



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

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## Message From Chairman

### Making Gaushalas Milk Free & Neutering of Male Calves / Scrub Bull by Humane Castration



My Dear Friends,

All of you may be aware that India has the world's largest population of cattle with 198 million cattle and this figure far exceeds the carrying capacity of the land and is not ecologically sustainable.

A significantly large percentage of cattle are poorly nourished, and in many cases, they are often denied even minimal levels of food, water and veterinary care and this is especially true for roaming cattle in the metros. The scene of hungry cattle eating plastic bags from garbage bins is a common sight in many metros of the country. There is a huge deficit in availability of sufficient food for the cattle population of the country. The deficits in dry fodder (40%), greens (36%) and concentrates (57%) is alarming (please refer to the adjacent table sourced out from the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture and Dairying).

S No	Feed	Demand	Availability	Gap
1	Dry Fodder	416	253	163 (40%)
2	Greens	222	143	179 (36%)
3	Concentrate	53	23	30 (57%)

Besides the acute scarcity of fodder, a scenario commonly witnessed in many metros is that the male baby calves are often deprived from drinking milk and are sold for slaughter. Such is the miserable condition of the cattle in our country. Once worshipped and venerated as Gaumata, today, the same 'sacred cow' has become a scavenger eating plastic bags from garbage bins and dying a slow and painful death. The film, "Plastic Cow" is one that must be viewed by one and all so that people become aware of the hazards of improper disposal of garbage and the use of plastic bags for throwing garbage. The film is available for free download online.

According to the Annual Report published by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the contribution of livestock and fisheries sectors to the total GDP of the agriculture sector during 2009-10 was 29.7 percent. In 2010-11, the revenue generated by the Government of India from the farm animal and fisheries sector was Rs.4,61,434 crores while from the farm animal sector alone, it was Rs 3,88,370 crores. This contribution from the farm animals and fisheries sector is as much as 28.4% to the total agriculture industry. Coming to the contribution of India's cattle to milk production, it is higher than the paddy, wheat and sugar-cane produced in the country. The contribution of milk alone at Rs 2, 62, 214.51 crores was higher than paddy (Rs 1,51,634 crores), wheat (Rs 99,667 crores) and sugarcane (Rs 58, 470 crores) during 2010-11.

When I look at these figures, there is one thought that strikes me that there could be a solution to the nightmare of the 'Hungry Plastic Cows' quenching their hunger through plastic bags filled with garbage. As per the new law it is now mandatory that all companies will keep aside 2% of their revenues for CSR initiatives. A solution is possible if the Dairy Industry comes forward to promote the maintenance of new Gaushalas as part of their CSR initiatives in public-private partnerships to set up efficient, modernized Gaushalas that can be partly self-sustaining institutions. Civic bodies like the Municipal Corporations with the support of the Animal Husbandry departments and the philanthropists in the community as well as the concerned citizens can also come forward to provide support to the setting up of these new 'Humane Gaushalas', where only stray, old, handicapped and unproductive cattle must be maintained.

There is a scarcity of good organic manure, organic pesticides and bio-gas. With the sale of organic manure and cow urine based pesticides, flooring and roofing material made from cow dung and electricity from biogas, a Gaushala can become a partly self-sustaining enterprise. Enterprising Gaushalas like the Kanpur Gaushala have developed an amazing range of products.

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## Towards Self-Sustainability of Gaushalas

By  
Brig. S.S. Chohan, VSM (Retd), Member, AWBI



### My Early Childhood Friends

The cow is a symbol of our heritage and culture. Since my childhood, I have considered the cow as "The Mother Divine". During the golden years of our rich history, cows were considered to be the greatest wealth one could possess. In ancient Hindu texts it is mentioned that both Lords Rama and Krishna were born in families which had thousands of cows. Besides religious scriptures, the cows, bullocks and calves have been my closest companions during the early years of my life. Having developed a deep bond of love and affection for them, I had learnt to communicate with them. Hence I consider it as a privilege and unique opportunity to be the Manager of Nagar Nigam Gaushalas - Carterpuri and Chauma, Gurgaon, Haryana where I can do my bit in the service of these innocent, lovable and voiceless creatures of God.

### About the Gaushalas

The Gaushalas were established as PPP (Public Private Partnership) projects with Vishnu Charitable Trust, an NGO devoted to the cause of stray cattle, as one partner and Municipal Corporation, Gurgaon as the other partner. The day-to-day management of the Gaushalas is handled by Vishnu Charitable Trust. The Gaushalas currently house about 1500 stray cattle. The purpose of setting up the Gaushalas was to rescue, protect, shelter, feed treat, care for, nurse and rehabilitate the suffering stray cattle that are weak, old, neglected, sick, injured, wounded, tortured and abandoned by their heartless owners on the roads and streets of Gurgaon city once they stop giving milk. These cows are thus forced to feed themselves on garbage dumps. As a result, the cows swallow plastic - a non bio-degradable material that is injurious to their health and well-being. They also consume other rotten stuff thrown on the roads by people which eventually leads to diseases, suffering and a painful, miserable, and untimely death.

