



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



Vol No. 9 Issue No. 4 Re.1/-

RNI No. TNBIL2003/10675

March 2013

Message From Chairman



Need to Address Illegal Cattle Transportation and Reducing our Dependence on Foods of Animal Origin

My Dear Friends,

The most gruesome acts of cruelty are perpetuated on the unproductive cattle of our country. It is happening for decades now – a daily routine in several parts of the country. Each day, in almost every state of this country, thousands of cattle are forced to endure eye injuries, wounds in their viscera and, hip and back injuries while they are being transported via trucks on both legal and illegal transportation networks. Severely injured and traumatized, some with broken legs, broken tails and fractured hips, starving, thirsty and bleeding, their journey to the slaughterhouse must be surely the most heart rending scene of trauma and cruelty ever witnessed, anywhere in the world.

Generally, Animal Protection laws are not enforced and moreover, the penalties are low, the entire enforcement mechanism is poor, the number of animal welfare activists to protect the welfare of India's stray cattle are too few and the number of perpetrators of the crime are too many to be caught. The few animal welfare organizations and activists who are working in this area are simply too few in number to create a measurable and sustained impact on the driving forces of human greed, exploitation and excessively consumeristic lifestyles that are propelling market demands for foods of animal origin such as beef. It may be noted that animal welfare activists like Mrs Radha Rajan are just a handful of people in the country who have the courage to stop illegal cattle transportation. Unfortunately, for the majority of animal welfare activists too, the prevention of cruelty to cattle in the metros and ending the illegal transportation seems to be too difficult a task to be even confronted as an occasional case, leave alone, being confronted with on a regular basis.

It is time to recognize that our dietary habits requiring excessive consumption of full cream milk and milk products and meat are responsible for the rise in heart disease, diabetes and cancer in both rural and urban India. What is conveniently forgotten is that it is the heavy dependence on processed and saturated foods of animal origin coupled with a sedentary lifestyle that has led to this macabre rise in chronic non-communicable diseases.

It is indeed an irony that on one hand our country has the world's highest milk production and on the other hand every time milk is produced and calves are born, the male calves are often starved to death. Besides, the moment a cow becomes infertile, she is left on the streets to fend from garbage bins and die a painful, miserable death with a stomach choked with garbage and plastic bags. ...continued. on page 2

A monthly newsletter of the
ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA.

(Min of Environment & Forests, Govt of India).
Published by AWBI
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Printed by C.P.R. Environment Education.
Centre. www.cpreec.org

National Conference on Dog Welfare – Inspiring Initiative by Dogs Trust



The inaugural address for the National Conference on Dog Welfare held in Chennai on February 27th and 28th 2013 at Hotel Deccan Plaza was given by Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. R. M. Kharb (AVSM), Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI who strongly emphasized on the need to control the growing population of street dogs and the high incidence of Rabies in India which is directly affecting the health and welfare of both, human beings and the street dogs. The first session of the day saw presentations made by Dr Gyanendra Gongal, Scientist, WHO Regional Office, South-East Asia, who spoke about the role of the World Health Organization and discussed prospects of elimination of human rabies transmitted by dogs in South Asia. This was followed by Prof Abdul Rahman's talk which focused on The 'One Health' approach towards Rabies elimination in Asia. In his address, Prof. Rahman spoke about the need for effective inter-sectoral collaboration and shared his experiences about efforts to sensitize and educate members of the community in the villages of Karnataka. Prof Rahman is also the Chair of the Commonwealth Veterinary Association and President of the Association for the Prevention of Rabies in India. Dr. Chinny Krishna, Vice Chairman, AWBI, while sharing his experiences about how the ABC Programme was launched in Chennai after more than a century of killing street dogs shared very interesting and useful information on the key elements of the ABC-AR Programme that led to successful elimination of rabies from Chennai city.



Dr Jack Reece, Veterinary Director at Help in Suffering, Jaipur shared his insights on the "Ecology of street dogs, especially with reference to rabies control and eradication in Jaipur as well as the effect of long term monitoring of the street dog population".

