

Animal Welfare Policy

Abstract

This report outlines NOUKK's dedication to upholding exceptional animal welfare standards in the care and handling of Arabian camels. Emphasizing ethical practices, the document details our commitment to sourcing camel hair through natural shedding processes, aligning with the Textile Exchange's Benchmark for Animal Welfare as well as the Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA) guidelines. We utilize the Five Domains Model to evaluate and enhance our operations, focusing on nutrition, environment, health and management, behavior, and mental state. Beyond welfare, NOUKK integrates sustainability into its practices, incorporating regenerative approaches to promote ecosystem health and long-term resource renewal. Through continuous improvement, education of suppliers, and exploration of sustainable techniques, NOUKK strives to exceed industry standards, ensuring humane and responsible practices in producing high-quality, ethically sourced textiles.

1st Edition - 2025

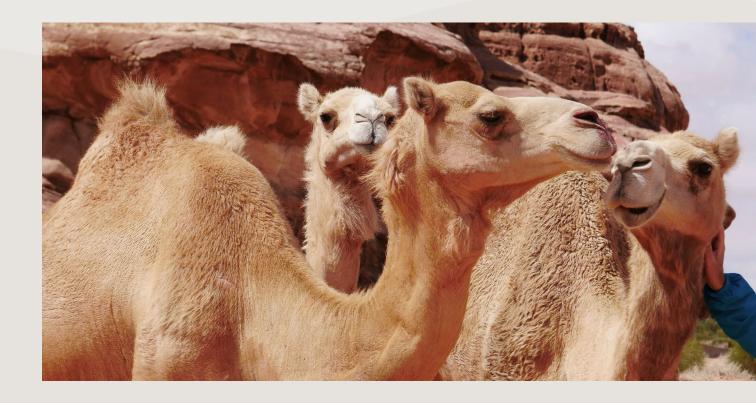


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Commitment and Purpose

At NOUKK, we are deeply committed to upholding the highest standards of animal welfare in every aspect of our operations. Our process is rooted in respect for the natural behaviour and well-being of Arabian camels. We source camel hair solely from the natural shedding process, ensuring that no animals are harmed or stressed during collection. This document serves as a transparent framework for how we ensure the humane treatment of animals while producing high-quality, responsibly sourced textile products.

How to use this document

This document outlines NOUKK's commitment to animal welfare, sustainable sourcing, and ethical practices in camel hair collection, while also serving as a tool for comparison with the Unified Standard V1.1. and the Textile Exchange's Responsible Animal Fibre (RAF) standard. It provides insight into how we align our operations with industry benchmarks while highlighting our unique approach rooted in respect for the Arabian camel (as well as baby camels: "calves") and its desert environment. The following table includes the expectations set by recognized global standards like the textile exchange and how NOUKK operates based on our internal welfare policies and local desert ecosystem conditions.

NOUKK assessment evaluates compliance with the relevant standards on a scale of 1 to 5:

- Score 1: Planned for Future Implementation
- Score 2: Work in Progress
- Score 3: Partially Implemented
- Score 4: Fully Implemented
- Score 5: Fully Implemented and Monitored

This document not only informs stakeholders about our practices but also guides our continuous improvement, setting clear targets for enhancing animal welfare, environmental impact, and supply chain transparency.

Section A- Introduction

Background Information

Arabian Camels

The Arabian camel, also known as the Dromedary camel (one-hump), is a remarkable member of the camelid family that includes Alpaca, Bactrian camel, Guanaco, Llama and Vicuña. The Arabian camels thrive in vast drylands and desert environments, primarily in the Arabian Peninsula and Africa. Excellently adapted to harsh landscapes, showing remarkable resilience to climate change. Referred to as the "resource of the future" as they are low maintenance animals. The United Nations declared 2024 as the year of the Camelids "Heroes of Deserts and Highlands: Nourishing People and Culture" to highlight their growing importance in global sustainability efforts.

Arabian Camel Hair

The Arabian camel hair embodies 40 million years of evolution in a fibre, the hair boasts exceptional softness, parallel to other luxury animal hair like cashmere and vicuña. This softness stems from the fine, insulating undercoat of the camel, offering warmth without excessive weight or coarseness. Despite its remarkable qualities, Arabian camel hair remains a hidden gem that can be transformed into exotic textiles. Its usage has been limited throughout history, primarily confined to the Arabian tribes, and it is often reserved to create a limited quantity of traditional handcrafts.

