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The Camel, the desert ship is on its way to extinction in Iraq Report on Slaughtered Camels in Iraq

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Abstract

The numbers of camels in Iraq are decreasing year after year due to many causes, one of these are the continuous slaughtering. This report is highlighted the numbers of slaughtered camels in Iraq and the solution to overcome this phenomenon.

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Introduction

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the breeding and production of camels in many Arab countries because of their economic value and their distinctive characteristics in facing the difficult environmental conditions. There is no animal resembling the camels by adapting to the desert atmosphere. It can live, reproduce and work under harsh environmental conditions. It is the only animal that consumes less food resources in the Arabian Desert to produce abundant quantities of meat, milk and other products. That is why God mentioned it in the Quran in Surat Al-Ghashiyah: "Do not they look at the camel how it was created?" Also, Prophet Mohammed (The Messenger of Allah) said (The camel is Almighty to her family).

Iraq is considered as one of the most Arab countries with the presence of numbers of camels, but these numbers are decreasing in a way that need be investigate to find the reasons and solutions and to prevent this animal from reaching the point of extinction. No previous publication have been found in literatures concerning slaughtering of camels in Iraq. Therefore, this study was designed to focus on the situation and number of slaughtered camels in Iraq.

Data collection

The total numbers of animals in Iraq during the period between 1965 and 1970 is presented in table. (1), according to statistic data collected by ministry of agriculture.

Table. 1: Shows the Total number of animals in Iraq in years 1965 and 1970 including camel.

Species of animals	**Year 1965**	**Year 1970**
Sheep	11040205	13099792
Goat	1145488	2300935
Cow	1454922	1689384
Buffalo	224622	224622
Camel	210839	266143

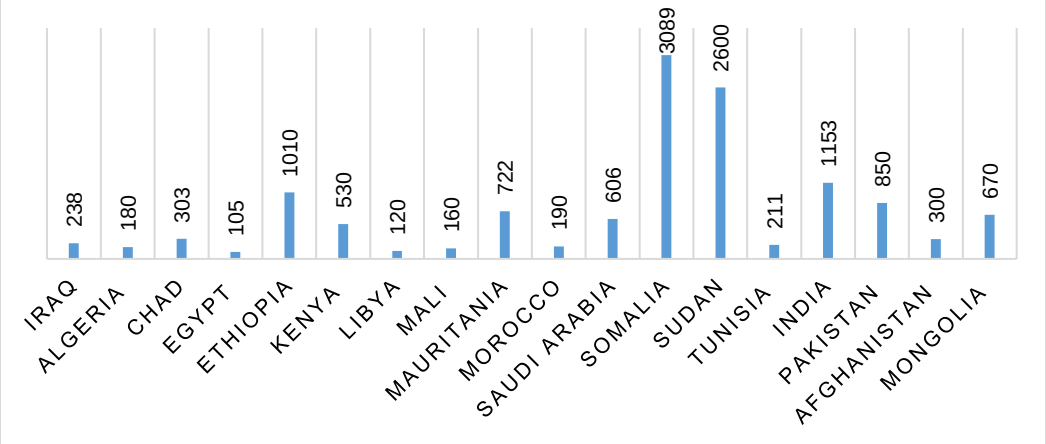
Ministry of agriculture/ Department of Statistics for the year 1969

Moreover, the countries and the numbers of camel are represented in table (2) and. In 1975, Iraq owned 238000 heads of camel in compare to other countries Figure (1).

Table. 2 : Shows the numbers of camel in each country(X 1000)

Country	**Numbers**
Iraq	238
Algeria	180
Chad	303
Egypt	105
Ethiopia	1010
Kenya	530
Libya	120
Mali	160
Mauritania	722
Morocco	190
Saudi Arabia	606
Somalia	3089
Sudan	2600
Tunisia	211
India	1153
Pakistan	850
Afghanistan	300
Mongolia	670

Statistics of FAO at 1976



Statistics of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 1976

Figure. 1: Shows the total number of camels in Iraq and in other camels breeder countries in 1975 (X 1000)

The camel's population was revealed variability in during the years (1975 to 1984) that is presented in table (3).

Table. 3: Shows the variability in camel's population in Iraq during years 1975 to 1984

Year	Numbers of camels	Observations
1975	338000	(1) Statistics of the Central Organization for Statistics Organization of FAO and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development AOAD
(1) 1976	52352	
1978	69700	
1982	80000	
1983	80000	
1984	70000	
(2) 2008	58000	(2) Report of the National Survey of Livestock in Iraq for the year 2008

Meat of the Camel

Studies indicate that meat of the camel calf is similar in its composition and taste to beef meat (Knoes, 1977; Shereha, 1990). The rate of body weight, growth and the characteristics of the of meat production in camels under the natural pastures from many regions are presented in table (4). In camel, the average daily weight gain in the first period of birth until the age of six months was 758 g. The rate decreased from 6 months to one year. The weight of male and female was 512 and 476 respectively with a refinement rate (54%), which are better than meat of the local cattle in properties, qualities and rate production. In addition, camel meat is characterized by good taste and softness, especially in two years of age. In camel, the average daily weight gain

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Table.4: shows the rates of body weight/ Kg in camels for both sex male and female.