Dr Sunil Chawla, Veterinary Director, HIS, shared his experiences about setting up a sustainable ABC programme and the key role and challenges that he faced while involving participation from key stakeholders like civic bodies. Andrew Yoak, doctoral student at Ohio State University shared his observations of a three city study that explored the secondary health benefits of ABC Programmes in improving herd immunity to several diseases.

Dr Ilona Otter, Clinical Director, ITC along with Dr Vinay, Senior Vet, ITC spoke about "The role of the Veterinarian in rabies control". Dr Paula Boyden, Veterinary Director, Dogs Trust spoke about the importance of maintaining proper protocols and good standards of asepsis in the operating theatre as well as post-surgery to ensure better control of infectious diseases.

Tom Thomas, CEO, Praxis – Institute for Participatory Practices emphasized the need for strong community participation and ownership in ABC-AR programmes. Dr Shilpi Das from the National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi spoke about the role of effective inter-sectoral collaboration, especially from the perspective of public health and welfare in preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases like rabies.

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Dr Gyanendra Gongal, Scientist, WHO Regional Office, South-East Asia

Dental Colleges to Stop Using Animals in Teaching

Based on an appeal made by animal rights group, PETA India, The Dental Council of India's Officiating Secretary -- Dr SK Ojha reported that animals will no longer be used to teach both under-graduate and post-graduate dental students. In his letter, Dr Ojha wrote, "I am directed to say that the Executive Committee of the Dental Council of India in its meeting held on 22nd February 2013 at New Delhi considered PETA India's email dated 8.2.2013 thereby inter-alias asking to remove the procedures that required the use of animals from the practical curriculum for training dental students and after discussion and deliberations decided not to promote/use ... animals for teaching and training dentistry to the dental students." With this news, the Dental Council of India joins the Medical Council of India, the Pharmacy Council of India and the University Grants Commission as institutions that have decided to stop using animals in education and training. □



"In India, one child dies of rabies every hour, Project Mission Rabies hopes to change that figure to making India rabies free"

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Dr. Jessica Lawrence, Head of the Oncology Division, Edinburgh University, Vet School Canine Population Control: Preventive Oncology and Humane Care spoke about the protective role that routine spay and neuter programmes have in preventing cancers of the reproductive tissues in dogs - like mammary tumours and CTVT (canine transmissible venereal tumour). Steve Goward, Deputy Head, Canine Behaviour & Training, Dogs Trust spoke about the importance of understanding dog behaviour and communication in humane dog welfare practices. Dr Luke Gamble, Founder of Worldwide Veterinary Services introduced Mission Rabies, an ambitious 30 day mega rabies vaccination tour in south, west and east India to vaccinate 50 000 dogs within a month. He also expressed hope that Mission Rabies would sensitize, educate and inform communities, institutions and civic bodies about effective rabies prevention through anti-rabies vaccination programmes. The second day of the Conference had a Veterinary and non-veterinary track and included workshops by Jeff Young, Dr. Paula Boyden and Steve Goward. This was followed by a short visit to the Blue Cross ABC Centre in Guindy. The afternoon session was facilitated by FIAPO and was a brainstorming session on various aspects of dog welfare with the aim of identifying key issues of concern among pet dogs and street dogs and possible measures for pro-active, sustainable and positive outcomes. □



Visit to the Blue Cross ABC Centre at Guindy



Dr Ilona Otter, Clinical Director, WVS



Prof Abdul Rahman, President, CVA



Dr Paula Boyden, Veterinary Director, Dogs Trust



Ms Clarissa Baldwin, CEO, Dogs Trust



Dr. Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman, AWBI

Need to Address Illegal Cattle Transportation and Reducing our Dependence on Food of Animal Origin

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Is there a solution to this crisis? If so, how is it to be addressed? As I understand, there is only one solution to this crisis and that is to create awareness on a large scale in schools, colleges, communities, educational institutions and corporate workspaces about the cruelty suffered by our cattle due to increase in our demand for foods of animal origin. This also has an adverse effect on the environment and besides depleting our forests and causing a rise in human-animal conflicts.

