



The Journal of Zoology Studies  
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## Animal Mortality in South Karnataka

**Authors:** S. Rajashekara and S. Chandrashekara

Animal mortality is the death of animal individuals in the natural population. This is of two types – natural mortality and unnatural mortality. The natural mortality is the specific mortality due to ageing and controlled by natural methods/nature. The unnatural mortality is the actual loss of an individual under the circumstances created by man-made environment.

The animal mortality in South Karnataka from January to June 2009 was collected from the secondary data. The secondary data means the mass communication media that mainly includes the *Bangalore Mirror*, *Deccan Herald* (English), and *Prajavani* (Kannada) – news paper. From the news papers, data on the mortality of various animals such as Bears, Bisons, Blackbucks, Cow calves, Deer, Elephants, Leopards, Monkey, Sheep, and Tigers are collected. Then data was analyzed to estimate the number of death cases and percentage of mortality reported.

The highest number and percentage of mortality reported by the blackbucks was 78 and 45.88 respectively. The death of blackbucks was due to the natural conditions like the thunder, lightning, and heavy raining. The lowest mortality was reported by the deer and monkey was 0.59 percent each and one each in number (Figure 1). The deer death was due to the ordinary fencing of the agricultural fields and the death of monkey due to the electric shocks.

The animals rescued from the various circumstances were shown in the Figure 2. The stray dogs and cow calves were saved from the slaughter houses 173 and 86 respectively. The stray dogs should be conserved, otherwise the native species – dogs were perished from the India. The cow calves serves the animal products like butter, curds, milk, geese and other milk products. This way all the animals were helpful to human beings in one or other way. The crocodiles were saved from rearing and then trading in the farm houses by the human beings without licenses from the Government.

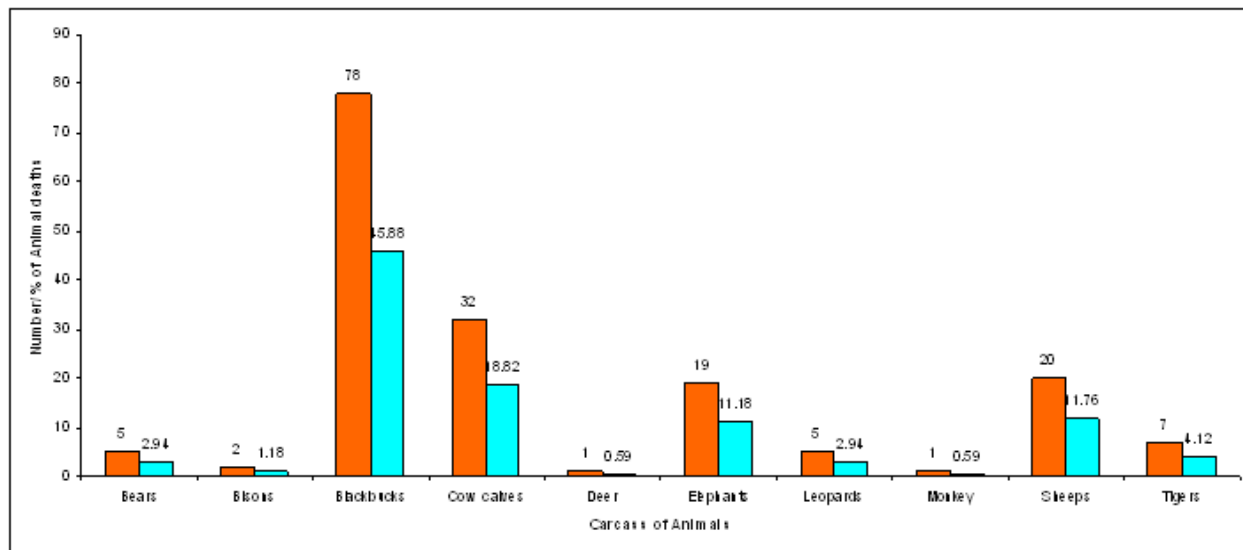


Fig 1: Histogram represents the mortality of various animals in South Karnataka (January-June 2009)

