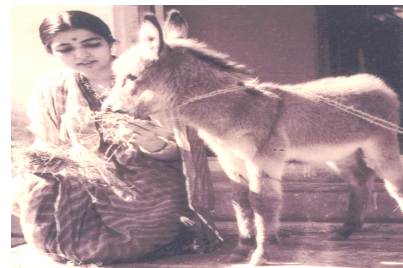




The Animal Welfare Board of India is an umbrella of the SPCAs / AWOs and animal welfare workers. The Board encourages animal welfare activities, advises the Central and State Governments on issues relating to Animal Welfare, particularly, the prevention of cruelty to animals, and also helps to formulate animal welfare policies / legislations.

AWBI Newsletter



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Message From Chairman



Animal Birth Control as a Tool Towards Rabies Control

Domesticated and befriended by human beings many thousands of years ago, perhaps no creature has been such an endearing symbol of love, affection, gratitude, courage and loyalty as the dog. Dogs have provided companionship to children, young people, senior citizens, soldiers and millions of people around the world from all ages and all walks of life for so many aeons. Rightfully, dogs have always been referred to as human being's best friend. I have personally experienced amazing incidents of indomitable courage, loyalty and boundless affection displayed by the dogs in the two dog commando squads that I was in charge of while working in the Indian army.

The Board is a statutory and advisory body of the Government of India, whose mandate is to reduce the suffering of all animals and especially to improve the welfare of the street dogs and the abandoned cattle. Besides, the Board plays a key role in issues pertaining to policies and legislation pertaining to animal welfare issues. The policies are decided by 28 members of the Board. However, the implementation of the animal protection laws at the state, city and district level is not within the mandate of the Board. As of now, we have over 3000 animal welfare organizations working for welfare of the animals in the country.

In our country, our street dogs are facing huge welfare issues because of the rabies tag that they carry. They are poisoned, stoned or beaten due to issues of overpopulation. The AWBI has been working for the welfare of the street dogs since 2001. Talking about the origin of the Animal Birth Control Programme, way back in the 60s, it was the Blue Cross of India that conceptualized the idea of the ABC-AR programme and carried out the world's first ABC-AR programme. It was only later that the ABC-AR Programme was widely adopted in the Western countries and now forms the cornerstone of dog welfare programmes in animal welfare organizations around the world.

The Animal Birth Control-Anti-Rabies Programme adopted by the Board is a programme specifically designed to improve welfare conditions for the street dogs of our country. Annually, through the implementation of this programme, over 1 lakh 50 000 dogs are sterilized and vaccinated. We have 122 Animal Welfare Organizations registered with the Board that are specifically focused on implementing the ABC-AR programmes in various cities across the country. I am happy to say that we are getting favourable results. Several cities in India are now rabies free e.g. Chennai, Kalimpong, Jaipur and Delhi. Sikkim is now the first state in the country to be completely rabies free for nearly four years now. This has happened only because of the excellent support given by the State Animal Husbandry Department and the Government of Sikkim which has been actively involved offering full cooperation and support to Vets Beyond Borders.

Since 2008, the Board has been supporting the implementation of well structured and focused training programmes on ABC-AR to help veterinarians and para-vets working with Animal Welfare Organizations, Municipal Corporations and with the Animal Husbandry department to refine their skills and update their knowledge. These Training Programmes are being conducted by three excellent animal welfare organizations in the country – viz Vets without Borders, Humane Society International and Worldwide Veterinary Services. The Training Centres in Sikkim, Jaipur and Ooty offer quality training that is on par with international standards of animal healthcare and welfare and at a very nominal charge. To further ensure that a systematic approach is adopted by all the animal welfare organizations in the country, the Board has published the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual that gives complete details on all aspects of

The above text is a synopsis of Maj Gen Dr (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI's talk given at the Conference...Contd on page 2

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Conference on Animal Welfare & Canine Rabies Control



Bengaluru: The 18th Commonwealth Veterinary Association's Regional Meeting and Satellite Conferences on Animal Welfare and Canine Rabies Control was held at the Auditorium of the National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Audugodi, Bengaluru between February 20th and 24th, 2014. Highlights of the Satellite Conference on Animal Welfare included the signing of a Memorandum between the University of Edinburgh and Commonwealth Veterinary Association on continuing education and collaboration on animal welfare issues.



