

Research Article

A STUDY ON MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOLLOWED BY HORSE CART (JATKA) OWNERS IN KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted on the different management practices followed by horse cart (Jatka) owners in Mysore and Vijayapura districts of Karnataka. Information was collected by interview method using a structured schedule. The age of the establishments ranged from 3 - 31 years. The mean stock holding was 1.95 ± 0.162 , with about 89.5%, 63.2% and 26.3% of the jatka owners owning stallions, mares and geldings, respectively. None of them owned foals. Most of the stables were of open type (57.5%) and located at a considerable distance from the owner's residence (73.7%). Concrete flooring was common (84.2%) and only 42.1% of the respondents some used straw as a bedding material. Mean stable dimensions were 83.16 ± 0.685 sq. ft. Stables were cleaned once a week. Stone feed mangers and feed bags were commonly used. Majority of owners practiced individual feeding (57.9%), with maize as the primary fodder, and concentrates fed thrice a day (52.6%). Vitamins, minerals, salts and electrolytes were given as feed supplements by all the respondents, and anti-stressors, amino acids and growth promoters were commonly used. Colostrum was fed to foals within 30 minutes of birth and concentrate feeding was introduced at 3 months of age. Natural mating (84.2%) with a breeding ratio of 1:5 and conception rate of 72.37%, and artificial insemination (68.4%) with a conception rate of 70.0%, were commonly practiced. The most common indicators of oestrus were vulval discharge (100%) and swelling (89.5%). Most of the respondents preferred sandy surface for training their horses. Regular vaccination was practised for tetanus only. Most respondents regularly practised deworming and dental checkups. Diarrhoea (100%), colic (100%), laminitis (89.5%) and endometritis (68.4%) were commonly recorded conditions. All respondents reported transporting the horses once a month for clinical purposes.

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INTRODUCTION

It is very important to keep horses healthy so that they serve our purpose for monitoring them. Best management plans help them to prevent diseases and good nutrition helps the animal to be healthy. World equine population estimates about 114 million, out of which 59 million horse, 43.6 million donkeys and 11 million mules. There are more horses than donkeys. There are 90 million equines in the developing countries with highest population in Central Asia, North and East Africa (FAO, 2003). 60% of horses are found in the developing countries and are kept mainly for work.

Equines are important animals for poor communities in rural and urban areas. Jataka area mainly used for transportation and these animals are mainly used as pack animals. They are used to carry the loads and as mode of transport for human beings. Animal power continues to be an important resource in

agriculture and urban transport in developing countries worldwide. But extensive poverty can still be found mainly because of an unequal distribution of wealth (Li Pun *et al* 1999).

These are often engaged in work for long hours and when free, they are left to brows and feed on waste. Health also has important implications on the welfare of animals (Broom 2006). Healthy animals are a prerequisite for the successful output of working animals (FAO 2006). These negatively affect their welfare and quality of life. This misuse, mistreatment and lack veterinary care has led to early death and life expectancy of 4-6 years (Soloman and Rahmeto 2010). Since disease can lead to a reduction in feed consumption, poor body condition and a subsequent decrease in working capacity (Pearson 2003).

The objective of this study was to identify management practices of working equines/ horse cart in Karnataka. To assess the management practices in Mysore and Vijapura districts in Karnataka.

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A Study on Management Practices Followed By Horse Cart (Jatka) Owners in Karnataka

To study housing of carting equine feeding, breeding, disease and health condition.

To identify different feed sources and feeding system of carting equines.

To assess the common diseases and to study health conditions.

To identify the types of horses used for carting.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Description of study area: Study was conducted in Mysore and Vijayapura districts of Karnataka.

The study population used in the present investigation consisted of twenty horse cart owners maintaining one horse per person they were given with questionnaire which is in English language consisting of six different sub headings viz. Socio economic status of owners, housing practices, breeding practices, feeding practices, health care practices and exercise practices.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The survey was carried out with 20 horse cart/jataka owners with different family size and literacy level.

Socio economic status of owners

All the respondents belonging to the labour class family, purely depends upon the daily earning with the help of their own carts. All the respondent family members are involved in labour work no hired labour were seen.

Daily income of majority of the respondents ranging between 300-500 rupees per day.

The literacy level was just 40% in majority of the respondents, and 80% of the respondents are land less farmers.

The carting of hoes was a gift of their ancestors which are they carrying forward.

Housing system: Most of the stables are open type (57.5%) (Table 1 & Fig 1) and located at a considerable distance from owner's house, which is in contrary to Soloman *et al*, 2016 where closed type of housing system was practiced which was separate (84 %), 90 per cent of the respondents owned 1-3 horses. They used (79 %) for the transport, 9% police patrol, 5% working in fields, cart pulling (3%) and tourist trekking (5%). The frequency of usage was 2.1 hours per day.

Survey indicated that common type of housing system followed which provided separate barn for animals which was separated from owner house. 84% of the respondents used separate barn and 16% housed the animals in same place where their family resides. Frequency of cleaning: 96% of owners cleaned once a day and 4% cleaned twice a day.

Feeding practices: 57.9% of respondents followed the individual feeding system, 33% (Table 1 & Fig 1) group feeding and 9.1% following other system of feeding. 85% primarily fed horses with maize stalks, 62% mentioned that their animals diet unbalanced Very few had clear information on the nutrition of animals. Not eating was the most commonly cited indication of a horse being unwell (74% respondents).

