



# **ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY**

## **FOR COMPANY & VALUE CHAIN PARTNERS**

**HERITAGE FOODS LIMITED**

**CIN:** L15209TG1992PLC014332

**Regd. Off:** H.No.8-2-293/82/A/1286,

Plot No: 1286, Road No. 1 & 65, Jubilee Hills,

Hyderabad, Telangana - 500 033

**Tel:**+91-40 2339 1221/222, 4212 9999

**Fax:** 040 – 2331 8090, 2332 6789

**Email:** hfl@heritagefoods.in **Website:**www.heritagefoods.in

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## 1. Introduction & Policy Statement

i. Heritage Foods Limited (herein after called “HFL”/ “Company”) is committed for promoting animal welfare within our value chain by encouraging responsible and ethical dairy farming practices. While we do not own dairy farms or animals, we procure milk from farmers who are key stakeholders in our supply chain.

ii. **This policy provides a framework to positively influence animal health and welfare through social and educational interventions. Since independent farmers own dairy animals, our role is limited to promoting awareness, providing guidance, and enabling access to resources that enhance their well-being rather than enforcing direct control over animal care practices.**

iii. Classification of the Policy: Value Chain Stewardship Policy.

### **Value Chain Stewardship Policy Statement:**

"We commit to positively influencing our value chain through collaboration, ethical engagement and capacity-building, fostering responsible practices without imposing, ensuring mutual growth, sustainability, and long-term stakeholder value creation."

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## 2. Scope

i. This policy applies voluntarily to all milk suppliers, including farmers and agents, who are part of HFL’s supply chain. Thereafter, the company may review the terms of applicability in partial or full.

ii. The policy is also aligned with Clause 2(iv) and Clause 2(vii) of Heritage Foods' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Policy, which focuses on promoting animal welfare, sustainable agriculture, and livelihood enhancement programs for dairy farmers.

iii. The policy integrates the efforts of our subsidiary, Heritage Nutrivet Limited, and our digital initiative, Heritage VET+, to provide nutritional support and veterinary guidance for dairy animals.

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## 3. Guidelines for Farmers

The company works for the welfare of dairy farmers through the company initiative **Heritage Farmers Welfare Activities (HFWA)**. We encourage all our associated farmers to follow these best practices to ensure the welfare of their cattle:

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**i. Nutrition & Feeding**

- To encourage farmers to provide a balanced diet using high-quality cattle feed and supplements to ensure proper health and milk production as per BIS Specifications.

**ii. Housing & Hygiene**

- To motivate farmers to maintain clean and well-ventilated shelters, ensuring adequate space and protection from extreme weather conditions.

**iii. Healthcare & Veterinary Support**

- Conduct regular veterinary check-ups, and supply deworming tablets to prevent diseases and maintain cattle health.

**iv. Milking Hygiene**

- To guide the farmers to follow hygienic milking practices to ensure milk safety and prevent disease transmission.

**v. Breeding & Calf Care**

- To promote long-term sustainability, utilize responsible breeding practices, including artificial insemination, and ensure proper care of calves.

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**4. Training & Awareness**

To ensure the best dairy farming practices, HFL will:

- i. Conduct regular farmer training programs on animal nutrition, disease prevention, and hygienic milking practices.
- ii. Provide educational materials and technical guidance from veterinary experts.
- iii. Encourage farmers to adopt modern and ethical dairy farming techniques.
- iv. Disseminate success stories of progressive farmers on our YouTube channel to inspire and educate others.
- v. Provide educational videos on cattle management through digital platforms for better reach.
- vi. The company has developed an exclusive application, Heritage Vet Plus, to enable

farmers to access veterinarians and offer digital veterinary consultations via phone calls. This ensures correct and professional advice while helping farmers avoid unqualified practitioners.

## **5. Animal Welfare Standards**

Dairy farmers and Representatives/franchises in the Heritage Foods value chain are motivated to follow and implement the following animal welfare practices:

### **i. Housing and Shelter**

- Ensure that dairy animals are housed in clean, safe, and comfortable shelters, protecting them from extreme weather conditions.
- Provide adequate space for animals to move freely and express natural behaviours.

### **ii. Nutrition and Water**

- Supply dairy animals with a balanced and nutritious diet, suitable for their age and health status.
- Ensure continuous access to clean and fresh water at all times.
- Incorporate high-quality feed and supplements, such as those provided by Heritage Nutrivet Limited, to improve animal health and milk productivity.

### **iii. Health Care**

- Conduct regular health check-ups for dairy animals and provide necessary medical attention as required.
- Maintain accurate health records to track vaccinations, treatments, and disease history.
- Participate in veterinary services and cattle health camps organized by Heritage Nutrivet Limited to enhance animal health and productivity.
- Utilize the Heritage VET+ platform for remote veterinary guidance and primary diagnosis.

### **iv. Handling and Management**

- Treat all dairy animals with care and respect, avoiding any form of mistreatment, neglect, or abuse.
- Adopt low-stress handling techniques during milking, feeding, and transportation.

### **v. Breeding and Reproduction**

- Follow ethical breeding practices that prioritise the health and well-being of both the mother and offspring.
- Avoid practices that may cause harm or undue stress to the dairy animals.

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## **vi. Transportation**

- Ensure that transportation minimises stress and prevents injury to dairy animals.
- Comply with all relevant animal welfare regulations regarding the transportation of livestock.

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## **6. Continuous Improvement**

- i. We are committed to continuously collaborating with value chain partners to improve animal welfare standards and promote best practices in dairy farming.
- ii. We will actively seek feedback from stakeholders, including suppliers, customers, and animal welfare organisations to enhance our interventions and refine support mechanisms for dairy farmers.
- iii. We will explore new scientific advancements, innovative feeding solutions, and veterinary care models to strengthen animal health and productivity.
- iv. Training programs and awareness campaigns will be regularly updated based on emerging industry trends and research in animal welfare to provide dairy farmers with the most effective and sustainable practices.

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## **7. Conclusion**

- i. By implementing this value chain-focused Animal Welfare Policy, HFL in collaboration with Heritage Nutrivet Limited and initiatives like Heritage VET+, aims to promote the humane and ethical treatment of dairy animals.
- ii. Our efforts are centered on education, nutritional support, and veterinary accessibility, reflecting our dedication to responsible and sustainable business practices.