**Condition of Cows on arrival in the Gaushalas** - Most of the cows brought to the Gaushalas are in a pathetic state. They are very weak, sick, distraught, disoriented, distressed, traumatized and often badly wounded due to accidents on the roads. Many have their limbs fractured and several cows are brought in with spinal injuries. Some are full of worms while others are brought in, profusely bleeding. Some of the cows that are brought to the Gaushalas have either their ears or tails missing! Many calves are orphaned whose mothers have died prematurely. During the post-mortem of many cows, I have seen about 40 to 50 kgs of plastic, apart from deadly objects such as nails, glass pieces, blades, clips, packets of detergent powder, sachets and even baby shoes in their rumen. Earlier, there were many deaths but now due to good care and God's grace, the death rate has come to zero.

**Welfare of the Cows in the Gaushalas** - The hospital is functional 24x7 with dedicated Veterinary staff who accept and treat casualties round the clock besides treating the cows brought by MCG (Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon) vehicles. Besides the Gaushala ambulance, purchased out of funds provided by Animal Welfare Board of India, the ambulances of an NGO called Gau Seva Trust also help us to collect sick and injured cattle. Once the cows are brought to the Gaushalas, we take care to give them a nourishing diet that is well-balanced in fat, fiber, protein and minerals. In addition, we also get about 30 quintals of fresh Rotis everyday from nearby homes, thanks to the volunteers of Gau Seva Trust who collect the Rotis and bring them to the Gaushala. However, the diet and treatment are also supported by the love of our employees and visitors who come to the Gaushala. The cows have to be brought out of the trauma they have gone through before coming to the Gaushala. Love acts as a balm on their emotional wounds. In due course of time these cattle, having regained health and happiness, become vibrant and lively. This transition is no less than a miracle.

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## Board Issues Advisory Prohibiting Establishment of Dolphinariums in India

The Advisory issued by Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R. M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI, on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 and sent to the Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries (Dept of Fisheries) and the Chief Wildlife Wardens of all states and union territories in the country states, "It has come to the notice of the Board that there are a number of proposals in different states for the setting up of dolphinariums. These may involve the display of Cetaceans (collective name for whales, dolphins and porpoises) as well as performances by these animals. Typically, this would involve the import of species such as Bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) as well as others. Such facilities have been known by different names including but not limited to Dolphinarium, Oceanarium, Dolphin Park, theme park etc hereinafter collectively referred to as Dolphinariums. The AWBI strongly opposes proposals to build dolphinariums, and advises you to take appropriate actions to ensure that such facilities are not established in your state / UT. In this context, the following is relevant and may be noted".

**"Performance Certificate:** In exercise of the power conferred by Section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Central Government has framed the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001 with amendments from time to time. All animals that are used at or for the purpose of entertainment have to be registered with the AWBI under the said rules, being the prescribed authority for the purpose. The AWBI certificate has to be pre facto and cannot be post facto; hence the permission must be sought before the training and performance. All animals that are registered must be trained subject to conditions of registration laid down under the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001. It is pertinent to note that the AWBI has not issued any performance certificates to cetaceans and has taken a decision not to issue performance certificates to cetaceans in the future - hence any attempt to import these animals for the purpose of display and performance would be in violation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the rules framed under it.

**Capture and Transport:** In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (f) of subsection (2) of Section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960), the Central Government has made the Prevention of Cruelty (Capture of Animals) Rules, 1979.

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## The Great Indian Dog Show! Celebrating the Great Indian Spirit of Loving Kindness

Chennai: As part of Animal Welfare Fortnight celebrations, Blue Cross of India's 'Great Indian Dog Show' held on Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 at the C.P Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation at Alwarpet drew an amazing response. Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI was the Chief Guest for the event. The event was flagged off by MP and Founder, People for Animals, Smt Maneka Gandhi. Mrs Gandhi, who was all praise for Blue Cross of India's efforts in popularizing the adoption of Indian street dogs, also spoke about how Indian dogs have always been loved by the people of ancient India. She said, "Indian dogs have always been cherished by everyone - from Mughal Kings to Rajput princes.

These events should be held in every city, and in every district. Its time to give the Great Indian Dog his rightful place in the great Indian society". Speaking about Indian breeds of dogs she said, "there used to be 28 pedigrees in India that were once prized by Rajput rulers and Mughal royalty." In fact, the term 'pi' (stray dog) takes its origin from the Tamil word 'paraiyar' (drummer) as the dogs would warn the village of thieves".



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If KVIC and state run agro-marketing organizations also come forward to partner with the Gaushalas, such humane Gaushalas can be set up easily.

