prevailing in Pakistani society attracts the wrath of many animal lovers, who consider these stray animals as a part of their community. This gives rise to many questions asked by people on different online platforms from great scholars to shed light on this issue from an Islamic perspective. Many eminent scholars issued fatwa concerning the killing and poisoning of stray animals. Some of them are discussed below:

- According to the recently received fatwa on 6.7.2022 from Darulifta Jamia Banoria Karachi, killing animals without any reason is not permissible. If stray animals become a source of harm to human beings they can only be killed if any other option is not available to reduce their harm. If there are other options except killing them, killing them is not permitted.<sup>14</sup>
- According to Dār-al-Iftā Egypt (2019) is one of the government's Islamic Legal institutions for providing fatwas on contemporary issues. A fatwa concerning the poisoning of stray animals was given by this institution in 2019. The scholars of Dār-al-Iftā is of the view that stray animals can only be killed when they are harmful to human beings and there is no other possible option to reduce the harm caused by stray animals. Killing stray animals must be the last resort and it should be done by considering less painful methods. The institution recommended that stray animals be placed in animal welfare institutions to save them from a miserable life on the streets.<sup>15</sup>
- The Fatwa given by Dār-al-Iftā Karachi concerning the killing of harmful stray dogs' states that stray dogs that cause harm to human beings and even are life-threatening, it is allowed to be killed. This killing must be done by adopting methods that cause less pain to them.

### **Treatment with Stray Animals in Pakistan**

According to the Cambridge Dictionary Stray means “any pet that no longer has a home or is unable to find its home (lost).<sup>16</sup> The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) defines stray animals in three ways:

1. Free-range animals that are not under control for a certain time.
2. Free-range animals that do not have an owner.
3. The animals which are domestic and abandoned to the wild.<sup>17</sup>

In Pakistan, the population of stray animals is increasing rapidly which results in many health risks to the public as well as other animals. The life of stray animals in Pakistan is hard. They have been facing abuse at the public and government levels.

A recent incident circulating on social media is stray animals are brutally used to teach students of the veterinary department of ARID University. It was reported by Geo News and other media channels that healthy stray dogs are used. According to Anila Umair, who is a member of Critters Ark Welfare Organization in Islamabad when they arrived at the campus, they saw many dogs brutally tied up from their legs with their mouth sealed according to her it was horrible. She added, “People are of the view that they contributed by only praising our work online. But the dark side of reality is that we have not been able to change the mindsets of people. Although we have to some extent 90% of people, I know haven't changed their behaviour towards stray animals.<sup>18</sup>

However, the Punjab government opted for the TVNR instead of killing stray animals.

Stray animals will receive vaccinations and tags at the initial stage of the operation and in the second stage they are neutered, according to the information obtained by ‘The Express Tribute.’<sup>19</sup>

Despite this initiative, thousands of stray animals are suffering and their almost 1% implementation on this operation, and stray animals are roaming on the streets and suffering from abuse. Many stray animal rescue organizations e.g., Pakistan Animal Welfare Organization (PAWS), Critters Ark Welfare Organization (CAWO), etc. are working to save these stray animals but still, there is a need for a contribution at an individual level to achieve this goal. Moreover, many individuals opened their shelters to rescue stray animals.

### **Methodology**

The study uses the qualitative method to know the basic line of the study from Islamic teachings and then the Quantitative Approach is adopted to analyse the behaviour of people toward stray animals. The survey question is assessed with a Likert scale to get accurate and credible data. The conclusion of the study is in qualitative form as per the requirement of the title. The data has been converted to qualitative by obtaining the percentage through the insertion of Data to MS Excel. The qualitative scale is used for the analysis of the data according to the requirements of the title.

The questionnaire was developed by the researcher and it was circulated for testing among the people to know whether the questionnaire is easily understood or not. After testing the questionnaire was online formed and circulated. For the formation of an online questionnaire google Forms was used as a tool.