Section B- Overview of NOUKK's Camel Operations and Status

Our operations span across the vast deserts of the North African region, where camels are widely herded in their natural environment. These herds are typically allowed to roam freely, choosing their own paths, and are cared for with respect and affection. The camels are well-hydrated, receive consistent attention, and are highly valued by the communities that work with them, which ensures their overall well-being. However, during a recent site visit, we identified some areas where practices could be enhanced. Traditional identification methods, such as restraining and branding, could be reconsidered for less intrusive alternatives, and managing the lactation of young camels with cloth coverings, while common, may benefit from more research into best practices. Additionally, improvements in hygiene and sanitation could be made, particularly in certain semi-enclosed areas. NOUKK is committed to continuous improvement, working closely with local communities and experts to ensure that our operations not only meet but exceed animal welfare standards in the region.

At this stage, NOUKK is actively exploring and evaluating its supply chain. Given the limited resources available, we are not only selecting the best options but also focused on enhancing and improving the existing ones. This involves educating our suppliers, particularly camel herders, on sustainable practices and introducing them to eco-friendly techniques such as manual dehairing, understanding the natural shedding process, the physiology of camels, and best practices for proper nourishment and handling. All these efforts are aligned with our animal standards, which serve as our primary reference point.

Section C - The 5 Domain Model: Animal Welfare Criteria

The Five Domains Model is a framework used to assess animal welfare by evaluating both physical and mental states. It builds on the "Five Freedoms" of animal welfare and is designed to offer a more comprehensive approach by considering how various aspects of an animal's life contribute to its overall well-being. NOUKK has decided to adopt the five domains model framework and assess its operations and animal care against its criteria.

The Five Domains:

- 1. *Nutrition*: Evaluates the animal's diet, including access to adequate and appropriate food and water, and how this affects its health and well-being.
- 2. *Environment*: Considers the living conditions, such as shelter, space, temperature, and enrichment, and their impact on the animal's comfort and safety
- 3. *Health and Management*: Assesses the animal's physical well-being, addressing injuries, diseases, and overall fitness, alongside management practices such as harvesting, restraining, and regenerative methods.
- 4. *Behaviour*: Looks at the ability of the animal to express natural behaviours and interact with its environment and other animals.
- 5. *Mental State*: Focuses on the animal's psychological well-being, considering emotions like pain, fear, pleasure, and contentment.

It is important to mention that compliance with the standards is reviewed annually to account for any amendments ensuring continuous improvement. The review considers the following:

- Welfare challenges that the husbandry procedure aims to address
- The integration of new technologies to enhance regenerative practices
- Alternative practices that prioritize animal's welfare and their effectiveness
- The most appropriate techniques for procedures considering the animal's age
- Measures to minimise pain and distress, as advised by veterinary experts
- Innovative approaches for fibre harvesting and protection.

Referencing our scoring system for the upcoming section:

- Score 1: Planned for Future Implementation
- Score 2: Work in Progress
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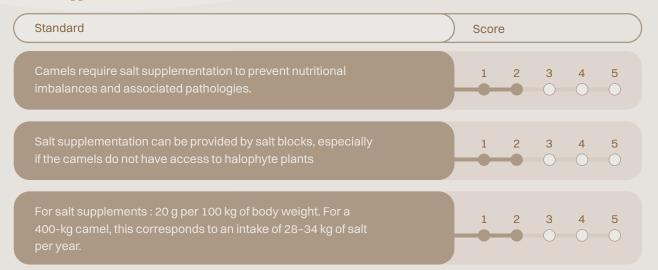
Nutrition

a) Watering and Pasturing Guidelines

b) Water and Feed Restrictions

Camels are only deprived of feed and water when reasonable for management practices (such as shearing or transport) and not for longer than 24 hours. The site shall only restrict a camel's access to food and water for justified timebound reasons. The site shall ensure that camels do not have opportunities to eat harmful or poisonous plants. such as: Stale Bread (affects its physiology) Human Food Scraps Spices Leftover Vegetables (not edible or rotten) New Growth Plants Fresh Grass or Grass that is too Young Flour