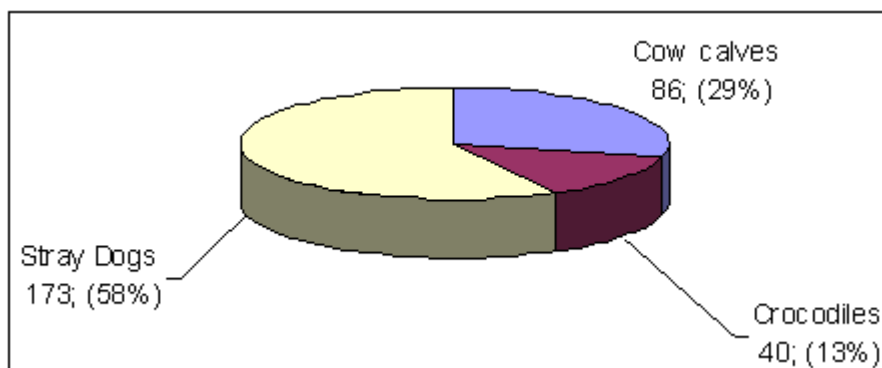


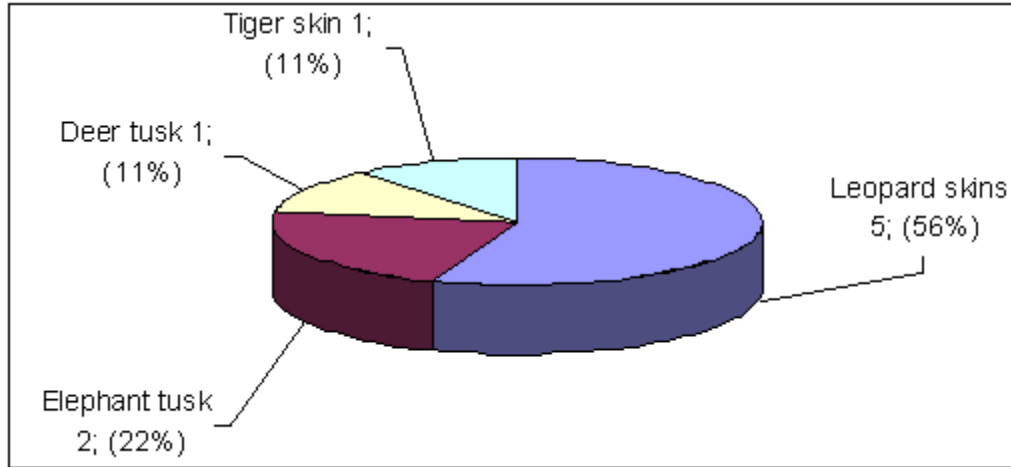
Fig 2: Number of animals rescued from various circumstances.

The animal products were prevented from trading in the number and percentages were given in the Figure 3. The skins of Tiger and Leopard was prevented from the selling and handed over to the forest department. Similarly tusks of deer and elephants were captured by the government people from the trading by the poachers.

Human habitation is very and fast closing on the boundary of many national parks, and forests in Karnataka. This may lead to human and animal conflict, then it transformed in to animal and human conflict. Encroachment of forest lands, lack of buffer zones, and lack of environmental awareness are the main causes for mortality of animals and their conflicts. When human beings encroaches the animals land – forest for their utility, then naturally animals interferes the human activities. For example, an

elephants visits the agricultural fields when the time comes for crop harvesting and damages it or ate the ripened fruits, damages the property, kill the live stocks, or worse, attack people.

To prevent the elephant's arrival, electric fencing was done by the human beings for the control of elephant encroachments. This makes the unnatural death of animals which leads to the imbalance of ecological equilibrium. The death of elephants was 19 in numbers and 11.18 in percent for the six months of study period in our case. Out of these, only three were natural death and other deaths were caused by the electrocution. It was reported that once Karnataka has about 50,000 elephants. And if this situation continues, then no elephant can be seen from the State.



**Fig 3:** Trading of animal products that have been prevented.

Everywhere the same problem continues between animals and the human beings. The reasons such as the lack of fodder, habitat destruction, forest degradation and destruction of feeding habitat for animal conflicts. To conserve this, human

encroachment and human activities should be minimized and the forest area should be prevented from the human recreational activities and even safari's.

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