The online questionnaire was shared with people by obtaining their contact numbers. The questionnaire was divided into 4 sections first related to the socio-demographic data of respondents and the other three sections included questions concerning stray animals. Approximately 100 respondents from different areas of Rawalpindi participated in the survey.

The population approached for the survey is the people of Rawalpindi. The selection for the sampling of the population is random and the snowball method is to get further responses. The participants who responded to the survey are of different levels of qualification age groups and gender.

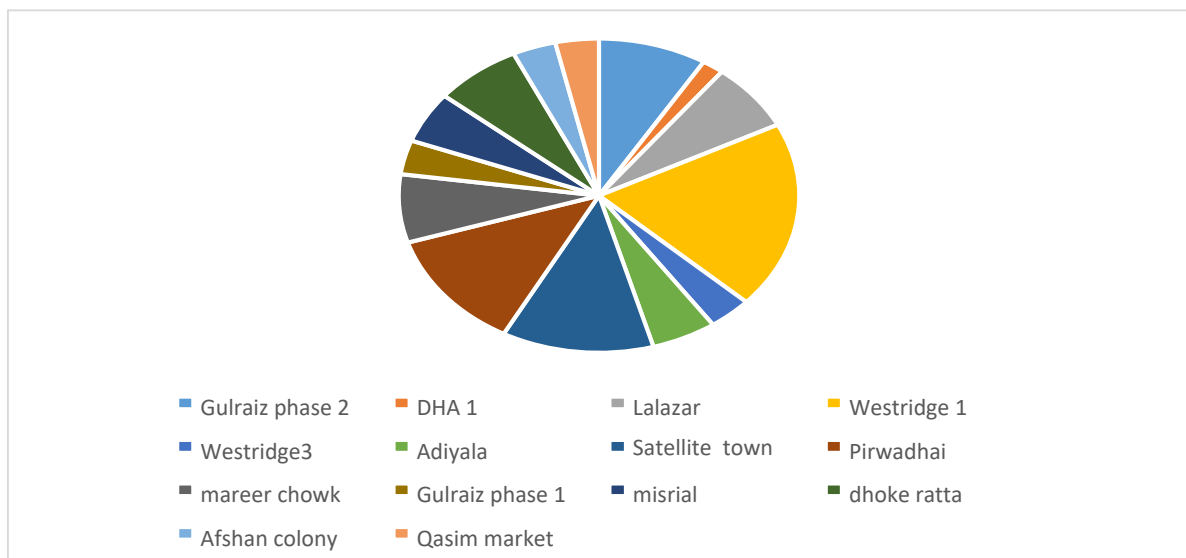
The demographic data that was asked included the age, gender, qualification and area of residence of the respondents.

During the circulation of the survey, the data was received from 36 areas of Rawalpindi. These areas include Westridge 1, Westridge 3, Satellite Town, Pirwadhai, Mareer Chowk, Gulraiz Phase 1, Gulraiz Phase 2, Lalazar, Misrial, Dhoke Ratta, Adiyala, Qasim Market, Afshan Colony, Lalakurti, Chakri Road, Ghauri Town, Chaklala scheme 2, Allahabad, Bahria Town, Airport Housing Society, Committee Chowk, DHA 1, Railway Colony, Chour Chowk, Raja Bazar, Liaquat Bagh, Glass Factory, Lane 4 Peshawar Road, AOC Morgah, Saddar, Hathi Chowk, Chandni Chowk, Askari 11, Shalley Valley, Baraf Khana Dhoke Syedan, Jhangi Syedan.

## Tables and Figures

Socio-demographic Data		Number of respondents	Percentage
Gender	Male	26	26%
	Female	74	74%
Age	18-25	58	58%
	26-33	25	25%
	34-41	13	13%
	42 above	4	4%
Qualification	Under Matric	4	4%
	Matric	11	11%
	Undergraduate	77	77%
	Postgraduate	8	8%

## Area of Residence of Respondents



## Questionnaire

### 1. Have you ever thrown away your pet?

In response to question-related to abandoning your pet, 84% of respondents said No, and 11% answered yes. The remaining 5% are found to be uncertain whether they have abandoned or not.

