



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. 9 Re.1/-

RNI No. TNBIL2003/10675

October, 2013

## Message From Chairman



## Time for Animal Free Circuses

Circuses must be places that showcase the spirit of human physical strength, endurance and excellence to gymnastic ability and not torture dens where human beings come to witness a macabre spectacle of sick and injured animals nervously forced to perform under fear of a stick, whip or ankush. In September 2013, PETA India completed a nine month long investigation that explored the condition of animals in India's circuses.



The investigation included inspections of the Amar Circus, the Gemini Circus, the Great Bombay Circus, the Great Champion Circus, the Great Golden Circus, the Jamuna Circus, the Jumbo Circus (Unit 1), the Jumbo Circus (Unit 2), the Kohinoor Circus, the Metro Circus, the Moonlight Circus, the Rajkamal Circus, the Rambo Circus, the SAM Circus, the Great Prabhat Circus and the Great Royal Circus. Only one circus – Great Champion Circus was free of the use of the animals. Each one of the circuses investigated revealed that the animals were subjected to severe cruelty.



The PETA investigation revealed, "Rampant use of weapons, including iron hooks with knife-like ends (ankushes), sticks with protruding nails, whips and clubs. Several animals were seen with fresh bleeding wounds and injuries from the use of weapons". Violation of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; the Performing Animals Rules, 1973; and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 was noticed in almost all the circuses. For more details about the investigation, the report can be downloaded from the website of Petaindia.com.

...continued on page 2

A monthly newsletter of the **ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA. Published by AWBI**

(Min of Environment & Forests, Govt of India).

Editorial Team

Secretary Mrs S. Uma Rani  
Assistant Secretary Shri S. Vinod Kumar  
Editor of Publications Dr. R. B. Chaudhary  
Consultant Editor Dr. Lakshmi Iyer  
Assistant Editor Shri Rajesh Kaushik  
Printed by C.P.R. Environment Education Centre.  
www.cpreec.org

## Board Cautions Turf Clubs Against Cruelty To Racehorses

Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI, Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R. M. Kharb, AVSM addressing representatives of various Turf Clubs on issues of cruelty and negligence, especially to retired racehorses has cautioned all Turf Clubs in the country to be more responsible and concerned about addressing the welfare needs of racehorses. The meeting which was held on July 14th, 2013, focused on several welfare issues ranging from use of anabolic steroids and whipping of race horses during the race to inhumane handling of race horses during training and racing, to blistering, branding and firing of racehorses as well as the welfare of retired race horses. The meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R. M. Kharb, AVSM and was attended by Dr. F.F. Wadia, President, NHBS of India, Mr. Cyrus Madan, Authorised Inspecting Authority – RCTC, Shri Shivalal Daga, Authorized Inspecting Authority – RWITC, Mrs. Bakhtawar Chenoy, Authorized Inspecting Authority, RWITC, Ms. Ros Craig Jones, Authorized Inspecting Authority, BTC, Mr. S. Nirmal Prasad, Secretary, BTC, Mr. Satish Iyer, Registrar Stud Book Authority of India and other Secretaries, Senior Veterinary Officers and Stipes from various Turf Clubs.

In his introductory address Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI highlighted the unique qualities of horses as intelligent, sensitive, affectionate and loyal creatures of the animal world and their huge contribution for human welfare from time immemorial. He also complimented India's Thoroughbred breeding and Racing Industry for its significant contribution in generating employment and revenue for the Government besides promoting the wonderful sport of horse racing in India. Hon'ble Chairman said, "There is a zero tolerance for use of anabolic steroids such as Boldenone and other performance enhancing drugs as per Performing Animals Rules 2001 under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 (PCA Act, 1960). Doping is fundamentally contrary to the spirit of fair racing. Horses must be allowed to run on their inherent merit free from influence of any medication". He also briefly mentioned various welfare Rules applicable for Equines under the PCA Act, 1960. He informed all present that AWBI is now the prescribed authority to implement the Performing Animals Rules 2001. Regarding the issue of excessive whipping, Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI noted that there have been no implementation of the Whipping Rule. He informed that AWBI will not like to enforce harsh decisions on the Turf Clubs as he is one their well-wishers, having been associated with the Equines throughout his Army career besides being a steward at Delhi Race Club. He also stated that he had gone out of his way to simplify registration procedure for Race Horses with AWBI as performing animals. He emphasized that it is the moral obligation of all officials of the Turf Clubs, owners, trainers and Jockeys to address race horse welfare issues with compassion and implement the Performing Animals Rules in letter and spirit so that these wonderful athletes get the due respect that they so richly deserve. He said, "The Turf Authority of India (TAI) should play a leading role in evolving a uniform code of conduct for responsible horse racing as also a uniform medication control policy so that the sport of horse racing in India is conducted with highest standards of integrity and with uniform rules". Thereafter, Hon'ble Chairman requested the authorised Animal Welfare Inspecting officials to share their concerns.