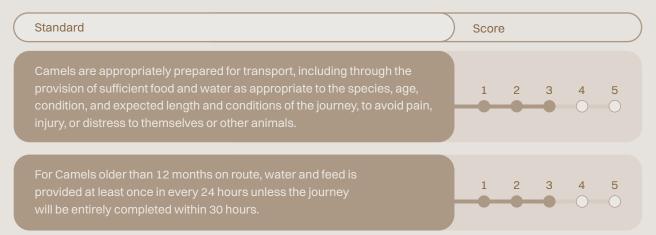
c) Salt Supplementation



d) Nutrition Management

Standard Score When planning for feeding and nutrition, the organisation takes into account camel numbers, seasonal forage production, bought-in food, and changing climate norms. The site shall not administer growth hormone promoters or non-therapeutic antibiotics for growth promotion to their camel. Water, feed, and the opportunity to rest are made available to camels as appropriate to meet their health needs. The site shall ensure that camels have access to feeding and water points such that they can eat and drink safely and without crowding. Body condition is monitored and shall specify the minimum acceptable level for this. Camels'body condition score is routinely monitored, as part of the organisation's Health and Welfare Plan. •For a healthy camel→ 3 and 4 on a 5-point scale. Lower than 2 → shall be treated promptly

e) Transportation



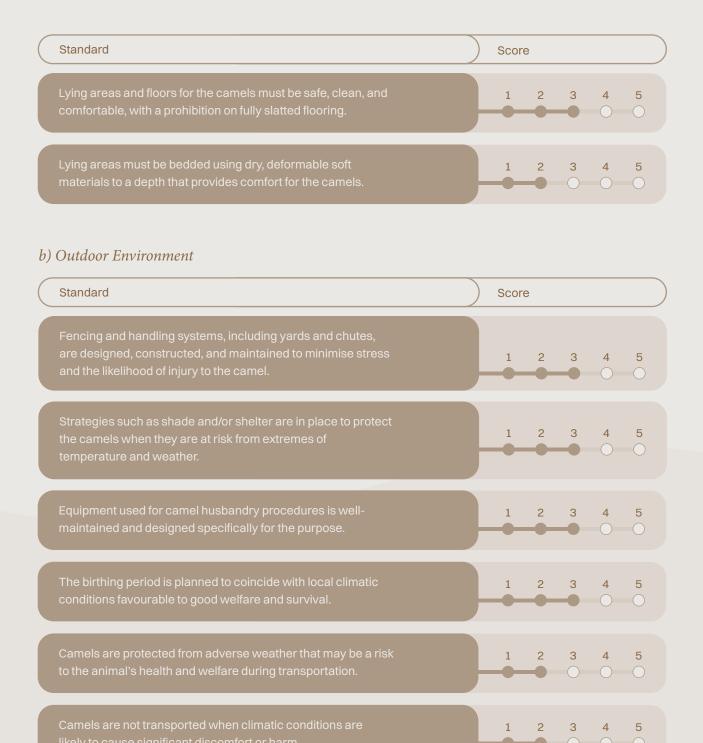
f) Pregnant Camels and Calves

Standard	Score				
A slightly higher quantity of water and food should be provided for Pregnant Camels and calves	1	2	3	4	5
Calves have access to milk in their diet until they are at least 6 months old and they have an adequate intake of other feeds that ensure their nutritional needs are met.	1	2	3	4	5

Living Environment

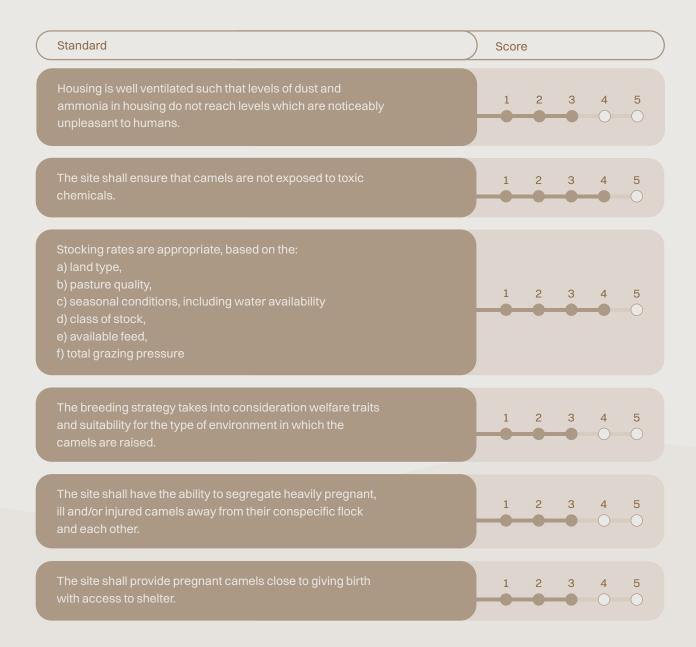
a) Indoor Environment

Standard		Score	Э			
Indoor facilities (Handling and housing systems including shearing sheds) are designed, constructed, and maintained so to minimise stress and the likelihood of injury to the camel.		1	2	3	4	5
Strategies are in place to protect camels in indoor facilities when they are at risk of heat or cold stress and extreme weather.		1	2	3	4	5
Camels should have access to natural light in their housing.)-	1	2	3	4	5
The site shall ensure that any enclosed spaces are free from dangerous debris and objects.		1	2	3	4	5
The site shall remove wet manure from shelters daily		1	2	3	4	5
Set limits for air quality factors.)-	1	2	3	4	5
Indoor facilities have good air quality.		1	2	3	4	5