### 2. Have you ever adopted any stray animals?

While responding to this question 81% of the participants said No, 16% said Yes, and the remaining 3% are uncertain of the fact that they have adopted any stray animal or not.

### 3. Are you of the opinion that stray animals that are harmful to human beings should be killed by more painful methods when less-painful options are available?

While responding to this question 64% respondents said No, 11% of the respondents said yes and the remaining 25% were uncertain about it.

### 4. If you notice a stray animal in your area, what is your first response?

The first reaction when seeing a stray animal 47% said that they ignore them, 32% offer food, 10% call animal rescue, 8% are of the view to terrify them to runaway 3% want to pet them.

### 5. If you see a stray animal getting abused what is your first response?

The first reaction when seeing a stray animal being abused 37% responded to ignore the situation, 36% wanted to have a rational argument to stop the abuse, 25% wanted to call animal rescue, and the remaining only 2% wanted to join them.

### 6. How often do you notice stray animals being abused in Pakistan?

The participants answered that 38% noticed animals being abused Always, 29% said frequently they noticed, 20% sometimes, 6% rarely, and 7% never noticed any stray animal being abused in Pakistan.

### 7. How many times have you noticed anyone teasing stray animals?

36% of the participants always noticed people teasing stray animals. 22% frequently noticed, 30% of respondents sometimes noticed the situation of stray animals being teased by others, 9% said they rarely noticed such situation and 3% of the respondents never noticed such occasion.

### 8. How many times have you noticed people offering food to stray animals?

39% responded that they have rarely seen people offering food to stray animals, 25% said sometimes they have noticed, 18% said they never noticed people doing such acts of kindness. 14% respondents frequently noticed and the remaining 4% always noticed people offering food to a stray animal.

### 9. How often have you noticed that people didn't pay any heed to injured stray animals on the roadside?

38% of participants answered that they always experience people not paying attention, 30% said frequently they have noticed, 17% said sometimes, 8% rarely, and 7% participants never noticed such a situation.

### 10. How often do you notice that people tend to buy precious breed pets rather than adopt stray animals?

55% said they have always noticed this view among the people that they prefer precious breeds over giving new life to stray animals. 19% of respondents noticed this mentality frequently, 11% noticed it sometimes, 10% of participants noticed it rarely, and 5% of the respondents never noticed this preference among the people.

### 11. How often have you noticed that people ignore stray animals roaming on streets?

42% responded they have noticed this attitude always, 39% of respondents noticed



it frequently, 11% noticed it sometimes, 3% rarely, and 5% of respondents never noticed such an attitude among people.

**12. How often have you offered food to any stray animal?**

32% of respondents said they sometimes offered food to stray animals. 30% said rarely they have offered, 21% said frequently they have offered, 11% said never, and 6% of the respondents said they have always provided food to stray animals.

**13. Have you ever considered stray animals as a part of your community?**

46% of respondents sometimes consider them as a part of their community. 20% rarely consider this fact, 19% frequently consider it, 10% of respondents consider stray animals always as part of their community, and 5% of respondents never consider this fact.

**14. How often do you give charity to stray animal rescue institutions?**

72% of respondents said they never give charity to such institutions. 11% said sometimes they contributed to rescuing institutions, 9% said rarely, 5% said that they frequently donate to such institutions and only 3% respondents said always.

**15. How much do you know about the Islamic teachings regarding the treatment of stray animals?**

42% of respondents said they didn't have much knowledge about the Islamic perspective on the treatment of stray animals. 15% said they slightly know this, 19% said they have a moderate level of knowledge about it, 19% said they are very knowledgeable of the Islamic stance concerning the treatment of stray animals, and only 5% of the respondents are well aware of Islamic teachings.

