



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.

AWBI Newsletter

Message from Chairman

Vol No. 8 Issue No. 3 Re.1/-

RNI No. TNBIL2003/10675

October-November 2012

Cruelty to Dogs Vis-à-Vis Rabies



My Dear Friends,

The image of an aggressive, rabid dog frothing and salivating at the mouth, running around, chasing, attacking and biting people is so strongly embedded in public perception, a consequence of which is reflected in unwarranted display of cruelty against harmless street dogs. Many people in the society are ignorant about the normal behaviour of street dogs and for no reason, many a times innocent street dogs are chased, beaten and even clubbed to death, an action that is illegal and cannot be condoned under any circumstance. The question arises why is this happening in our country with a rich tradition of ahimsa and compassion to animals.

When one is ignorant about the actual transmission mechanism of a disease then sometimes the superstitions and incorrect portrayals of the disease assumes frightening proportions in contrast to the actual reality. This is applicable to Rabies too. Even a single incidence of a dog biting a child or an adult human being often sets off a panic reaction in an ignorant community. What happens in such a scenario is that the entire street dog population in the community gets victimized due to unprovoked human attacks. There is a wrong perception in people's minds that all street dogs are carriers of the Rabies virus which is absolutely wrong.

A lot more needs to be done to educate communities about rabies and the natural behaviour of street dogs as well as their role in defending human habitations and their role as natural scavengers. Besides this, strong emphasis needs to be given on creating awareness among communities about the Animal Birth Control Programme as the only humane and scientific way to stabilise / control the street dog population in human habitations. As much as Veterinarians have to educate pet owners, human Medical Doctors too have an equal responsibility to educate their patients about rabies. Since Rabies is in the domain of preventive healthcare and preventive community medicine, it is imperative that human medical doctors and paramedical personnel like nursing staff too become strong advocates of the ABC/AR Programme.

The focus of the message must be on mass vaccinations and sterilizations of the street dogs and pet dogs in the community. Dogs must be vaccinated against rabies annually and if not, at least once in three years. We need to address control of Rabies on a war footing to realise our dream of a 'Rabies Free India' and save our community dogs from harassment and abuse from the tag of Rabies that they carry. Although Rabies is a fatal zoonotic disease, it is 100% preventable if timely post bite anti-rabies treatment is taken.

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Board Calls for Drug Free, Whip Free Horse Racing



Photo credit: Australian Equine Behaviour Centre

Pune: Addressing members of the Royal Western India Turf Club (RWITC) in a meeting held on 30th September, 2012 by RWITC, Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R. M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI said, "Animal Welfare is emerging as a key issue of great concern for the well-being of race horses as well as for equines used in films and for draught purposes". He stated that as per law it is mandatory to register all performing equines with AWBI and whilst doing so it needs to be specified as to the purpose for which the horses are being used. It is necessary to obtain a NOC from AWBI for performing equines used in circuses and films. He added that the performing animals are constantly monitored by AWBI and that the Mumbai High Court had directed AWBI to strictly implement the Performing Animals Rules 2001 formulated under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Referring to his meeting with Mr. Guy Sargent, Deputy Chairman – Asian Racing Federation & Executive Council Member -International Federation of Horse-racing Authorities on September 29th, 2012, Hon'ble Chairman said that Mr Sargent had said that in New Zealand there is 'zero tolerance' for the use of anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing drugs and all countries are moving towards drug free racing. He also emphasized the need to control the use of whips during races and he stressed that jockeys must use it very sparingly and try to race the horses without the need for the use of whips. Gen Kharb requested RWITC to take the lead in conducting at least one race per month without using whips. Hon'ble Chairman also stressed the need to observe very strictly the rule that the whip is not to be used more than eight times in a race.