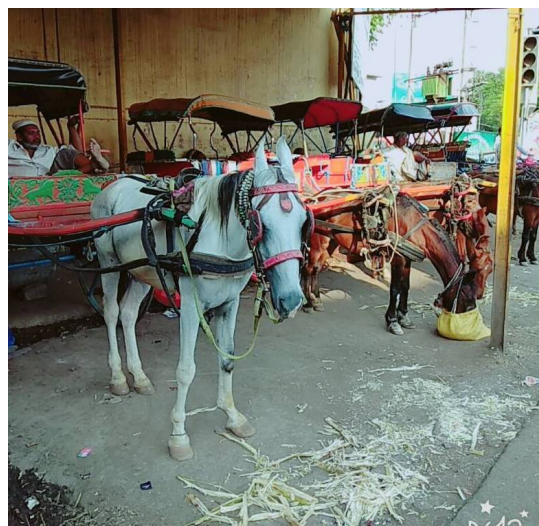


Plate 1 Jataxka Horses

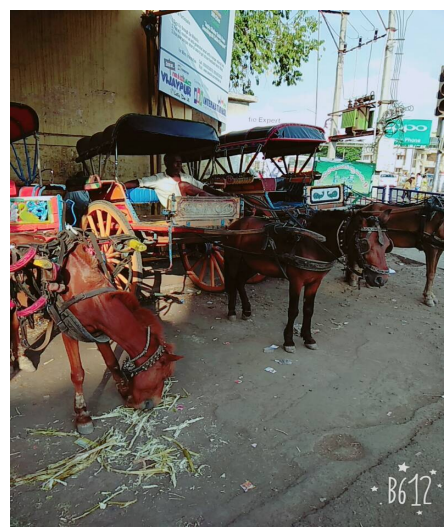


Plate 2 Feeding of Jataka Horses

Major source of feed are grazing (12%), hay (20%), crop residues, industrial waste (14%), 14% used grass cut and carry and 40% used crop residue.

Water source: Major source of water in the study area ranked pipe water, rain water, and pond water used about 70%, 20%, 8% and 2%, respectively. 90% of the owners watered the animals twice a day, 4% provided once a day and 6% thrice a day.

Health care practices

Diseases not recognised appropriately. Colic with worm infestation was common. Many owners were not able to distinguish preventive and curative health care,

94 % owners reported the use of anthelmintic and only 19% (Table 1 & Fig 1) used proprietary products and others cited the use of herbal medicines, copper sulphate crystals and sulphur granules used less than four times a year. 64% gave treatment for ticks. Owners had limited information on mouth care. 23% treated mouth infections with making gum incisions with a knife with or without application of salt. Appropriate foot care was by shoeing (92% owners), 24% had horses shoed. Owners possessed less information on frequency of re-shoeing and expressed affordability as the limitation factor for shoeing.

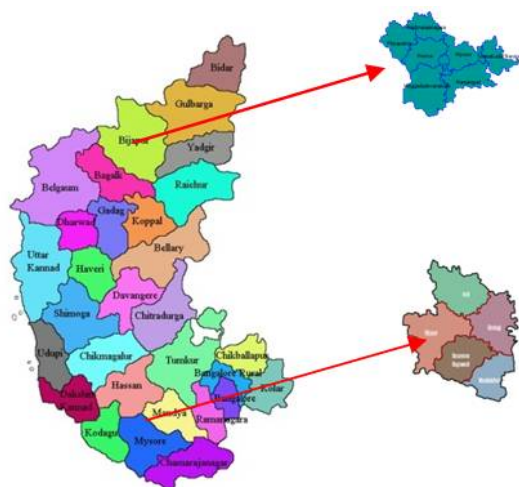
Table 1 Managemental practices followed in jataka Owners

Housing system		Feeding system			Health management		
Open Type	Close Type	Individual	Group	Other	vaccination	deworming	Dental check
59.7%	42.91%	57.9%	33%	9.1%	97%	63.2%	73.7%



Fig 1 Managemental practices followed in jataka Owners

Picture showing the study area



Disease: Parasitic diseases both ecto and endoparasitic were recorded in most of the animals. It included about epizootic lymphangitis (48%), Anthrax (26%), Fasciolosis (10%), foot rot (6%) and about 4% colic and bloat.

The most common indicators of oestrus were vulval discharge (100%) (Table 1 & Fig 1) and swelling (89.5%). Most of the respondents preferred sandy surface for training their horses. Regular vaccination was practised for tetanus only. Most respondents regularly practised deworming 63.2% and dental checkups 73.7%. Diarrhoea (100%), colic (100%), laminitis (89.5%) and endometritis (68.4%) were commonly recorded conditions. All respondents reported transporting the horses once a month for clinical purposes.

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CONCLUSION

Transportation by means of Equines plays a vital role in urban parts of Ethiopia in alleviation of poverty, but developmental programmes and research works have ignored equines.

Carting horses were widely used in transport of various goods. This study revealed that carting horses were a sole livelihood for large proportion of cart owners and they get substantial amount of money for their livelihood.

Owners have variable husbandry knowledge, limited access to veterinary care and scarce resources. Helps to concentrate the point of equine welfare. Education and other interventions are required.

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