Speaking on the occasion, Prof Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Edinburgh said, "It is a matter of great honour for me to visit India, where the first textbook on the treatment and management of elephants and horses was written by veterinary doctors over 4000 years ago. India is a country with which the University of Edinburgh enjoys centuries-long-links, with the first Indian student having graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1876. Currently, Edinburgh University has over 250 Indian students. It gives me tremendous pleasure to have the University of Edinburgh take part in this important Conference.

I look forward to hearing for myself how a real difference can be made to the health and welfare of animals. I know that my colleagues from Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies and the Roslin Institute view this event as a wonderful opportunity to learn from fellow researchers and animal health professionals and also to contribute with their own expertise". Chief Guest for the first session, Dr. Andrew Rowan, CEO, Humane Society International shared with delegates the key role of Humane Society International in initiating the setting up of a Masters Degree. Programme in Animal Welfare both at Edinburgh University and at Tufts University. In the Presidential address for the first session given by Prof Rahman, he said, "The mission of CVA is to help the developing nations gain help and support from the privileged countries, to educate vets and to alleviate poverty. CVA is a network of individuals who work honorarily. In the last five years, several milestones have been achieved. MOUs have been signed with OIE, WSPA & Humane Society International along with



the continued support of KVAFSU. Besides in 2013, the advanced rabies detection laboratory was set up with support from Crucell Labs. CVA functions like a catalyst to facilitate knowledge exchange". The inaugural session of the Satellite Conference on Animal Welfare concluded with Dr. Raghavendra Bhat giving the Vote of Thanks.

In the first session of the Conference on Animal Welfare, Dr. A C. David Bayvel from New Zealand who was the former Chair, OIE Working Group spoke about Animal Welfare as an understanding of how an animal is coping with the condition or environment that it is exposed to. Referring to the definition of Animal Welfare as per OIE, he said, "Animal welfare is a complex inter-sectoral public policy issue with complex scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, religious and political dimensions". Other issues that he touched upon during his address included the debates of science vs ethics, the management paradigm, particularly the change management paradigm, and management vs



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the proper implementation of an ABC-AR programme by animal welfare organizations. The stigma, myth and fear about rabies continues to prevail in several parts of the country, both in urban and rural India. Unfortunately, rabies is a neglected zoonotic disease and therefore does not attract large funding either from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare or from the Department of Animal Husbandry. A consequence of this is that both the people and the animals suffer enormously. It has been reported that annually there are as many as 17, 400 deaths due to rabies reported in the country. Most of the dog bite victims often are poor children. All these deaths can be completely prevented. Though Rabies is 100% fatal if left untreated, it is completely preventable with appropriate and adequate post-exposure treatment and even those individuals bitten by rabid dogs can stay completely protected. It was in 1879 that Louis Pasteur for the first time demonstrated that rabies can be prevented through the development of the nerve tissue vaccine. However, science has progressed a long way since that time. The nerve tissue vaccine has been completely phased out in the country since 2006. We now have excellent tissue culture vaccines available that can help protect both humans and animals from rabies.

Coming to legislation, in 2001, AWBI had brought out the ABC Dog Rules which was passed by the Government of India. The AWBI has been giving grants specifically to assist animal welfare organizations to implement humane ABC-AR programmes. In the past few years, the Board has prepared the Dog Breeding Rules and other related rules which need to be passed in the Parliament. The issue of the Colony Feeders ID Card by the Board last year may help to sensitize the community as well as protect the animal welfare activists who feed the street dogs.

Implementing the ABC-AR Programme has been a challenge, but in the past few years with better education and training especially among the Municipal Corporations, there has been some improvement in the scenario. I am happy to share that in the current five year plan, the National Rabies Control Programme has been approved by the Ministry of Health and this approach to tackle rabies is a truly “One Health” approach. The human component will be implemented by National Centre for Disease Control (Ministry of Health) and the animal component will be implemented through AWBI. The animal component of this Programme entails conducting a dog census, mass sterilization and mass immunization of street dogs and pet dogs to cover at least 80% of their population. The animal component of the National Rabies Control Programme is being implemented as a pilot study in the state of Haryana. The programme will also include Chennai city to strengthen the ABC-AR Programme there. A budget of Rs 50/- crores has been allocated only for the dog component of the Project. This approval has come from the Ministry of Health after fifteen years of persistent efforts made by the National Centre for Disease Control.

