



The Animal Welfare Board of India is an umbrella of the SPCAs / AWOs and animal welfare workers. The Board encourages animal welfare activities, advises the Central and State Governments on issues relating to Animal Welfare, particularly the prevention of cruelty to animals, and also helps to formulate animal welfare policies / legislations.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

A commitment to upgrade the professional skills through continuing education for its staff are the hallmarks of a mature organisation, and I am proud to engage the AWBI in partnering with several organisations, both government and in the NGO sectors, to offer a tremendous variety of learning opportunities for those working with animals.



People generally make the mistake of thinking and believing that since they have already received a diploma or a certificate their "school days" are over. Teachers also sometimes hold a mistaken notion that they are in a significantly different position than their students. But the fact of the matter is that all of us are, or should be, on a learning spree throughout our lives. Whether formal training or informal or on-the-job learning, we all need the fuel for professional growth to remain not only competitive in our fields, but also to remain personally inspired.

In this Newsletter as also in other AWBI publications you can read about the spectrum of programs and I sincerely hope you will consider attending or sending one of your colleagues to upgrade his / her skills. These training programmes offer unique social opportunities as well, enabling participants to meet their counterparts from other fields or organisations to share experiences, ideas, and innovations. Many of these relationships result in easier modes of future contact—a quick phone call to compare notes on a difficult veterinary medicine case; a question about handling a particular behavior problem in a dog. These can be life-saving information-gathering contacts also and the organized, formal courses provide a framework for unlimited growth, informal and highly practical pursuit of knowledge and ideas.

The spirit of learning teaches us to have respect for knowledge and the appreciation that quantum progress is impossible without continuous learning. The Animal Welfare Board of India is one of India's progressive institutions in the recognition of the importance of continuing education, and I look forward in the future to a buffet of opportunities through which each of us can find a course, seminar or workshop which gives us a chance to grow. □

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Newsletter

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September 2010 - March 2011

WVS INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER OPENED

Udhagamandalam: The opening of an international training centre of the Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS) at Aruvankadu, near here, marked the observation of the World Rabies Day in the district on Sep. 28, 2010.

Inaugurating the facility, the Chairman, Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), Major General (Retd) R.M. Kharb, AVSM pointed out that rabies in humans and animals is a major source of concern particularly in rural parts of India on account of illiteracy, lack of facilities and lack of awareness about dog bite prevention and post-bite precautions.

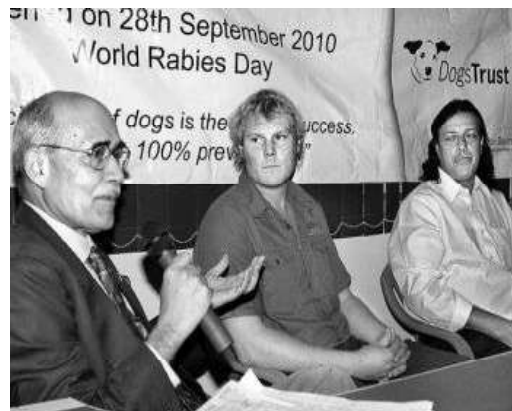
Underscoring the need to address the problem, General Kharb said that though rabies is fatal it is preventable. Pointing out that vaccination of dogs was the key to success, he said that AWBI had successfully implemented Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes among stray dogs in various places including Chennai. He estimated that with possibly 20 million dogs in India, making India rabies free is a huge

task.

General Kharb emphasized the need to implement participatory ABC programmes, and that civic bodies should be educated and sensitized to the relationship between street dog sterilization, rabies inoculation, dogs' territoriality, and human garbage as food source. False notions about stray dogs should be dispelled.

The Chief Executive, WVS Dr. Luke Gamble said that the aim of the centre is to train like-minded people and added that the WVS worked with over 300 associations in different parts of the World.

The Clinical Director of the



Centre, Dr. Ilona Otter said that in India cruelty to dogs stems from fear of rabies. However ridding the country of the dreaded disease is possible.