Although the Board is providing a fair amount of funds to many Gaushalas in the country, yet many of the Gaushalas are functioning without the welfare of cows being given priority. Instances of rearing cows for milk production, separation of the male calves from lactating cattle and sale of male calves for slaughter are coming to our notice from some Gaushalas as is the case in the unhygienic and commercially run tabelas of the metros of our country. **I would like to caution all Animal Welfare Organizations that are receiving grants from the Board that no grants will be released to those Gaushalas that are becoming milk producing dairies.**

Besides the Board also directs all Gaushalas to start the humane castration of male calves in Gaushalas to prevent uncontrolled breeding and production of low worth animals. These castrated male calves can be issued to farmers at a nominal price as bullocks for use in agricultural operations for farming. This will reduce the number of our unproductive cattle which are a burden on our depleted resources of fodder. A bond should also be executed from such farmers that once the bullock or cow is old or becomes unproductive, the animals must be returned back to the Gaushalas from where they were obtained. In exchange, the farmers will be again provided with young, male bullocks. Similarly, milking cows in Gaushala should be rehabilitated / sold to farmers at a nominal price. The farmers should give an undertaking that they will not sell the cow and will return them back to the Gaushala should there be any problem. This will decongest the Gaushala and will create space for accommodating new animals rescued from illegal transportation or from the streets. Furthermore, I request all Animal Husbandry Departments in all the states of our country to come forward and make humane castration of scrub male calves in Gaushalas a priority as per the Advisory issued in 2012.

In metros, well designed new 'Humane Community Cow Care Centres' can be set up under public-private partnerships not only to serve the purpose of imparting education and providing protection to the cattle but also to serve as independent hubs, symbolic of India's rich heritage and traditions. Such Centres can serve as heritage spaces as well as learning centres and which would provide an incentive to citizens and schools children to visit these centres.

**Such Community Cow Care Centres can meet the following objectives:**

- ✧ Facilitate learning about cattle husbandry by children.
- ✧ Help reconnect people living in urban habitats to our old traditions of caring for cows.
- ✧ Help create micro-zones of edible landscaping and organic farming in city spaces.
- ✧ Create a space for biogas generation and electricity production, production of bio-pesticides, flooring and roofing material and other medicinal products from Panchagavya.
- ✧ Promote organic kitchen gardens in metros using organic manure from Gaushalas.
- ✧ Promote improved sensitivity and tolerance among urban citizens towards animals.

Let us engage civic bodies, Animal Husbandry and concerned citizens in the above initiative.

With best wishes,  
Sd/-

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

## Animal Welfare Activist Of the Month



Meet Abhishek Bhowmick, Copywriter and Animal Welfare Activist. Winner of the prestigious Godfrey Phillips Award for his bravery in fighting for the welfare of street dogs, Abhishek was selected for Coca-Cola's recent campaign titled, "Crazy for Happiness". The film features real-life heroes who are making a difference with their kind actions.

Abhishek spends more than 30% of his monthly salary for animal welfare work and regularly feeds over 30 dogs every day. He also takes care of their health by making sure to arrange for medication, ABC surgery and vaccination. Besides, he also organizes for transportation of injured and very ill animals for better care at the veterinary hospital. In addition to dogs, Abhishek also takes care of the welfare of cattle left on the streets to forage from garbage bins. ☐

**Lack of Space : A Challenge** -There are two Gaushalas, one housing bulls and bull-calves and the other housing cows and heifers. This segregation is necessary to avoid unwanted pregnancies as the Gaushalas are co-located and we have limited space.

**Unique initiatives towards self-sustainability of Gaushala** - To overcome the difficulty due to lack of space and to accommodate the daily fresh arrivals of cattle comfortably, we have taken two steps. The eligible bulls and bull-calves have been castrated in a humane manner and converted to bullocks. They are then being distributed almost free of cost (Rs.1100/- per pair) to poor farmers of various states – the farmers who either cannot afford to use tractors or their land holdings are so small that they don't need tractors. The bullocks are issued to the farmers strictly for agriculture purposes only. To avoid the possibility of any misuse, a thorough check is carried out by us to establish the credentials of the farmers and includes the following:-

- ☐ Farmers are screened by the village Sarpanch / Councillor for their land holdings and character as also their ability to look after the bullocks.
- ☐ Certificate from the Sarpanch supporting their demand for bullocks along with original copy of their "FARD" (Revenue Record).
- ☐ Farmers have to sign an affidavit having 12 conditions to fulfill such as - they won't sell the bullocks; won't leave them on the road; will look after them from all aspects of their health and welfare and such conditions.
- ☐ Identification proof of the farmer.
- ☐ The Gaushala gives these farmers the following documents to facilitate their smooth passage through Police Chaukis enroute their destination:-
  - ◆ Transportation letter under Rule 96 of the Transport of Animals Rules signed by the Gaushala Manager who has been authorized.
  - ◆ Fitness certificate issued by the Veterinary Surgeon of the Gaushala and Guidelines issue by AWBI.
  - ◆ Receipts issued by the Gaushala for cash / cheque received from farmers
  - ◆ Summary of the policy letters on the subject in regional language.
  - ◆ Photographs of farmers along with the bullocks taken by them.
- ☐ In Uttarakhnad State, the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) organizes the transportation of bullocks to genuine farmers including their screening and requirements. The Magistrate of the area also issues a letter to this effect. They send an official as an escort with the farmers to ensure hassle-free transportation. The Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) also arranges surprise checks later to see whether the bullocks are being used for agriculture purposes only and are not being misused or abused.

