Highlights of Regional Conference on Animal Welfare
Photo Highlights of AWBI's 2nd Regional Seminar at Jaipur

Left to right: Smt Nurna Alvare, Board Member, AWBI, Smt Uma Rani, Secretary, AWBI & Madam Hitesh Kharb

Dr. Geradine Jana, Founder, Aashray, Smt Uma Rani, Secretary, AWBI & Shri Gujarilal Soni, Board Member, AWBI & Convenor of the Seminar

Smt Geetanjali, Deputy Secretary, MoEF, Smt Namitha Kothari, Co-convenor, Jaipur Seminar, Smt Uma Rani, Secretary, AWBI & Shri Gujarilal Soni, Board Member, AWBI & Convenor of the Seminar

Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI and Shri Gujarilal Soni, Board Member, AWBI & Convenor of the Seminar taking His Excellency Shri Jagannath Pahadia, Hon'ble Governor, Haryana State around the stalls put by the Animal Welfare Organizations and the poster display by the school children dressed in attractive outfits.

Left to right: Front Row: Shri Gujarilal Soni, Board Member, AWBI, Shri Hem Paree, Addl Secretary, MoEF, Smt Timmy Kumar, Managing Trustee, Help In Suffering, Shri Anjani Kumar, Director, Animal Welfare Division, MoEF, Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon'ble Chairman, AWBI & Smt Namitha Kothari, Co-convenor, Jaipur Seminar

Second Row: Shri N.G. Jayasinha, Director, Humane Society International, G. Sudhir S. Yadav, CEO, Help in Suffering & Dr. S. Chunna Krishna, Vice-Chairman, AWBI
Chairman
Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. R. M. Kharb, AVSM

Vice-Chairman
Dr. S. Chinny Krishna

Editorial Sub-Committee

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

Vice-Chairman
Dr. S. Chinny Krishna

Members
Smt. Amala Akkineni
Ms. Jasjit Purewal
Dr. Arun Varma
Shri Guljarilal Soni
Prof. B.N. Ramanathan

Editorial Team

Secretary: S. Uma Rani
Assistant Secretary: S. Vinod Kumaar
Humane Education Officer: S. Bharat Kumar, PhD
Editor of Publications: R. B. Chaudhary, PhD
Consultant Editor: Lakshmi Iyer, MVSc
Assistant Editor: Rajesh Kaushik

Animal Citizen

(Dedicated to Animal Welfare)

Animal Citizen is an official publication of the Animal Welfare Board of India (Ministry of Environment & Forests)
13/1, 3rd Seaward Rd, PO Box: 8672, Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai – 600 041.
Tel: 044-24571024/ 044-24571025 Fax: 044-24571016
website: www.awbi.org email: awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in.
Printed at C.P.R Environmental Education Centre, 1, Eldams Rd, Alwarpet, Chennai – 600 018. www.cpreec.org
Price per copy: Rs 20/-
Subscription: For One Year: Rs 80/- For Five Years: Rs 400/-
**From the Chairman’s Desk**
Animal Welfare Awareness in the Society / Schools  1

**Vice-Chairman’s Perspective**
50 Years of the CPCSEA 1963-2013  3

**Secretary’s Space**
Effective Implementation of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001  9

**News – Conference Highlights**

**Focus**
Let's Make India Animal Friendly, Compassionate & Conscientious – Amala Akkineni  21

**Celebrity Special**
Homing Dogs For Life: Meet Clarissa Baldwin, CEO, Dogs Trust  18

**Humane Education: Special Report**
Changing Minds, Changing Hearts: The Compassionate Citizen Programme for Schools - Puja Mahajan, Senior Education Coordinator, PETA  25

The Karuna Club Movement: Success in Design & Implementation – Dhulichand Jain  28

**Street Cattle Welfare**
Are you rebel enough to save the Plastic Cow? – Abhishek Bhowmick  33

**Special Investigation**
Understanding Street Dog Ecology: The Importance of Programme Monitoring and Data Collection - Jack Reece, B.Sc., B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.,  37

**Inspiration**
Applying Positive Reinforcement to Hand-catch Street Dogs - Steve Goward  42

**Preventive Canine Healthcare**
Canine Population Control And Its Relationship To Preventive Veterinary Oncology and Humane Care - Jessica Lawrence, DVM DACVIM (Oncology), DACVR (Radiation Oncology, MRCVS)  45

**ABC & Shelter Management**
Positive Health Benefits of Canine ABC Programmes on Local Dog Populations - Andrew Yoak  48

**Canine Population Monitoring**
Using Smart Phones to Track Street Dog Populations - Lex Hiby  50

**Insight**
Vets as Educators & Change Champions in Rabies Control - Ilona Otter, DVM, Msc  52

**Conservation Centres of Excellence**
The Natural Behaviour of Monkeys: Notes from the Primate Trust - John Hicks  55
Animal Welfare Awareness in the Society / Schools

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

The most powerful tool to bring about a collective transformation in the consciousness of the society towards a just, humane and peaceful society that has adopted sustainable lifestyle choices is through the integration of an effective humane education programme. Humane education at its very essence is based in “Ahimsa” or the adoption of non-violence in thought, word and action. It is thus a path of spiritual evolution as much as it is the only approach for the development of a crime free society.