Another phenomenal success that I am happy to share with all of you is the launch of Project Mission Rabies last year.. This Project which was launched in September 2013 saw an amazing response with 60 000 dogs vaccinated within just one month in ten different rabies hotspots in the country. Initiated by Worldwide Veterinary Services, this Programme has been hugely successful even in the launch phase. It is expected that through Project Mission Rabies, two million dogs in the rabies hotspots of the country will be vaccinated. The programme has an extensive ABC surgery training component also being implemented simultaneously. Besides, regular outreach and education programme through talks given in schools and local communities also form an important part of this excellent initiative. I am optimistic that with the kind of support that we have been seeing both from the Government and International NGOs like Worldwide Veterinary Services as well as all the dedicated Animal Welfare Organizations working in this area, that within a few years, India will soon become a rabies free nation.

With best wishes,

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

She also drew attention to the emergence of large scale, multi-country-multi partner projects being carried out in the European Union. Giving examples of some projects underway, she said, “The Project on Animal Welfare Indicators (AWIN) has ten partners in Europe and included countries in other parts of the world like Brazil”. Briefing delegates about other ongoing projects in various institutes in UK, she said that at JIMCAWE, “research was being carried out on standardizing good animal welfare protocols and assessing pain in horses using facial expressions while at BBSRC the focus was on aggression in pigs and hunger in broiler breeds, while at the Institute of Animal Welfare Research at SRUC, research was being carried out on the management of pigs, housing of dairy cattle, housing of laying hens and animal epigenetics”. She added that at the Royal Veterinary College, research projects on animal welfare currently being focused on include, “assessment of pain in dogs, welfare of rabbits, genetic condition of pedigree dogs, chronic stress in pigs, welfare of working horses and humane culling of broiler chickens” while at Newcastle University, animal welfare research focused on housing and free farrowing in sows and facial pain scales for welfare assessment in equines and in Bristol University, the research focus was on animal based welfare assessment measures, cognitive bias to assess affective states, human-animal interactions and outcomes”. “The University of Edinburgh and SRUC have been offering an Msc course in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare that has been running for the past 24 years. Talking about high quality free courses in Animal Welfare Education, Dr Fritha mentioned that the University of Edinburgh plans to introduce a five week course in Animal Behaviour in May 2014 via www.coursera.org. She also informed delegates at the Conference that, the University of Brandeis also offered several Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) freely. More information about the courses can be obtained from www.animalwelfarehub.com". In his talk on Animal Welfare: The Malaysian Perspective, Dr. H.N. Quaza Nizamuddin spoke about developing a Malaysian Animal Welfare Strategic Plan (2012-2020). He said, “The Animal Welfare Act and Animal Welfare Bill has been under preparation since 2010 and is likely to be passed by the Malaysian Government by June 2014”. Referring to the proposed bill, he said, “The Bill was drafted based on two public surveys that were conducted. In Phase 1, 5151 proposals / suggestions were received while in Phase 2 – 724 proposals were received with 32 new suggestions. The Proposed Bill plans to enforce strict punishment for any cruelty to animals, with a fine of upto Rs 30 000 US Dollars for serious offenses. The Rules and Regulations includes 17 Codes of Practice. Some of the key objectives for better Animal Welfare include, inculcating responsible pet ownership in society, strengthening training and improving public awareness”He added that, “plans were also underway to include an Animal Welfare Colloquium from an Islamic perspective”. Prof. S. Abdul Rahman, Director, OIE, Animal Welfare Working Group and President, CVA while speaking about the role of the OIE in promoting Animal Welfare stressed that, “Animal Welfare has been identified as a strategic priority for the OIE since 2001”. He noted that the first OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare held in 2004 paved the way for adoption of five Animal Welfare Standards in 2005 while the 2nd Global Conference on Animal Welfare in 2005 led to the adoption and implementation of animal welfare standards and guidelines. Focusing on some of the improvements in welfare conditions for farm animals, Prof Rahman informed the delegates present that, implementation of Animal welfare standards in broiler production was endorsed in May 2013. Similarly, the 2nd Ad Hoc Group meeting held in Nov 2013 introduced standards for Animal Welfare in Dairy Cattle in Nov 2013. He noted that other important milestones reached included guidelines developed by the OIE on, “Animal Welfare and Islamic Law, Animal Welfare Indicators Network, OIE-Scientific and Technical Review on Animal Welfare and Regional Animal Welfare Strategy (RAWS) Asia”. Dr. Heather Bacon, Veterinary Welfare Education & Outreach Manager, University of Edinburgh's International Centre for Animal Welfare Education spoke about the need for International Animal Welfare Education and how education can be effective in improving attitudes to animals, providing welfare for animals through better health and disease management and better conservation of resources and ecosystem protection. Speaking about how animal welfare has been considered an important issue in Britain even in earlier times, she said, that in 1822, The Humane Treatment of Cattle Bill was passed, while it was only in 1889 that the Children's Act was passed. Speaking about some of the challenges in International Animal Welfare Education, she said, the phenomenon of increasing globalization