The second measure adopted by the Gaushala to decongest the cow sheds and avoid overcrowding is to arrange for distribution of the cattle (when they became healthy and strong) among the right people who deserve the cows and bullocks and can serve them right up to the final stage whether the cow is in milk or out of milk. Such 'Gau Sevaks' are being charged Rs.5100/- per cow which they happily give since the cost of a cow outside is much higher. The sale of bullocks and cows contributes a sizeable amount of funds towards maintenance of the facilities of the Gaushala, including the purchase of medicines. These unique initiatives benefit all – the Gaushalas, the cattle and the farmers alike. Our Gaushala has distributed more than 300 bullocks and about 200 cows so far and the feedback from the farmers has been very positive.

**Organic manure** - The Gaushalas have successfully prepared organic manure from cow dung using aerobic composting microbes. It has become very popular due to its nutritive value. The cow dung is mixed with a unique waste treatment substrate which is a synergistic blend of non-pathogenic bacteria, fungi and herbal extracts capable of rapidly converting organic waste into useful organic plant nutrients. One kg of this substrate is mixed with 1000 kgs of cow dung in a pile. The pile top is drenched with water everyday to keep it cool. The pile is turned over every ten days and 4 or 5 turnings are required depending on the weather and condition of the cow dung. Thus, it takes about 50 days for the manure to be ready and does not require the use of many human hours. It is the simplest and best manure for use. Due to the constant use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the health of the soil in almost all the states of India has deteriorated. The organic manure prepared from the cow dung in Gaushala is made by billions of microbes that digest bio-degradable biomass under proper environmental conditions for microbial life. The compost benefits the soil by recycling nutrients into it. It improves the soil structure, texture and aeration along with its water holding capacity. It loosens the clayey soil and increases water retention in sandy soil. It encourages healthy and abundant root development and besides, the plants grow with more resistance to diseases and pests.

**Utility of compost** – It can be used for growing cereals and other food plants, flowers, fruits, vegetables, aromatic and medicinal plants in farms and kitchen gardens and even in urban spaces like lawns and golf courses etc. The quantity of manure required depends on the health of the soil where it is being used. As a broad yardstick, it is recommended that 1 kg of manure be used for one sq. yard of soil area. The requirement for an acre roughly works out to be 5.0 tons.

**Advantages of organic manure based on aerobic composting microbes**

- ☐ Supplies all essential nutrients and micro-nutrients to the soil.
- ☐ No pathogens.
- ☐ No termites and no white grub.
- ☐ No weeds.
- ☐ Free of insect eggs and cysts.
- ☐ No foul smell.
- ☐ No spread of diseases through flies, mosquitoes and other bacteria.
- ☐ Increases water retention.
- ☐ Improves aeration.
- ☐ Minimum ground water contamination.
- ☐ Minimum environmental pollution due to near absence of methane & CO<sub>2</sub>.
- ☐ Reduces time of preparation of soil for sowing the crops.

Table showing monthly expenditure at the Gaushala			
Green Fodder - 15 kgs x Rs 2/ kg	Rs 30/-		
Dry fodder - 2 kgs x Rs 5/- kg	Rs 10/-		
Hafed Pellets - 1/2 kg x Rs 8/- kg	Rs 4/-		
Gur + Salt (150g+50g)	Rs 5/-		
Medicine	Rs 1/-		
Salary – Rs.6000/- for 30 staff for 25 days.	Rs 8/-		
Overheads – (electricity & maintenance)	Rs 2/-	Cow dung (10kgs/cow)x1000 @Rs.5/- per kg	Rs 50,000/-
Fresh Rotis - 2 kg	Free	Sale of 1 cow/day	Rs 11,000/-
Total Expenditure for 1000 cows/day	Rs 60,000/-	Sale of 1 pair of bullocks/day	Rs 5,000/-
		Total Income	Rs 66,000/-

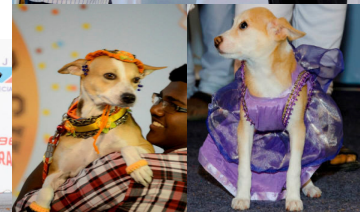
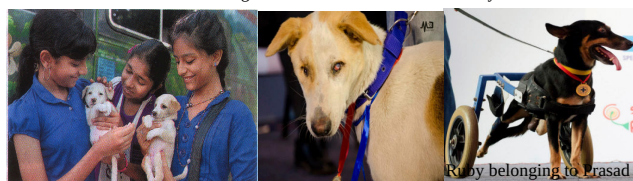
Note: The rates quoted above would vary with place, season, availability of fodder, labour and veterinary care.