Children have a natural fondness for nature and for all her creations. If this quality of being sensitive to animals by recognizing their sentience was cultivated in early childhood and nurtured throughout the primary and secondary years in school and later in college through activity oriented education, that can serve as an effective way in imparting compassion education.

The best way to teach Humane Education would be by introducing a set of lesson plans that have a strong activity oriented focus and which serve to guide and inspire children towards being leaders and agents of change in the community. The school can then serve as a catalyst in the community to lead and accelerate positive behaviour change in the community.

Some of the common problems of inhumane treatment being witnessed in our society today – especially that of violence towards women, children, animals and the environment can be effectively solved only through establishing a culture of consciousness to practice compassion, first in one’s own life and then to all sentient beings in one’s own neighbourhood.

The culture of being compassionate, whether to other sentient beings like the mammals and the birds or towards the earth and the environment or to other human beings is rooted in practicing the dharma of “ahimsa” or non-injury in thought, word and deed. Kindness is a language the deaf can hear, the blind can see and animals can feel and reciprocate.

In India, several organizations have been doing excellent work in promoting Compassion Education. The Animal Welfare Board of India has been consistently providing financial assistance to support the Karuna Club Movement started by Shri Dhulichand Jain in 1993. Till date, fifteen lakh students and 40,000 teachers have been trained through the Karuna Club Training Programmes and are actively involved in promoting Karuna Club activities. Several lakh children have turned vegetarian and have given up the use of leather shoes and belts. The Karuna Clubs Movement is an excellent example to show how schools can serve as Change Champions to foster the adoption of cruelty free food and lifestyle choices among school children.

Similarly, PETA’s Compassionate Citizen Programme which has reached out to over 3 million school children and 15 000 schools is another excellent example of effective integration of humane education teachings within the school curriculum. The Compassionate Citizen Programme which has been included in the CBSE syllabus is a great achievement for Humane Education in India.

From a more holistic perspective, environmental education institutions like CPREEC and CEE have taken forward the Herculean task of integrating ‘Environment Education’ concepts within the curriculum through effective Teacher Training Programmes as well as by setting up eco-clubs in schools. Key concepts within the environment education syllabus like waste segregation, afforestation, impact of climate change,
water and energy conservation and biodiversity conservation greatly help to foster concern, care and respect for the environment and animals.

Besides this, several Animal Welfare Organizations from different parts of the country, whether it is PAWS in Mumbai, Kindness Kids in Chennai and other cities of South India, Animal Aid Unlimited, Help in Suffering, Aashray and Raksha in Jaipur, Blue Cross of India and Blue Cross of Hyderabad or IPAN in Ooty, each one of these organizations has been carrying forward the message of compassion in action. Starting this year, the Animal Welfare Board of India too has been conducting Training Programmes for Humane Educators.

Within a few months, AWBI will be launching a fifteen day, Master Trainers Training Programme at Hyderabad under the aegis of the Blue Cross of Hyderabad. Interested individuals may look at the Board’s website for the announcement of the date and schedule for participating in the Training Programme to become a Master Trainer.

Ultimately, it is only through acts of kindness, that injured and ailing animals can be saved, healed and restored to wellness. This enduring spirit of showing compassion towards our animal friends is perhaps one of the most powerful demonstrations of what it means to be a spiritually evolved human being.

For too long has this country worshipped God in temples, mosques, churches and dehrasars, it is time that along with the worship of Gods, we also practice kindness to nature and all her sentient creations. This dharma of compassion must be reflected in our cultural practices -- whether it is popularizing tree planting festivals, celebration of a fire-cracker free Deepavali or an animal sacrifice free Dussehra.

Sensitive and caring, child friendly, nature friendly green schools lead by dynamic Principals and versatile Teachers, well trained in key concepts pertaining to environment education and animal welfare education can truly transform the society and the nation to become a truly peace loving nation, deeply committed to just, humane, equitable and sustainable ways of living.

**AWBI’s Master Trainers Programme to be Held Soon**

The Animal Welfare Board of India will be conducting Master Trainer Training Programmes. The Announcement regarding the dates for the Training Programme will be put up on the Board’s website - [www.awbi.org](http://www.awbi.org). Interested individuals may send an application to the Board by email at awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in or by post addressed to the Secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India, 13/1, 3rd Seaward Rd, PO Box: 8672, Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai – 600 041.

For more information contact AWBI at 044-24571024/ 044-24571025 Fax: 044- 24571016
In 1956, Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha, introduced a Private Member’s Bill to replace the almost 100-year old Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act which was then in force. After its introduction, Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru told Rukmini Devi that such an important subject should be brought about by a government-sponsored Bill and requested her to withdraw her Bill promising her that his Government would introduce an identically worded Bill. Rukmini Devi graciously did so and the Government followed up with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Bill. In 1960, this Bill received the assent of both Houses and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (59 of 1960) came into being.

Unfortunately, there was very little reaction to the proposed bill, primarily because most people were unaware of what was happening. Captain Sundaram did hear about it and went to Delhi and spoke to Prime Minister Nehru about the clause in the proposed bill which read:

> Nothing contained in this Act shall render unlawful the performance of experiments (including experiments involving operations) on animals for the purpose of advancement by new discovery of physiological knowledge or of knowledge which will be useful for saving or for prolonging life or alleviating suffering or for combating any disease, whether of human beings, animals or plants.