### Use of anabolic steroids during racing

Mr. Cyrus Madan spoke about his concern regarding the use of anabolic steroids such as Boldenone in race horses. He said that most of the race clubs have categorized anabolic steroids as Class III drug in their medication control rules which does not create adequate deterrence for the abusers. Anabolic steroids are banned substances and they need to be removed from Class III to a separate class, even above Class I with stringent penalties identified to create adequate deterrence.

He said, "In human sports, if an athlete uses anabolic steroids prior to a sporting event once, then that athlete is banned from participating in any sporting event for the next two years and if the athlete is caught using anabolic steroids a second time, then that athlete is banned from participating in any sports event for life. The horse is an athlete and I feel that stern action must be taken when owners and trainers use anabolic steroids in race horses for enhancement of their performances". Reacting to this Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI stated that he fully endorses the statement of Mr. Madan and he said that the first step in this direction would be to remove anabolic steroids from Class III to Class I.

Mr. Shivalal Daga said, "we would not like to enforce any policy on Turf Clubs but would like to go for mutually acceptable solutions but if no response is received from Turf Clubs on the suggestions made by AWBI then we would be left with no choice but to enforce the decision as a Govt. Policy."

It was agreed that apart from sampling during racing, random sampling during training of all two year olds should also be done within one month of their arrival at the racecourse and so also for horses returning from spelling and all classic entries should also be sampled.

### Welfare of Retired Race Horses

Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI informed all present that at Ooty there had been an unfortunate incident of abandoning of retired race horses by their owners. He said, "Some NGOs are now looking after these abandoned retired race horses which are injured and suffering from severe malnutrition. I would rather avoid sending the race horses to the NGOs as most of them do not have sufficient resources and are just managing with very little space and limited funds. It is the responsibility of race clubs and they must come forward to shoulder this responsibility".

He informed that in June 2001, a meeting was held in Delhi between the Director of Animal Welfare Division and the Racing Industry and it was decided that "a policy would be evolved by the Turf Authorities for old and retiring horses". Parties who had signed the minutes of this meeting were the Turf Authority of India, Race Horse Owners Federation of India, Western India Trainers Association, National Horse Breeding Society of India and the Indian Association of Equine Practitioners". The Turf Authorities should intervene if there is any case of abandoned horses.

He said, "a provision should be made for the care of old horses as is done in the case for fund for jockeys, syces, etc". He emphasized that strict action should be taken against the owners / trainers who have abandoned their horses. Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI remarked, "It is high time that a policy is evolved by all the Turf authorities in consultation with other stake holders such as breeders, owners and trainers for making a sustainable rehabilitation policy for retired race horses as soon as possible, failing which AWBI will be constrained to initiate action".

...continued on page 2



The findings of the investigations have been summarized as below:

Species	Nature of Cruelty	Extent of Cruelty
Elephants	Percentage of elephants tethered by two or three legs	97%
Camels	Percentage of camels with capped knees, elbows, stifle joints or hocks.	Over 90%
Horses	Percentage of equines suffering from overgrown and uncut hooves.	Over 90%
Dogs	Percentage of performing dogs not given the regular exercise.	100%
Birds	Percentage of smaller birds such as macaws, cockatoos and parrots whose feathers were clipped to prevent them from flying.	99%
	Percentage of bird cages that were not collapsible.	
	Percentage of inspected birds' cages that didn't have appropriate furnishing (tree branches), enrichment artefacts and sand.	
Stunts not registered With AWBI	Percentage of inspected circuses that forced animals to perform stunts that were not registered with AWBI.	94%
Movement registers for elephants	Percentage of circuses with elephants registered that could not produce movement registers for their elephants.	100%



The photographs in this article were taken by the PETA India team that conducted the investigation and give clear evidence for the terrible cruelty and suffering inflicted on the helpless animals. I would like to request all Animal Welfare Organizations in the country and veterinarians to refrain from encouraging young people to visit circuses. I am often surprised by the lack of awareness among people working in animal welfare organizations as well as among veterinarians and school teachers about the cruelties inflicted on animals who perform in circuses.