c) Indoor and Outdoor Environment

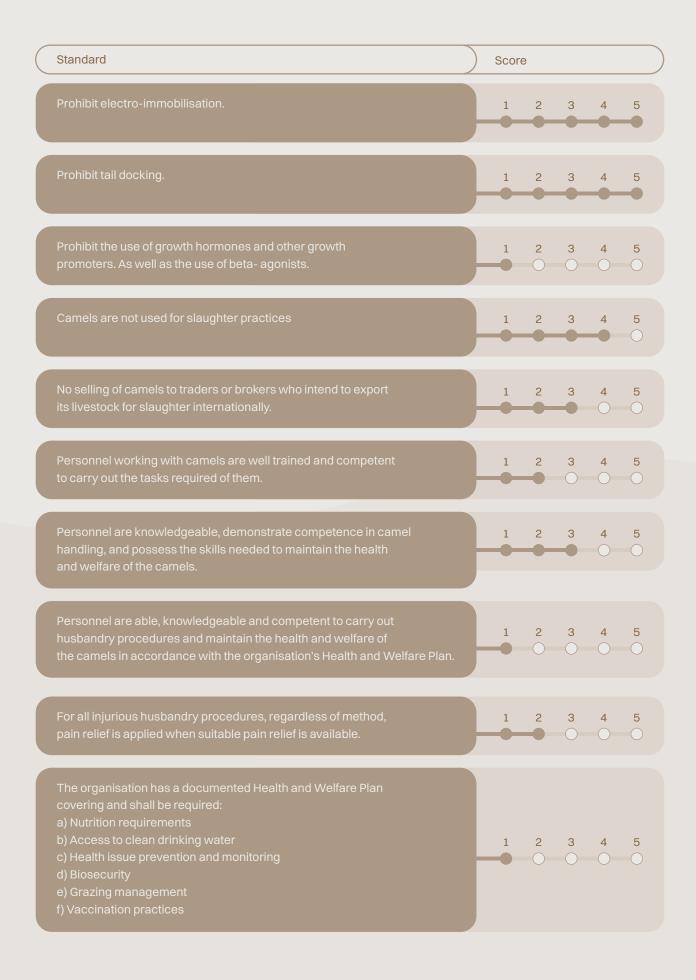
Standard Score All operational buildings on the site are structurally sound.