Time and again, the Animal Welfare Board of India has tried its best to improve the welfare of the street cattle of our country by conducting Training Programmes on sustainable Gaushala modernization and also by providing grants to set up milk free Gaushalas. The sad reality is that the grants that the Board gives to the Animal Welfare Organizations is just a fraction of the amount required to meet their monthly expenses of running their organizations. It is time that the State Animal Welfare Boards and District SPCAs are activated in every state. The gochar or grazing lands of the cattle need to be revived in every district in the country.

Films like the Plastic Cow must be made an integral part of the civic society and civic bodies' awareness programmes. There must be debates on foods of animal origin vis-a-vis the cruelty to animals. Brainstorming sessions must be conducted as events in the country's premier institutes for innovative solutions to emerge. The solutions that emerge must be holistic, sustainable, humane and practical with an emphasis on reducing dependence on foods of animal origin.

Just as the Government has worked in a very systematic and focused manner to wipe out rinderpest in the country, a similar strategy must be adopted to wipe out illegal cattle transportation and to create long term solutions that are sustainable and driven by market demands and better consumer awareness on issues pertaining to the cruelty to animals and also issues of health and environmental protection. Implementation of Cattle birth control programmes by the Departments of Animal Husbandry to bring down the population of stray cattle by castrating scrub bulls can be another effective step forward.

May I request each one of you to network with other Animal Welfare Organizations in your city and town and make space and time in your organization to at least sensitize your community about the need to cut down our requirements on foods of animal origin. Every Animal Welfare Organization in this country must take upon itself the mandate of creating awareness about the cruelty that animals suffer, especially in urban spaces and during illegal transportation of cattle.

With best wishes,
Maj .Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R. M. Kharb, (AVSM)
Chairman, AWBI □

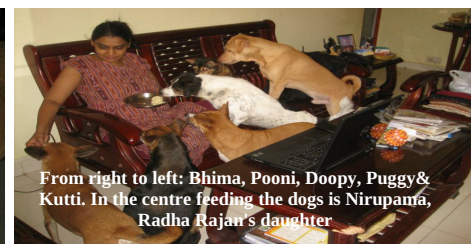
Animal Welfare Activist of the Month Mrs Radha Rajan

Meet Mrs Radha Rajan – Author, Animal Welfare Activist, Political Commentator and Editor--Vigilonline. Her work with animals started in 1996 when a skinny female Indian dog whom she named Toadie wandered into her garden and refused to go away. Talking about how Toadie and Kumbakarna found their way into her home and her heart, Radha says, "She probably felt safe inside my house. We named her Todie because she had a habit of staring fixedly at toads (without threatening them in any way). She would look just as penetratingly at cats, crows and squirrels without chasing them or even moving towards them. And then came Kumbakarna, within four months after Toadie came home, barely 40 days old, plastered with ticks and, so weak that the crows were turning him over and pecking him. These two babies define my house.

We all changed because of Toadie and Karna. Both of them were inseparable when they were with us. Toadie passed away in December 2008 at the age of 15 after a long Beautiful life and Karna passed away in September, 2009, nine months later, at the age of 13. She and Karna made us what we are today". That was how Radha Rajan describes how she started her work in the field of Animal Welfare.