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World Food Day AWBI-HSI Media Brief



Chennai: On World Food Day, Oct 16th, 2012, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) in association with Humane Society International (HSI) hosted a media orientation programme titled, "Food security and the industrialization of animal agriculture: Implications for small farmers, rural communities, the environment, and animals in India". The programme which was conducted by Shri N.G. Jayasimha, Country Director, HSI India at the office of the Animal Welfare Board of India saw a good response from the media. Talking about the plight of the poultry birds in the country, Jayasimha said, "In India, 140 to 200 million egg-laying hens are confined to barren, wire battery cages so restrictive they cannot even spread their wings. Each bird has less living space than an A4 sheet of paper. With no opportunity to experience most natural behaviours such as nesting, dust bathing, perching and foraging, these birds endure lives wrought with suffering. Factory farms that confine more than 50,000 birds within a single shed are becoming increasingly common in the country. In 2010, more than 1.8 billion chickens were raised and killed for meat. These broiler chickens also experience crowded confinement and other adverse conditions. It is clear that rapid growth and industrialization of India's poultry has failed to significantly improve the nutritional outcomes for low-income communities, and there is strong scientific evidence of the negative impact of

these animal factories on people and animals". Jayasimha stressed that the Central and State governments should support small farmer-led and animal welfare-friendly agriculture.

A monthly newsletter of the **ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA** (Min of Environment & Forests, Govt of India). Published by Animal Welfare Board of India

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MoEF Advisory Bans Use of Langurs for Security

New Delhi: An Advisory dated 15th October, 2012 (Ref No 12-10/WCCB/2008/Vol-VI/4088) issued by Shri Shyam Bhagat Negi, Additional Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi, prohibits the hiring of langurs for the security of official buildings. The Advisory states, "Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972; for combating wildlife crime in the country. There have been complaints that some of the Ministries of the Government of India have hired the services of langurs for the security of their buildings.



In this regard, it is mentioned that Langur (*Presbytis entellus*) is listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and it cannot be owned, traded or hired. Contravention of the provisions of the Act carries punishment upto 3 years of imprisonment or fine or both. For any violation, besides the handler, the officer of the Ministry responsible for hiring the services of the animals will be deemed to have contravened the provisions of the Act and liable for prosecution under Section 52 of the Act. It is therefore requested that langurs if hired by your Ministry should be removed from the service immediately and the animals must be handed over to the Chief Wildlife Warden of the Government of NCT". The Advisory has been circulated to all the Ministries of the Government of India". □

Humanitarian Award From PETA For Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI



Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb, (AVSM) Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI receiving the Humanitarian Award from Ms Ingrid Newkirk

Pune: Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI was honoured with the Prestigious Humanitarian Award by PeTA for his lifesaving work to end animal suffering. The letter from Ms Poorva Joshipura, CEO, PeTA India states, "This award is being presented to you for the outstanding initiatives to bring us closer to a ban on animals in circuses and jallikattu, your advisory to the Veterinary Council of India and Animal Husbandry Departments to use anaesthetics during large-animal castrations, your support of a ban on the use of bulls to haul oil carts in Mumbai, your assistance in ending the use of live rats to check the effectiveness of disinfectants in air-crafts and your many other achievements for animals." □

Cruelty to Dogs Vis-à-Vis Rabies

Many a times there is delay in getting post-exposure treatment which can have serious consequences. The time lapse may range from a few hours to a few days and even several weeks. If per chance that biting dog was actually rabid, then the virus would have got plenty of time to multiply and travel along the nerves with the typical symptoms of rabies developing in such individuals within a few weeks to a few months. Let me emphasize that the treatment of post-bite prophylaxis falls under the domain of emergency medicine and should be handled with the same swiftness and care that is provided to an accident victim. What I wish to emphasize is that even if a person has been bitten by a rabid dog and takes immediate post-bite vaccination on day 0, day 3, day 7, day 14 and day 28 along with rabies immunoglobulin serum around the bite wound (if required depending on category / seriousness of the bite), the affected person can be fully protected from rabies.

The following guidelines issued by the World Health Organization on "Rabies for Pre and Post-exposure Prophylaxis in Humans" must be followed by medical doctors for the treatment of human patients bitten by dogs:

Wound Treatment: should be immediate and must be followed even if the person presents long after exposure and must consist of:

immediate washing and flushing for 15 minutes with soap and water, or water alone, and disinfection with ethanol (700ml/l) or iodine (tincture or aqueous solution).

