



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



Welfare Concerns of Stray/Abandoned Animals in India

India has a population of nearly 20 million street dogs and an equal number of cattle abandoned and left on the streets to fend for themselves. For these animals living on the roads welfare measures are often non-existent. Animals left on the streets can be found in two categories, those that have lived all their lives as stray animals and those animals that were once owned and have now been abandoned. In most neighbourhoods of large cities, one can always see a large population of street dogs with invisible owners and friends. These friends of the street dogs include people from all walks of life, from the bakery owner, newspaper vendor, auto driver, garbage collector and rag picker to the school and college students, young professionals to busy home makers and senior citizens. It is these invisible owners who feed, sterilize, vaccinate and rush the dogs for medical care when needed.

The tensions and fights that emerge between the dog feeders and those against feeding the dogs can sometimes erupt into violent attacks on the dogs. The situation has improved to some extent for both the dogs and the caretakers with the introduction of the Colony Caretakers ID card by the Board which ensures that caretakers are given legal protection. However, the number of people who regularly feed their adopted pets on the streets is often a minuscule figure in comparison to those who never bother to feed the animals.

Compared with the plight of the abandoned cattle, for the street dogs of India, the welfare situation is somewhat better, at least in some of the large metros in the country. There are regular ABC-AR programmes being conducted and there is a certain level of acceptance and tolerance by the general public regarding the welfare of the street dogs. With the success of the first phase of Project Mission Rabies, it is hoped that both the level of awareness as well as tolerance will extend to the peripheries of the urban habitats, where both the incidence of dog bites as well as rabies is higher compared to the city centres.

However, it is regarding street cattle welfare that the situation is now emerging as a crisis point. In almost every city, town and even the famous pilgrim centres of our country, the plight of hungry cattle foraging for food is one that has become quite unfortunately, an accepted part of the urban landscape. With little or no welfare measures in place, the plight of ravenously hungry cattle eating plastic and garbage is a gruesome nightmare that greets the eye, no matter, which part of the country one is travelling in. With the country facing acute fodder scarcity, it is a matter of great distress that a large number of cattle continue to be bred.

Perhaps the best welfare measure that can be taken for the abandoned street cattle of our country is for all state governments to come forward and set up gaushalas in every district. Along with this, regular training programmes on helping Gaushalas to be sustainable and self-reliant needs to be conducted in every state in the country. As of now, there are 4000 gaushalas in the country, and of these over 2500 gaushalas are registered with the Board. However, for a country like India with a huge fodder scarcity, it is unsustainable to continue with the large scale breeding of cattle without ensuring that there is adequate fodder available to feed the cattle.

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Board Issues Show Cause Notice, Cancels Registration to Moonlight Circus

Based on an investigation conducted by the Board, Animal Welfare Board of India has cancelled the performing animal registration with AWBI as well as the registration of the circus by the Central Zoo Authority (CZA).

Prior to this show cause notice had been issued to Moonlight Circus based on complaints filed by Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA), Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre (WRCC) and the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organizations (FIAPO).

The circus owner and five others have been arrested on grounds of child trafficking and rape. The animals at the circus are in a miserable condition at Kudal in Maharashtra. □



Investigation Shows Miserable Plight of Animals at Moonlight Circus, Kudal

Special Report by Mrs Poornima Harish

Kudal: A team of animal welfare activists that included Ms Poornima Harish and Ms Meiki Wiehl from Samarpan Foundation, Ms Grace Kare from Gomantak Pashu Rakshak Sanstha, Mr. Johnson Stephen, People For Animals – Goa, Dr. Sudhir Kumar, People For Animals – Goa and Mr Ramesh Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests visited African Moonlight Circus in Kudal, Maharashtra on March, 12th, 2014. A Report was filed by Ms Poornima Harish, Coordinator, Samarpan Foundation, Bangalore who was authorized by AWBI to carry out the investigation. The following observations were made by her and other team members:

There is no management team of the circus as such. There is a bunch of people left from the initial lot who are carrying on their activities.



Johnson had brought along a veterinarian Dr. Sudhir Kumar who checked the condition of the dogs. The dogs had been suffering from severe fungal infections. Even though the government veterinarian was present, he had not taken any initiative or interest to educate the animal handler in any manner. Dr. Sudhir gave useful information on dog care to the handler. The government veterinarian informed the dog handler to get his dogs to veterinary hospital for treatment. I told him that the circus staff is clueless and uncaring and would not take the initiative to treat their dogs.