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leadership. Referring to conventional approaches to animal welfare as “the past”, he said, “disease control, clinicians' contribution, the Veterinary Oath, the 3 Rs and the 5 Freedoms and along with this the contributions made by animal welfare organizations on sentience of animals and their welfare concerns are marking the emergence of a better understanding about animal welfare. Some of the changes that he noted in the present scenario of positive change in animal welfare was the active participation and engagement by veterinary universities as well as the government and inter-sectoral collaborations and partnerships with international associations like OIE as well as Animal Welfare Organizations like WSPA, WVACVA, FAVA, WASAVA, BVA, NZVA, RCVS, EBVS, AWZCVS, AVMA and AACVM. He also noted that, “societal expectations and pressures have emerged from the public to ensure that better welfare conditions for animals prevail. Other improvements that he noted was the participation from industry and trade bodies to improve welfare conditions for animals, especially in the European Union, e.g. SSAFE, GFSI and Global GAP. He also brought to notice the emergence of the “Pink tsunami” a rising tide of increasing emphasis on welfare considerations expressed by female veterinarians, who currently dominate the profession in the developed nations.

The session on “Animal Welfare Research, Standard Setting and Capacity Building” was jointly chaired by Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R. M. Kharb, AVSM, Chairman, AWBI and Dr. Karen Reed, Head, Animal Welfare & Research, The Brooke. Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI while introducing the session brought into focus the close bond of kinship that has existed between humans and animals since ancient times. He said, “In India, animals are extremely important for us. They contribute 5% of the country's GDP. India is one of the few countries in the world which has a heritage where animals were worshipped as Gods”. Dr. Paulo Della Villa, National Expert, DG SANCO Animal Welfare Unit in Brussels stated that in the European Union, animal welfare is a serious concern among the public. Citing the results of one survey, he noted that, “Welfare of farmed animals is a concern for 65% of European Union citizens and 89% of consumers interviewed believe that good standards of animal welfare must be applied to food products of animal origin”. Also noting the detrimental environmental impact of industrialization, modern agriculture and factory farming, he said, “45% of the soils in Europe faced problems of poor soil quality with 40% of the soil being contaminated by nitrates”. Noting a decline in several species he said, “the population of birds has dropped by 20-25% and butterflies by 70%”. Citing the Brundtland Commission Report he said, “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

The second speaker of the session, Dr Judy Macarthur Clarke, Head, Animals in Science Regulation Unit, UK Home Office gave a good overview on international developments relating to the use of animals in science. Starting her talk with a historical background, she mentioned that even as late as the 16th century, vivisection was widely prevalent all over Europe due to the notion popularized by the philosopher Descartes that only humans have souls and animals were to be regarded as machines. Citing the work of the scientist, Jeremy Bentham as critical in changing people's attitude towards vivisection and the use of animals in research, she said, the question that he asked completely changed the thinking at that time. “The question is not, can they reason? Nor can they talk? But can they feel?”.

Emphasizing the role of the ethical committee in ensuring humane use of animals, she said that it was vital to carry out a harm benefit analysis, evaluate projects critically from an ethical perspective as well as make decisions on a case-by-case approach”. Citing an influential book, “Principles of Humane Experimental Technique” published by UFAW in 1958 that brought in marked improvements in ethical and humane welfare considerations for laboratory animals, she said, “the application of the 3 Rs – Reduction, Refinement and Replacement” had contributed significantly to providing welfare standards for the care of laboratory animals. Noting that the number of animals being experimented upon in UK each year was not declining, she observed that the actual severity of the experiments conducted on the animals was coming down.

