The Animal Welfare Board of India is an autonomous body in the Central Government of India that 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.

From the Secretary’s desk

Implement Pet Shop Rules

The main objective of making Pet Shop Rules is to regulate privately operating individual / groups of pet shops in the country who are carrying out business to sale of pet animals, which is a total disorder to the society. The rules are made to ensure that the animals are adequately provided with proper food, water, health facilities and comforts as per animal welfare norms.

To save the animals, Government has notified the Draft Pet Shop Rules, under the Sub-section [1] of Section 38 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. These rules shall be enforced in all pet shops in India which are licensed by local bodies and sell animals or birds to the public. These Pet Shop Rules will enable and restrict the owner from selling the pet animals of tender age and thus, reducing the pain and sufferings to animals of large. The rules have taken all precautionary measures to ensure - low mortality rate of the pet animals and prevent the spread of infectious diseases to other animals. These rules will regulate and check the sale of exotic animals to the Pet Shop Owners. The rules have been set in such a way that the pet shop or pet grooming facility will have the minimum standard of sanitation, ventilation heating, cooling, humidity, special and animal specific medical treatment, methods of operations, maintenance of records for carrying out this activity and thus provide a healthy environment for running the Pet Shop business. At last, the legal provisions of the rules have been strengthened and strict enforcement must be ensured to make the rules more effective.

These rules are made to give tooth to the P.C.A Act, 1960 so that the local authority, who grants licence for carrying out these business must apply the power to close these shops where these standard operational methods may not be being adopted. These rules are to ensure that the live animals which are sold as pets or as a commodity, are given proper care and provided stress-free human treatment so long as they are in possession of the shop keeper.

All pet shop owners shall maintain a record related to all pet animal purchases. Minimum information required includes transaction date, name, address and phone number of the supplier, name and sex of the pets received; animal breed or species; and bird band number, if applicable. In the case of exotic animal dealers, minimum information required shall include the supplier’s name, address, date of purchase, animal breed or species; and bird band number, if applicable.

Chennai: The Chennai Corporation will issue licenses for pet dogs at its dispensaries and veterinary public health centres in the city. Dog owners will have to pay an annual fee of Rs.50/- towards the license, which is mandatory.

The dogs will also be immunized free of cost. Pet owners may visit the veterinary public health centres on Pallavaram Salai in Thiru.vi.Ka. Nagar and Lake Area in Nungambakkam. Dog pound at Basin Bridge, dispensaries at Veerabadran Street, Padupet and Chandranyak Samthi Street, Perambur. According to corporation officials, about 2,000 such licenses were issued last year. It is estimated that there are 75,000 pet dogs in the city. “We expect to issue at least 5,000 new licenses this year”, said an official.

These steps are being taken to eradicate rabies. A door-to-door survey is also being proposed to identify dogs, which have not been immunized or issued license, the official said.

Injecting Cows with hormone an offence

Chennai: Injecting cows with oxytocin hormone is an offence and the Government can impound the animal subjected to it, said Pongolur Shri N. Palanisamy, Hon’ble Animal Husbandry Minister. He was replying to a member of legislative assembly, who wanted the government to clarify whether milk obtained from a cow injected with oxytocin hormone was harmful to health. Shri Palanisamy said the practice was prevalent only in Chennai and suburban areas, but the hormone was not known to have caused any health hazards. “Injecting cows with the hormone is punishable under Section 12 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960,” he said.

“Others administering the injection will get 6 months imprisonment or Rs.1000/- as fine”.

Kaziranga No.1 in Tiger Density

Guwahati: Kaziranga National Park, the only World heritage site in Assam, located about 250 km from the state capital, has the highest density of Royal Bengal tigers in the world. This welcome news comes amid a growing concern over the number of tiger deaths in the park, as well as the fast dwindling big cat figures in other sanctuaries of India. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau found that between November 2008 and September 19, 2009, at least a dozen tigers had died in Kaziranga. Last week, Shri Rockybal Hussain, Assam Environment and Forest Minister, announced that Kaziranga has as many as 32 tigers per 100 sq.km. He said this while releasing the findings of a joint study by the State Forest Department and Aranyak, a biodiversity conservation group called Northeast Tigers.