The Chairman, WVS, India, Shri Nigel Otter said that mass vaccination of dogs has been shown to be the most cost-effective method of preventing human rabies cases and is the method of choice in most of the developed countries. (IPAN) □

AWBI'S MISSION TO ENFORCE AND STRENGTHEN THE PCA ACT, 1960

New Delhi: From the dawn of civilization animals have contributed immensely to the welfare of humanity. Humanity has used and abused animals to fulfill its need and greed. However, with growing awareness of the sentence—that is, the sensitivity and

AWBI RECONSTITUTED

GOVT. NOMINATES MAJ.GEN.(RETD.) DR. R.M.KHARB A.V.S.M. AS CHAIRMAN AND DR. S. CHINNY KRISHNA AS VICE CHAIRMAN

CHENNAI: The Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi has reconstituted the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) vide Govt. of India Notification No.S.O.2882(E) dt.1.12.2010. Maj. General (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, A.V.S.M., has been nominated as the Chairman and Dr. S. Chinny Krishna as Vice Chairman of the AWBI.

The following Members have also been nominated to the Board : Director General of Forests, MoEF, the Animal Husbandry Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture New Delhi, Shri Sada Kant, IAS Joint Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs; Shri A.K.Srivastava, Inspector General of Forests (Wildlife) MoEF; Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Joint Secretary, MoEF; Shri Rajiv Gupta IAS, Govt. of Uttarakhand; Shri Asgar Samoon, IAS, Govt. of J & K; Ms.Jasjit Purewal, New

Delhi; Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dy.Director Incharge Central Research Institute, NOIDA; Dr.(Mrs.) M.Lahkar, Professor Govt. Medical College, Gauhati; Smt. Amala Akkineni, Blue Cross of Hyderabad, Hyderabad; Smt. Norma Alvares, People for Animals, Goa; Shri Guljari Lal Soni, Fatehpur Rajasthan Pinjarapole Society, Rajasthan; Mrs. Anjali Sharma, SPCA Noida; Shri Doulat Jain, SPCA Chennai; Dr. J.C.Kochar, SPCA Chandigarh; Dr. Arun Varma, Ex.ADG, ICAR, NOIDA. One representative of Municipal Corporation of Kolkata, one representative of Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon and one representative from HRD Ministry.



The tenure of the reconstituted Board is for a period of three years with effect from 1st Dec. 2010 (AWBI) □

complexity of animals as feelingful, emotional beings—many nations have enacted animal protection laws which oblige people to treat fellow animals with respect and compassion and protect and preserve wildlife.

The 20th century saw the emergence of an animal welfare movement, reaching beyond religious borders into ethics-based philosophical spheres in many parts of the world. Indian culture is based in part on the concept of Ahimsa (non- Violence against all living beings. Formalising this concept as law, Article 51-A(g) of the Constitution of India holds that "It shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the Natural Environment, including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have Compassion for all living creatures". India became one of the first nations in the world to enact our Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act in 1960 for the promotion of animal welfare in general and for the purpose of protecting animals from being subjected

to unnecessary pain and suffering. Subsequently various rules have been added, and amendments are currently under consideration to strengthen the PCA's protection of animals against cruelty and abuse.

An example of specific rules, is the section which regulates the use of animals in sports and entertainment, (for example, advertisements, films, and circuses). The AWBI is the prescribed authority for the performing animals registration rules. These laws and rules are helpful in the AWBI's mission to ban the so-called "sport" of jallikattu, which is the lead story in our upcoming Animal Citizen magazine. Many specific guidelines from the PCA are available on AWBI's website, www.awbi.org.

The government has banned the exhibition and use of five species of animals as performing animals, including bears, monkeys, tigers, lions and panthers.

Bullock cart races, horse races, dog fights, cock fights, bull fights, jallikattu, etc. are either outright illegal or require intensive regulation. The AWBI is fighting legal battles to ensure that PCA Act and laws to protect animals are enforced and strengthened. Enforcement is sometimes made difficult because police are either ignorant of the laws, or insensitive to them.



While Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have been established in many regions. The potency of these organisations is strengthened by the fact that the Apex Court directs all state governments to constitute SPCAs. Sadly, they are often dormant entities whose animal protection activities have lapsed. Revitalization of regional SPCAs is an important opportunity for animal protectors to take up and I encourage readers to take this challenge.