Vaccination and administration of rabies immunoglobulin

- Rabies Vaccine (intra-dermal or intra-venous) and immunoglobulin therapy (if required) must be instituted as soon as possible,
- If rabies immunoglobulin is not available on the first visit, its use can be delayed by a maximum of 7 days from the date of the first post-bite anti-rabies vaccine injection,
- Initiation of Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) should not await the results of laboratory diagnosis or be delayed by time spent in observation of the dog when rabies is suspected,
- Pregnancy and infancy are never contra-indications to PEP".

For more details, the ppt is available for free download at the website of the World Health Organization at www.who.int/rabies/PEP_prophylaxis_guidelines_June10.ppt. To know more about rabies in humans as well as in animals, please see the WHO link at <http://www.who.int/rabies/en/>. Complete details are available on all aspects of the disease. I would like to add that the Animal Welfare Board of India is facilitating implementation of Govt. of India's ABC/AR Programme with a view to make India a rabies free country. It has started to show some results. A few metros such as Chennai, Jaipur and Kalimpong have not reported any human Rabies case in the last few years due to intensive ABC/AR Programmes there.

With best wishes,
Sd/-
Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. R. M. Kharb, AVSM
Chairman, AWBI.
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They must invest more in the rural supply chain – allowing poor farmers practicing more humane and sustainable free-range egg and chicken production to capture a greater share of the market for eggs and meat." Speaking about the terrible suffering that the unproductive cattle sent for slaughter undergo, he said, "There is also nothing holy about the way cattle are treated in the country. The animals undergo immense suffering as they are transported long distances for slaughter. There are no shades, no water nor ramps for the animals and they are tied to each other, some die along the way, while some are beaten up and suffer injuries. The worst is yet to come, at the slaughter houses, the animals are killed in full view of each other. Besides, large companies have pushed out small players out of the market. This has resulted in reduction of employment opportunities and damage to natural resources such as water bodies and forests. With large and concentrated emission of gases such as methane, it has also resulted in climate change." Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, Vice Chairman Dr. S Chinny Krishna said, "India has the finest laws pertaining to animal welfare, but the problem has always been the enforcement." □



Project VetTrain in Jaipur

Jaipur: Vets Beyond Borders launched its first Project Vet-Train two week Training Course in ABC Surgery in collaboration with Humane Society International at the Veterinary Training Centre in Jaipur on 17th September 2012. Present at the inaugural function were Dr. Jack Reece, Veterinary Director, Help in Suffering, Jaipur and Dr. Sunil Chawla, Veterinary Training Director, Humane Society International, Asia. The Training Programme was attended by nine veterinarians and four veterinary assistants. Participants in the course came from Surat, Ahmedabad, Department of Animal Husbandry, Gurdaspur, Punjab and Panchkula, Haryana, NGOs from Delhi and Jaipur, Rajasthan and also fresh graduates from the Apollo Veterinary College, Rajasthan.



Says Dr Sonia Chawan, Project Manager, Project Vet-Train, "I am happy to say that all of the Trainees followed the course schedule of 14 days to get maximum theoretical and practical knowledge". During the Training Programme, Senior Veterinarian, Dr. Jack Reece gave a lecture to the trainees on 'Veterinary Ethics and Role of Veterinarians in Animal Welfare'. He supervised the surgeries and shared his immense experience and knowledge with the participants about the ABC-AR projects. Dr. Sunil Chawla, Veterinary Training Director, Humane Society International, Asia and Dr. Soniya Chawan, Project Manager, Vets Beyond Borders, VetTrain, India conducted the theoretical lectures and practicals for the Vets while Dr. Ravindra Dhayal conducted the theoretical and practical sessions for the Veterinary Assistants. A total of 194 Surgeries were carried out within 11 days. The trainees were assessed on the basis of Pre-Training assessments, Core Competencies and Post-Training assessments along with the acquired practical knowledge.