The study had been conducted between 2008 and March 2010, using the camera trapping method. After an analysis of all parameters involved in camera trapping methods, we can safely say Kaziranga has the highest density of Royal Bengal tigers in the world, surpassing even the Corbett National Park in Uttarkhand, Hussain said. The minister officially announced Kaziranga’s density today.

The study, conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Chitwan National Park, Nepal, of the major Royal Bengal Tiger habitats in the world outside India has a density of 8.70 tigers per 100 square km. Kaziranga has a density of 19.6 tigers per 100 sq.kms. The density in other tiger habitats in India are Bandhavgarh (11.97), Nagarhole (11.92), Kanha (11.70) and Rathambhore (11.46). M. Firoz Ahmed, Aranyak wildlife biologist and team leader of the study, said the tiger density of the Sunderbans in West Bengal is not known yet, while the density in SE Asian countries like Myanmar is much lower. The revelation brought much cheer among wildlife enthusiasts and activists. Sanctuary Asia editor, Shri Bittu Sehgal said: “Its the highest density of tigers in the world. But its an estimate. Nevertheless, it is a tribute to the wildlife protection staff of Kaziranga whose blood has been spilled in defence of its rhinos, tigers, elephants and wild buffalos. Kaziranga’s example should be emulated by all other tiger reserves and they should get the same political backing Kaziranga gets today”.

New Pet Shop Rules may cage rampant cruelty to animals

Chennai: Recognising that the demand for pets has led to an increase in birds and animal sellers, the Environment and Forests Ministry (MoEF) has proposed rules for pet shops to ensure basic comfort for animals. At present, all pet dealers need is a licence from the administration in any kind of property to have a license. The same applies to pet shops,” says Chennai Corporation official. Authorities are not forthcoming about the number of licenses issued or the procedure. The official says a veterinarian is supposed to inspect the shop. “Veterinarians, however, say they are usually not involved. ‘We go only if there is a necessity’, says a senior corporation veterinarian, adding that granting licenses is the job of the revenue department. The revenue department, however, says this is done by the health and sanitation department.

The secretary of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Shri D. Rajasekar says, the city has about 200 pet shops. “We include aquariums, the number would be higher”, he says. “Very few have licences”. Some shops also trade in protected species, in violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (WPA). The forest department and animal welfare organizations have conducted raids, says an official. “We have even seized a baby peacock”, she says. “But any action seems temporary. A day or two later, these pet sellers are back in business”. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (PCA), and WPA have provisions to ensure that animals are not abused or illegally traded, but enforcement is a sticky issue. “There are some laws against cruelty. Implementation has to be done by State enforcement agencies,” says Shri. Rajasekar. Punishment is far from stringent. “PCA is toothless now; the maximum fine is Rs.500/- We need sterner punishments,” he says.

In the mean time, MoEFP’s proposed pet shop rules are seen as a first step. They say that if a pet shop owner runs a business without a licence or without following the rules, the premises will be sealed, the animals and birds confiscated and the owner fined up to Rs.5,000/-. “There are concerns about how the rules will be implemented but it is a start. Only if we have a law can we do something”, says Dr. Chinmay Krishna, Blue Cross of India, Chennai.
ADUDE CARE FOR ELEPHANTS AND VULTURES

GUWAHALI: The 20th Annual General meeting of Early Birds, a nature organization, was held at the Adarsh Coaching Centre, Udhara on 2nd of May. Shri. Gautam Choudhury, General Secy. elaborated about the activities of the organization for the year 2009-10. Shri. Mrs. Pallab Sarma, treasurer, submitted the accounts for the corresponding year and also expressed gratitude to the Animal Welfare Board of India for its support to run the activities. Shri. Moloy Baruah, president of the organization discussed in threadbare some of the on-going activities and the project in hand and also work schedule to pursue in the near future.