**16. How much you are in favour of the government's initiative to kill stray animals to avoid violent interactions between stray animals and humans?**

29% of respondents said they are moderately in favour of government initiatives to protect human citizens, 23% said that they are very in favour of this initiative, 22% said slightly in favour of this, 21% not at all, 5% respondents said they are very much in favour of killing stray animals to reduce violent interactions between stray animals and human beings.

**17. How much do you know about any legislation concerning the protection of stray animals?**

57% of the respondents are not aware of this type of legislation. 17% are slightly known of the protection legislation, 14% were moderate, 10% said they are very known, and 5% of the respondents have much knowledge of this.

**18. How much do you know about any animal rescue organization in your area?**

57% of the respondents did not have much information about this, 16% slightly, 13% moderately, 8% are very and 5% are well aware of it.

### Results and Findings

1. Maximum number of respondents responded that they do not abandon their pets.
2. The majority of respondents didn't adopt stray animals.
3. Maximum number of respondents said that they do not think to kill harmful stray animals with more painful methods.
4. The Majority of the respondents responded that their first reaction when seeing a stray animal will be ignoring them.
5. Maximum number of respondents responded that they ignore when seeing a stray animal being abused.
6. The majority of the respondents always notice stray animals being abused in Pakistan.
7. Maximum number of respondents is always other stray animals being teased by

- others.
8. The majority of the respondents responded that they have rarely seen people offering food to stray animals.
  9. The majority of the respondents responded that they always experience people not paying attention to injured stray animals.
  10. Maximum number of people responded that they always notice people prefer precious breeds of cats over giving new life to stray animals.
  11. The majority of participants always notice people ignore stray animals roaming on the streets.
  12. Maximum number of people sometimes offer food to stray animals.
  13. The majority of respondents sometimes consider stray animals as a part of their community.
  14. The majority of the respondents said they never give charity to stray animal rescue institutions.
  15. The majority of participants are unaware of the Islamic perspective on the treatment of stray animals.
  16. Maximum number of people are moderately in favor of government initiatives to protect human citizens by killing stray animals.
  17. The majority of the respondents are unaware of any legislation concerning the protection of stray animals.
  18. Maximum number of participants are not aware of stray animal rescue institutions in their areas.

### Discussion and Analysis

According to the survey results, most respondents didn't throw away their pets. This act is also encouraged by Islam. It is necessary to take care of your pets as they are your responsibility. Hadrat 'Alī (R.A) once mentioned that the animals should be entrusted to those people who are kind and sympathetic so that they are not subjected to any mistreatment. It means that entrusting your animal to someone must ensure that they accept their responsibility willingly and have feelings of love towards them.

According to the survey results, the majority of the people are not willing to adopt a stray animal and similarly, the majority prefer precious breeds over them. In Islam there is no distinction between breeds of animals, all are the creation of Allah. According to the results, the majority of the respondents are not in favour of killing harmful stray animals by adopting painful methods. The same is the view of Islam, Prophet Muhammad S.A.W gave a clear injunction in case of slaughtering animals to sharpen knives to reduce their sufferings.<sup>20</sup> This means that mercy should be shown to all animals.

The Majority of the respondents according to survey findings ignore stray animals getting abused. Ignoring abuse means a person is appreciating it by keeping silent. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said that whenever you see an evil act you must try to stop it by hand or by tongue if he cannot do this then he must consider it bad in the heart.<sup>21</sup>

Maximum number of people always found other people teasing stray animals. This type of attitude is unacceptable as teasing stray animals for amusement is strictly condemned by Islam. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) condemned teasing and abusing stray animals. He (ﷺ) said that fears Allah for ill-treating animals.<sup>22</sup>

Stray animals are being abused in Pakistan according to the findings of the survey. Islamic teachings strictly condemned the abuse of stray animals. The Prophet (ﷺ) said that a woman entered hell for enclosing a cat which then died due to hunger and thirst.<sup>23</sup> This shows that abusing stray animals in any way is not permitted. He (ﷺ) warned the

believers to be afraid of their ill-treatment of animals.