Describing her day, Radha says, "my world is now the world of animals - all that flies, crawls, walks, swims. I take care of street dogs in Besant Nagar and Adyar. Taking care includes feeding them twice a day, spaying them, vaccinating them all, every year, and attending to all their medical needs. Around 80 of them are in my everyday care and every dog, cat and crow that crosses my path on that day is fed. I leave mud pots with water in one fixed location on every road that I cross. This soul-fulfilling work takes up two and half hours every morning and 45 minutes in the evening. I have been doing this work without a break for the last 17 years". □



From right to left: Bhima, Pooni, Doopy, Puggy & Kutti. In the centre feeding the dogs is Nirupama, Radha Rajan's daughter

"my world is now the world of animals - all that flies, crawls, walks, swims"

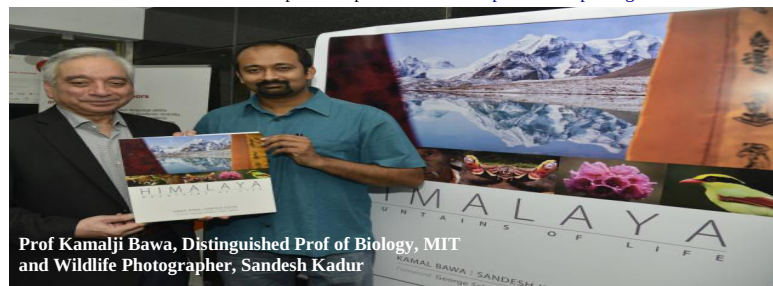
Earthian Awards 2012

Recognizing Excellence in Sustainability Programmes



Shri Azim Premji and Prof Kamaljit Bawa giving away the awards to the prize winners

The "Earthian Sustainability Programme for Schools and Colleges", an initiative promoted by Wipro is an excellent programme to honour and celebrate innovative projects in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable ways of living. This year, the event was held on February 16th 2013 at the J N Tata Auditorium, IISc, Bengaluru. The awards were given by Wipro Chairman Shri Azim Premji to ten schools and ten colleges who had done some truly outstanding projects in the field. To know more about the event please explore this link - <http://www.wipro.org/earthian2012>.



Prof Kamalji Bawa, Distinguished Prof of Biology, MIT and Wildlife Photographer, Sandesh Kadar

It is time that Animal Welfare Organizations networked with schools and colleges and motivated them to do projects in sustainable food and lifestyle choices and participate in programmes like the Earthian Programme. Doing so would be a great way to spread the message of compassion towards animals. During the event, the book – Himalayas – Mountains of Life written by Prof Kamaljit Bawa and wildlife photographer Sandesh Kadar was also released by Shri Azim Premji. □

My Teacher, My Guru Nikita

Dr Anteneh Roba,
Co-Founder, International Fund for Africa
<roba@ifundafrika.org>



On the morning of November 28, 2012, I lost my teacher, my guru and my soul mate to cancer. Nikita was not an ordinary earthing; he was a furry, nine pound Maltese with an attitude and plenty of love to give. Nikita came into my life at a time when I was searching for meaning and for love. His arrival changed me forever. There is a saying that when the student is ready the teacher will appear. That is what happened in the summer of 1999 when my cousin asked me to take care of a small Maltese dog she had bought. His stay with me was supposed to be for a short period, just until my cousin could find a place that would allow her to keep him. A month became a year, then a year turned into 13 years. Our start was rough. I was a lonely guy in my early forties in a big city, looking for love and meaning in my own life. As a relatively young doctor, I determined to suppress the feeling of loneliness and the need for love by partying, and traveling to exotic shores, none of which brought me what I wanted so desperately.



Then one day, Nikita showed up in my life. As I mentioned before, our relationship was rough at the beginning. He peed and pooped everywhere, and barked non-stop. I had to feed him two to three times a day, walk him, clean his poop and pee, and take him for his shots, all of which prevented me from travelling and going out when I wanted. In other words, I had to learn to be a father. The transformation was gradual, but it was deep and permanent. The idea that a little being depended on me for his existence was a very powerful concept that slowly hit me like a ton of bricks. I could no longer worry only about myself, because now I had him to worry about. Then something even more powerful happened. Nikita started following me around everywhere in my spacious home, and at night time he would snuggle up to me.