**Viable Option** - Based on our experience, the cost of keeping a cow works out to be Rs.60/- per day including cattle feed (green fodder, dry fodder, oil cakes, gur, salt and mineral mixture), salary of Gawala per cow per day, medicines and overheads like electricity, water plus maintenance of equipments / plant and machinery. This cost may vary a little from place to place. The average output of cow dung per cow per day is 10 kgs. If organic manure is prepared and sold at Rs.10/- a kg., it will fetch an amount of Rs.100/- and thus the cow dung alone can look after the expenditure incurred on a cow per day. I don't agree with people who say that it is not economically viable to keep a cow. Of course, you have to find customers to buy the organic manure. Once they use it, they will always like to buy it since it is the best thing for soil as well the plants. ☐

## Great Indian Dog Show - Celebrating the Great Indian Spirit of Loving Kindness

Explaining about the event, Sathya Radhakrishnan, Joint Secretary of Blue Cross, said "There are no races, no tricks and no endurance tests, except for a compulsory leash to keep the dogs in order". Present at the event were Actors Trisha Krishna and Anuja Iyer but the 'Real Stars' who stole the show were "82 Great Indian Dog Stars"

Each of the rescuers shared a heart-warming story of unconditional love and commitment to rescue and care for their pets. Five year old 'Ruby' belonging to Prasad, who had been injured in an accident that left her hind-limbs paralyzed was awarded the trophy for 'Best Rescue' while Levin received the 'Best Owner' award for rescuing a blind dog and Aishwarya Varma's 17 year old 'Muthu' received the award for 'Oldest Dog'. Senior Veterinary Surgeon, Dr Jayaprakash who was on the Judging Panel, promised corrective surgery for Ruby. The event saw as many as 38 pups finding homes. It is fondly wished that many Animal Welfare Organizations will draw inspiration from Blue Cross of India's efforts and will organize similar initiatives in their city. ☐



In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (h) of sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960); the Central Government has made the Transport of Animals Rules, 1978. Capture and transport are invariably stressful and dangerous for cetaceans. Physiological indications of stress associated with capture and captivity include elevated adrenocortical hormones and impaired cell function. It has also been found that mortality rates of captured bottlenose dolphins shoot up six-fold immediately after capture and levels of adrenocortical hormones do not drop down to 'normal' levels for up to 35-45 days. As such, the capture and transport of dolphins are in violation of the above mentioned rules and not to be permitted.

**Housing:** Section 27(A) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 defines the term 'circus' as an establishment – either stationary or mobile – where animals are kept or used wholly or mainly for the purpose of performing tricks and manoeuvres. Section 2 (39) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, includes inter alia “circus: within the definition of the word “zoo”. Section 38H of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 declares that no zoos – including circuses, as per Section 2(39) – shall be operated without being recognized by the Central Zoo Authority. When these provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are read and interpreted together, it is clear that cetaceans that are made to perform within the definition of circus animals, as defined in Section 2(7A) of the act. Hence, such facilities would be covered by the definition of zoos.

The Central Government of India in its Gazette of India dated 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1998 published the National Zoo Policy inter alia the main objectives of which are that:

- Zoos should complement national efforts for conservation of wild fauna through carrying out the breeding of endangered species.
- To inspire among zoo visitors empathy for wild animals by displaying animals in naturalistic enclosures.
- To provide opportunities for scientific studies and creation of database on biology of endangered species.

The Rule 10 (1) of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992 strictly mandates that the primary objective of operating any zoo shall be the conservation of the wildlife and no zoo shall take up any activity that is inconsistent with the said objective.

That Rule 10 (16) of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992 states that all animal enclosures in a zoo shall be so designed as to meet the full biological requirements of the animals housed therein.

That Rule 10(17) of the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992 further stipulates that the zoo operations shall endeavour to stimulate the natural habitat of the animals in the enclosure.

To the best of our knowledge, there are no studies documenting that exposure to, or interaction with captive cetaceans increases the public's knowledge or concern about dolphins and the environment. The most in-depth survey conducted by the public display industry and published as a white paper was critiqued unfavourably by a peer reviewed evaluation of its methods and results (Marino et al, 2010). In fact, there is reason to believe that captive cetacean attraction actually miseducate the public about wildlife and the marine environment. Not only does the public not learn much, if anything about the life of cetaceans, but they are led to believe that the tricks they see are how cetaceans truly behave in the wild and that the cetaceans are pets and have value in the context of their relationship to humans.

