



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. 5 Re.1/-

RNI No. TNBIL2003/10675

May-June 2013

Message From Secretary



Why Dog Pounds as Foster Homes for Dogs Will Not Work

By

**Uma Rani,
Secretary, AWBI**

When I first heard that, “Dog pounds are to be converted to permanent shelters”, only one image and thought came to my mind, “Goodness me, the Board must not let this happen, it sounds like lifetime jails to confine our doggy friends to”. The right to life and freedom is a fundamental right that all living beings have. I shudder at the very thought of the idea of dogs being confined, like as if they are in jail. The role of a dog pound is to provide only a temporary sheltering space for dogs who need to undergo ABC surgery and anti-rabies vaccinations and also to provide treatment for sick and injured dogs.

Dogs are strongly territorial animals and animals who are naturally affectionate and caring and thrive in the company of compassionate humans. Having been in the company of human beings, they have learnt to build an excellent rapport and cultivate lifetime bonds of love and friendship with human beings.

The dog-human bond of love and friendship is now over twenty thousand years old. Intelligence, bravery, loyalty, unconditional love, playfulness and joy are the innate virtues of dogs. Innumerable are the anecdotes of dogs who have faithfully stood by their masters' side rescuing them from dangerous natural disasters and calamities.

To recount a few examples, in 1919, a brave dog named Tang saved 92 people by towing a sinking ship safely to shore, holding the rope in his teeth and swimming to the shore of Newfoundland, Canada. In 1996, the Press Trust of India carried a report about a pack of street dogs in Calcutta who kept an all night vigil over a new born baby abandoned in the garbage bin. They left their vigil only when the baby was rescued by a lady on a morning walk

In Indian cities, street dogs play many unique roles, sometimes playing the role of a security guard, sometimes playing the role of a best friend and playmate to children, senior citizens, bakery owners, newspaper boys, auto drivers, cobblers and tea shop owners. The many street dogs that we see in the busy streets and by-lanes of our country have invisible owners. They move around freely with no collar or chain confining them and with owners who feed them, vaccinate them and treat them when they are ill.

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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

Secretary, MoEF Visits AWBI



Chennai: On May 29th, 2013, Dr. V. Rajagopalan, IAS, Secretary, MoEF visited the Board's office on an inspection tour. Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI, Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, made a presentation about the Board's significant achievements in the past few years and also brought to his attention the serious challenges faced by the Board on various issues like increasing the staff strength, funding for various programmes and passing of the revised Animal Welfare bill .□



MoEF Bans Dolphinariums

New Delhi: A circular issued on May 17th, 2013 (F.No. 20-1/2010-CZA (M)) by Shri B.S. Bondal, Member Secretary, CZA, MoEF has banned the setting up of dolphinariums in the country. The circular reads as below: “ Time and again, it has been brought to the notice of this Ministry that the State Governments through various departments, organizations, tourism development corporations in particular, have been planning to develop dolphinariums in the State with main aim to attract tourism for commercial purpose with the intention of organizing dolphin shows etc.

Whereas under Section 2(39) of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 the definition of ‘zoo’ is given as an establishment, whether stationary or mobile, where captive animals are kept for exhibition to the public [and includes a circus and rescue centres but does not include an establishment of a licensed dealer in captive animals.]” and as such, the dolphinarium will fall under the definition of ‘zoo’.

Whereas as per 38H (1) of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, no zoo shall be operated without being recognized by Central Zoo Authority and as per Section 38H (1A) a zoo shall not be established without obtaining prior approval of the Central Zoo Authority. Moreover, such zoo requires approval of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, in terms of the Order dated 20.11.2000 passed in W. P. No. 47/1998-Navin M. Raheja V/s Union of India and Ors.

Whereas as per Section 38H (4) of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, no recognition to a zoo shall be granted unless the Central Zoo Authority is satisfied that it is for the interest of protection and conservation of wildlife,

Whereas the Gangetic dolphin and Snubfin dolphin are listed in Schedule-I and all Cetacean species are listed in Schedule II part I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972,

Whereas Government of India has declared Gangetic Dolphin as its national aquatic animal with a view to protect these endangered species,

Whereas cetaceans in general are highly intelligent and sensitive, and various scientists who have researched dolphin behaviour have suggested that the unusually high intelligence; as compared to other animals means that dolphin should be seen as “non-human persons” and as such should have their own specific rights and it is morally unacceptable to keep them captive for entertainment purpose,

Whereas , cetaceans in general do not survive well in captivity.