Character	Rate of body weight / kg	
	Male	Female
Weight at birth	39.2	35.8
Weight at 6 months	174.6	172.1
Weight at 12 months	274.0	262.0
Weight at 24 months	401.1	377.6
Weight at 5 years	523.0	493.0

Number of slaughtered camels in Iraq

According to the available data, for example, in 1975, a total of 6,367 heads were slaughtered in the Baghdad abattoir only (abattoir report in 1975) and 635 heads in 1989 in Baghdad also for the month of January (Al Ani, 1999).
The slaughtered camels was reached about 24151 head in Iraqi provinces according to survey report (2008) of the national Iraqi livestock (Table.5 & Figure. 2).

Table. 5: Shows the number of slaughtered camel during 12 months of year 2008

Governorate	**Numbers of slaughtered camel during 12 months of 2008**
Dohuk	-
Nineveh	9575
Sulaymaniyah	-
Kirkuk	-
Erbil	-
Daialya	156
Anbar	153
Baghdad	-
Babel	235
Karbala	56
Wassit	2080
Salah Eldin	250
Najaf	362
Al Qadissya	1344
Al Muthanna	1140
Dhi Qar	1648
Mayssan	3045
Basra	4107
Total number	**24151**

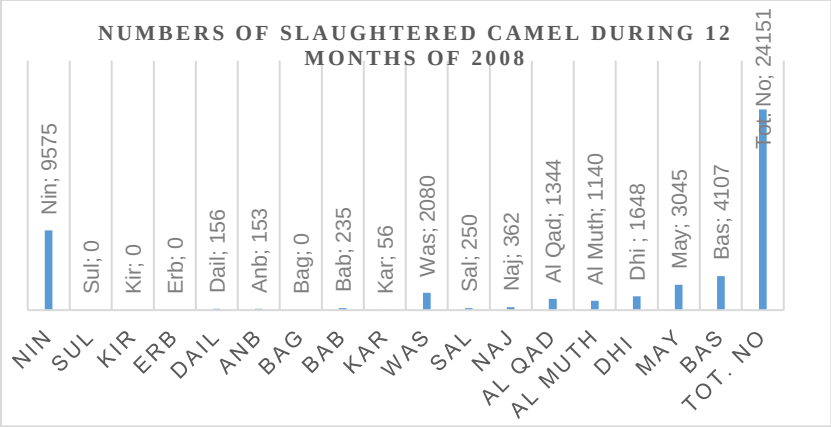

Figure. 2: Shows the number of slaughtered camel in Iraqi governorate during 12 months of year 2008 (Doh=Dohuk, Nin=Nineveh, Sul=Sulaymaniya, Kir=Kirkuk, Erb=Erbil, Dai=Daialya, Anb= Anbar, Bag=Baghdad, Bab=Babel, Kar= Karbala,Was=Wassit, Sal=Salah Eldin, Naj=Najaf, Al Qad=Al Qadissya, AlMuth=Al Muthanna, DHi=Dhi Qar, May=Mayssan, Bas=Basra, Tot No= Total number).

The recent data on the number of slaughtered camel in Iraq was also collected for the last 5 years in between 2013 to 2107 (Table. 6). The total number of the slaughtered camels in Iraq was 33767 head of camels last five years. These are huge numbers if compare to the total number 58293 that released at year 2008 for camelids in Iraq at a percentage of 58%. Despite the breeding and proliferation of camels, and if the slaughtering process is continued, the camelids are at risk if no policy and actions taken to limit this procedure.

Table. 6: Shows the total numbers of slaughtered camels in Iraqi governorates during the years 2013 to 2017.

Governorate	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Baghdad	0	1	0	0	0
Nineveh	0	5	81	0	0
Basra	0	0	0	0	0
Babel	64	122	114	0	12
Karbala	253	42	94	125	27
Najaf	2598	3259	3421	3353	2288
Al Qadissya	2019	2534	2929	2502	2286
Dhi Qar	225	225	294	274	268
Mayssan	143	166	191	78	69
Wassit	0	0	24	0	0
Daialya	0	0	0	0	0
Salah Eldin	87	1	0	0	0
Kirkuk	0	2	1	15	18
Anbar	17	0	0	0	0
Al Muthanna	555	610	812	881	562
Total	**5961**	**7067**	**7991**	**7216**	**5532**

Directory Veterinary Service procedures to protect camelid from slaughtering

The veterinary department observed the danger of continuous slaughtering of camels and issued instructions to prevent non-equilibrium slaughtering and circulated to all Iraqi governorates veterinary hospitals. These instructions are including the following points:

1. The slaughtering of camels should be strict and according to law and regulations previously issued regarding slaughtering of animals in abattoirs. A new emphasis official letters were issued from Veterinary Department's number 15708 on 9/11/2015 and No. 16650 on 20/10/2016 regarding the necessity of preventing slaughtering of camels complying with the Law of Organizing the Slaughter of Animals No. (22) of 1972 and the Instructions No. (2) for the year 1990 statement ″animals not to be slaughter until confirming and certified by the veterinary hospital proving that the animal old or sick is not fit for breeding″.
2. Prevent slaughtering of camels in general and she camels in particular with a veterinary health certificate shows that this animals is not suitable for breeding and reproduction for any reason (The report should be written from a committee members of veterinarians in the veterinary hospital.
3. Training and education should provide camel breeders from the Bedouins to prevent slaughtering and give more care for their camels because they are one of the national t is important economic wealth in Iraq.
4. Provide a pasture, especially in the low rainfall seasons, and renting land for them and Diging of artesian water wells for planting field crops.
5. Provide camel's breeder with concentrated feed.
6. Prevent smuggling and force them to use plastic counting tag to prevent this phenomenon.

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