

Table S1 Interview questions

1. Respondent's sex
2. Respondent's age
3. Education level
4. Are you yak herder?
5. How long have you been herding yaks?
6. Presently, how many yaks are you herding?
7. Do you provide supplementary forages?
8. (If Yes) When do you provide supplementary forage to your yaks?
9. (If Yes) Which category of yak age and sex do you provide supplementary forage?
10. Currently, how often do you allow your yak to drink water from the water source in a day?
11. Currently, how often do you drive yaks to water source to drink in a day?
12. Currently, how often do bring water to the yaks in a day?
13. From October 2017 to September 2018, how many yaks died last year?
14. From October 2017 to September 2018, how often did your receive extension or veterinary services?
15. From October 2017 to September 2018, were your yaks vaccinated?
16. (If Yes) Which vaccinations were conducted to your yaks?
17. (If Yes) How often did you vaccinated yaks?
18. From October 2017 to September 2018, were your yaks dewormed?
19. (If Yes) Which medicines for deworming did you gave to your yaks?
20. (If Yes) How often do you deworm your yaks?
21. (If Yes) Which category of yak age and sex is dewormed?
22. From October 2017 to September 2018, did you treat yaks against ectoparasites?
23. (If Yes) How often did you treat yaks against ectoparasites?
24. What are the ethno-veterinary medicines (or traditional knowledge) available for you to use to treat sick yaks?
25. Do you provide a separate calving area for yak cows?
26. How often do you assist yak cow during calving in a year?
27. At what age do you tie a yak calf after calving?
28. Do you have a specific order to milk yak cows?
29. Do you have a yak shed?
30. (If Yes) Do you have a yak shed for all age groups of yak?
31. (If No) Which yak age group and sex gets a shed?
32. Do you practice disbudding of a yak calf in your herd?
33. (If Yes) When is a calf disbudded?
34. (If Yes) What method is used to disbud a yak calf?
35. (If Yes) Do you use analgesic or anaesthesia during disbudding procedure?
36. Do you dehorn adult yak?
37. (If Yes) When is a yak dehorned?
38. (If yes) Who performs dehorning of the adult yak?
39. (If Yes) What method is used for dehorning the adult yaks?
40. (If Yes) Do you use analgesic or anaesthesia during dehorning process?
41. Do you pierce the nose of a yak for ringing?
42. (If Yes) When is a yak nose pierced for nose ringing?

43. (If Yes) Who pierces the nose of a yak for ringing?
44. (If Yes) What method is used for piercing nose of a yak for ringing?
45. (If Yes) Do you use analgesic or anaesthesia during piercing of nose?
46. Do you castrate male yak?
47. (If Yes) When is a male yak castrated?
48. (If Yes) Who perform castration of a yak?
49. (If Yes) What castration method is used in yak?
50. (If Yes) Do you use analgesic or anaesthesia during yak castration?
51. Do you think that yaks have feelings?
52. Do you think that yaks can be stressed?
53. Do you give name to your yaks?

Table S4 The fixed effects results from the linear mixed model (LMM) for avoidance distance. The eastern region is the “intercept”, used as the reference.

Fixed effects	Estimate	Standard error	Dendf	<i>t</i> -value	Model <i>P</i> value
Calf					
(Intercept)	3.377	0.173	268.940	19.499	0.000
Central region	-1.538	0.215		-7.170	
Western region	-1.515	0.205		-7.401	
Lactating cow					
(Intercept)	2.944	0.184	321.430	15.979	0.104
Central region	-0.474	0.228		-2.077	
Western region	-0.250	0.183		-1.369	

Table S5 The fixed effects results from the generalised linear mixed model (GLMM) for touched or not touched in the avoidance distance. The eastern region is the “intercept”, used as the reference.

Fixed effects	Estimate	Standard error	<i>z</i> value	Model <i>P</i> value
Calf				
(Intercept)	-2.708	0.453	-5.972	0.000
Central region	0.748	0.553	1.354	
Western region	2.374	0.484	4.901	
Lactating cow				
(Intercept)	-2.082	0.371	-5.608	0.032
Central region	-1.071	0.661	-1.620	
Western region	0.493	0.363	1.360	

Table S7 The percentage of health variables per herd assessed in three yak farming regions (median and min - max)

Variables	East (n = 17)	Central (n = 19)	West (n = 20)
Lesions			
Calf body area	0 (0 - 8)	0 (0 - 7)	0 (0 - 12)
Calf hind limb	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 10)
Calf fore limb	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)
Lactating cow body area	0 (0 - 8)	0 (0 - 17)	0 (0 - 8)
Lactating cow hind limb	0 (0 - 4)	0 (0 - 50)	0 (0 - 0)
Lactating cow fore limb	0 (0 - 4)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)
Dirty			
Calf body area	0 (0 - 5)	0 (0 - 50)	0 (0 - 8)
Calf hind limb	0 (0 - 5)	0 (0 - 50)	0 (0 - 5)
Lactating cow body area	0 (0 - 20)	0 (0 - 17)	0 (0 - 13)
Lactating cow hind limb	0 (0 - 10)	0 (0 - 17)	0 (0 - 0)
Ocular discharge			
Calf	0 (0 - 4)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)
Lactating cow	0 (0 - 4)	0 (0 - 25)	0 (0 - 0)
Nasal discharge			
Calf	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)
Lactating cow	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)
Diarrhoea			
Calf	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)
Lactating cow	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)
Lame			
Calf	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 20)	0 (0 - 25)
Lactating cow	0 (0 - 17)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 7)