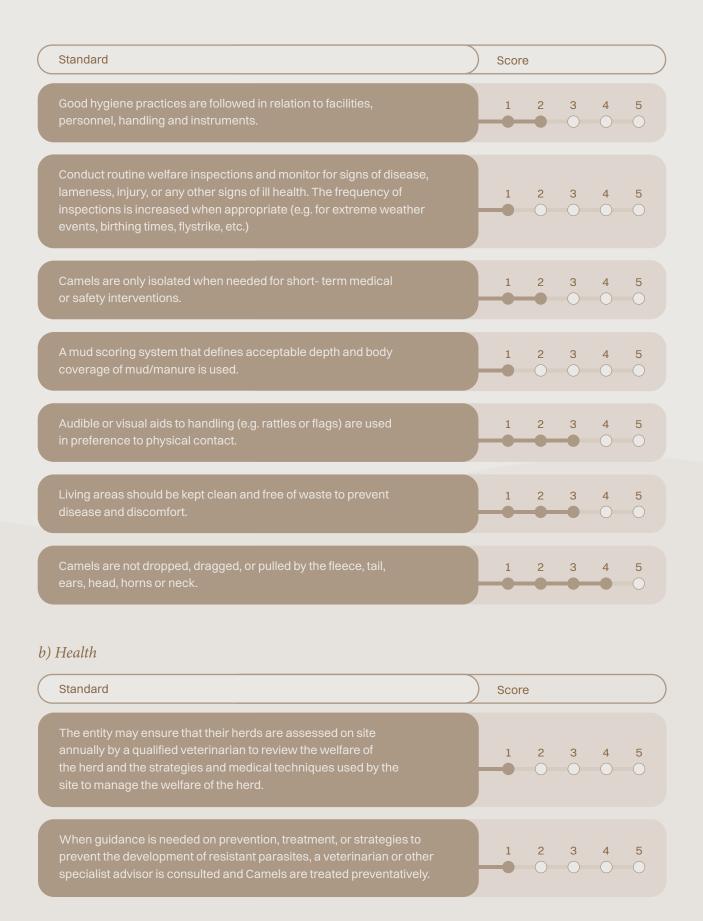


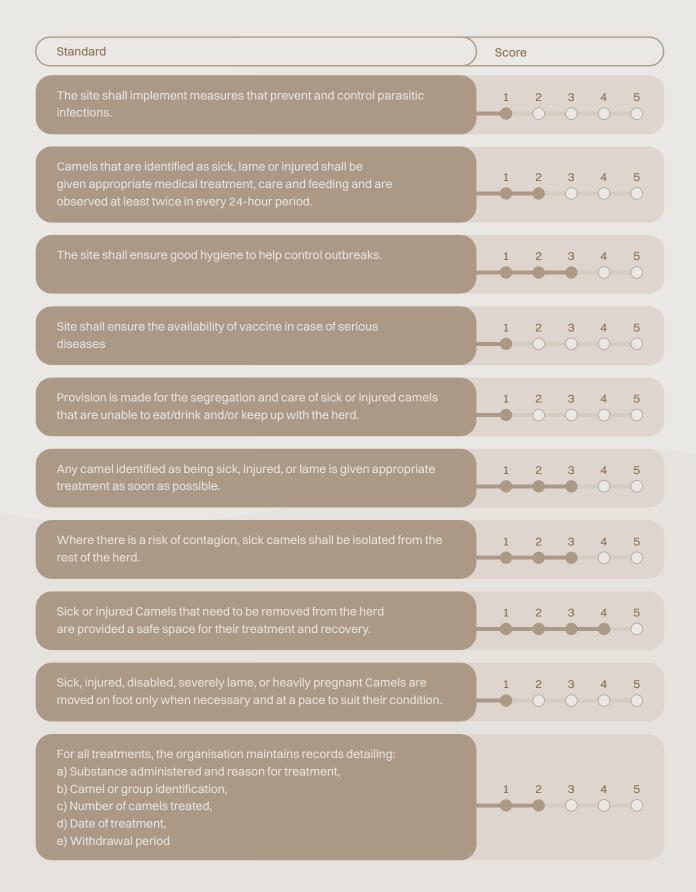
Health and Management

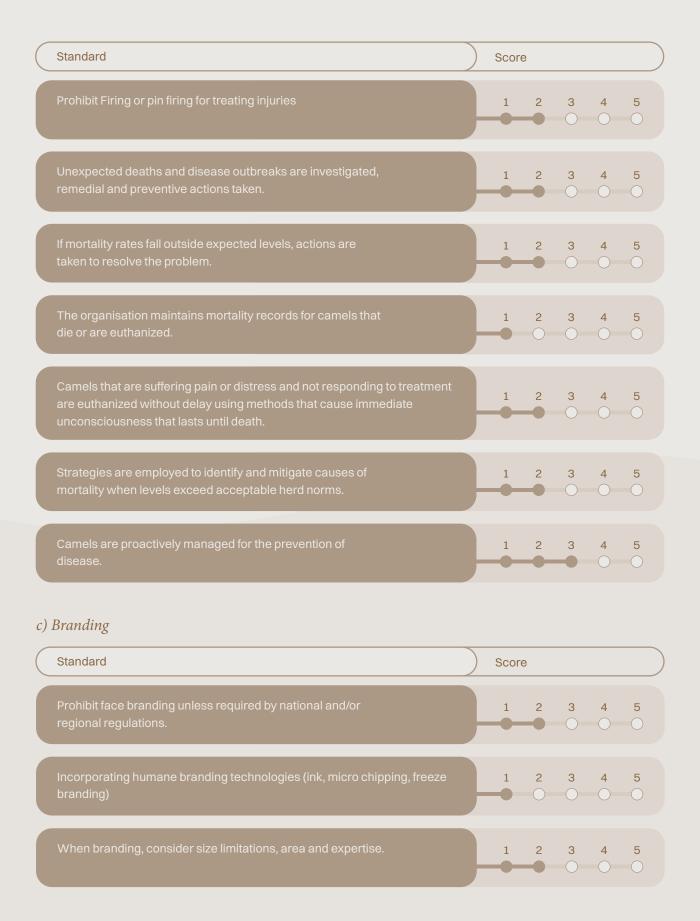
a) Management

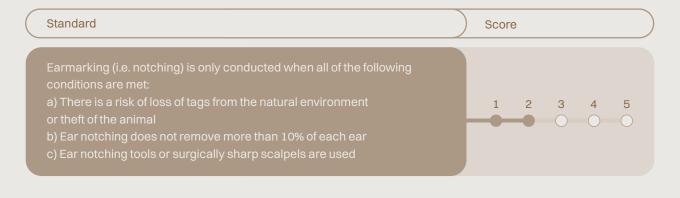
Standard	Score	
The site shall ensure that camels are handled humanely, such that they do not experience physical or emotional abuse.	1 2	3 4 5
Camels must not be chased or struck using whips, sticks, stones, or electric devices.	1 2	3 4 5
The site shall prohibit: kicking, striking, tripping, slamming gates onto, throwing or dropping, dragging or lifting by their coat, tail, horns, ears, head, neck or back legs.	1 2	3 4 5
Where camels are at risk from predators, sites shall take measures to reduce risk of attack and injury.	1 2	3 4 5
Where Camels show signs of heat or cold stress or distress from exposure to noxious gases, immediate corrective action is taken.	1 2	3 4 5
Camels should have their health and safety protected and are not exposed to potential toxins.	1 2	3 4 5
Prohibit the use of electric prods.	1 2	3 4 5