**Exposure to loud sounds** – airborne and underwater – can also stress cetaceans. The sensitive hearing of cetaceans is well established and numerous studies, many on-going, are documenting the harmful effects that anthropogenic noise can have on them. Sound travels well through water and even airborne (e.g. aircraft, music) sounds can penetrate the air-water interface and be heard by captive animals. When cetaceans cannot remove themselves from prolonged, loud sounds, physiological stress and damage can result.

In our opinion, no cetaceans can be housed in captivity in compliance with the objectives of the National Zoo Policy and the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992. In view of the above, the AWBI, by virtue of the power vested to it by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and Rules framed under it, advises all concerned to issue appropriate directives prohibiting the establishment of such facilities, and further advises all Chief Wildlife Wardens of States to withhold permission to any person/ persons, organization, government agency, or private enterprise that proposes to import or capture any Cetacean species for training, to use as a performing animal for commercial entertainment, private or public exhibition, private or public human interaction, educational or research purposes.

## Bangaloreans 'Walk the Talk' for Animals

In Bengaluru, a walkathon, jointly organized by Angels for ABC, Radio Active CR 90.4MHz, Samarpan Foundation, ANIBIN, Precious Paws Foundation, Sarvodaya Sevabhavi Samstha, BBMP, CUPA, Jain University, People for Animals, Stray Pals, The Golden Husk, VSAWRD, Pedigree and Woofalicious was organized on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 from 8.00 to 9.00 am. Speaking at the flag off, Shri R Chenraj Jain, President Jain University Trust said that “Community outreach activities like these are very important to sensitize the general public on a variety of issues – ranging from cruelty to abandonment of pets. Community involvement and a heightened sense of responsibility is the only way forward in promoting animal welfare.” The group walked from Mayo Hall Triangle to Cubbon Park, carrying placards that addressed various aspects of animal welfare like: “Say No to Plastic Bags, Stop Animal Cruelty, Prevent Animal Abuse, Support Humane Education programmes and Promote Responsible Pet Ownership”.

Meetali Mukherjee, an animal welfare activist who participated in the event said, “My family and I participated in this event, as we strongly believe that animals play an important role in building stronger ties within the family and foster a sense of compassion to the natural population around us” Vijaya Sitaram said, “The human race is getting more and more self-absorbed and seems to have forgotten that we share the planet with other sentient beings. They are on this earth for a purpose – and that purpose is not to be mercilessly used, abused and exploited to serve human whims”. Co-convenor of the event, Poornima Harish while appealing for better participation from the community said, “Animals suffer in silence. They cannot help themselves. It is our responsibility to help them”. □

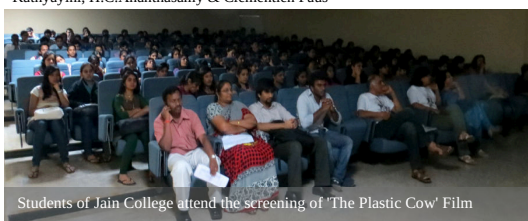


## Communities Concerned About 'Plastic Cow'



From left to right: Wilma Rodrigues, Leo Saldanha, Kathayayini, H.C. Ananthasamy & Clementien Paus

The screening of the 'Plastic Cow Film' is drawing concern from the community. Till date, three screening events of the film have been conducted in Bengaluru. The first event organized by Nirupama Sarma, Communications Consultant and Volunteer for the Plastic Cow Project was conducted at Ashirvaad Education Centre on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The screening of the film was followed by a Panel discussion that included, HC Ananthaswamy, Engineer from BBMP, Kathayayini Chamraj from CIVIC, Leo Saldanha from Environment Support Group, Wilma Rodrigues from Saahas and Clementine Paus from Karuna Society for Animals and Nature. Over sixty people attended the event and included, Brindha Nandakumar, Honorary President, WRRCC, Suparna Ganguly, Honorary President, CUPA, Dr Parvez A.Piran, Jt Director, Dept of Animal Husbandry, Bengaluru and Dr. Arun Rangaswamy, Trustee, Samabhava.



Students of Jain College attend the screening of 'The Plastic Cow' Film

On January 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in two separate events, held at Jain College, Jayanagar and Jain College, J.C.Road, “The Plastic Cow” film was screened to inform and sensitize the students about the plight of the “Plastic Cow”. Feedback forms were given to participants in two of the events. In the event held on January 12<sup>th</sup>, the feedback forms were filled up by 40 members of the community and in the event held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, the forms were filled up by 120 students. The results from both the groups are interesting and show that, “whether it is adult citizens of the community or the young people, there is serious concern about the plight of the cattle left to forage from the garbage bins in the streets of the metros of our country”.