When the Bill was in the process of being debated and discussed, Pandit Nehru said:

> “Of course, it is as well for us, absolutely right for us, to consider the question of preventing any cruelty to animals, not only because of the animals themselves but much more so as the Honourable Member, the Mover, said because of the human beings involved in it. It is a debasing thing for the person who involves in this cruelty...If we go back to the history of civilization; it has been one of struggle and one of growth of the idea of compassion. I entirely agree with the Hon’ble Member, the Mover that one test of civilization – a very major test – is the growth of this feeling and practice of compassion....”

Nehru did promise to make a provision to set up a Committee to look into animal experiments if the necessity arose and the following clause was introduced:

> If at any time, on the advice of the Board, the Central Government is of the opinion that it is necessary so to do for the Purpose and Supervision of Experiments on animals, it may by notification in the Official Gazette constitute a Committee consisting of such number of officials and non-officials, as it may think fit to appoint thereto.
In 1963, because of an alarming number of complaints being received by the Animal Welfare Board of India and the Blue Cross of India on the blatant abuse of animals in the guise of “animal experimentation”, the Government of India constituted the first Committee for the Purpose of Control & Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). The Chairman was Mr. Kamalnayan Bajaj, Member of Parliament. The Vice Chairman was Shri J. N. Mankar, the Secretary was Dr. S. R. Chaddha and the other members were the heads of all the major animal-using government organizations like Pasteur Institute; Central Drug Research Institute; Central Research Institute; King Institute; Central Veterinary Research Institute; National Institute of Nutrition; and others.

The CPCSEA formed a sub-committee which travelled around India getting interested people to depose, and visited most animal using establishments (at that time, mostly government institutions). I was one of those that deposed before the Committee in Madras and my statements were met with ridicule and disbelief. While this was going on in India, the British Government notified the Littlewood Committee the same year in 1963 with Sir Sydney Littlewood as its Chairman.

In 1965, after a two-year study, the CPCSEA issued the first document in which it stated, and I quote:

“Vivisection or animal experimentation is one of the most inhuman cruelties against animals which are being perpetrated in the world today. The object of these experiments is said to be in order to advance scientific knowledge, and to undertake research to save or prolong human or animal life and alleviate suffering.

In the name of science, however, animals are made to endure the most barbaric tortures ever invented by the human brain, often lasting over long periods and without any sort of anaesthetic.”

While this was issued in 1965/66, the CPCSEA was working on a set of guidelines governing animal experimentation which was formally released on World Animal Day, October 4, 1968. The important sections of the guidelines are reproduced below:

“Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules (1968)

“In Exercise of powers conferred by section 17 of Chapter IV of the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act (59 of 1960), the Committee for the Purpose of Controlling and Supervision of Experiments on animals, hereby makes the following rules, which shall come into force with effect from 4th October 1968, the same having been published in the Gazette of India, Part II Section (3) Sub-Section (ii) Notification No S.O.2479 Dated 13th July 1968, as required by the said Section:-
3. **Stocking of Animals:**

   The animals shall be stocked in the following manner namely:
   
   (a) Animal houses shall be located in a quiet atmosphere undisturbed by traffic, and the premises kept tidy and hygienic and the animals protected from draught and extremes of weather;
   
   (b) Animal cages for small animals and stables for larger animals shall be such that animals can live in comfort and overcrowding is avoided;
   
   (c) Where standards have been laid down by the Indian Standards Institution, the cages and the stables, as the case may be, shall conform to those standards;
   
   (d) Animals’ attendants shall be suitably trained and sufficiently experienced in the duties allotted to them;
   
   (e) Animals shall be looked after, before during and after the experiments, by a trained and experienced attendant;
   
   (f) There shall be satisfactory arrangements for looking after the animals during off hours and on holidays;
   
   (g) Nothing in sub-rules (1) shall apply to animals for field experiments performed under emergency or special circumstances.

4. **Conduct of Experiments:**

   *In conducting experiments on animals, regard shall be had to the following conditions namely:*

   (a) Experiments shall be performed in every case by or under the supervision of persons duly qualified in that behalf, viz Degree or Diploma holders in Medical or Veterinary or other Science or Pharmacy or Natural science of a recognized University or an institution recognized by the Government for the purpose, in a Laboratory adequately equipped and staffed for the purpose and under the responsibility of the person performing the experiment. In the case of a teaching, research or a Pharmaceutical concern, the responsibility therefore shall be placed also on the person in charge of the institution;
   
   (b) Experiments shall be performed with due care and humanity.
   
   (c) Minimum number of animals shall be used in an experiment, but at the same time meeting the statistical requirements;
   
   (d) Experiments involving operative procedure more severe than simple inoculation or superficial venesection shall be performed under the influence of anaesthetic of sufficient power to prevent the animal feeling pain and it shall remain so throughout the experiment. Provided that where the services of a Veterinary Surgeon are not available, a person adequately trained to methods of anaesthesia shall be allowed to administer anaesthesia, and the anaesthetist shall remain present near the animal till the completion of the experiment:
   
   (e) Animals which in the course of experiments under the influence of anaesthetic are so injured that their recovery would involve pain or suffering shall be destroyed humanely while still insensible.
   