On 28th September 2012, a visit of Project VetTrain trainees to "Help in Suffering" was arranged to see the functioning of an 'Ideal' ABC- AR project in Jaipur. The trainees also attended a Conference at Rajasthan Veterinary University campus on the occasion of 'World Rabies Day'. All participants in the course were awarded certificates based on the pre and post-training assessments and core competencies. Says Dr Soniya Chawan, "My sincere thanks to Humane Society International for joining hands with Vets Beyond Borders to improve and standardize the quality of veterinary services provided by animal welfare groups in India". The inaugural launch of the ABC-AR Training Programme in Jaipur will be followed by 13 consecutive courses for Veterinarians, Veterinary Assistants, Programme Managers and Humane Animal Handlers until April 2013. □

Proceedings of the 1st International Conference on Dog Population Control is available for download at <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/dogs2012/bookOfAbstracts.cfm>

World Rabies Day Event - IVA Kerala Holds Seminar on Rabies

Ettumanoor: The Indian Veterinary association, Kerala organized a technical seminar on rabies eradication at Hotel National Park, Ettumanoor on 28-09-2012. The function was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri K M Mani. Dr Arunkumar, Kerala. State President, IVA presided over the function. Dr C Sreekumar, General Secretary, IVA Kerala welcomed all the delegates that included veterinary surgeons from all 14 districts of Kerala. Hon, Minister for Finance Shri K M Mani sanctioned Rs 15 lakhs per annum as risk allowance @ Rs 180/- to veterinary doctors working in the Animal Husbandry Departments in response to the memorandum submitted by IVA. Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri K.M. Mani stressed on the need for all civic bodies to adopt humane dog population control measures through the highly effective ABC-AR Programmes. At the technical session Dr Ilona Otter, Clinical Director, Worldwide Veterinary Services gave a very informative talk on the ABC-AR Training Programmes conducted by Worldwide Veterinary Services and also gave very good answers and solutions to the questions posed by the delegates. □



Kerala State Finance Minister Shri K.M.Mani lighting the lamp and inaugurating the Seminar on Rabies

Board Calls for Drug Free, Whip Free Horse Racing

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During the meeting a discussion took place about depriving jockeys' use of the whip after the 4th offence. Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI said that a jockey who has been deprived the use of the whip should not be permitted to use the whip during the total period irrespective of which racing centre he rides, anywhere in India. He added that AWBI is an all-India body and the law needs to be implemented all over India in all Turf Clubs and not only at the Centre where the offence has taken place. Hon'ble Chairman also emphasized the need for applying humane training methods for horses, especially with reference to the stalling / loading of horses in gates without the use of any brutal physical force which would cause physical and mental torture to the horses before the races. Stating that Mr Shivalal Daga and Mrs Bhaktawar Chenoy have been appointed by the Govt of India as inspectors, he stressed that they are legally obliged to ensure that the Performing Animals Rules is strictly adhered to. This was to ensure that the welfare of the horses is safeguarded, both during training and during racing. He also requested the Turf Clubs to subscribe to the Board's monthly magazine Animal Citizen and Jeev Saarthi as well as the Board's Newsletter to keep themselves updated about the latest developments in the field of animal welfare.

Referring to the draft of the revised Medication Rules circulated by AWBI and adopted by RWITC, Mr Daga stressed that stricter punishment would be contemplated if the drugs banned by Parliament and listed in the proposed Animal Welfare Bill were used. Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb (AVSM), Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI requested that the revised rules be put up to the Stewards of all Turf Clubs for their consideration and approval without delay. The Additional Secretary, RWITC mentioned that he would do so. The Meeting was attended by Mr Shivalal Daga and Mrs Bhatawar Chenoy, Inspectors, AWBI, Mr N.H.S. Mani, Addtl Secretary, RWITC Ltd, Mr Wayne J. Wood, Chief Integrity Steward, RWITC, Mr.Pradyumna Singh, Senior Stipendary Steward, RWITC Ltd, Dr. S.K.Kulkarni, Senior Veterinary Officer, RWITC Ltd, Mr Riyaz M. Khan, Stipendary Steward, RWITC Ltd and Dr. M. Rajasekhar, Technical Director, Diagnostic Research Laboratory, Pune. □