It is not “ok once in a way” for children, college students and families to have a “treat or outing” watching animals perform in circuses. The use of animals in circuses involves extreme cruelty and must be banned totally. At the Board, this year, we have taken one step forward in this direction by banning the use of elephants in circuses. There are many countries like Bolivia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Cyprus and Greece who have banned animals from being used to perform tricks in circuses. It is about time India too completely banned the use of all animals in circuses. I would like to end asking each one of you to reflect on this quote by Virginia McKenna, actress and supporter of the Born Free Foundation on what circuses must be like, “*Those of you who have seen the 'Cirque du Soleil' will know what the circus should really be about. Exciting, colourful, fun, dramatic and without animals*”.

With best wishes,

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

He added that,”if people abandon their horses, action must be taken. It may be noted that some of the commercial riding schools are also treating their horses very badly”. Mr. Robin M. Corner, VP, Racing and Sr. Stipendiary Steward, Royal Calcutta Turf Club, asked “as to what is a good home for a retired race horse?” Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI agreed that a format and guidelines must be prepared for Responsible Horse Ownership and the new owners of the retired race horses must also give affidavits / undertaking to the Turf Clubs giving their commitment for the welfare of the horse. It should also include a clause for legal action / penalty against the new owner if he does not fulfil his commitment. A copy of this undertaking should be provided to TAI and AWBI also to keep track of the welfare of retired race horses.

Whipping of horses during racing

Speaking on the topic of excessive whipping Shri Shivlal Daga said that, “Why should a horse be whipped more than 8 times? Tapes are going to Delhi and Chennai. Please don't be under the impression that the Board is not aware of the amount of whipping that is going on. The Chief Veterinary Officers and Chief Stipes are responsible for all this and stern action needs to be taken in this matter”. Mr. Cyrus Madan added, “In New Zealand, horse races are conducted without any whipping. Why cannot we have the same practice in the Race Clubs in India?”. Ms. Ros Craig Jones noted that, “When the winning horse has crossed the finish line, jockeys are still whipping their horses. Jockeys are also pulled up for not whipping a horse, or not whipping enough. Some jockeys are confused and think they must hit a horse a minimum of 8 times. The stewards are giving the wrong message to jockeys that they must keep whipping”. Mrs. Bakhtawar Chenoy: added that, “The public expects horses to be ridden out under the stick to satisfy them that the Jockeys and horses have done their best. This mindset leads to excessive whipping of Race Horses and must be changed by officials of the Turf Clubs”. Mr. Robin M. Corner, Royal Calcutta Turf Club said, “Hats off to Ms. Ros and Mrs. Maneka Gandhi who have brought down the whipping from 22 times in a race to just 8 in a race. Otherwise, in the earlier days, we used to have the horses getting whipped so much in every race”.

...continued on page 3

He said that, “Abandoning retired race horses has brought disgrace not only to the owners of these horses but has also tarnished the image of Turf Clubs where these horses have been racing in the past”. Shri Shivlal Daga said, “it is a matter of great shame that Race horses are being abandoned on the roads. The Turf authorities must intervene and decide a policy as per the commitment given to Govt. of India in 2001. Strong action must be taken by the Turf Clubs in this matter”. Mrs. Bakhtawar Chenoy said that Clubs are enforcing early retirement policy of race horses and as such it should be the responsibility of the Turf Clubs to provide for the welfare of the retired race horses. She added that, about the 0.5% of stake money is being collected by RWITC for the welfare of the race horses. Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI asked as to how the fund is being utilized to address the welfare concerns of retired race horses. The Secretary, Royal Western India Turf Club replied that the funds were being given to Animal Welfare NGOs. The Chairman wanted to know the details of funds given to the NGOs so as to check on its utilization from the NGOs. Secretary, Hyderabad Race Club said, “In Hyderabad, we have a separate centre where old and retired race horses are taken care of”. Secretary, HRC informed the Board that the HRC has been deducting 0.5% of stake money earned by the Race Horse Owners from the year Oct 2003 onwards towards animal welfare. A Retired Race Horse Welfare Society has been established at HRC in September 2008 and 0.5% of stake money has been utilized for taking care and maintenance of the retired race horses having no homes. Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI mentioned that in Gurgaon there is a Donkey Sanctuary having almost 30 acres of land where some retired race horses could be accommodated. He informed that in UK, quite a significant amount of contribution for equine welfare come from the donations made by Jockeys and the Turf Clubs. He suggested making a revolving fund managed by TAI to address this serious concern of abandoning of Race Horses. He also suggested that some of the retired race horses could be given to some of the good schools for their riding clubs either free or for a very nominal charge. It was agreed that those Turf Clubs who are not presently collecting any money for the welfare of retired race horses from the stake money should refer back this issue to their management committees for implementing the 0.5% cut from the stake money for race horse welfare. Mr. Cyrus Madan added that even if 0.5% of the revenue generated from horse racing is collected and kept aside for the welfare of retired race horses, that would suffice.