Confinement in captivity can seriously compromise the welfare and survival of all types of cetaceans by altering their behaviour and causing extreme distress.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India have decided not to allow establishment of dolphinariums in the country. The State Governments are advised to reject any such proposal for dolphinarium to any person/ persons, organizations, Government agencies, private or public enterprises that involves import, capture of cetacean species to establish for commercial entertainment, private or public exhibition and interaction purposes whatsoever.

The campaign on banning dolphinariums in India has been led vigilantly by Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre, Earth Island Institute's Dolphin Project, Global Greengrants Fund and Born Free Foundation. □

Revised Guidelines - Transportation of Wild Animals & Birds

New Delhi: A letter issued by Shri Suhas Kumar, "Advisor, Freight Marketing, Railway Board (Letter No TC-1112080/121 Livestock dated 07.02.2013, 14.03.2013 & 02.04.2013) dated 7th May, 2013 gives additional guidelines regarding transportation of wild animals and birds. The Guidelines read as below:

"Ministry of Railways desire that' the 'following should also be ensured before accepting any consignment of wild 'animals and birds (whether wild or otherwise) as per rule for transportation by rail:-

1.No consignment of birds (whether wild or otherwise) or any wild animals including rabbit should be accepted unless the consigner and consignee furnish a joint statement duly signed by them and containing an elaboratecontinued on page 2.

In every neighbourhood, if a survey were to be conducted, among a population of hundred homes, there would be at least ten homes where people who love street dogs will be found. Most of the apparently ownerless street dogs are actually neighbourhood dogs or community dogs owned by the community.

For the lonely senior citizen going on a morning walk, the sight of his doggy friends rushing to greet him make each one of his mornings special, adding some cheer. So too, with home-makers, struggling through the drudgeries of housework, the colony dog to whom rotis are stealthily fed across the window or the gate soon becomes a trusted good friend. Similarly, so often feeding a street dog helps to draw out a shy, emotionally disturbed, introverted child to forming a close friendship. It is a common observation, especially for people living in slums, that street dogs often bravely come forward to protect women and children living in slums from violence and abuse.

To confine a street dog permanently to a dog pound is a basic violation of the PCA Act, 1960. To permanently confine a helpless street dog to a small, narrow space inside a pound seems like the beginning of a nightmare of horrendous cruelty. Because, that is what such a programme may turn out to be. To ignore the administrative complexities and logistical difficulties of practically running such a shelter in a humane manner feels like the warning signals and alarm bells spelling disaster have been switched off or ignored.

The plight of the dogs in the Shimla dog pound and the Hyderabad dog pound already provide a strong background to know that the idea rings the bells of death and suffering for the helpless street dogs. Municipal staff with little inclination to upgrade their skills and interests in learning how to take care of dogs well and overburdened with a heavy work load do not exactly match the profile of personnel to be employed in running this Programme well.

Another point that may be taken note of is that in any ecosystem, all living beings have an essential function and role to play. At this point, two good examples that may be noted are the disastrous consequence of large scale reductions in the population of fishes and frogs. To elaborate on this, in 1993, plague hit Surat city as the dog population in the city was drastically reduced. Similarly, the massive decrease of the frog population in ecosystems has led to the emergence of so many vector borne diseases – from epidemics of malaria and dengue fever to chikengunya and encephalitis. In fact, the Government of India is seriously considering a plan to introduce frogs into different natural habitats, both urban and rural, as a way to combat malaria and other insect borne diseases.

Besides, it may be well to remember that dogs are prolific breeders and it is only a well designed, humane Animal Birth Control Programme that can effectively and humanely limit the dog population as well as bring down the incidence of rabies in the country.

To artificially reduce the dog population in an area by transporting them to a confined space will only create the right circumstances for a large lacunae of dogs to emerge in an area. That is because nature abhors a vacuum. By the laws of nature, any gap in a population will be restored to normalcy very soon, and an equally large number of dogs, equivalent to the number that was removed will emerge in that space, in just six months, creating an even bigger problem than the proposed solution.