The dogs are not being used to perform. There is severe inbreeding going on. One set of Poms next to the Labrador's cage was shown as being children of the severely infected mother pomeranian. No records of animal maintenance was shown to us even on the second visit. According to the existing staff, they are looking for alternate and respectful jobs after they receive their payments. They have displayed strong positive response to quit the job.



At the time of our visit, they were preparing for a show. They had not carried out any of my first visit's recommendations of keeping the mother Pomeranian away from her babies even for a short while.

Grace did an excellent job of counselling the dog handler in basic dog care. She was able to get them to implement a few suggestions of placing wooden planks to prevent their paws from hurting from being on a wire mesh 24x7. Grace also taught the dog handler to separate the mother poms from their puppies.



After Dr. Sudhir's check-up on the condition of the dogs, Grace bought all the medicines and we went back to administer the same. I asked the circus managers Umesh as well as Michael to hand over the dogs to us for treatment. They said they would speak to the owner about it. The dogs are kept there only for breeding purpose repeatedly.



...Contd from page 1

here must be specific programmes in place to completely stop the breeding of low-worth breeds of cattle. Just as the Animal Birth Control Programme has been set up for the street dogs of our country, a similar programme needs to be in place for the street cattle. Besides, in the Government's breeding policy, the cross-breeding of Indian breeds of cattle with foreign breeds must be completely halted. The male calves born of such breeding are completely unsuitable for draught purposes. Often, the fate of such animals is starvation and sale at the slaughterhouses. With the recognition that it is both cruel and unsustainable to continue to breed cattle that are unproductive, it is better that a careful policy of selective breeding of only female calves be adopted. By doing so, unwanted male progeny whose only fate is starvation and slaughter can be completely prevented.

Another disturbing fact about cattle that are cross-bred is that in many exotic breeds of cattle like Holstein Friesian and Brown Swiss, the milk produced by these animals contains the A1 allele. Evidence is emerging from research studies to show that milk with the A1 allele can predispose humans to coronary artery disease, diabetes, schizophrenia and allergic reactions. In infants, the tendency of suffering autism as well as sudden infant death syndrome is also a serious cause for concern. Considering the many health concerns that may be precipitated by the consumption of milk containing the A1 allele, in the best interests of both the human population as well as the animal population, it is vital that the cross-breeding programme be completely stopped at the earliest.

We have so many excellent breeds of cattle in our country, from Gir and Red Sindhi to Sahiwal, Tharparkar, Amritmahal and Kankrej. The indigenous breeds of cattle in our country are tough, strong and resistant to diseases and well adapted to survive the climatic conditions of our country. The bulls of such breeds are sturdy in the field and can be used for draught purposes. By giving emphasis to breeding indigenous breeds of cattle, not only will the Indian breeds of cattle be saved but the scenario for organic farming in the country will also be strengthened. An Indian farmer with a strong and sturdy bull calf is unlikely to give it away for slaughter if he knows that the bull will be useful to plough the field and that the demand for organically grown crops fetch a premium price in the market.

In ancient India, surrounding almost every urban habitat, there used to be gochar lands or grazing lands that were reserved exclusively for the cattle to graze on. Where have all these lands gone? It is time that within the planning and policy framework of our country, such grazing lands were recreated by design, back into the periphery areas of urban habitats. Setting up of Gaugrams or sustainable ecofriendly villages around the periphery of every city in the country must be made a priority in the planning of urban habitats. Such spaces can provide large scale livelihood options for both the urban and rural poor and besides, these places can also promote ecotourism and as educational centres foster knowledge about local traditions, art, craft and culture. India has had a rich heritage of worship of the cow as "Gaumata" and it is this lost tradition and culture that needs to be revived. I cherish a fond wish that India will be the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of organically grown plant foods. For this to become a reality, it is essential that we protect our cattle from being abandoned and improve welfare conditions for these suffering animals. I do hope that in the coming year, a new era for animal welfare will emerge, one that will forever mitigate the plight of the abandoned and suffering cattle of our country.

With best wishes,

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



The staff and management of African Moonlight Circus are unfit to be in custody of animals and birds of any kind. They do not have any knowledge or interest to care for the animals and birds with them. No thought has gone into the design of the cages. The condition of dogs is pathetic. This being so, one can well imagine the status of exotic South American birds. It was Grace again who gave them practical tips to enrich the environment in the bird cages by having natural branches for the birds to perch on.

ABC Campuses in Uttarakhand

IN THE HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND AT NAINITAL
WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 41 OF 2013

Mrs Gauri MaulekhiPetitioners.
Versus

Government of Uttarakhand and others.Respondents.

Mrs. Gauri Maulekhi, petitioner, in person.