# Special Report

## Illegal Transport of Cattle Racket Busted In Jaipur



Jaipur: On 27th August, 2013, around 4.30 pm, 15 trucks were seen near Vijaypath Junction on New Sanganer Road, Jaipur, illegally transporting a large number of cattle. All the trucks were heavily overcrowded with the cattle suffering severe injuries. The transportation was in strict violation of the PCA Act, 1960 and the Transportation of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2009.

The vehicles with the truck numbers (as given in the adjacent table) were found to be carrying a large number of cattle. A report was filed at the Shiprapath Police Station in South Jaipur by Shri Om Prakash Meena and custody was taken of all the cattle in the trucks which were then sent to Hingonia Gaushala that is being run by the Jaipur Municipal Corporation.

A total of 439 cattle were rescued and four cattle were reported dead on arrival at Hingonia Gaushala.

Truck Number	No of Cattle
RJO-GA-4232	31
UP80-BM09976	30
RJO5-GA-1123	32
RJO5-GA-4992	28
RJO5-GA -4332	31
RJO5-GA – 4479	26
UP37-T-1207	15
RJO5-GA-4881	31
RJO5-G-3403	31
UP80-AW-9892	31
RJ11-GA-3217	26
RJ11-GA-2186	32
RJO2G8167	28
HR-38E-3654	35
RJ05-GA-7034	32
	439



...continued from page 2

Shri Shivalal Daga observed that, “No steward is going to bring a whip mark to the attention of the Vets. When there is excessive whipping, the Vets need to be alert and take note of the whip marks and bring it to the notice of the Turf Club so that necessary action can be taken. I am not just an inspector but also a steward. I know both sides of the situation.” Ms. Ros Craig Jones said, “Since the world of international racing is moving away from use of whips in racing, why can’t we start an initiative and have no whips in maiden races, the jockeys will carry their whips for safety, and not use them?” Shri Shivalal Daga noted that, “Clubs must follow the rules, no whipping beyond 8 times, not hitting a horse which is winning easily or when out of contention and not raising the arm above shoulder height. Penalties need to be enforced, and reciprocated by all Clubs”.

Secretary, Hyderabad Race Club informed the Board that HRC takes serious view of excessive whipping and the erring professionals are penalized. He said, “Whipping is not allowed more than 8 times in a race. If the jockey commits the offence 4<sup>th</sup> time during the meeting, the whip will be withdrawn for the remaining period of the meeting and the withdrawal of the whip may be carried forward to the next meeting at the discretion of the Stewards. Using whip arm above shoulder height is not allowed”.

Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI noted that, “The Turf Clubs must implement the Whip Rule strictly and should uniformly honour the Whip penalties given to the defaulting Jockeys. I appreciate the RWITC initiative to have some races without the use of whips. The day is not far when use of whips in racing will be totally banned. Let us start preparing for such an eventuality. In the meanwhile the following malpractices with regard to use of whip must be stopped:

- Using the whip with excessive force to the extent of causing injury.
- Using the whip with the arm above shoulder height.
- Using the whip on a horse which is showing no response.
- The continued use of the whip on a horse after its chance of winning or being placed is clearly gone.
- The unnecessary use of the whip on a horse that has clearly won its race or has obtained its maximum placing.
- Using the whip on a horse which is past the winning post.
- Using the whip on the flank of the horse.
- Using the whip more than 8 times.
- Using the whip on any part of the horse’s head or in the vicinity of the head”.

### Branding, Blistering and Firing

On the subject of Hot branding, Chairman, AWBI said that, “Despite all the advances of micro-chipping and DNA fingerprinting and such sophisticated tools available for identifying the race horses, at the moment, we cannot completely do away with branding. Much as it is painful, it may need to be continued in the absence of a

better alternative. However the practice of blistering and firing must be stopped. Secretary, Bangalore Turf Club said, “ Blistering and firing is banned in Bangalore”. Ms. Ros Craig Jones said, “Yes, but it goes on in many of the stables. You have banned blistering, yet you take no action when a horse is blistered.”