According to the results, the majority of the respondents sometimes consider stray animals as a part of their community. According to the Holy *Qur'ān* the earth has been created by all creatures not only for human beings.<sup>24</sup> Thus, stray animals like all other animals are a part of our community. The respondents said that they have rarely seen people offering food to stray animals. Some respondents sometimes themselves offer food to stray animals. In Islam, this act is very appreciated by the Prophet (ﷺ) who said that there is a reward in serving every living creature.<sup>25</sup> Providing food or water to a stray animal is a reward-worthy act. In another incident, Prophet was asked if a person giving water to a lost camel is an act of reward the Prophet instantly replied yes, he will be rewarded.

Results of the survey show that the majority of respondents are moderately in favor of government initiatives to protect human citizens. Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) condemned the killing of any creature without any reason.<sup>26</sup> If any stray animal is considered to be harmful then it is permitted to kill it by adopting a less painful method. If there are other options available to protect people from their harm, they must be considered instead of killing them.

Majority of the respondents said that their first reaction to seeing stray animals will be to ignore them. Similarly, the majority of the respondents always noticed people ignoring stray animals. Islam emphasizes showing mercy to all living beings as the Prophet (ﷺ) is a source of mercy for all creatures. The Prophet (ﷺ) said that anyone who showers mercy even on an animal being slaughtered Allah will shower mercy on him.

The majority of the respondents said they never give charity to stray animal rescue institutions. Islam prefers the act of giving charity as it helps the poor and needy the society. Similarly, if charity is given for the help and rescue of stray animals, it is an act of great reward.

The survey concluded that the majority of the respondents are unaware of the Islamic perspective on the treatment of stray animals. Similarly, the level of awareness is less about legislation concerning the protection of stray animals. People didn't have much information about the stray animal rescue organization. Regarding this, the Islamic stance is that awareness must be raised among the unlearned. It is the religious responsibility of the learned, they must share their knowledge with others to be aware of them. It is a need of time that the contemporary discussion of Islamic law must shed light on the Islamic perspective regarding the care of stray animals to aware the public and their mindset.

### Conclusion and Recommendations

According to this study of Islamic teachings on the care of stray animals and the results of the survey, it can be concluded that a good number of people (42%) in Rawalpindi are unaware of Islamic teachings. A big majority of 57% of respondents are unaware of legislation about animal protection, and 57% are unaware of rescue organizations working in this field. Moreover, a good number of people (38%) noticed stray animals being abused and teased. Similarly, the reasonable majority 36% of people ignore stray animals being abused. The survey figures show that the people of Rawalpindi behave unethically toward stray animals.

Maximum People of Rawalpindi (64%) are not in favour of killing stray animals with more painful methods when less painful options are available. Killing stray animals to manage their population is instilling a sense of mercilessness in our youth and people consider these stray animal's worthless creatures. Thus, it can lead to developing an

unethical mindset toward stray animals.

Further research can be done on various aspects of animal welfare including veterinary sciences and Islamic perspectives, the status of animal rights in Pakistan, and the survey study can also be conducted in other areas of Pakistan to assess the attitude of people towards stray animals. Some recommendations suggested by the research are to counter the unethical behaviour of people with stray animals and how to care for them:

- Educate people about the welfare of stray animals in the light of the *Qur'ān* and *Ḥadīth*.
- The collective efforts of animal welfare organizations and government institutions are required to manage the population of stray animals.
- The government and locals can also support animal welfare and rescue organizations to save the life of stray animals.
- The Animal Cruelty Prevention Act 1890 must be reviewed according to the current situation of stray animal abuse. Strict punishment and heavy fines must be inflicted on the citizens who are involved in abusing stray animals.

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