The idea that a four-legged living being (or for that matter, any being) can give back so much love was so foreign to me that I didn't know how to deal with it. As time passed our bond grew stronger. Of course, I still had moments when I did not want him to be around, and I would sometimes call up a friend of mine who loved dogs to watch him for a few days. I would give some excuse, that I was going out of town or I was working a few days in a row. Sometimes my reasons were legitimate, but sometimes they were made up just to get away from him. But the resistance I put up to avoid loving Nikita gradually disappeared. Over time, our bond became complete. He was my universe and I, his. We started traveling all over the US together.

When I was not working we would go into town, and to coffee shops together. I would drive him around in my car, with his little head hanging out of the window feeling the warm south-western breath of Texas air. People knew me as the guy who drove around with a little white puppy. Our love for each other was unbelievable. He was the child I never had, and he fulfilled my need to love and to be loved. But Nikita also did much more than that. He became my spiritual teacher, my "Guru" or "Buddha."

His unconditional love for me and mine for him opened a door that had locked itself away in the deepest parts of my heart. He opened the floodgates of compassion that I never thought I had. One day we were walking in the neighbourhood and he got tired so I picked him up.



Nikita was teaching me to tread as lightly as I can on this fragile and beautiful planet, the only one we have. My little guru started me on a road 13 years ago that has since changed my life. It has led me to dedicate my life to serving others, both human and non-human, and inspired me to renounce eating animals and thereby not participating in the suffering of animals. He taught me to speak on behalf of the poor, the downtrodden and the voiceless. This eternal lesson is the gift my teacher, my guru, my soul mate Nikita has given me. Now that he has left me, every action I take toward caring for others—human and non-human—and every vegan meal I eat will be a testament to his enduring legacy and to his continued presence in my life. He is now part of me for all eternity. Nothing can separate us, and when my time comes I will join him and other loved ones for all eternity. ☐

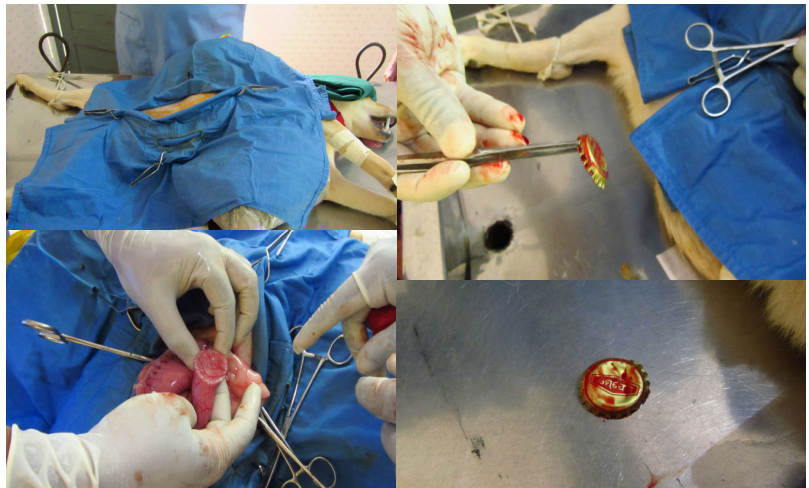
“While walking and holding him in the palm of my hand, I suddenly felt his little heart beat, and at that moment in time, I stopped. It was one of those moments in one’s life when one realizes a universal truth that was hidden but always there. I realized for the first time in my life the incongruity, the paradox, the dissonance between what I felt for this four-legged non-human animal and my attitude towards the chickens, cows, and other birds and sea animals I did not care for and had no issue eating. That moment, I realized what Nikita had become for me. He was sent from the universe to teach me not only to accept, receive, and give love, but also to see the beauty in nature, the beauty of all life, and to be one that cares for all sentient beings”

Removal of Bottle Cap from Labrador’s Tummy

Gastrotomy is a very risky surgery, often with very low survival rates after surgery. This report sent by Dr. Anish Rajan details out a successful case of retrieval of a bottle cap from a Labrador’s tummy. Explaining how the surgery was done Dr Rajan writes, “We got an opportunity to perform Gastrotomy in a Labrador Retriever last week. The case was presented at my clinic with the complaint of accidental swallowing of a metal bottle cap. On radiographic examination, the bottle cap was found to be located in the stomach .