The only effective solution is to have a well designed Animal Birth Control Programme functioning in every major city in the country. Since 2009, the Animal Welfare Board of India has been supporting a large number of Training Programmes in different parts of the country. Reputed organizations like Worldwide Veterinary Services, Vets Beyond Borders and Humane Society International have been conducting excellent Training Programmes on Humane Animal Birth Control Surgery along with anti-rabies vaccinations. That is the only scientifically proven way to effectively and humanely limit the growing dog population in the country.

I appeal to the Municipal Commissioners of all civic bodies, Chief Secretaries of all State Animal Husbandry Departments and Heads of Animal Welfare Organizations to send the staff involved in the ABC-AR Programme to participate in the regular training programmes on Animal Birth Control Surgery that are being conducted for Vets, Paravets and Managers in Ooty, Jaipur and Sikkim. If the civic bodies, state Animal Husbandry Departments and State Governments become more actively involved in the ABC-AR Programme, surely, then, the day is not far away when India can become a rabies free country. □



...continued from page 1

and accurate description of each bird (whether wild or otherwise) and wild 'animals.'

2. Besides, other necessary documents required, no consignment of birds (whether wild or otherwise) or any wild animals including rabbits should be accepted unless a certificate is issued from the authorized officer i.e. Chief Wildlife Wardens or District Animal Husbandry officers, or as per designated Officer/office of the concerned state furnished vide this office letter no. TC-.11/2080f12/Livestock dated 02.04.2013, is submitted.

3. The consigner of such birds (Wild or otherwise) and wild animals including rabbits will present all the relevant documents as mentioned in (ii) above to the Assistant Commercial Manager of the concerned division for scrutiny / authorization. The Assistant Commercial Manager will ensure correctness and authenticity of documents as specified in (i) & (ii) above and only then issue authorization to the Chief Parcel Officer/Chief Goods clerk for acceptance of such consignment for booking.

4. No consignment of birds (whether Wild or otherwise) or any wild animals including rabbits will be accepted for booking by any Parcel Officer or Goods shed unless clear authorization is received from the Assistant Commercial Manager of the concerned Division.

5. Each case of such booking authorized by Assistant Commercial Manager will be serially documented and records in respect thereof maintained by the office of Assistant Commercial Manager as also the Chief Parcel Clerk/Chief.

6. The Mandatory conditions for receiving, forwarding, carrying or delivering for carriage of birds (whether wild or otherwise) and wild animals including rabbits should be pasted and published at all Railway stations and other places where consignments are received for carriage.

7. The above will not apply for pet animals accompanied by their owners, on train. □

Workshop on Captive Elephant Welfare



Thrissur: On June 12th, 2013, KFAPO (Kerala Federation of Animal Protection Organizations) held a workshop on captive elephant welfare in association with The Indian Veterinary Association, Kerala at the Chief Veterinary Hospital campus in Thrissur. Leading the workshop was Dr. Arunkumar K R, President, IVA. Some of the organizations that participated in the workshop included, PAWS Thrissur, Elephant Welfare Association, Thrissur, Friends of Snakes, Palakkad, DAYA, Mavattupuzha and Conservation of Nature Society, Kozhikode. □

Animal Activists Save Cattle in Goa from Slaughter



Panjim: Upon receiving a tip off that young cattle were destined for slaughter at the Goa Meat Complex (GMC) - the official Govt slaughter house - animal welfare activists of the Govansh Raksha Abhiyaan-Goa rushed to the GMC and discovered that 26 young male calves and heifers, aged between six months to 2 years had been registered for slaughter at the GMC. They contacted AWBI member, Adv. Ms. Norma Alvares, who visited the site and ascertained that the complaint was bonafide. A complaint was filed with the local police who refused to act on the complaint although they registered it, as, according to the police, the law was unclear on the minimum age for slaughter of male cattle and in any case, this was not the first time that young cattle were admitted for slaughter.

A PIL was filed the High Court by the NGO. The Court immediately shut down temporarily all slaughter activity at the GMC and directed a committee to inspect the GMC and file a report within a week. The report has disclosed that the veterinary officer was remiss in his duties and used to issue certificates under pressure from traders and without proper verification. The Committee also reported that although stun gun is available, stunning of animals was not carried out for the past three years, that animals from neighbouring states are transported for slaughter - loaded on trucks beyond permissible capacity, that green chillies are put into the eyes of the cattle to make them stand for slaughter etc. Goa has a state-of-the-art slaughter house, but the officers in charge are reprehensible beyond words. ...continued on page 3

AP Govt – 1st in Country to Introduce Humane Castration for Bulls



GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY: AP, HYDERABAD

Memo Roc No. 0453-D-D1-2013

Dated: 10-05-2013

Sub : Animal Husbandry Department – Animal Welfare – Implementation of Provisions of PCA Act, 1960 – Usage of anesthetics during castration – requested – regarding

Ref : Lr. No. Nil. Dt: 04.04.2012 of Chairman of AWBI.