   (f) When there is reason to believe that an animal is suffering abnormal or severe pain at any stage of a continuing experiment, it shall be painlessly destroyed at that stage without proceeding with the experiment.
   
   (g) The experiment shall not be performed for the purpose of attaining or retaining manual skill. This condition shall not apply to, (i) students at the Veterinary Colleges, who shall be permitted to perform surgical operations on living animals subject to that animals are under deep anaesthesia and the operations are performed under the direct supervision of an expert teacher (ii) experts in the Medical field for performing higher type of surgery on animals.
(h) Experiments shall not be performed by way of an illustration of lecture in Medical, Veterinary and other science schools or Colleges, and hospitals or elsewhere if other teaching devices such as books, models, films and the like, where available can equally serve the purpose, provided that wherever possible such alternative methods like tissue culture or Biochemical methods may be used.
(i) Experiments shall not be performed as a public demonstration except for advancement of knowledge.
The substance known as Urari or Curari or any such paralysant shall not be used or administered for the purpose of any experiment except in conjunction with anaesthetic of sufficient depth to produce loss or consciousness;
(j) Except for purposes of research, no experiment the result of which is already conclusively known shall be repeated solely for the purpose of repetition.
(k) There shall not be applied to the eye of any animal by way of experiment any chemical substance for the purpose of absorption through the conjunctival membrane or though the cornea calculated to give pain;
(l) Dogs held for experimental purposes in animal houses shall not be debarked.

5. Records:
“Every person performing an experiment, where the experiment is performed in an institution, the person in charge thereof, shall maintain a chronological record of the experiments carried on by him or in the institution, as the case may be, in which shall be entered in brief, the nature of the experiment, the animals used, the course and the result thereof, manner of final disposal of animals and such other information as the committee may, from time to time require.
“Provided that no information shall be disclosed relating to any experiment, which is likely to put any person in trade or business in possession of such information or knowledge which upholds any existing or prospective patent rights.”

Meanwhile, in the UK, the Littlewood Committee had in 1966 submitted its report to the Government. While Sir Sydney was a little less scathing in his report compared to the CPCSEA report of 1966, it was based on this report that the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 was passed by the British Parliament. Under this Act, all “regulated procedures” had to meet the following criteria, namely that:
“No person shall apply a regulated procedure to an animal unless—
(a) He holds a personal licence qualifying him to apply a regulated procedure of that description to an animal of that description;
(b) The procedure is applied as part of a programme of work specified in a project licence authorising the application, as part of that programme, of a regulated procedure of that description to an animal of that description; and
(c) The place where the procedure is carried out is a place specified in the personal licence and the project licence.”

In 1972, the Indian National Science Academy, concerned over the poor quality of conditions in most Indian laboratories, brought out their Guidelines for Animal Experimentation. An extremely well drawn out set of guidelines, it was the first in India to firmly say that all experiments to be replicable and worthwhile must use animals whose origin and prior history is known. This was
especially pertinent since most work at that time was done using animals supplied by unscrupulous suppliers who picked up cats and dogs off the street or from dog-pounds; and wild animals from the forests.

This was a great step forward since these guidelines were drawn up by animal-using scientists themselves. INSA’s initiative was all the more commendable since it came out of their own concern for the poor level of care for experimental animals. It is worth noting that both, the Rules of 1968 and the INSA Guidelines of 1972, were light-years ahead of the UK Act of 1986. Unfortunately, neither of the two had any penal provision for non-compliance. The first CPCSEA’s term had run out in 1968 and while it was reconstituted thereafter, it met just once in the 26 years between 1969 and 1995, a sad commentary indeed on the importance accorded to this subject by the Government.

In 1996, the constitution of a CPCSEA was notified by the Government of India with Smt. Maneka Gandhi as its Chairperson. The writer was one of its members with most other members being heads of government animal using laboratories once again, with only Dr. Suresh of Rallis Ltd being from the private sector. At its first meeting, a proposal submitted by the writer making it illegal for municipal and government dog pounds to hand over their captured animals to institutes for research was unanimously accepted and adopted. This was facilitated since the INSA guidelines of 1972 required that only those animals whose prior history was known were appropriate for study.

At the first meeting of the reconstituted CPCSEA held in 1996, I brought the 1968 Rules to the attention of the members. Except for Mrs. Maneka Gandhi, not one of the other members was even aware of the 1968 Notification. After reading the Rules, the members felt that the three page notification was not clear enough and it was decided to work on a completely new document. Two years later, in 1998, the Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control & Supervision) Rules, were notified by the Government and these were amended in 2001. Unfortunately, till now these rules have not been properly enforced. The fact that only about 2000 establishments (of the 5000 plus known to use animals) are registered with the CPCSEA even today in 2012 is sufficient evidence of the lack of enforcement, even 11 years after the Rules came into force.