Citing the findings of one study which examined the severity of experiments conducted on over 35 000 animals, she said that, “Of the total number of experiments, 82% of the experiments could be classified as mild, while 11% of the experiments could be categorized as moderate, and 2% of the experiments could be categorized as mild while 4.5% were classified as sub-threshold and between 1-3% of the cases could be classified as being in the category of fatal with non-recovery”. Dr. Reed stressed the need for formulating a regulatory framework. She also mentioned that regulatory toxicology on animals was now almost completely eliminated.

Dr. Peter Thornber, Director, Australian Animal Welfare Strategy in his address mentioned the key role that Animal Welfare Strategy can play in providing member countries with a direction for future improvements in Animal Welfare. Adding that it can also help to promote development of sound Animal Welfare standards and handling practices. He said that addressing farm animal welfare was the first step in that direction. He said, “some of the goals of the Animal Welfare Strategy included, establishing a network of Animal Welfare experts, establishing dialogue, communications and cooperation with competent authorities, establishing in-house consultations with OIE Standards, involving the OIE Collaborating Centre on Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics and ensuring implementation of OIE Standards on Animal Welfare”. Citing some of the positive outcomes from Australia and other Asian countries, he said that, “Animal welfare was now emerging as a core business and improvements must be reported and change is an incremental process”. He concluded his talk by emphasizing that for an Animal Welfare strategy to be effective, “there must be excellent political support, good communication with media and communities, dedicated funding and demonstrable benefits”.

Dr. Fritha Langford, Senior Researcher, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) in her talk gave an overview of Animal Welfare in UK. Noting some of the key developments in this field, she said, “Improvements in Animal Welfare have taken place due to significant improvements in legislation in the UK and EU in the last 10-15 years particularly, the Lisbon Treaty, enactment of the Animal Welfare Act, 2006, and the Five Freedoms along with a better application of “positive welfare” leading to a better quality of life”. She brought into focus the advances that have emerged in Animal Welfare research with the establishment of twelve major centres of Animal Welfare Research in various centres of academic excellence in UK and the EU. She said that, Roslin Institute, FERA, DEFRA set up by the Government of UK, SRUC, Veterinary Schools, Newcastle University Group and several research groups had set up centres exclusively focused on research in animal welfare. Other areas that Dr. Langford focused on in her talk included, research work being conducted at JIMCAWE and other universities and research centres in UK..

cultural influences and lack of progressive teaching techniques had greatly affected animal welfare education. She also referred to the Good Practice Guidelines brought out by EU in 2005.

Dr Briyne, Policy Officer, World Veterinary Association speaking about the Federation of Veterinary Educators (FVE) said that, “FVE has 46 National Associations and 2 lakh Veterinarians”. She said the role of FVE is to empower Vets to practice good Animal Welfare through Education and Training, Research, Framing Policies and Guidelines and to utilize resources effectively. Speaking about some of the goals that FVE is focused on, she said, “the first task is to develop a good veterinary curriculum for veterinary faculties and the second task was to develop a model Animal Welfare curriculum for students and for individuals / organizations associated with animal rearing”. She said it was important that all veterinarians achieve Day 1 competency in Animal Welfare right from the day they graduate. She stressed that some of the key issues that her organization was addressing included, “appraisal of different Animal Welfare concepts to develop an analytical framework, objectively evaluate the welfare status of animals and recognize good and poor welfare, participate in animal welfare assessment methodologies and formulate a science based approach of good welfare practices and guidelines”. Speaking about some of the recommendations made by FVE, she said, “All European Union schools need to develop and implement Day 1 level competencies in the veterinary students and this needs to be evaluated by AEVE / FVE, Veterinary Schools in the European Union must ensure that there is adequate time, well trained staff and proper practicals conducted in the field to ensure that Day 1 level competencies are fulfilled and the subject of Animal Welfare science should be clearly identifiable in its own right and Animal Welfare Ethics and Animal Welfare Law should be treated as separate subjects”.

Speaking about the Training Programmes conducted by FVE for Veterinarians, she said, “so far six Workshops have been conducted for Vets with 120 Vets participating in each Workshop and a total of 850 Vets have been trained from over 24 countries of the EU. All Workshops were conducted in “Train the Trainer” format with 10% of the Vets attending the Workshops receiving further training. Speaking about some of the aims of FVE, she said, “FVE aims to find solutions for some of the challenging Animal Welfare issues like providing practical guidelines to assess fitness for transport of adult bovines, help vets to improve their skills in practice, refine the guidelines and curriculum on Animal based welfare assessment system, strengthen inspection powers through legislation eg. via legislation to ensure that all animal establishments regularly comply with all animal welfare requirements and ensure good animal health and welfare”. She also brought to the attention of the delegates that, veterinary specialization in Animal Welfare has emerged as a distinct field in both US and EU with the European College of Animal Welfare set up in 2010 and the American College of Animal Welfare also recently set up.