Electric prods shall only be used under the following conditions: Never be applied to the face, genitals, udder, or anal area. Only be used when the camel is mobile, and there are no obstacles, e.g., other animals. Only be used once on a single camel. Never be used on camels that are clearly sick. Never be used on baby camels under six months of age.	1 2	3 4 5







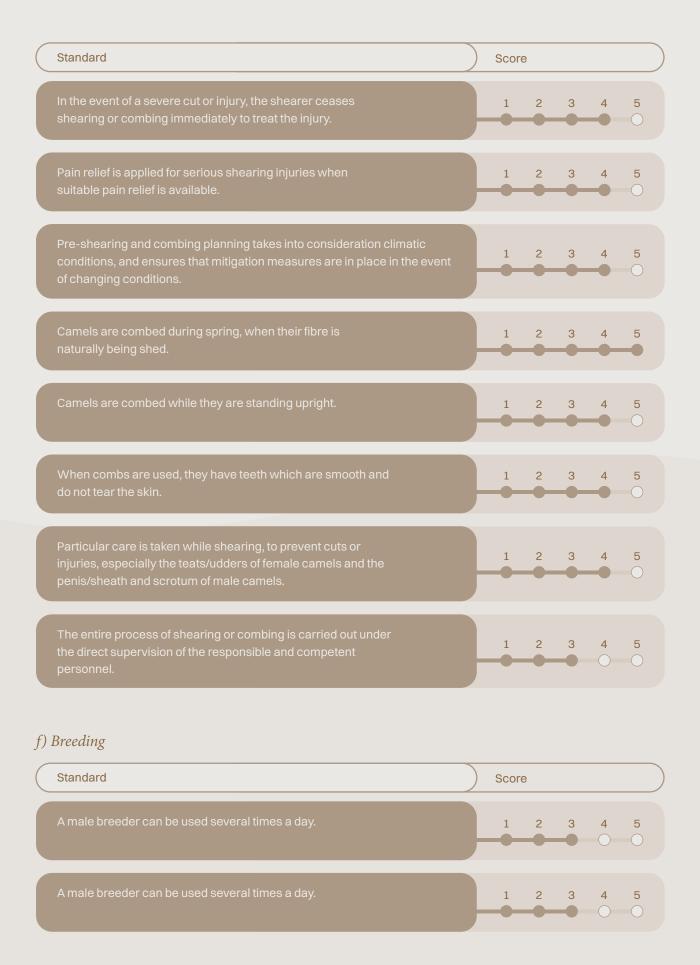




d) Restraining

Standard	Score
Both standing up and lying down methods are allowed, if done competently and the camel is calm and compliant.	1 2 3 4 5
Camels are restrained for the minimum time required.	1 2 3 4 5
Camels are restrained in positions that ensure they cannot inhale regurgitated stomach contents	1 2 3 4 5
The site shall ensure that their camels are not left unsupervised while under temporary restraint.	1 2 3 4 5
Nose pegs are used as a means of controlling or guiding camels but not for restraining reasons	1 2 3 4 5
Ensuring a proper application and care when inserting a nose peg	1 2 3 4 5
The use of less traditional, adequately designed, and safe nose pegs with appropriate shape and size.	1 2 3 4 5
Restrained camels are under constant supervision.	1 2 3 4 5
Camels are released from restraint if they are struggling so much that they might injure themselves.	1 2 3 4 5