Mr. Vinay Kumar, Standing Counsel for the State of Uttarakhand / respondent nos. 1 to 4.

Mr. Shailendra Singh Chauhan, Advocate for respondent no. 5.

Mr. D.S. Patni, Advocate for respondent no. 6.

Coram: Hon'ble Barin Ghosh, C.J.

Hon'ble Servesh Kumar Gupta, J.

Barin Ghosh, C.J.

The writ petition seeks implementation of the provisions contained in Animal Birth Control Rules, 2001 by the State Government and Authorities under it. Accordingly, following prayers have been made in the writ petition:-

I. To direct the Principal Secretary Urban Development, Government of Uttarakhand to create a regular budgetary allocation to discharge the obligations imposed upon the local authorities under Rule 6 of the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2001.

II. To instruct the Department of Urban Development to create Animal Birth Control (ABC) Campus for feral dogs in each urban area in the manner suggested below-

a) For areas with a human population exceeding 1 lakh, a large ABC campus as per prescribed standard operating procedures comprising at least 300 kennels to house feral dogs before and after surgical intervention.

b) For areas with a human population less than 1 lakh a small ABC campus as per prescribed standard operating procedures comprising at least 100 kennels to house feral dogs before and after surgical intervention.

III. To direct the Uttarakhand Animal Welfare Board and the Animal Welfare Board of India to strictly monitor and ensure that the district SPCA's in the entire State of Uttarakhand participate actively in the implementation of the Animal Birth Control programme as laid down in the Rule 7(6) of the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2001.

IV. To direct the Department of Urban Development to ensure that all local bodies have adequate trained staff and suitable vehicles for catching, transporting and sterilizing feral dog.

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Chairman, AWBI Honoured by Andhra Pradesh State Government



Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. R.M.Kharb was felicitated by the Principal Secretary to Govt of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri Ridesh Jagirdar, Founder Secretary of Prani Mitra Ramesh Jagirdar Memorial Foundation. Present on the occasion and seen in the picture are Smt Amala Akkineni, Founder, Blue Cross of Hyderabad, Dr. Venkateswarulu, Director, Dept of Animal Husbandry, Swamy Svayam Bhagwandas, Member, A.P. State Animal Welfare Board, Shri Jasmat Patel, Trustee, Sri Ramachandra Dongreji Maharaj Gaushala at Sailing Club, Tank Bund, Secunderabad. □

IN THE HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND AT NAINITAL WRIT PETITION (PIL) NO. 41 OF 2013

V. To direct the Department of Urban Development to ensure that no dog killing or relocation is done in any district or township as it is blatantly illegal and unscientific.

VI. To direct the department of urban development to adequately ensure by means of suitable advertisements that all resident welfare associations are adequately apprised that feeding and looking after feral dogs is an act of compassion required to be performed as a fundamental duty by each citizen as per Article 51A of the Indian Constitution and must therefore not be opposed / challenged.”

2. In the writ petition, Government of Uttarakhand, its Urban Development Department, its Animal Husbandry Department, Nagar Palika Parishads, Nainital and Dehradun, Uttarakhand Animal Welfare Board have been impleaded amongst others. Uttarakhand Animal Welfare Board has filed an affidavit, where it has indicated that time has come to implement the provisions of the said Rules.

Other respondents, despite obtaining opportunity to deal with the writ petition, have chosen not to deal with the same. We, accordingly, allow the writ petition and issue directions in terms of the prayers as above. Respective Departments of the State of Uttarakhand are directed to implement the above directions as quickly as possible, but not later than six months from today.

(Servesesh Kumar Gupta, J.)

(Barin Ghosh, C.J.)

04.03.2014

Rathour

Wildlife Trade at Sonapur Fair: Asia's Biggest Animal Fair

Gajendra Moksha, also called *The Liberation of Gajendra*, is a Puranic legend from the 8th Skandha of Bhagavad Purana, one of the most sacred books in Hinduism. It is one of the famous exploits of Lord Vishnu wherein Lord Vishnu came down to earth to protect Gajendra, the Elephant, from the clutches of Makara, the Crocodile, and awarded him moksha or salvation. This is the ancient legend that lies behind the world famous Sonapur Animal Fair held at Harihar Kshetra on the occasion of Kartik Purnima in Bihar every year (Jain, 2014).

TRAFFIC conducted a survey of the Fair in November-December 2013 and found startling information about the illegal animal trade. The market was also surveyed earlier and the findings publicized in November 2012.

Sonapur Animal Fair is an organized gathering where trading in various species has traditionally taken place. The tradition has been so deep-rooted that there are examples where even after a species has been prohibited for commercial trade under the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WPA), 1972, trading goes on brazenly in denial of legal and prohibitory provisions.