It is, therefore, most appropriate that the premier Indian National Science Academy is conducting a seminar on Man, Animals & Science. For the sake of good science and for the animals concerned, this is good news. That there are so many alternates to animals available is beyond argument. There can be hardly any scientist who will disagree that animals are passé in educational institutions. The recent guidelines issued by the academicians of the University Grants Commission are indeed another major step in the right direction. Recent advances in in-vitro methods have made a substantial addition to the arsenal of weapons available to the modern researcher. Not only are the results more dependable and replicable, the cruelty to animals’ aspect is avoided. Most in-vitro methods are many, many times faster than experiments using animals for the same purpose.

Remember that in 1959, Russell and Burch had proposed the Three Rs of Reduction, Replacement and Refinement. Though, after an initial flurry of activity and excitement, it was business as usual and there was a strong minority who worked with this in mind. Organisations like...
Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME) in the UK and the Lord Dowding Fund for Alternatives made a major difference by keeping the principle of the Three Rs alive and the effects were noticeable. In 1986, the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act of the UK had been passed and was fairly effectively enforced by the Home Office (even though virtually no prosecutions have been launched in the last 26 years).

It was the above Act and the INSA Guidelines of 1972 that formed the basis for the Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control & Supervision) Rules of 1998. Even though the Rules went through every legal requirement of pre-publication and every comment received from stakeholders were taken on board and changes made, there was an outcry when the Rules became law. Much of the uproar was orchestrated and, three years later, the amended Rules were notified in 2011.

The Rules of 1998 and the amendments of 2001 have helped raise the bar as far as the standards of animal use in laboratories is concerned, just as the motivation behind the INSA Guidelines for animal experimentation was to improve the quality of research in India. The only difference between the two is that the latter are supposed to be followed by the researcher on his own accord to improve his or her work. The CPCSEA Rules, on the other hand, have a legal requirement and must be followed. As all of us are aware, the 1998 Rules and the Amended Rules of 2001 provide for virtually no penalty for non-compliance. As a member of the CPCSEA for several terms, I can only assure animal users that none of us get any pleasure in finding that the rules are being flouted. As a matter of fact, it was at my express suggestion that the clause of “deemed registration” of an establishment was made in 1999. Under this, any establishment that applies for registration will be deemed to be unregistered if the CPCSEA does not carry out its inspection within 60 days of application.

In 2006, the CPCSEA – by now run virtually as a committee of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, passed guidelines regarding the rehabilitation of animals post-research. Considering that the sub-committee that looked into this consisted of actual animal users and an ethicist, a lawyer, officials of the Department of Biotechnology and Ministry of Health and a Supreme Court lawyer, it is a remarkable document. For the first time anywhere, the cost of rehabilitation had to be built into the cost of the experiment, thanks to the Fourth R. Sadly, like in every other case in India, the lack of enforcement makes a mockery of our laws. A large number of our Government labs are not registered with the CPCSEA – fifteen years after passage of the Rules. While private laboratories have largely come up to fairly good standards, the state of animal houses in even “leading” educational institutes and government labs would fail even the most basic requirements in many cases.

“Sadly, like in every other case in India, the lack of enforcement makes a mockery of our laws. A large number of our Government labs are not registered with the CPCSEA – fifteen years after passage of the Rules. While private laboratories have largely come up to fairly good standards, the state of animal houses in even “leading” educational institutes and government labs would fail even the most basic requirements in many cases”
Effective Implementation of the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001

By

S. Uma Rani,
Secretary,
Animal Welfare Board of India

“It shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for all living creatures.” – Article 51-A[g], Constitution of India

One of the objects of the Animal Welfare Board is to educate every citizen as to the proper place of animals, birds and other sentient creatures in a habitat or ecosystem and to recognize their rights and welfare needs. No civilization can be true where there is cruelty to animals, no matter in what form. Undoubtedly, even those who are highly civilized feel that we must prevent cruelty but are not willing to forego their own pleasures which involve cruelty. The most important part of animal welfare work is to educate not only grown-ups but the children too. If children are educated to enjoy cruelty how can they ever learn to be kind towards animals in future?

One of the most important entertainments in which animals are used for the pleasure of children is the circus. The average citizen does not understand what goes on behind the scenes. Although it is possible to train intelligent animals like the elephant and dogs with kindness, it takes time and to expect an animal to do exactly what the man wants exactly at the appointed hour is too much and cannot be accomplished without cruelty. Even otherwise, travelling circuses with their accommodation and transport are miserable places for the animals. It is only fear that makes the animals do what is required of them.

On many occasions, we come across advertisements in magazines, newspapers, radio commercials or on Television, advertisements on hoardings which have directly or indirectly shown cruelty to animals, or are giving wrong information about a product. This kind of misguided communication needs to be prevented and discouraged. Whenever such situations come the advertiser / film producer must be asked to withdraw that particular advertisement or scene from the film or TV serial and suitable action must be initiated by the concerned regulating authority. In this connection, it is
observed that several films have been made where animals are used in a major or minor role.

It is a common knowledge that most of the animals, especially wild animals have been treated cruelly before or during filming. Sometimes, the cruelty is direct and sometimes it is indirect. Often, these animals get badly injured and even lose their lives. The directors should play a more responsible role and refuse to direct films and scenes which cause harm to the animals. The artists play an even more important role and by refusing to enact such scenes, they can force the Director to slightly modify the script and revise the scenes. After all, what is projected on screen, whether it be violence to humans or cruelty to animals, is going to be seen and imitated by thousands.