e) Harvesting



Standard	Scor	е			
A male breeder can be used for every 25-30 females in a herd.	1	2	3	4	5
The site shall not keep the same male in a herd for more than 5 years to avoid too much inbreeding.	1	2	3	4	5
A female camel should not be put to breeding too young, which weakens its fertility.	1	2	3	4	5
The female camel's minimum age of breeding is between 2.5 and 5 years.	1	2	3	4	5
The site shall ensure that female camels do not breed too often.	1	2	3	4	5
Male camels's ideal age for breeding is between 5 and 12 years old.	1	2	3	4	5
The female camel is considered ready for breeding when its weight is not less than 65% of the adult weight.	1	2	3	4	5
Breeding of camels shortly after puberty or in later breeding cycles should be done on the first and second day of heat if visible, as it is when the proportion of fertile mating is highest.	1	2	3	4	5
Under good maintenance conditions, female camels can be mated 4–5 months after calving.	1	2	3	4	5
Where the site uses camels for breeding, the site shall ensure that herds have a gender ratio that is not detrimental to the sexual health of the males.	1	2	3		5
The site shall consider fibre length, fineness and colour when selecting camels for breeding.	1	2	3	4	5
Set requirements for the minimum percentage of adult weight that must be reached before first breeding.	1	2	3		5

Standard)	Score	;)
Artificial breeding procedures are carried out by competent operators.		1	2	3	4	5	
Cervical artificial insemination and pregnancy diagnosis is only carried out by persons trained and competent with the techniques.		1	2	3	4	5	
Routine electroejaculation is not used.		1	2	3	4	5	
Laparoscopic artificial insemination is not used for camels		1	2	3	4	5	
Embryotomy is only performed by a skilled person or veterinarian on unborn animals that are dead.		1	2	3	4	5	
Artificially rearing is only conducted in an emergency situation (e.g., when the young animal is rejected by its mother, the mother is sick, dies or has insufficient milk, and when fostering to an alternative female).		1	2	3	4	5	
Breeding choices and techniques for camels shall not risk their health or the health of their babies.		1	2	3	4	5	
Breeding choices proactively select for welfare traits such as longevity, disease resilience, and not just production traits.		1	2	3	4	5	
Birthing is supervised and timely action taken while keeping disturbances to a minimum.		1	2	3	4	5	

g) Pregnancy

h) Transportation

Standard

Score

The site shall ensure that transport vehicles have enough space for camels to lie down and stand without their heads touching any roof.

1 2 3 4 5

The site shall ensure that camels do not experience heat and/or cold stress during transport.

1 2 3 4 5

Where used, the site shall ensure that housing, transport vehicles and transport loading facilities are free from unpleasant or strong odours. The aim is that ammonia levels are below 1-2ppm at the level of animals and there are 10-20 air changes per hour.



Camels that should be treated and cannot move on their own due to illness or injury, are moved humanely (e.g. by truck, sled, or cart)



The following camels are only transported if the journey is short (less than 50km):

1 2 3 4 5

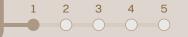
- Heavily pregnant females
- Newborn camels
- Females that have given birth in the previous seven days

The following camels are not transported, unless it is for the purposes of veterinary treatment:

- a) Sick injured weak or disabled Camels
- b) Camels that are unable to stand unaided and bear weight on each leq
- c) Blind in both eves
- d) Camels that cannot be moved without causing them additional suffering
- e) Camels' body condition would result in poor welfare because of the expected climatic conditions.



Contingency plans are in place to move any Camels that become lame or weak (during movement on foot) by vehicle.



At every stage of transport, camels are cared for by a sufficient number of personnel, who collectively possess the appropriate ability, knowledge, and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the camels.