The capture and transportation of elephants to Sonapur appears to be a regular occurrence, with Asian Elephants *Elephas maximus* transported from Assam. As a Schedule I animal, under Section 40 (2) of the WPA, 1972, it is prohibited to possess, acquire, dispose of and transport a captive elephant without written permission of the Chief Wildlife Warden or the Authorized officer under the WPA, 1972. Section 43 of the WPA, 1972, restricts the sale, purchase or transfers of captive elephants from one person to another for monetary considerations or any other profitable gain (MoEF, 2010; Bist *et al.*, 2001). Nevertheless, TRAFFIC observed 37 elephants at the fair in 2013, including six tuskers and six calves. (TRAFFIC 2013, Tripathi; The Telegraph, 2013) Reportedly some of these animals were transported from Assam to Bihar for sale at the Fair. Any such sale would be in contravention of the WPA, 1972, as the WPA 1972 does not permit any commercial transaction of elephant which is a schedule 1 listed animal. Transportation may be permitted, however, with a proper authorization from a legal authority. We did not find any such permit with any of the elephant traders.

In fact most traders or the elephant handlers refused even to discuss the matter, bringing non-transparency into the transaction process. We found evidence of trade deals being finalized before the Fair began or, as per the information collected, the deals might have been done after the conclusion of the Fair.

Furthermore, information from reliable sources suggests that more elephants are traded privately and are not displayed in Sonapur.

Further information obtained indicates there is a demand for live elephants in Kerala and that full grown tuskers are bought from the Fair for temples and elephants are also bought locally by rich landlords who keep them as status symbols. While the influx of these animals seems to have slowed from Assam due to the tightening of regulations, an overwhelming majority of the elephants from Assam are reportedly wild caught.

Important and central to elephants are to the Sonapur Mela, there is another aspect that has substantive relevance to wildlife protection in India. (Ashraf and Mainkar 2004; Varma and Kumar 2010) The bird market or Chiriya Bazaar has attained a scale where, despite the ban on the trade in birds since 1990-91, the trade in indigenous and non-native (exotic) birds remains brisk and thriving. The native birds found on sale were protected species caught and brought from the wild as TRAFFIC has collected information which confirms that permit have not been granted by the designated legal authorities in India to breed and sell WPA 1972 protected species.

However, issues relating to non-native (exotic) species in India remain vague in the absence of clear legislation specifically addressing exotic birds and animals. Using these legal loopholes, many traders have started trading exotic birds and animals in different places in India. During our investigations at Sonapur we found a large number of exotic birds placed on sale. Although, there are no specific laws to address the trade of exotic birds or animals, any breeding or trading does require a permit from the appropriate commercial licensing authorities. Since this issue was not the focus of current investigations by the authors, this was not investigated further.

The birds were sold at prices varying from INR 200-INR 5000 per individual. However, exceptions were Golden-fronted Chloropsis, offered for sale at INR 10000 per bird and Shikras, at around INR 7500.

Species	Number	Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972 - (Schedule)
Rose Ringed Parakeet <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	3000+	IV
Alexandrine Parakeet <i>Psittacula eupatria</i>	1500+	IV
Plum-headed Parakeet <i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	300+	IV
Red-breasted Parakeet <i>Psittacula alexandri</i>	50+	IV
Spotted Dove <i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	12	IV
Hill Mynah <i>Gracula religiosa</i>	30+	I
Gold-fronted Chloropsis <i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>	1	IV
Himalayan Bulbul <i>Pycnonotus leucogenys</i>	5	IV
White-rumped Shama <i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	8	IV
Red Munia <i>Amandava amandava</i>	1000+	IV
Black-headed Munia <i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	3000+	IV
White-throated Munia <i>Lonchura malabarica</i>	600+	IV
Spotted Munia <i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	1500+	IV
Red-vented Bulbuls <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	15	IV
Common Myna <i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	500	IV
Bank Mynah <i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	700	IV
Shikra <i>Accipiter badius</i>	17	I
Yellow-footed Green-pigeon <i>Treron phoenicopterus</i>	25	IV

With a figure touching upon more than 700 000 birds being trapped every year in India (Ahmed, 2004), the scale of bird trade at Sonapur Fair acquires an air of grave concern. BirdLife International [Islam and Rahmani, et al. Editors 2004] has identified India as a range State for 61 globally threatened bird species—the third highest national total worldwide—affected by overexploitation, including trapping for trade, both as pets and for consumption. TRAFFIC also observed primates being sold in the Fair—Rhesus Macaques *Macaca mulatta* and Hanuman Langurs *Presbytis entellus*. There were 25 Rhesus Macaques on sale and two Hanuman Langurs. The monkeys were priced at INR 5000 per pair and langurs at INR 7000 per pair. Many of these animals are reportedly bought for medical experiments and obtained from Nepal and Uttar Pradesh as well as Patna's Mir Shikar Toli. Two Black-naped Hares *Lepus nigricollis* were seen in the fair.