The Ladakh Anti- Rabies & Dog Management Programme

By

Dr. Ruth Pye

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Ladakh, the “Land of High Passes” is a high altitude desert region of Jammu & Kashmir, sandwiched between the Himalayan and Karakorum Mountain ranges. The extreme winters see temperatures dropping to minus 40°C and the region’s road access to the outside world can be blocked for many months. Summers on the other hand are a hive of activity with crops of barley, apricots and apples being planted, tended and harvested. Vegetable and flower gardens flourish with the glacial melt water, and tourists arrive in the hundreds for trekking in the mountains and to experience the thriving Buddhist culture. Many visitors to the region’s capital of Leh notice the large, furry, healthy-looking dogs that have made the streets their home.

As in many parts of India, there is an overpopulation of street dogs in Ladakh which threatens the health of the Ladakhi people, livestock and wildlife as well as compromises the health and welfare of the dogs themselves. The dog population has increased in Ladakh in recent decades with the burgeoning tourist and trekking industry, and the prominent army presence. The multitude of hotels and restaurants in Leh provide a good food supply for dogs in the summer months, and the army camps are a year round source of food. A street dog sterilization and rabies vaccination (ABC-AR) programme was started in 2006 as a collaboration between the Australian NGO Vets Beyond Borders (VBB) and the local NGO Ladakh Animal Care Society (LACS). The programme has received funding from the French organization “Fondation Brigitte Bardot” and the Administration of Leh.

The AWBI became involved in 2010 when a Memorandum of Understanding was written and signed by the AWBI, the Administration of Leh, the Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments of Leh, LACS and VBB. The MOU refers to the programme as LARDoM – the Ladakh Anti Rabies and Dog Management Programme. The LARDoM Programme operates from the veterinary clinic on the LACS site at Saboo Ayu, a village 8 kilometres outside of Leh. The surgical season currently runs from June to September and experienced volunteer veterinarians from overseas work alongside local staff to surgically desex and vaccinate around 1,000 dogs each season. Injured or sick dogs are also treated, and any dog presenting with Canine Transmissible Venereal Tumour (TVT) is housed and treated for as long as 6 weeks with chemotherapy.



Special events like the 'Rabies Vaccination Mornings' are held regularly throughout the season for pet dogs. The success of the programme is becoming more evident each year, with a majority of dogs in Leh now sporting the ear notch to signify they are desexed and vaccinated. The large number of dogs in regional Ladakh requires the programme’s expansion in the near future to address these areas. The Ladakhi street dogs certainly have their share of hardships to contend with, not least being the long harsh winters. Many of these tough dogs are fine canine specimens with good intelligence and great stamina. With their thick, furry coats and large frames, friendly and playful spirit, they are simply amazing! It's been a pleasure and a privilege to be working amongst them in the extraordinarily beautiful landscape of Ladakh. □



AWBI Conducts Humane Education Programme at Infosys

Dogs of Lodhi Garden Saved



Chennai: Mr Sriram Vepuri, Humane Education Officer, Blue Cross of Hyderabad who has initiated the Board's Humane Education Programme in October 2012 conducted an animal welfare presentation at the Infosys Office in Chennai on Oct 17th, 2012. Feedback from two of the participants who attended Sriram's talk shows that the presentation had been effective in sensitizing the audience. After attending the talk, Infosys employees Swaroop and Nandita report, “The presentation was certainly an eye-opener for Infosys. Sriram presented feasible opportunities for the animal welfare group of Infosys on how to apply animal welfare concepts in the corporate world. Clearly the talk was not only focused for the animal lovers, but also for the generic audience - who on a daily basis encounter issues with animals such as stray dogs. Thank you, Sriram for bringing to us facts, animal friendly alternatives and an inspiration to start living in harmony with our fellow earthlings!” □