The AWBI has great regard for the animal welfare volunteers and activists, but they are too few in number in many places to intervene in cases of animal abuse.

We must seek ways, together, to recruit more citizens into the family of animal protectors, so that in this "land of ahimsa" our fellow animals no longer continue to suffer from abuse.

Jallikattu is a primitive "game" introduced in rural areas in the state of Tamil Nadu as a source of entertainment during the Pongal festival. Long ago, legend has it that the owners and organizers of the event were not so greedy and cruel and they had ensured that participating animals were not subjected to any cruel practice. There was no gambling or betting associated with the event. But over a period of time the sport has become violent, and betting has intensified the violence. Several practices have besieged the sport resulting in severe cruelty to participating bulls and fatal injuries to the spectators and participants.

Therefore, AWBI is working to ban jallikattu. Through the medium of this press conference the AWBI wants to send a message with the help of print and electronic media to sensitize the community to our obligation of treating our fellow animals with compassion and respect and not to abuse them for personal greed. (From General Kharb's press conference held in Chennai on 10.01.2011: AWBI's mission to enforce and strengthen the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act) □

DOG BREEDING IN A SCIENTIFIC WAY:

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM

Ahmedabad: The recent Gujarat police proposal to let police dogs mate pet dogs for free has been criticised by dog lovers and others. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) Chairman Maj. Gen. (Retd.) RM Kharb, AVSM, held a meeting with Director General of Police, Gujarat, Shri S S Khandwawala on this issue.

Gen. Kharb said that breeding of police dogs should be done in a scientific way within their own community and not with civilian dogs. Police dogs are experts in detecting explosives and carrying out other police operations. These traits are genetically passed on to their pups. Mating with showpiece dogs is not advisable. Such a plan will only compound the stray dog problem in the city.

The Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), a non-government umbrella organisation for animal protectors across the country, was of the view that such mating will only exploit and abuse the dogs for profit motives and compound stray dog population in the city.

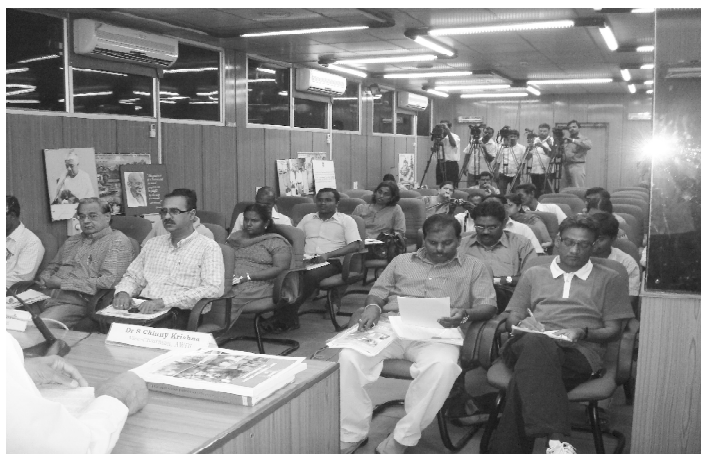
Gen. Kharb who had handled two dog units during counter-insurgency operations in the country said that the police authorities will give due consideration to the proposal weighing in the experts views also on the matter.

FIAPO Chairman, Dr S. Chinny Krishna said in a statement that a significant proportion of dog breeders will come forward to make use of this opportunity. Dog breeders are driven solely by profit motive from the animals that they breed, causing them severe hardship in the process. (TOI) □

Training Programmes for HAWOs

Ballabgarh (Haryana): The Ministry of Environment and Forests has agreed to conduct training programmes at National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW), Ballabgarh, so that the Animal Welfare Board of India can increase awareness of animal welfare opportunities and upgrade the skills of people working with animals.