TRAFFIC also found out that many birds and animals at the Fair are brought in from West Bengal, especially those who trade in live animals at Galiff Street in Kolkata. Hill Mynas are obtained from Assam and are brought in for sale in Mir Shikar Toli and Sonapur. Many parakeets are also imported from Nepal. TRAFFIC also observed a young Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus* on display on the premises with onlookers poking and probing the animal.

Welfare concerns are obvious, because scores of birds are crammed in cages thereby exponentially increasing the mortality rates of the captured birds. Many birds would simply die of suffocation and due to duress caused by cramped conditions, lack of adequate food and water and proper veterinary care, not only in transit but also in situ. (Baker et al., 2013). Prices of native birds illegally on sale vary, while Chiriya Bazaar has many non-native (exotic) birds also on sale, including Cockatiels *Nymphicus hollandicus*, Budgerigars *Melospittacus undulatus*, Zebra Finches *Taeniopygia guttata*, Bengalese Finches (a captive-bred variety of White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*) and geese *Anser* spp.. The entire investigative survey was carried out by TRAFFIC in 10 field visits during two trips by two investigators. The exact numbers were determined for elephants and primates but only an approximate number for birds.

Source: © WWF. All rights reserved. For more info, please contact trafficind@wwfindia.net. □

भारत के पशु कल्याण बोर्ड मूनलाइट सर्कस को कानूनी नोटिस जारी किया है और सर्कस का पंजीकरण रद्द



पशु कल्याण बोर्ड और केंद्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण (सीजेडए) ने चांदनी सर्कस का पंजीकरण रद्द कर दिया है। सर्कस मालिक और पांच अन्य लोगों को गिरफ्तार किया गया है।

माननीय अध्यक्ष, भारत के पशु कल्याण बोर्ड के लिए बधाई



सेलींग क्लब सिकंद्राबाद में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम में भारतीय जीव जंतु कल्याण बोर्ड के चेयरमैन मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) डॉ. आर.एम. खरब का नगरागमन पर प्राणीमित्र रमेश जागीरदार मेमोरीयल फाउण्डेशन की ओर से स्वागत करते हुए आ.प्र. राज्य सरकार के प्रधान सचिव डॉ. मनमोहन सिंहजी, साथ में संस्थापक मंत्री रिद्धीश जागीरदार, सीने अभिनेत्री एवं ब्लू क्रोस ऑफ हैदराबाद की संस्थापिका श्रीमती अमल अक्कीनेनी, पशु संवर्धन विभाक के निदेशक डॉ. वेंकटेश्वरुलु, आ.प्र. राज्य जीव जंतु कल्याण बोर्ड के सदस्य स्वामी स्वयम भगवानदास, डोंग्रेजी महाराज गौशाला के न्यासी जसमत पटेल

सोनपुर पशु मेले में जंगली जानवरों में अवैध व्यापार

पक्षियों मुजफ्फरपुर, लखनऊ, दिल्ली, पटना और कोलकाता से खरीदे गए. सोनपुर मेले में बेच रहे थे। स्वदेशी पक्षियों के लिए दो मुख्य स्रोत हैं. पटना और लखनऊ में मीर शिकार टोली में नाकास बाजार हैं। पक्षियों दो सौ रुपैयो से पांच हजार और सात हजार तक अलग अलग दामों पर बेच रहे थे।

बंदरों जोड़ी भारतीय रुपैयो प्रति सात हजार पर जोड़ी और लंगूर भारतीय रुपैयो प्रति पांच हजार रुपैयो की कीमत थे। इन पशुओं नेपाल और उत्तर प्रदेश के साथ ही पटना के मीर शिकार टोली से प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।

The Animal Welfare Board of India is an umbrella of the SPCAs/AWOs and Animal Welfare Workers. The Board encourages Animal Welfare activities, advises the Central and State Governments on issues relating to Animal Welfare, particularly the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and also helps to formulate Animal Welfare Policies / Legislations.

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To



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AWBI Newsletter

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Board Issues Show Cause Notice to Moonlight Circus, Cancels Registration



Welfare Concerns of Stray / Abandoned Animals
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