h) Transportation

Standard Score i) Castration Standard Score

i) Castration

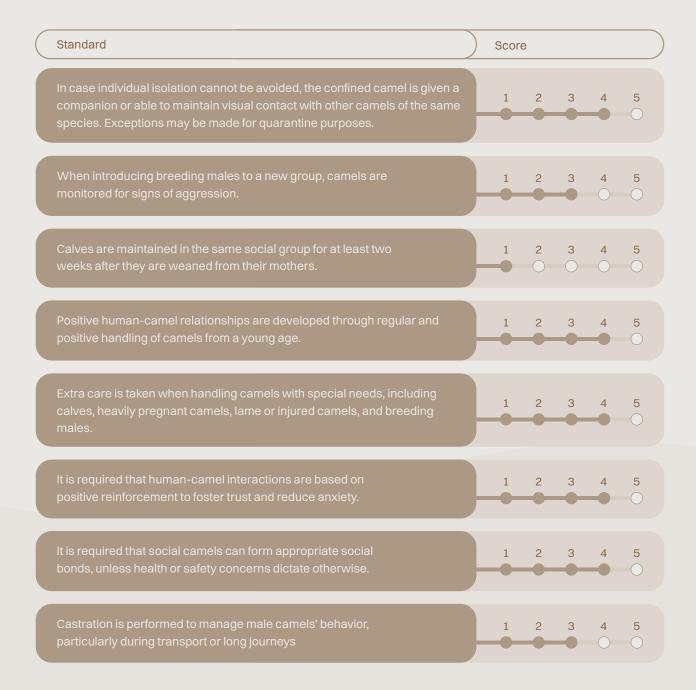


j) Sustainable and Regenerative Practices

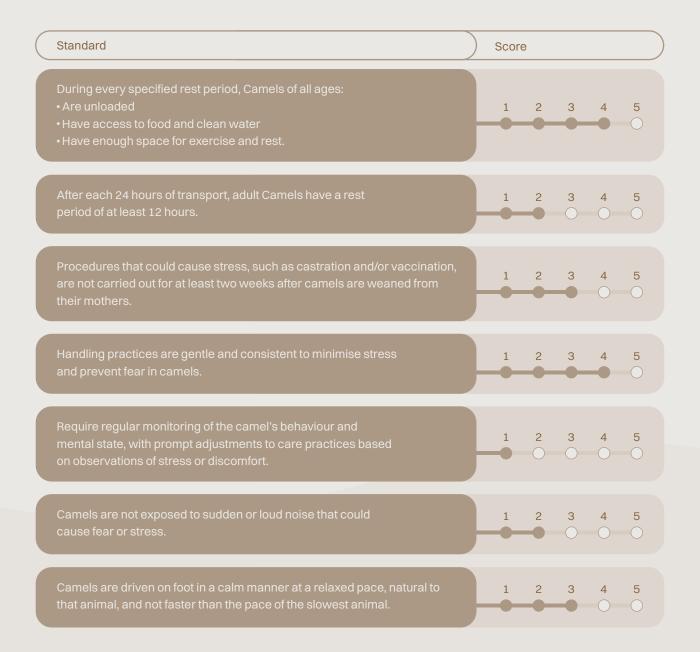


Standard) Sc	ore			
Evaluation of clean facilities regularly.			2	3	4	5
Ensure Good feeding: "Appropriate nutrition" and "About of prolonged thirst.	sence		2	3	4	5
Ensure clean water(deprived from organic matter are and location(under sun or in shade: record the temp			2	3	4	5
Camels are rotated across smaller paddocks to allow to recover and regrow before being grazed again.	/ pastures		2	3	4	5
Fostering biodiversity by incorporating native plant s beneficial organisms like pollinators and soil microbe				3	4	5
Using manure from grazing camels as natural fertilise soil, enriching it with nutrients necessary for plant gro			2	3	4	5
Using regenerative grazing methods allow plants to a grazings and establish deeper roots which, in turn, in nutrients, soil structure and fertility.		1	2	3	4	5
Using organic materials (manure, plant residues) or s stabilize loose soil, preventing erosion and aiding in r		1	2	3	4	5

Behaviour



Mental State



The five domains of animal welfare nutrition, environment, health, behaviour, and mental state are interconnected. Improvements in one area, such as providing proper nutrition or gentle handling, positively impact the animal's overall health and mental well-being. Conversely, deficiencies in any domain can lead to negative effects on the others. Thus, a holistic approach to animal welfare, addressing all interconnected aspects, is essential for ensuring the well-being of the animal.

Conclusion

At NOUKK, we are deeply committed to the highest standards of animal welfare, particularly concerning the care of Arabian camels. Our approach ensures that camel hair is sourced ethically, only from natural shedding, and reflects our dedication to humane and sustainable practices. This report highlights our adherence to Sustainable Fibre Alliance and the Textile Exchange's Benchmark for Animal Welfare and outlines our use of the Five Domains Model to continually assess and improve our practices.

We are actively enhancing our operations by exploring sustainable techniques and educating suppliers, aiming to address areas for improvement and exceed industry standards. Our ongoing efforts emphasize transparency, ethical treatment, and respect for animal well-being. NOUKK is dedicated to advancing these practices, ensuring our contributions to high-quality, responsibly sourced textiles are both effective and compassionate.

ANNEX

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Contact Information

We are delighted to address any questions you may have and look forward to advancing the conversation. We are eager to hear your expert thoughts on how we can enhance our animal welfare operations. Please feel free to contact us at:

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