New Delhi: On 17th October, 2012, The Delhi High Court withdrew the earlier order for the removal of all Lodhi Garden dogs, and passed a revised order that states that: “The Lodhi Garden dogs will NOT be removed. If, however, there is a complaint of dog bite, it will be dealt in accordance with The Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, and only the biting dog removed for sterilization (if unsterilized), vaccination (if not vaccinated), and observation”. The petitioners appealed that The Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001, passed under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, does not allow removal of dogs. According to the ABC (Dogs) Rules, 2001, dogs can only be sterilized, vaccinated, and then they must be returned back to the very same territory that they were picked up from.

The revised order was issued based on the application made by twenty applicants including eleven lawyers. The twenty applicants include, The Animal Welfare Board of India, The Voice of Stray Dogs, People For Animals, Green Circle of Delhi, Citizens for the Welfare and Protection of Animals, PETA India, Mrs. Amanda Seth, Mr. Tilak Vir Nanda, Mrs. Veena Balwant, Mr. Saubhik Chakrabarty (Associate Editor, Economic Times, in his individual capacity), Mr. Ajay Sud, Mrs. Dhana Korgaokar, Mrs. Neerja Sarin, Mrs. Shobha Malhotra, Mr. Dhritabrata Bhattacharjya, Ms Rupa Sengupta, Mr. Deepak Wadhawan, Mr. Avik Kedia, Mr. Ajay Gupta, and Mr. Kabir Ahmed. Reference: www.strays.in



घायल बन्दर की बची जान

गोरखपुर। जटेपुर उत्तरी काली मंदिर के समीप विगत दिनों पूर्व एक बन्दर को हाई वोल्ट करंट लगाने से बुरी तरह घायल हो गया था। वह वही गिरकर पीड़ा से तड़प रहा था। मुहल्लेवासियों ने इसकी सूचना सन रोज संस्थान के चेयरमैन विवेक कुमार अस्थाना एवं मानव जीव-जन्तु कल्याण अधिकारी अमर नाथ जायसवाल को दी। विवेक कुमार अस्थाना अमर नाथ जायसवाल तुरन्त स्थल पर पहुंचे जहां बन्दर घायल था।

श्री जायसवाल ने तत्काल इसकी सूचना 100 नम्बर डायल करके पुलिस को एवं मुख्य पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी डॉ ज्ञान प्रकाश को दी। मुख्य पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी ने पशु चिकित्सा अधिकारी, गोरखनाथ डा बी बी वर्मा को तुरन्त स्थल पर भेजा। मौके पर गोरखनाथ थाने से दो सिपाही भी पहुंच गये।



मानव जीव-जन्तु अधिकारी अमर नाथ जायसवाल ने कहा कि जीव-जन्तुओं की सेवा ईश्वर की सेवा है। जिस तरह से हम घायल व्यक्ति को देखकर भावुक हो जाते हैं हमे वही संवेदनशीलता इन बेजुबानों के लिए दिखानी चाहिए। हर नागरिक को जीव जन्तुओं के प्रति जागरूक होना चाहिए क्योंकि जानवर अपनी पीड़ा किसी से अभिव्यक्त ही नहीं कर सकते हैं।

उत्तम पुनित कार्य में जनमत न्यूज़ चैनल के रविन्द्र शर्मा (मोनू), कांस्टेबल कुलदीप, नरसिंह मौर्य, के अलावा गड्डू, सीबू, रवि, कीर्ति, देशदीपक, कन्हैया, छोटू, राम अवध, प्रमोद इत्यादि का सहयोग मिला।

AWBI Newsletter

Vol No. 8 Issue No. 13 Re.1/- RNI No. TNBIL2003/10675 October 2012

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PRINTED BOOK

Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India under No.RNI No TNBIL2003/10675

AWBI NEWSLETTER

(Monthly)

Official Publication of the Animal Welfare Board of India

To

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ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

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