Concept of Ahimsa

Indian philosophy is holistic in its approach in integrating humans, animals and nature as summarized in the beautiful shloka, “Basudhaiva Kutumbakam” – the whole world is one large family. This respect for all life and peaceful co-existence pervades the mindset of many Indians. This concept is clearly stated in the Vedas and Puranas. During the 5th or 6th century BC. Lord Mahaveera preached about “Ahimsa”. In 300 BC- the famous Indian King, popularly known as Ashoka the Great, inspired by the teachings of Gautama Buddha gave up violence and vowed to live a life of non-violence. He is credited with building the first historically recorded veterinary clinic. This notable deed initiated by the Mauryan emperor was followed by many others to set up cow shelters and other animal shelters. “Ahimsa” means kindness and non-violence towards all living beings including animals. To practice Ahimsa, implies respect for all life and the understanding that all living beings are connected to each other and depend on one another. It has become now the vital tenet for a global religion of ahimsa and peace to be propagated and necessity for universal unity to protect the Mother Earth. In this regard, the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi rightly said that “The greatness of Nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated “

Performing Animals Rules

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 38, read with Section 37 of the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act, 1960, the Central Govt. made the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 1973 which was amended in 2001 and 2002 and is now known as Performing Animal (Registration) Rules, 2001. The issue of the certificate from the Animal welfare Board of India has to be pre-facto and cannot be post-facto. Hence, the permission must be sought before the training and performance. All animals that are registered must be trained subject to condition of registration laid down under the Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001. According to the Gazette Notification of India, II, July 11, 2011 G.S.R 528(E), the six species of animals banned for exhibition or training as performing animals, are: 1. Bears 2. Monkeys 3. Tigers 4. Panthers 5. Lions and 6. Bulls

The following key protocols prescribed under the Rules are:

1. Registration
2. Fee
3. Additional information
4. General condition for registration
5. Maintenance of Register and its inspection
6. Submission of report
7. Prohibition of specified animals
8. Certification/Cancellation.

The Board screens applications under the Performing Animals Rules (Registration) 2001 for films and ad films to issue the (No Objection Certificate) NOC. The process is divided in two stages viz. pre-shoot permission and NOC with certain terms and conditions/guidelines w.e.f.1-4-2007.

Genesis of Performing Animals Committee (PASC):

The Hon’ble High Court of Bombay has delivered a judgment on the W.P.No.2490/04 and subsequent order dt.7th Sep. 06 directing AWBI to issue the Certificates of Registration under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 for performing animals being issued in films/ad films.

- The above directions were followed in letter and spirit by setting up the PASC and with effective implementation.

- Getting NOC/Registration Certificate from AWBI in r/o Performing Animals is mandatory for applying to the Censor Board for their...
Certificate. The above decision of the Board was widely circulated in all National Newspapers in 2006.

**Recent Achievements of PASC**

- Mumbai Pooram festival was stopped where nearly 30 elephants were to be utilised for the festival to be held in Mumbai.
- Rajasthan Tourism Corporation was persuaded not to use elephants in the Elephant Festival during the Holi Festival and the Board has achieved the desired result.
- AWBI has strongly opposed the proposals to build Dolphinariums in India and had issued an Advisory on the matter as well as letters sent to all the Chief Secretaries of all the States and Fisheries Departments as well as Chief Wildlife Wardens. The Ministry has supported the Board and issued a ban on setting up dolphinariums in the country.

**While using Performing Animals**

**Dos**
- Veterinary Doctor should be present during the shooting.
- Proper feed, water and shelter should be provided to the animals.

**Dont's**
- No fighting scenes between animals and birds.
- No animal sacrifice scenes to be shown.
- No banned animals should be used.
- No fighting sequence to be taken in the animal enclosures.
- No spray of paints or colouring on animals/birds.
- No tripping device or wires.
- Intensity of the light shall not be more than 500 lux.
- No caged birds to be shown.
- No beating / kicking / throwing / holding upside down of animals.

- With improvement in software technologies, many of the film makers have started using computer graphics/animation instead of using live animals, which is a welcome move by the film fraternity. As far as possible, no animal must be used and computer graphics may effectively substitute for the desired special effects.

**Use of Animals in TV Serials**

Many producers come with the excuse that they are not aware that they should take prior approval from the Board for using animals in TV serials. Many vigilant public as well as NGOs are bringing the matter to the notice of the Board, whenever such violations are taking place in Media/films.

As part of training, the Trainer must ensure that the five Freedoms are followed and the animal is not made to suffer any kind of discomfort or distress. An effective Trainer can through the tone of his or her voice with gentle persuasion convince the animal to obey the command.