Speaking on the topic of Animal Welfare Education – A WSPA Perspective, Dr. Natasha Lee, Director, Advanced Concepts in Animal Welfare Programme in Asia said that WSPA Campaigns were in four main areas, “Welfare of Animals in the curriculum, Welfare of Animals in the wild, Welfare of Animals in Natural Disasters and Welfare of Animals in Farming”. Speaking about the role of veterinarians in Animal Welfare Education, Dr Natasha Lee said, “Veterinarians must continually strive to be the leading advocates to ensure good welfare for animals. Advanced Concepts in Animal Welfare is an online Animal Welfare curriculum developed by WSPA to improve the competencies of veterinary students and veterinarians in practice by enhancing their knowledge and strengthening key concepts and applications especially of species specific welfare measures”. She noted that it was vital for Vets to understand the impact of animal welfare on society, by identifying problems as well as solving problems. She observed that it was important to use science to explain and to help people implement solutions. Dr Lee stated that WSPA worked in various countries by identifying local champions and developing them into Key Drivers. She added that, “Vets must possess minimum competency to assess Animal Welfare, recognize poor Animal Welfare and solve animal welfare issues through education and corrective actions”.

Dr. Andrew Rowan, President and CEO, Humane Society International in his talk on “Animal welfare in developing countries – constraints, challenges and opportunities – experience with stray dog control and rabies” said, “According to WHO, there are 200 million street dogs and 50 000 people die of rabies every year and 15 million humans receive post-bite treatment every year. Humane Society International advocates same day release of dogs after an ABC-AR programme and engages in targeting large street dog populations to produce measurable results. Some of the places where Humane Society International has successfully worked in various developing nations to implement an effective ABC-AR Programme includes, Abaco, Bahamas in 1994, Heredia Province, Costa Rica in 2000, Bali, Indonesia in 2002, Jaipur in 2003, Sri Lanka in 2005, Ahmedabad in 2006, Bhutan in 2009, Cebu city, Phillippines in 2011 and Jamshedpur in 2012”. In his talk he elaborated in detail about Humane Society International's ABC-AR programmes carried out in different parts of the world.

Shri Gajendra Sharma, Country Director, WSPA India in his talk on “Protecting Animals in Distress” said that, “94 380 cattle die in floods in India annually. Fourteen states have Disaster Management Programmes in place. In the last few years, WSPA's role in Disaster Management interventions in India have included providing emergency relief in Leh and Uttarakhand during the cloudbursts and floods in 2013, in Bihar in 2008, in Assam in 2002, making provision for concentrates and feed in West Bengal in 2011, arranging for paddy straw in Odisha in 2008 & 2011, rescue and relief during the Andhra Pradesh floods in 2009, setting up animal shelters cum fodder banks in Assam during the floods of 2012 and setting up 440 temporary shelters in Maharashtra in 2013”. Talking about Veterinary Emergency Response Units, he said, “WSPA has been instrumental in setting up VERUs in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Himachal Pradesh”. Dr. Karen Reed, Head, Animal Welfare & Research, The Brooke, while speaking about the welfare of working animals said, “The Brooke works in eleven countries for the welfare of working equines like horses, donkeys and mules. There are 100 million working equines and working animals are often invisible and unnoticed and their welfare is often neglected. Working animals play a crucial role in supporting the livelihoods of very poor people”. Referring to one survey conducted by Brooke, using the Household Economy Approach she said, “it was noted that in equine owning households 80% of income and 80% of foods needs were met from the income generated by the working equines”. Referring to some of the areas where Brooke works she said, “Areas like capacity building, linking stakeholders and using a participatory method are some of the key areas where the Brooke works”. Speaking about the approach adopted by The Brooke Foundation, she said, “The Brooke Foundation uses a four tiered approach by conducting a needs assessment, integrating participatory welfare, strengthening field research and providing disaster relief”. She informed delegates that a good website to explore was www.worldhorsewelfare.org/colloquim2014".