The following training programmes were held at National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW) at Ballabgarh, Faridabad: Basic training course of Honorary Animal Welfare Officers (18-22 Oct. & 25-29 Oct. 2010 – two batches of 15 HAWOs in each batch); for Honorary Animal Welfare Officer card holder of AWBI; Skill development Training of Dog Catchers (November 2010 – two batches of 15 Dog Catchers in each batch) for Dog Catchers from AWOs and Civic bodies engaged in catching dogs for ABC programmes; Orientation training for slaughter house personnel (6-10th Dec and 13- 17th December 2010 – two batches); and for Members of SPCAs/ Employees of Civic bodies / Sanitary Inspectors. (AWBI) □



NGO's In ACTION

Mumbai: SPCA Thane raided a fabrication workshop in Andheri, Mumbai, after receiving several requests from some complainants in Mumbai regarding the pitiful plight of some animals kept inside the shop. With Noah's Ark as witness, Thane SPCA filed an FIR against the owner and seized the Star Tortoises kept illegally. The owner was remanded to Jail Custody. However, some more animals still inside the shop need to be removed. The message has been forwarded to several Mumbai organisations seeking their assistance.



The year ended on a great note. Dear, a baby donkey, with necrosis and dislocation of front leg probably due to street accident, was left to die on the road. He was rescued, stabilized and his leg successfully amputated by Dr. Vikram Dave.

He now awaits a tiny prosthetic foot and a lifetime care at NOAHS ARK. Thane SPCA is thrilled to have tied up with Noah's Ark, an organization dedicated to getting abandoned animals adopted and sheltering the ones for lifetime when they are not fit to be adopted. Innumerable dogs and cats have been successfully adopted through Noah's Ark in this quarter while donkeys and calves have found permanent homes at the shelter. (AWBI) □

AMC SIGNS MOU WITH AWBI

Ahmedabad: The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Animal Welfare Board of India for its Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme on 1st July, 2010.

Municipal Commissioner, Shri I P Gautam and AWBI Chairman, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. RM Kharb, AVSM signed the MoU for sterilization and vaccination of stray dogs in the city. AWBI will bear 50 percent of the total expenses incurred.

Municipal Commissioner Shree I P Gautam said, "We will begin by conducting a dog census. This will help us decide the effort we need to put in to curb the menace." The census was completed, by a US-based organisation, Humane Society International. The civic authorities have set a target of two years for visible results in the ABC programme. (AWBI) □



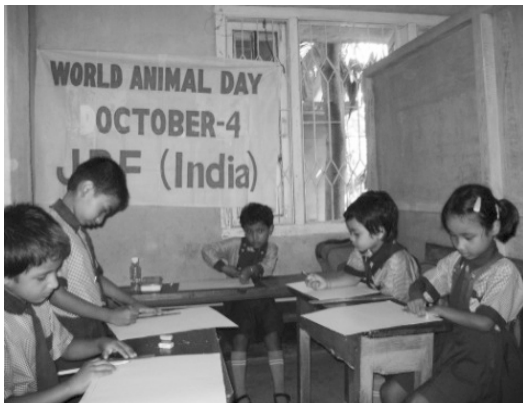
WORLD RABIES DAY CELEBRATED IN ASSAM

Guwahati (Assam): JBF (Just Be Friendly), organized events for "World Rabies Day and World Animal Day 2010" from 28th September to 4th October 2010.



The whole event was a success. This year besides the Free Health Check-up & Vaccination camp at JBF PET CARE UNIT, JBF Team imparted the concept of animal welfare among the veterinarians, budding vets, children & general public. Nine skits were made on animal welfare themes, to spread the

message about animal cruelty, animal sacrifice, animals used for entertainment, irresponsible animal keepers etc. "Tengla Ahi Aase" spread the message against sacrificing animals for any purpose, be it religion or superstition. (JBF India) □



World Rabies Day to World Animal Day 2010

Free Health Check-up and Anti-rabies Vaccination for Dogs and other Activities

From 28th September to 4th October 2010

For Details Contact : JBF Pet Care Unit
56, Uttra Complex, Survey, Beltola, Guwahati - 28
Helpline No. : 9954449528



Animal Welfare Fortnight

New Delhi: Animal Welfare Fortnight, 2011 was observed by the Animal Welfare Organizations (AWOs) across the country from 14 to 31 January, 2011. The aim of Animal Welfare Fortnight was to create public awareness about the need for humane treatment of animals to prevent unnecessary pain and suffering to them; and to generate a feeling of love and compassion for speechless animals, said Chairman, Animal Welfare Board of India.