Since the size of the bottle cap was considerably large, we couldn't think of inducing emesis or purgation. So, the only option left was for us to carry out a gastrotomy. However, to rule out the possibility of the bottle cap moving to the intestine or having been excreted in the feces, we took another radiograph on the next day. We could see that the foreign body was still there at the stomach. Therefore, we decided to go ahead with the surgery. I along with Dr. Deepu Philip Mathew, Surgeon from the Veterinary Polyclinic, Chengannur did the surgery.

Anaesthesia was induced using xylazine and maintenance was done using thiopentone. A mid-line incision was made for exploratory laparotomy, the stomach was exteriorized, the foreign body was located and isolated by clamping using an intestinal clamp. We then opened up the stomach and took out the foreign body using a forceps, taking care to avoid spilling of stomach contents. The stomach was sutured using Connell’s suture pattern followed by Lamberts. The lapotomy wound was closed as usual. We used Vicryl for all the suturing. I also placed intra-dermal sutures on this patient”. It may be interesting to note that Dr. Anish Rajan found the ABC Training Programme at ITC very useful as it has helped him to refine his skills in small animal surgery quite significantly. ☐



जीव जन्तु कल्याण संस्थाओं से अपील

भारत में किसानों के द्वारा बड़ी संख्या में आक्सिटोसीन, जो एक सारणीबद्ध - एच औषधि है जो दुधारु गायों से अधिक दुग्ध उत्पादन के लिए प्रयोग किया जाता है। आक्सिटोसीन का यह प्रयोग जीव जन्तु कृता निवारण अधिनियम 1960 के तहत कृता है और इसके लिए शक्त कानूनी प्रक्रिया का प्रावधान है। आक्सिटोसीन एक ऐसा हारमोन है जो आपातकालीन दशाओं में जब कभी किसी गाय को बच्चा होना होता है या बच्चेयानी में सिकुडन - फैलाव के लिए उत्तेजित करने की आवश्यकता पड़ती है, तो किया जाता है, जिससे बछड़े तथा गाय दोनों की प्राण रक्षा की जा सके।

पेटा के एक रिपोर्ट- 'भारतीय दुग्धशाला उद्योग के अंदर' - दुग्ध उत्पादन के नाम पर गाय एवं भैंसों पर होनेवाले अत्याचार की एक रिपोर्ट के तहत अध्ययनकर्ता डॉ.आर.पी.परासर, 'डॉ.ए.बी. रिसर्च सोसायटी फार हेल्थ' ने पाया की इन पशुओं पर बेहद अत्याचार होता है। डॉ. परासर ने यह बताया कि उत्तर प्रदेश, हरियाणा और दिल्ली के 82 प्रतिशत मवेशी प्रजननकर्ता पशुओं में इस इंजेक्शन को लगाकर दुग्ध दोहन के लिए उत्तेजित करते हैं। सोनीपत, रोहतक, फरिदाबाद, गोराना, बहादुरगढ़, लोनी, गाजियाबाद, हापुड और बुलंदशहर जैसे कस्बों में 62 से 68 प्रतिशत से अधिक मवेशी प्रजननकर्ता आक्सिटोसीन का प्रयोग दुग्ध दोहने के लिए करते हैं। साथ ही 23 से 32 प्रतिशत आक्सिटोसीन का प्रयोग उत्तर प्रदेश एवं हरियाणा जैसे राज्यों में होता है।