When asked, “Would you like to help create awareness in your community about the Plastic Cow Project and be part of the Bangalore Plastic Cow Volunteer Group?” Positive responses varied from 55% for concerned citizens to 84% among the students. For the question, “How did you like this event?”, it was a unanimously positive response with 100% of the concerned citizens and 96% of the student group giving a positive rating for the film. Students expressed greater enthusiasm to organize a screening of the film with 84% of the students stating that they would like to organize a similar screening event in their neighbourhood while among the concerned citizens group, 67% stated that they would like to organize a similar event. □

## 'Branding' Horses Painful & Ineffective

Branding of horses with heat is excruciatingly painful and causes third degree burn injury on the sensitive skins of horses. In a collaborative study between the Veterinary Universities of Germany and Vienna, carried out by Dr Aurich and co-investigators, it is now proved that branding of horses is ineffective in identifying them. In the abstract, the investigators write, “This study analysed the readability of branding symbols and histomorphological alterations at the branding sites. A total of 248 horses in an equestrian championship were available for identification of symbols and numbers. All except one horse had evidence of histological changes at the brand site, including epidermal hyperplasia, increase of dermal collagenous fibrous tissue and loss of adnexal structures. In two foals, an ulcerative to necrotizing dermatitis was observed and interpreted as a complication of recent branding lesions. Despite the fact that hot iron branding caused lesions compatible with third degree thermal injury, it did not allow unambiguous identification of a large proportion of older horses. While the breed-specific symbol was consistently identified by three independent investigators in 84% of the horses, the double-digit branding number was read correctly by all three investigators in less than 40%. In conclusion, hot iron branding in horses causes lesions compatible with third degree thermal injury but does not always allow for identification of horses”. The field work for this study was carried at the Graf Lehndorff Institute for Equine Science, a joint research unit of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, Austria, and the Brandenburg State Stud at Neustadt (Dosse), Germany. The post-mortem analysis was performed at the Department of Pathology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Hanover, Germany. **It may be noted that branding of horses with heat has been banned in Scotland, Denmark and Germany.** ☆  
Reference: J.E. Aurich, P. Wohlsein, M. Wulf, M. Nees, W. Baumgärtner, M. Becker-Birck, C. Aurich. Readability of branding symbols in horses and histomorphological alterations at the branding site. The Veterinary Journal, 2012; DOI: 10.1016/j.tvjl.2012.07.006 □



# जरूरी है पशुओं पर अत्याचारों को रोकना



डॉ सुनील शर्मा  
सह सदस्य एनीमल वेल्फेयर बोर्ड  
भारत सरकार

प्रख्यात पर्यावरणविद एवं नोबल पुरस्कार विजेता श्री राजेंद्र पंचौरी जी का मानना है कि शाकाहार से ग्लोबल वार्मिंग को रोकने से रोका जा सकता है। वास्तव में प्रख्यात पर्यावरणविद का यह कथन हमारी जीव रक्षा की भावना को संतुष्ट करता है तथा प्रकृति की रक्षा में पशुओं के अस्तित्व की बात को स्वीकारता है। आज जब सारे विद्वानों में शाकाहार के प्रति लोगों का आकर्षण बढ़ा है तथा पशुओं के प्रति होने वाले क्रूर व्यवहार को रोकने के लिए विद्वानों का जनमत बढ़ा है इसके लिए फेदा, गीन पीस तथा डेलेड की रॉयल सोसायटी फॉर प्रोटेक्शन ऑफ एनीमल्स जैसी वैदिक संस्थाएँ लगातार काम कर रही हैं तथा पशुओं के प्रति सद्व्यवहार करने की सीख सारी दुनिया को दे रही हैं। ऐसे में अहिंसा का पाठ पढ़ाने वाले हमारे देदा में मांसाहार तथा पशुओं के प्रति क्रूरता की घटनाओं का लगातार बढ़ना चिंताजनक है। उल्लेखनीय है कि देदा में वर्तमान में लगभग चमड़ा और मांस का व्यापार 15000 करोड़ रुपये का है। तथा हमारे देदा में लगभग 35000 बैध और अवैध कल्लखाने कार्यशील हैं इनमें प्रतिदिन लाखों पशुओं का वध अत्यंत क्रूर तरीकों से किया जाता है।



हमारे देदा की कृषि प्रधान अर्थव्यवस्था की रीढ़ माने जाने वाले गोवंदा की संख्या में चिंताजनक गिरावट आ रही है। गोवंदा की अधिकता स्थानीय तथा स्वदेशी नस्लें लुप्त प्रायः हो गई हैं। जो शेष हैं उन पर भी लुप्त होने का संकट छाया हुआ है। आज गाँव के गाँव गोवंदा से खाली हो रहे हैं। प्रतिदिन लाखों की संख्या में अवैध रूप से गोवंदा का मांसाहार हेतु वध किया जा रहा है। अभी हाल ही में म०प्र० के सिवनी जिले के कुई कस्बे में 1900 गोवंदा का अवैध रूप से परिवहन करते हुए पकड़ा जाना इस बात की पुष्टि करता है कि महाराष्ट्र के कल्लखानों के लिए म०प्र० से भारी संख्या में गोवंदा का अवैध रूप से परिवहन लगातार किया जा रहा है। आदर्श की बात है कि म०प्र० के दूरस्थ अंचलों से पशुओं की अवैध रूप से खरीदी कर गोकसी करने वाले व्यवसायी आसानी से महाराष्ट्र एवं छत्तीसगढ़ छोकर पश्चिम बंगाल तथा बांग्लादेश भी गोवंदा को पहुँचाने में कामयाब हो रहा है। समाज सेवकों तथा गोस्त्रा में रत कार्यकर्ताओं की संजीवनी से कभी कभार इन्हें पकड़ा जाता है। गोवंदा का द्रास हमारी ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था पर चोट है तथा गोवंदा की स्थानीय नस्लों का ख़ाता हमारी वैध विविधता के लिए खतरा है।