AWOs and NGOs working for Animal Welfare along with Co-opted Members, Honorary Animal Welfare Officers, animal activists participated in various ways. Literature, publications on animal welfare and animal protection laws were distributed during the rally among the general public.

Gen. Kharb has said that Animal Welfare Fortnight should be observed so that more people are sensitized to join the Animal Welfare Movement in India. He recommends that in future, the following activities be conducted by AWOs and NGOs during Animal Welfare Fortnight:

a. Adarsh Gaushalas should conduct training programmes for Gaushala personnel to utilize full potential of cow dung and urine for production of bio-gas, vermicompost, bio-pesticides, organic farming and making panchgavya medicines to take Gaushalas towards self sustenance and to generate employment in these institutions.

b. Carry out mass Anti Rabies (AR) vaccination programme of stray dogs for controlling of rabies.

c. Rescue sick animals and injured animals and taking them to veterinary clinics and shelters, and start a campaign for adoption of homeless puppies and to provide home to ownerless puppies.

d. Visit and volunteer at animal shelters.

e. Distribute to police and enforcing authorities literature on animal compassion and the animal protection laws.

f. Distribute earthen bowls in various neighborhoods so that people are encouraged to put food and water for the feeding birds.

g. Organise veterinary first aid camps and show children what to do when they come across an injured animal. We should also organize painting competition of animals in schools to raise awareness in very young children.

h. Plant bird-friendly trees like jamun, neem, shehtoot, bargat, peepal etc. so that birds can eat their fruits and nest in.

i. Sensitize people against using plastic bags and educating people not to throw away edible leftovers tied up in plastic bags as many animals, including cows, eat the plastic bags and die.

j. Sensitize dairy farmers not to use "Oxytocin" injections in dairy cattle. Its use is illegal under the Food and Drug Adulteration Prevention Act.

k. Visit slaughter houses and educate butchers on humane slaughter to create awareness of Slaughter House Rules within the civic bodies.

l. Distribute copies of "Animal Citizen", "Jeev Sarthy" and "AWBI Newsletter" to AWOs / NGOs.

m. Organize group discussions on TV / Radio to sensitize public on their obligation to co-exist with animal friends and to treat them with compassion and dignity. (AWBI) □

पशुओं के प्रति दया की भावना से भारत बेहतर बनेगा

पशु कल्याण पखवाड़ा
14 से 31 जनवरी, 2011 तक

“किसी भी देश की महानता एवं उसकी वैदिक प्रगति को जानने के लिए वहाँ के पशुओं के साथ होनेवाले व्यवहार से पता लगाया जा सकता है”
- महात्मा गाँधी

- सभी मनुष्यों का दायित्व है कि वे सभी पशु-पक्षियों के प्रति सम्मान, दया एवं प्यार दिखायें।
- पशु-पक्षियों के साथ क्रूरता दण्डनीय अपराध है।
- स्थानीय कुत्ते / पिल्ले को गोद लें, वह आपका सबसे वफादार मित्र तथा विश्वसनीय गार्ड हो सकता है।
- बेमालिक पशुओं की देख-रेख करें - हर दिन एक महान कार्य करें।

भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड (www.awbi.org), भारत सरकार की संवैधानिक संस्था है, बोर्ड देश के सभी नागरिकों से आग्रहपूर्वक करता है कि वे सभी पशु-पक्षियों के प्रति दया व सम्मान का भाव रखें तथा यह सुनिश्चित करें कि पशु क्रूरता निवारण अधिनियम, 1960 में दंशित प्रायश्चित्तों की गारंटी हो। पशु-पक्षियों के साथ दुर्व्यवहार न हो।

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WORLD HOUSE SPARROW DAY CELEBRATED

Ludhiana (Panjab): March 20 is observed as the 'World House Sparrow Day'. Sparrows, owls and vultures top the endangered birds' list in India. Sparrows, once the most widely-found bird, are regarded as an indicator of a healthy environment. But, unfortunately, there has been a rapid decline in the number of common house sparrows.