Highlights of Conference on Canine Rabies

Highlights of the Satellite Conference on Canine Rabies included unveiling of the GARC plaque by Dr Charles Rupprecht, Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Hirofumi Kugita, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific, World Organization for Animal Health, OIE, in his talk said that he was delighted to inform delegates present at the Conference that OIE had launched a new project on “One Health”. Referring to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals, Dr. Kugita said, “the manual provides global standards for rabies control, dog population management, surveillance, vaccines and diagnostic techniques”. Referring to OIE Reference Laboratories and WHO Collaborating Centres, he said, “the labs and centres are working on achieving internal harmonization on laboratory methods for diagnosis, and quality control of vaccines”. He said, “The OIE evaluation of the performance of veterinary services (PVS) Tool and OIE Laboratory Twinning Programme are two important types of support given to OIE Member countries to control zoonosis including rabies. Referring to the rabies vaccine bank, he said, “the European Union Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging and Reemerging Diseases in Asia (EU HPED) supports the OIE Regional Vaccine Bank for Rabies established in 2011 which has distributed 2, 690 400 doses of rabies vaccine in Asia for dog vaccination”. Prof Rahman in his talk said that Bangalore is also emerging as the city for rabies education and research in India. Starting with the establishment of the WHO Diagnostic Centre in NIMHANS to establishing APCRI and in 2013, Asia's most advanced Rabies Diagnosis Laboratory and in 2014, the MOU with GARC, he said that he would prefer Bangalore city to be the central hub for all advances in rabies research, diagnostics and prevention in India, Asia and all the ASEAN countries. He said, “We now have MOUs with the University of Edinburgh, WSPA, Humane Society International and TANUVAS”. Our main aim of signing the MOUs is to bring people from different places in India and in countries that are less privileged to have access to the most advanced techniques in rabies diagnosis, prevention and education, besides sensitizing and updating their knowledge about animal welfare issues. Speaking about the APCRI Project funded by the Tata Foundation, he said, “we are also setting up a rabies diagnosis laboratory in Jamshedpur”. He concluded his talk by saying that, “If we can control rabies in dogs, we can control rabies in humans. The great challenge is of course, how are we going to control the street dog population of our country?”.

Dr. Bernadette Abela Ridder, Team Leader, Department for the Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, WHO, began her talk titled, “Uniting to eliminate dog transmitted raibes” by saying that the objective of the World Health Organization is to achieve health and well-being for all. Speaking about the common features of neglected zoonotic diseases, she said, “these diseases do not travel widely, are seen among the poor and the disadvantaged, have an important impact on morbidity and mortality, are neglected by research but can be controlled, prevented and eliminated”. She said that on 27th, May 2013, WHO had adopted a resolution on all 17 neglected tropical diseases, among which rabies has been included. Talking about rabies she said that, “Rabies had been reported in over 100 countries, causes 60 000 deaths worldwide, leads to 1.9 million DALYs and loss of over \$ 100 billion, with 99% of rabies cases occurring in developing countries, 84% of the cases being seen in rural areas, with over 20 million people receiving PEP and 99% of the cases transmitted through dog bites”. In her talk, she further elaborated on the key projects where the WHO was actively engaged with governments and communities to create awareness on rabies prevention through education and appropriate post-exposure prophylaxis.

Dr. Veena Mittal, Additional Director and Head, WHO Collaborating Centre for Rabies Epidemiology and Zoonosis Division, National Centre for Disease Control in her talk spoke about the National Rabies Prevention Programme. She said, “If we have good tools and good evidence, then we can influence policy and it is a challenge to translate research findings so that it can be integrated appropriately within policy”. Talking about learning from Programme implementation, she said, “Proceed progressively, dog vaccinations campaigns are effective but need to be done over an extended period of time, disassociate dog vaccination campaigns from spaying campaigns, look into animal behaviour and animal welfare for handling dogs humanely and for dog bite prevention”. Other issues that she spoke about included, community delivery, decentralized surveillance and campaign follow-ups. Speaking about some of the challenges and opportunities, she mentioned the role of political will and policy, education and awareness, building a strong business case and breaking the cycle of transmission through education and mass vaccinations. She also stressed about access and affordability of pre-exposure prophylaxis in high risk groups and post-exposure prophylaxis and administration of immuno-globulins in victims of dog bites. Referring to some of the priority areas under the National Rabies Prevention Programme, she said, “Issues like disease reporting and immuno-surveillance, building laboratory capacities of rabies surveillance, diagnosis and management of dog bites in rabies free zones, phasing out nerve tissue vaccines, switching to intra-dermal administration of PEP in high incidence areas, assessment of risk for PEP and linking data from people and animals for a more reliable assessment were some of the major focus areas”.