All the Joint Directors (AH)/Ic District Administration with reference to the subject cited above are informed that the Chairman, Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai has requested the Director of Animal Husbandry, AP, Hyderabad to direct the Veterinarians working in Government Veterinary Institutions to ensure to perform the castration of cattle (particularly male calves) with analgesics and anesthetics before using Burdizzo castration method to alleviate the unnecessary pain to the animals to prevent the attraction of punishable provisions under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

It is informed that the Chairman, AWBI has stated that statistics indicated the castration of bull calves using Burdizzo castrator is one of the most commonly practised method in India, in which animals exhibit acute pain, leads to abnormal standing posture and reduced grazing.

It is to inform that Section 11 (1) (a) of PCA Act, 1960 states that, "If any person: beats, kicks, over-rides, over-drives, over-loads, tortures or otherwise treats any animal so as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering or causes, or being the owner permits any animal to be so treated". He or she shall be punishable in the case of a first offence, with fine which shall not be less than ten rupees but which may extend to fifty rupees and in the case of a second or subsequent offence committed within three years of the previous offence, with fine which shall not be less than twenty five rupees but which may extend to, to three months, or with both.

Therefore, all the Joint Directors (AH) /Ic District Administration are informed to make arrangements to ensure that all castrations are performed by a registered Veterinary practitioner using analgesics / sedations and anaesthetics to reduce the pain and cruelty caused to the cattle (particularly male calves) during castration and to avoid attraction of penal provisions of the PCA Act, 1960.

Sd/- Dr. D. Venkateswalu
DIRECTOR

Encl: 1. List of Anesthetics
2. Article on "Alleviating the pain caused by the castration procedure on cattle"

To
All the Joint Directors (AH) /Ic District Administration in the state
Copy to the Registrar, AP Veterinary Council, Hyderabad, with a request to devise a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for field castrations in large animals with the use of analgesics / sedations and anesthetics suited to our conditions and circulate it to all the Registered Veterinarians in our state.
• Copy submitted to the Chairman, AWBI, Post Box No 8672, 13/1, Third Seaward Road, Valmikinagar, Thiruvanniyur, Chennai – 600 041
• Copy submitted to the Principal Secretary to Govt, AH, DD & F Dept, AP Secretariat, Hyderabad for favour of information.

// True Copy//

Assistant Director (AH)
10/5/13

Supreme Court Stays Shimla High Court Directive

The Shimla High Court issued a stay order on 15th May, 2013 on the killing of stray dogs in Shimla. The judgement was delivered by Chief Justice Hon'ble Shiva Kirti Singh and Hon'ble J. Sudhir Kumar Saxena.

The judgement reads as below:

"We are not in agreement with the prayer made by the petitioner that the stray dogs or dogs without owner should be killed by the Municipal Corporation because it has power to do so under the relevant Act of 1959, i.e. U.P. Municipal Corporation Adhiniyam, 1959. One of the reasons for not accepting the prayer for killing the stray dogs is provision in Part-IVA indicating fundamental duties in the Constitution of India. Article 51-A (g) of the Constitution of India cast a duty on every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures.

The other reason is statutory provisions in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and the rules framed thereunder, namely, the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Rules').

- Rule 6 of the Rules does create obligations on the local authority, i.e., Lucknow Municipal Corporation in this case, to provide for certain infrastructures including dog pounds, dog vans, driver and trained dog catchers, ambulance-cum-clinical van for sterilization and immunization and incinerators for disposal of carcasses.

- Rule 6 (2) of the Rules provides that if the Municipal Corporation or the local authority thinks it expedient to control the street dog population, it shall be incumbent upon them to sterilize and immunize street dogs with the participation of Animal Welfare Organizations, private individuals and the local authority.