जब आक्सिटोसीन का प्रयोग दुग्ध-क्षरण बढ़ाने में किया जाता है, तब इस हारमोन के क्षणिक प्रभाव द्वारा स्तन की मांस पेशिया लचीली हो जाती है और उसमें सिकुडन - फैलाव जैसी क्रिया होने लगती है, लेकिन जब इस हारमोन को लंबे अंतराल के लिए लगातार प्रयोग करते हैं तो मांस पेशिया कड़ी एवं निष्क्रिय हो जाती है। इसके अतिरिक्त इन दुधारु पशुओं में दुग्ध उत्पादन अवधि घट जाती है एवं गाय धीरे-धीरे बांझपन का शिकार होने लगती है और गाय गर्भधारण करने में असक्षम हो जाती है एवं उसे वधशाला भेज दिया जाता है। जिस रंग से उसे ले जाया जाता है वह बेहद दर्दनाक है।

डॉ.भीमराव आंबेडकर विश्वविद्यालय, आगरा के वैज्ञानिकों ने अपने अनुसंधान में यह पाया कि अंधाधुन्ध एवं लगातार आक्सिटोसीन की अधिकतम मात्रा प्रयोग किये जाने से गी पशुओं में गर्भासय अपभ्रंश (यूट्राइन प्रोलैप्स) होता है। शोधार्थी डॉ.आर.बी.चौधरी ने डॉ प्रकाश चंद्रा, प्रोफेसर एवं अध्यक्ष, पशुपालन एवं दुग्धशाला विज्ञान विभाग, आर.बी.एस.कॉलेज बिचपुरी आगरा के मार्गदर्शन में देखा कि फिल्ड में आक्सिटोसीन की अत्याधिक मात्रा लगातार दिये जाने से गायों में 50 प्रतिशत गर्भासय अपभ्रंश की घटना पायी गयी जबकि 50 प्रतिशत घटनायें प्रजनन तंत्र में तमाम प्रकार की व्यवधान पैदा करता है।

इसके सिवाय, सामान्य पशुओं की तुलना में इन पशुओं में मूत्र विसर्जन की बारम्बारता 8 से 20 प्रतिशत तक पाया गया। अन्य असामान्यताओं के तहत यह देखा गया कि दुग्ध की गुणवत्ता ख़ास कर स्वाद, रंग, सुगंध, महक में भी काफी गिरावट पाई गयी। इस परीक्षण के तहत यह भी पाया गया कि अधिक मात्रा में आक्सिटोसीन का प्रयोग करने से सामान्य गायों की तुलना में कैल्शियम की मात्रा घट जाती है। फिल्ड अध्ययन के तहत यह देखा गया कि गाय में कमजोरी, हड्डियों में गडबडी, लंगडापन, गर्भ धारण दर में घटाव, बांझपन, गर्भपात एवं मदकाल चक की वृद्धि देखी गई।

उपरोक्त अध्ययनों के मद्दे नजर रखते हुए सभी जीव जन्तु कल्याण संस्थाओं से यह निवेदन किया जाता है कि आप डेरी किसानों एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जनजागरण हेतु शिविरों का आयोजन कर गायों में आक्सिटोसीन के बढ़ते दुरुप्रयोग एवं उसके कुप्रभावों के बारे में जानकारी दे कर इस पर रोक लगायें।

जीव जन्तु कल्याण संस्थायें आक्सिटोसीन के हानिकारक प्रभावों एवं उसके रोकथाम पर अधिक जानकारी के लिए डॉ. आर.बी.चौधरी, संपादक, भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड से संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

-भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

The Animal Welfare Board of India is an umbrella of the SPCAs/AWOs and Animal Welfare Workers. The Board encourages Animal Welfare activities, advices 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

(Monthly)

Official Publication of the Animal Welfare Board of India

To



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AWBI Newsletter

Vol No. 9 Issue No. 4 Re.1/-

RNI No. TNBIL/2003/10675

March 2013



- National Conference on Dog Welfare - Inspiring initiative by Dogs Trust
- Need to Address Illegal Cattle Transportation and Reducing our Dependence on Food of Animal Origin
- Dental Colleges to stop using animals in teaching
- Earthian Awards 2012
- Animal Welfare Activist of the Month - Mrs Radha Rajan
- Removal of bottle cap from Labrador's tummy

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