The Secretary, Hyderabad Race Club informed Hon'ble Chairman,AWBI that none of the Trainers are adopting the practice of firing of horses at HRC. He said, “very few old Trainers are using mild blisters on very few cases. HRC is in agreement to ban firing and blistering in race horses”.

### Inhumane Handling of Race Horses under Training and Racing

Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI stressed that thoroughbred horses are very sensitive and intelligent animals and need to be treated in a humane manner during training. Authorised Inspecting officials and officials of the Turf Clubs must ensure that strict action is initiated against those using inhumane methods during training of race horses.

### Submission of Reports by the Turf Clubs to AWBI

Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI stressed that it is the official obligation of Turf Clubs to adopt self reporting system in confirmed cases of Doping / use of prohibited substances in Race Horses within 24 hours of the occurrence to AWBI. Designated Govt. He added that, “Authorised Inspectors shall be provided with all relevant documents of the incidence of doping by the Turf Clubs and they should be made part of adjudication of the proceedings of the drug abuse. Each Turf Club is required to submit a quarterly report on welfare issues of Race Horses to AWBI”.

### Appointment of Animal Welfare Inspectors

Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI announced that few more Animal Welfare Inspectors will be appointed soon in those racing centres where no inspectors are present.

Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI concluded the meeting thanking the Turf Clubs warmly for making donations for the Board's Golden Jubilee celebrations. He showed the participants the copy of the Souvenir that was released by Hon'ble Governor during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Seminar on Animal Welfare held in Jaipur in April, 2013. Sharing with all the participants in the meeting that the topic on which he had spoken was “Welfare Concerns of Working Equines”. He said that, “India has 1 million working equines and they are contributing to sustaining the livelihood of a large number of people. Working horses are force multipliers in Police, Army and Para Military forces”. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair. □



# सर्कस के जानवरों के ऊपर क्रूरता

पशु अधिकार समूह पेटा द्वारा आयोजित एक जांच पशुओं के प्रति क्रूरता देश के सभी सर्कस में बड़े पैमाने पर किया गया. जांच के निष्कर्ष नीचे संक्षेप किया गया है :

जानवर की प्रजाति	क्रूरता की प्रकृति	क्रूरता का प्रतिशत
हाथी	दो या तीन पैर से बंधा हाथियों का प्रतिशत	97%
ऊंट	घायल और बीमार जोड़ों के साथ ऊंटों का प्रतिशत	90% से अधिक
घोड़ों	खराब तैयार खुरों से पीड़ित घोड़े का प्रतिशत.	90% से अधिक
कुत्तों	कुत्तों का प्रतिशत नियमित रूप से व्यायाम नहीं दिया .	100%
पक्षियों	पंख उड़ान से उन्हें रोकने के लिए काटा गया गया पक्षियों का प्रतिशत	99%
	सिमटने नहीं थे पक्षी पिंजरों का प्रतिशत.	99%
	उपयुक्त प्रस्तुत (पेड़ की शाखाओं), संवर्धन कलाकृतियों और रेत नहीं था कि निरीक्षण पक्षि पिंजरों का प्रतिशत.	99%
सर्कस	भारत के पशु कल्याण बोर्ड के साथ पशु आधारित प्रदर्शन पंजीकृत नहीं हुआ था सर्कस का प्रतिशत	94%
हाथियों के लिए "Movement" रजिस्टर	हाथियों की यात्रा के बारे में रजिस्ट्रों का उपयोग सर्कस का प्रतिशत	100%

*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

(Monthly)

Official Publication of the Animal Welfare Board of India

To

---



---



---



---



**ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA**

(Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt of India)

13/1, Third Seaward Rd, Valmiki Nagar,  
Thiruvanimiyur, Chennai – 600 041

Tel: 044-24571024/ 044-24571025 Fax: 044- 24571016

Email: awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in

# AWBI Newsletter

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

RNI No. TNBIL2003/10675 October, 2013



**Time for Animal Free Circuses**  
**Board Cautions Turf Clubs Against Cruelty To Racehorses**  
**Special Report**  
**Illegal Transport of Cattle Racket Busted In Jaipur**

**ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA**

(Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt of India)

13/1, Third Seaward Rd, Valmiki Nagar,  
Thiruvanimiyur, Chennai – 600 041

Tel: 044-24571024/ 044-24571025 Fax: 044- 24571016 Email: awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in