Unfortunately, there are very few Animal Trainers in the country who are using effective humane behaviour training techniques. Most of the trainers are using very cruel methods to train the animals.
The National Conference on Dog Welfare was held on February 27th and 28th, 2013 at Hotel Deccan Plaza, Chennai. The inaugural address was delivered by Maj Gen Dr. R.M. Kharb (AVSM), Hon’ble Chairman, AWBI. The Conference which was organized by the Dogs Trust had several eminent experts in the field of dog welfare speaking on a range of topics that varied from, “The One Health Approach” by Prof Abdul Rahman to a “WHO Perspective on elimination of rabies in South Asia” by Dr Gyanendra Gongyal. Other key speakers included, Dr Chinny Krishna, Vice-Chairman, AWBI and veteran of the ABC-AR Programme in India, Dr Jack Reece from Help in Suffering and Dr Paula Boyden, Veterinary Director, Dogs Trust, Dr Ilona Otter, Clinical Director, WVS-ITC and Dr Luke Gamble, Founder, WVS. This issue of Animal Citizen has several articles based on the presentations made by the speakers at this very informative Conference.
Board Holds Regional Seminars on Animal Welfare in Chennai & Jaipur

Jayanthi Ji Promises New Animal Welfare Law Will Be Passed Soon

Chennai: In her address to the gathering at the Board’s First Regional Seminar on Animal Welfare held in Chennai, Hon'ble Minister Smt Jayanthi Natarajan Ji said, “Your Excellency, Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Rosaiah, Gen Kharb, Dr Chinny Krishna, Amala, Norma, Jasjit...I would like to congratulate all the Board Members of AWBI for carrying out a task that is not media savvy and for doing work for animals who are not a vote bank. I would like to sincerely congratulate all of you. I would like to express my happiness that Shri Narendra is here and to Indian Overseas Bank and the Max Foundation for sponsoring this initiative.

You might ask as a Minister, why the Government cannot take better care of the animals. When I became Union Minister of MoEF, I thought it was about climate change, saving forests and such issues related to the ecosystems and the environment. There were many issues that did not engage my attention. Animal welfare was one such issue. However, now having become a 'convert to the cause' and having become aware of the immense suffering that animals undergo, I promise to take the animal welfare movement forward. However, today I am at a loss for words. If young women cannot be protected in our society, imagine the plight of the animals. There's a part of our society that is so helpless that it is impossible to adequately protect them. Let us observe two minutes of silence in memory of that unfortunate young girl who lost her life. Today, we have observed two minutes of silence. Last week, all the Parliaments were in utter turmoil due to this incident. When will all of us see the Parliament in turmoil about the enormous suffering that animals undergo? Perhaps, we may never see it. Dr Chinny Krishna asked me about the draft of the Animal Welfare Act, when will it be discussed in the Parliament? I promise all of you that I will ensure that an ordinance is passed. I will do my best to strongly pursue the PCA Act and ensure that it is enacted as a revised Animal Welfare Law in Parliament”.

Talking about the interdependence between different species and the need to show compassion and reverence for all life, Jayanthi Ji said, “In so many parts of our country, farm animals are so much like a part of the family. Farm animals are a member of our family. It is a part of our culture. I have just returned from the COP Meeting in October where the cycle of dependence and interdependence of species and ecosystems was emphasized. All species are interdependent on one another. To cite an example, talking about the birds and the wetlands... the birds use the paddy fields to find food for their babies. The droppings from the nests are fed on by other birds and insects. Interdependence is a law of nature. I also want to emphasize that since interdependence is a law of life, compassion and respect for
all life must be well integrated within our social framework and in our society. A society that ruthlessly exploits animals is not a society that reflects compassion, the very fibre of what makes one a humane being”.

Talking about the human-animal conflicts, she said, “I want to say a word about the human-animal conflicts. The incidents of bear attacks are becoming more – why? The bears have lost their natural habitats and so they have now starting coming out of their habitats...the hatred that humans have for animals has now become so extreme. The entire village clapped while they set fire to a bear. This is atrocious...the most gruesome and savage act of barbarity being applauded by an entire village. There should have been control exercised by the State Government. Similarly, an old and infirm tiger was shot dead. The Act was justified by the District Administration. This incident was widely reported in the media. We must have much better understanding demonstrated by both the general public as well as the State Government agencies. In both the cases, if only the State Government District Administrations and the communities had acted in a more humane manner, how well the two catastrophic scenarios that I have narrated could have been avoided”.

Mentioning the lack of involvement from Animal Welfare Organizations in communicating with her Ministry, Smt Jayanthi Ji said, “About 2900 Animal Welfare Organizations are registered with the Animal Welfare Board of India. However, in matters pertaining to animals, the greatest number of phone calls I get is to get films cleared”. Complimenting the Board on the yeoman service rendered by AWBI, Hon’ble Minister Jayanthi Ji said, “With the limited funds available, I must say that the Animal Welfare Board of India has done remarkable work. The Training Programmes for the ABC-AR Programme as well as the Programmes for Gaushala personnel are good examples of the Board's role in animal welfare outreach”.

Narrating about the recent incident in Pallikarnai, Chennai, where a company had imported 70 Beagle pups as pets only to conduct research experiments on them, Jayanthi Ji said, “I was horrified to know that we actually allow these animals to be imported and that they are bred for the purpose of research. There are 1600 labs in our country. The experiments are conducted on pups that are between 4 and 9 months old and at the end of the experiment, all the pups are killed. It was shocking for me to know this. I will ensure that laws are passed in letter and in spirit to prevent such wanton suffering on the helpless animals. I would like to congratulate all the activists for pursuing this matter and bringing it to my notice so that we could take swift action”. Referring to the apathy on the part of the State Governments in setting up Animal Welfare Divisions in Police Stations, Jayanthi Ji said, “Unfortunately, none of the State Governments have shown interest in setting up Animal Welfare Divisions in the Police Stations. There is a provision for every State Government to have a Police Officer to deal with crimes against animals in every Police Station”.