- There is a provision in sub-rule (3) of the Rule 6 of the Rules to reimburse the expenses of sterilization/immunization at a rate to be fixed by the Committee on fortnightly basis based on the number of sterilizations / immunizations done.

In public interest, we direct the Lucknow Municipal Corporation to carry out a population survey of stray dogs in the city of Lucknow and on the basis of relevant statistics, to decide whether it is expedient to control stray dogs population in the city of Lucknow or not.

In case it is required to be done, then the exercise of sterilization and immunization of stray dogs should be carried out without any delay and in case there is shortage of staff, then the work may be entrusted to Animal Welfare Organizations, who shall be reimbursed the expenses of sterilization and immunization in accordance with the provisions in the Rules. The immunization of stray dogs will not await the population survey and a decision in respect of their sterilization. The immunization work should be carried out regularly without any delay". □

"Living Free" Portal Launched



On June 6th, 2013, FIAPO's Living Free Portal was launched by Gurudev Chitrananu. Speaking at the launch event Gurudev Chitrananu said, "I am happy that FIAPO is expanding its efforts to spread active ahimsa in India. This is much needed to reverse the growing atrocities on animals, particularly for food. I convey my best wishes and blessings to all striving to help animals live free of enslavement and abuse." For more information, do check out www.livingfreeindia.org. □

Animal Activists Save Cattle in Goa from Slaughter

continued from page 2...On 30th April 2013, the Court permitted the GMC to resume slaughter but under stringent conditions. These include monitoring and supervision by a high-ranking committee, regulation of entry and exit of vehicles by the police, prohibition of slaughter of animals from outside the state and most importantly, that no animal below 12 years of age shall be slaughtered. The Court decreed that slaughter of bulls shall be done strictly as per the Goa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1978, the Goa Animal Preservation Act, 1995 and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. The Court also directed that the young animals be well looked after and that action be initiated against those responsible for this heinous state of affairs. A sweet victory indeed. □

Animal Rights Fund Derecognized

Bengaluru: In a letter dated, April 25th, 2013, (Ref No: No.9-1/2012-13 PCA) issued by Smt Uma Rani, Secretary, AWBI, the Animal Rights Fund, an animal welfare organization based in Bengaluru has been derecognized. The letter states that, "the Board had received elaborate complaints regarding alleged prevalence of criminal neglect, apathy, generalized routinized cruelty, and medical malpractices and the consequent violation of animal protection laws at the ARF shelter at Kengeri, from persons contending that they had visited the shelter, and then submitted detailed accounts of what they saw and perceived first hand, and submitted pictures taken by them, for the Board's consideration and necessary action". Besides this, other observations noted was a lack of proper record keeping practices, regarding the number of dogs that had undergone ABC surgery, the number of dogs treated, and regarding the procurement of feeds and medicines for the dogs. □

पशुओं की सुरक्षा के लिए बनाये गए
कानून की जानकारी लें



मूक प्राणियों की आवाज़ बनें

“किसी भी राष्ट्र की नैतिक प्रगति एवं चरित्र उसके द्वारा पशुओं
के प्रति हो रहे व्यवहार से आंकी जा सकती है” महात्मा गांधी



"The moral progress and character of a nation is judged by the way its animals are treated" Mahatma Gandhi

देहरादून के बेसहारा श्वानों (dogs) की समस्या का एकमात्र समाधान



श्वान (dog) बन्ध्याकरण (sterilization) व टीकाकरण

क्या आप जानते हैं?



- 50 परिवारों में से 1 परिवार द्वारा 1 बेघर श्वान (dog) को अपनाने से हमारे शहर की बेघर श्वान समस्या का समाधान हो सकता है।
- बेघर श्वानों (dogs) को अपने गली मोहल्लों से हटाना या हटवाना कानूनी अपराध है।

पशुओं के प्रति संवेदना व सहृदयता भारतीय
सविधान के अनुच्छेद 51A(g) में प्रतिस्थापित है



आओ एक संवेदनशील समाज का निर्माण करें



Posters shared on email by Ms Poonam Singh
Sobti, Co-opted Member, AWBI

प्रायोजक: Media 24x7



प्रायोजक: Media 24x7

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AWBI NEWSLETTER

(Monthly)

Official Publication of the Animal Welfare Board of India

To



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AWBI Newsletter

Vol No. 9 Issue No. 5 Re.1/- RNI No. TNBIL2003/10675 May-June 2013



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