The house sparrow (*Passer Domesticus*), which has been part of our culture and stories (told by the Grannies and parents to the kids), is decreasing in number. The house sparrow once nested on almost every house, on cups and upon fans, in roofs with wooden planks. In bushy hedges they lived in colonies and survived on food grains and leftovers, worms, caterpillars, and termites.

But now, it is a disappearing species. The sparrow is a species that has evolved with humans and is always found in and around human habitations. It can not be found on trees, in jungles, deserts or places where humans are not present. In South India, people even considered it a good omen if the house sparrow built a nest inside their houses under the rafters or a niche in the wall. Such was the bond between man and sparrow that it came to be classified as a domestic species with the scientific name *Passer domesticus*.

The decline of house sparrows is a global phenomenon and the species is declining in most of its natural range. The decline is visible in countries like the UK where they have historical statistical data with a decline rate as high as 67% because of which its conservation status has been changed to a red listed species of high conservation concern.

Factors Responsible for its Disappearance:

It's not the urban habitat but the modification in architecture like use of glass and aluminum, the pollution caused by microwave towers; the excessive uses of pesticides, a gradual decrease in nesting sites, food sources and the replacement of native plants by exotic varieties, that are to be blamed. Modern architecture and urban housing is also responsible as there is no place where these can build their nests.

Breeding habitat is mostly associated with human environments such as farms, and residential and urban areas. Modern house construction has meant that house sparrows struggle to find adequate nesting sites in today's matchbox shaped houses. All these changes have resulted in lack of nesting sites for our winged friends. While constructing new buildings, care should be taken that nesting site are provided to house sparrows.

Due to extensive use of pesticides, the food for its young ones, which are caterpillars and soft worms, are no longer easily available. Young house sparrows feed exclusively on an insect diet for the first 15 days of their life. The lack of insects in their surroundings will lead to an increase in the mortality rate of chicks leading to decline in the population of House sparrow.

We also no longer find many women sitting outside the house and cleaning grains, which provided sufficient food to these birds. Today, people get flour and grains in pre-cleaned and packed packets which they buy from malls, where our winged friends are not able to go.

We should plant native trees and

shrubs and vines which can provide them enough protection and camouflage from predator birds and animals and also which attract insects and pests, all of which are part of the natural ecosystem. Plants and trees like

Bougainvilleas, citrus family, Henna, ber, mulberry etc provide them enough space and food, as these attract the native worms and pests. The bougainvillea and certain other creepers can be used as ornamental plants in urban homes. Exotic plants in the garden/homes, use of pesticides and chemicals also lead to destruction of habitat and food base. Organic farming practices should be encouraged and bird-friendly restoration programs which will help farmland birds and house sparrows should be undertaken. The use of organic fertilizers should be encouraged and strict regulations on the use of chemical

fertilizers and pesticides should be implemented.

Research in Spain proved that the microwaves released from Cell phone towers are harmful to house sparrows and the increase in the concentration of microwaves results leads to decrease in House Sparrow populations. Living in such high concentration of Microwave pollution is as good as sitting in an x-ray room. The decline of House Sparrow due to polluted environments is an indicator of the degrading environment in which we all live. The governments should bring in strict norms and research should be done to eliminate the harmful effects of microwave technology or other alternative technology should be seriously explored.

Feeding Sparrows:

We can make a habit of providing supply of food for sparrows and birds throughout the year. The grains can be kept in earthen bowls or spread in a safe shady place or filled in feeders. Feed house sparrows broken rice or broken grains in the summer and bajra (pearl millet) year-round. Small quantity of zero sized marble chips can be added to it or other bird feed. Please avoid feeding birds stale, salty and oily leftover food. Bread and cooked food has a little nutritional food value.

In buildings or homes where no natural nesting places exist, we can use nest boxes for sparrows. Utmost care has to be taken that no predators like crows, shikras or snakes etc harm the eggs or young ones. It has also to be seen that sparrows have access to green plants for worms and feed of Young ones and nest boxes should not be exposed to extremes of weather. Nest boxes can help the house sparrow raise a family. Providing nest boxes should be the last option.

-By Dr. Sandeep Kumar Jain



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