गोवंदा एवं पशुओं की रक्षा के लिए स्वतंत्र भारत में अनेक कानून बनाये गये जिनमें 1960 में भारत सरकार ने पशु कृता निवारण अधिनियम बनाया तथा इस अधिनियम के अंतर्गत 1978 में पशुओं के परिवहन संबंधी अधिनियम बनाया जिसमें पशुओं के सहज पूर्वक परिवहन के लिए नियमों को निर्धारित किया। इसके साथ ही वर्ष 2001 में पशुओं के पैदल परिवहन के लिए नियम बनाये तथा वर्ष 2001 में ही कल्लखानों में पशुओं को यत्नपूर्ण मृत्यु से छुटकारा दिलाने के लिए पशु वधशाला निरीक्षण एवं नियंत्रण संबंधी नियम बनाये।



इन नियमों के सतर्कता पूर्वक पालन से पशुओं का अवैध परिवहन एवं पशुओं के प्रति क्रूरता को आसानी से रोका जा सकता है। पशुओं के अवैध परिवहन में ट्रकों का उपयोग किया जाता है। इनमें कितने पशु रखे जायें और ट्रकों का स्वरूप क्या हो इस बात की व्याख्या पशु कृता के अधिनियम के अंतर्गत की गई है। साथ ही अभी हाल में पशु कृता अधिनियम के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार के एनीमल वेल्फेयर बोर्ड ने अपने मानद पशु कल्याण अधिकारियों को इस संदर्भ में अहम जिम्मेदारी सौंपी है। गोवंदा के वध तथा अवैध परिवहन को रोकने के लिए केंद्र के अलावा राज्य सरकारों ने भी अपने कठोर कानून बनाये हैं। म०प्र०, राजस्थान, गुजरात एवं जम्मू कश्मीर के कानून उल्लेखनीय हैं। इस संदर्भ में म०प्र० सरकार द्वारा 1959 में बनाया गया कृषि पशु परीक्षण अधिनियम अपने आप में अदभुत कानून था जिसे 2004 में वर्तमान सरकार ने समाप्त कर दिया था। इसके अलावा गुजरात का गोवंदा वध निषेध कानून भी अच्छा कानून है जिसे चिन्म भाई सरकार ने बनाया था। वास्तव में गोवंदा के अवैध परिवहन तथा पशुओं के प्रति क्रूरतापूर्ण व्यवहार

इनके क्रियान्वयन की जिम्मेदारी पुलिस विभाग पर रहती है परंतु अपने काम के बोझ तथा रिदक की लालच उसे इससे दूर रखती है। सामान्यतः पुलिस इस प्रकार के परिवहन को रोकने के लिए तब तक कोई कार्यवाही नहीं करती है जब तक कि उस पर कोई राजनैतिक दबाव ना आये। वास्तव में पशुओं के परिवहन की अनुमति की प्रक्रिया काफी जटिल है। इसका कड़ाई से पालन इस समस्या को काफी दूर तक कम कर सकता है। आज पशुओं की सुरक्षा के लिए पुलिस एवं वनरक्षकों की भाँति सुरक्षा बल के गठन की जरूरत भी महसूस की जा रही है। यह पशुओं की सुरक्षा का अच्छा विकल्प हो सकता है। इसके अलावा ग्रामीणों में पशुओं की सुरक्षा के प्रति जागरूकता एवं पशुपालकों को चारा एवं पानी के लिए अनुदान की व्यवस्था भी की जानी जरूरी है।

## AWBI Newsletter

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*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.*

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To

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### ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

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- Making Gaushalas Milk Free & Neutering of Male Calves / Scrub Bull by Humane Castration
- Towards self-sustainability of Gaushalas
- Board Issues Advisory Prohibiting Establishment of Dolphinariums in India
- Great Indian Dog Show -- Celebrating the Great Indian Spirit of Loving Kindness
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- Bangaloreans 'Walk the Talk' for Animals
- Communities Concerned About Plight of the 'Plastic Cow'
- 'Branding Horses' Painful and Ineffective

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