In his talk on Progress in Rabies Control in SAARC Countries, Dr. Gyanendra Gongyal, Scientist, Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology, WHO Regional Office for South-east Asia, while speaking about the prevalence of rabies in SAARC countries said, “all countries except Maldives are rabies endemic and though rabies is a notifiable disease in most countries, no comprehensive rabies control programme exists in many countries”. Other distinguished speakers at the Conference included, Dr. W.E.Marissen from Crucell Holland who spoke about the role of CL184 anti-rabies anti-bodies for post-exposure prophylaxis while Dr. Charles Rupprecht, Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine whose talk was titled, “How shall we best translate rabies research data into policy?” said, “At the end of the 1990s, all developed countries had interrupted canine rabies transmission, and the international engagement programme of the Pan American Health Organization demonstrated that developing countries could apply such tools with similar success for an entire region”. He added, “The Canine Blueprint for Rabies Prevention” is one such real-time attempt to provide an evidence-based approach to translate knowledge into policy and best practices. Subject matter champions are needed for the much more difficult task of working in a multi-disciplinary and often contentious environment, frequently with non-scientists, for the global dream of canine rabies elimination to become a local reality”. Dr. Charan Kamal Singh from the Department of Veterinary Pathology, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Ludhiana in his talk on “Ante-mortem detection of rabies in animals” shared with delegates the results of a rapid PCR based Rabies diagnosis test using saliva, hair follicle, skin biopsy, corneal impression smears, CSF and skin biopsy. He said, “real-time PCR has emerged as the most useful =nt ingredient of the ante-mortem regimen for rabies diagnosis from neural as well as non-neural tissues of the body of the suspected animals. Dr. Ramesh Masthi, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Kempegowda Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) shared his experience of using GPS in epidemiological field studies for accurate measurement of morbidity and mortality of animal bites and human rabies cases. Dr. B. Sekar, Director, Pasteur Institute of India informed the audience that, “no case of human rabies has been reported from the district hospital since 2006 and the animal husbandry department has also not reported any case of rabies in the last five years”. Prof. Be-Nazir Ahmed, Director, Disease Control, Department of Health, Bangladesh shared his experiences about the successful dog bite management and mass dog vaccination programme adopted in his country. He said, “Bangladesh started modern dog bite management in 2010 in one centre and by 2012 the country had set up Dog bite management centres in all the 64 districts of the country with trained physicians and free vaccines”. He noted that, “a reduction of rabies cases by about 50% has been noticed in the country”. □

Announcement

A global webinar is being organized on 29th April, 2014 on the topic of Veterinary Leadership – Empowering tools for Vets in the field of Animal Welfare. (www.worldvet.org)

कुत्ते से काटे जाने से कैसे बचें।

Intervet
Schering-Plough Animal Health

- ह न करें...

- किसी कुत्ते की आंखों में सीधे देखना
- कुत्ते पर कुछ फेंकना
- कुत्ते के पास से दौड़ना



कुत्ते से काटे जाने से कैसे बचें।

Intervet
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- अगर एक गुराँता कुत्ता आपके पास आए...
- ...हाथ नीचे कर स्थिर खड़े हो जाएं, ऐसे दिखाएं जैसे आप पेड़ हों।
- अगर कोई कुत्ता आप पर आक्रमण करे...
- ...गुड़ी मुड़ी होकर गेंद जैसे हो जाएं और चेहरे की रक्षा करे, ऐसे दिखाएं जैसे आप चट्टान हों।

टीकाकरण

- रेबीज के प्रति टीकाकरण तुरंत व आसान है।
- अगर पर्याप्त जानवरों का टीकाकरण हो जाए तो रेबीज खत्म किया जा सकता है।

कुत्ते से काटे जाने से कैसे बचें।

- कुत्ते को कभी परेशान न करें जो...

- खा रहा हो
- सो रहा हो
- पिल्लों को दूध पिला रही हो



The above content has been sourced out from online content available in Hindi for rabies education.

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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