Shri. Tridib Sarma expressed intimated the house about the part of responsibility to be shared by Early Birds along with other wildlife NGO’s under Assam hashi project’.

Shri. Gautam Choudhury and Shri. Sajib Das shared their experiences with others about rhino census at Kaziranga N.P. last year. In a resolution adopted in the AGM, the members had expressed their displeasure at the large scale killing of elephants and vultures at the railway track in Assam and demanded to install Speedometers at vulnerable places and punish the train drivers exceeding limit.

The Early Birds, vemently condemned the repeated attempt by miscreants, mostly the land hungry immigrants to occupy parts of Orang National Park.

EFFORTS FOR RESTORATION OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

JASMIR & KASHMIR: SPCA Kashmir and several animal welfare activists recounted as to how the livestock owners turn indifferent to their animals and abandon them on roads, making them the biggest traffic hazards. They either get killed or maimed in accidents and at occasions lead to loss of human lives. The SPCA, Kashmir time and again advocated setting up of animal shelters at District Headquarters so that these creatures are cared for by the Animal Welfare Organisations to be financed by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) in remote areas of the country. The stray animals besides being a traffic hazard also contribute to the poor sanitary situations in urban agglomerates, cities and towns. Therefore, the attention of the authorities are invited for setting up of an State Animal Welfare Board for restoration of animal rights and prevention of cruelty to animals in the state.

“DICLOFENAC” should not be used for treatment of cattle; “MELOXICAM” can be used alternatively.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR BUM, MEMBER, ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA PASSED AWAY

CHENNAI: Shri Mahendra Kumar Bum, member of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) passed away at midnight on 27th May, 2010 in a road accident near Nasik, Maharashtra. Shri Bum was a senior animal welfare activist and renowned personality of animal welfare and gausahala movement in the country.

Shri. Bum has served in various capacities in the field of animal welfare especially Gau Shala Movement in the state of Madhya Pradesh for more than two decades. He was the first Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Go Seva Ayog and completed five years of dedicated service for the cause of cattle welfare movement in the country. Shri. Bum has served on various capacities as Co-opted Member as well as Member of the Board.

Shri Bum has been felicitated with various awards viz., Dayodaya Ratna Award 2005, Acharya Vidhya Sagar National Dayodaya Award, 2005, Jain Ratna Award 2005, Jeero Dayana Ratna Award, 2006 and many such awards for his tireless service for the welfare of the animals. He has served with various capacity to various organisations and Associations which are working for the cause of animal welfare and social welfare in the country. He has published various books on utilization of cow and cow urine and bio dynamics of cattle welfare.

On behalf of the Chairman, members and staff of the Board we convey our heartfelt and deep condolences on the sad and untimely demise of Shri. Mahendra Kumar Bum, Member, AWBI. The AWBI family prays for the departed soul to rest in peace. He is survived by his wife and three sons.

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The patients visiting the hospital on the 60 to 70 dogs that come for treatment suffer from hypoproteinemia, a condition that requires blood transfusion. An animal may also need blood transfusion in case of a shock, infection, iron deficiency, severe anaemia and spleen injury.

To encourage donors, TANUVAS has announced freebies, which include providing the dog with a green card worth Rs.1,000 to enable it to get treatment as soon as it arrives in the hospital through the green channel for a year.

While the treatment is free for all animals at the hospital, a donor dog would even get in ultrasound or ECG, costing Rs.100 at the hospital and much higher in private hospitals, free for a year.

The concept is being promoted through the University website, advertisements in private clinics, and through NGOs that support the cause of animals. To mark World Veterinary Week Celebrations, a free medical camp for dogs is being conducted at the Madras Veterinary College in Vepery to administer the anti-rabies vaccine and deworming medication.

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The Commissionner, Nagpur Municipal Corporation
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