She ended her talk by saying, “Whether it is protection of our forests, of our fauna or of our street dogs, it is a sign of a civilized society to acknowledge, respect and protect the suffering and helpless living beings like the farm animals who are used by human beings and the wild animals and birds with whom we share this planet. If we keep on destroying our forests for our GDP oriented growth, what kind of democracy and what kind of country will we have?”.
Jaipur Seminar - Good Response

28th April, 2013, Jaipur, Rajasthan: The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) organized the Second Regional Seminar on “Animal Welfare and Ethics” at Jaipur, Rajasthan on 28th April, 2013 to mark the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Board. The Seminar brought together Animal Welfare Activists, Sadhus, Senior Government Veterinarians from the Departments of Animal Husbandry and other professionals working in the field of Animal Welfare. Besides participants from Rajasthan, delegates for the Conference came from Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Gujarat and Haryana. The seminar was organized at Hotel Clark’s Amer and the programme was inaugurated by Shri Jagannath Pahadia, His Excellency – the Hon’ble Governor of Haryana. In his inaugural address, the Hon’ble Governor stressed on the key role of the State Governments in improving welfare conditions for farm animals. He cited how the Rajasthan State Government had introduced the programme of free medicines for farm animals as an example of a positive initiative from the State Government. Smt Namitha Kothari while warmly welcoming the speakers and the delegates to the Conference shared with delegates information about the rich tradition of animal care and welfare prevalent in Rajasthan, the many national parks and protected areas in the state as well as the Animal Welfare Board of India's key role in improving welfare conditions for animals in the country.

The inaugural function was presided over by Shri Hem Pande, IAS, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India. In his address, Shri Pande expressed his sincere appreciation of the excellent efforts made by Shri Guljarilal Soni, convener of the event and Ms. Namitha Kothari, co-convener in organizing such an excellent Conference. He also praised AWBI for the dedicated efforts made by the Members of the Board and the contributions made by Animal Welfare Activists through their vigilant support and care for animals in the field. Talking about the proposed Animal Welfare Bill, Shri Pande said that it would be attended to. He also strongly emphasized that State Governments must adopt a more participatory role and be more committed to improving welfare conditions for farm animals. Talking about the urgent need for the State Animal Welfare Boards to be revived and the need for SPCAs to be set up in all districts in the country, he appealed to all the representatives from different state governments to give serious attention to the cause of animal welfare and to take prompt action on the matter so that the suffering of the animals could be reduced.

Highlights of the Seminar included the keynote address by Hon’ble Chairman, AWBI, Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R.M.Kharb (AVSM) on the main issues regarding animal suffering and AWBI’s role in mitigating the suffering of animals in the country. Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Hon’ble Vice-Chairman, AWBI whose talk focused on explaining how “Humane Population Control is as simple as ABC” brought to the audience' attention the suffering of the street dogs and implementation of humane population control measures as the only way forward. Explaining why killing dogs is not the solution, Dr Krishna said that in 1860, Chennai Municipal Corporation killed an average of 100 dogs and just over 100 years later, that figure had risen to 16 000 dogs in 1964 and to as many as 30 000 in 1985 and by 1996 he said that as many as 135 street dogs were being killed per day. Observing that in 1996, 30 years after the Blue Cross proposed ABC and 29 years after Blue Cross had opened the first ABC centre, General A.K. Chatterjee, then Chairman, Animal Welfare Board Of India (AWBI) adopted Animal Birth Control (ABC) as the policy of the AWBI. Talking about the cities in India which have become rabies free he said that, Chennai, Jaipur, Kalimpong, Visakhapatnam and Tirupathi were good examples of cities who have implemented effective ABC-AR Programmes and have been able to successfully control rabies. The efforts made by Shri Guljarilal Soniji, Convener of the Seminar and Mrs Namitha Kothari, Co-convener of the event could be seen in the excellent souvenir launched during the event.
Other informative sessions were the talks given by Smt Norma Alvares, Member, AWBI on “Animal Welfare Laws” and by the Secretary, AWBI, Smt Uma S. Rani’s talk on “Performing Animals (Registration) Rules, 2001”. Talking about the need for the revised Animal Welfare Bill to be passed in Parliament soon, Ms Norma Alvares said that in the present scenario, the fines were so paltry that offenders were willing to plead guilty, pay the fine and continue committing the cruelty, irrespective of whether it was related to the housing, transport of poultry birds or the transport of farm animals. Smt Uma Rani while informing the delegates about the Performing Animals Rules also spoke about the welfare issues pertaining to performing animals. Beside, she informed the delegates about some of the recent achievements of the Board’s Performing Animals Sub-Committee. She ended her talk emphasizing the role of the audio-visual media, especially broadcast media, and the key welfare concerns regarding the use of animals in TV.

An important area addressed on behalf of Board Member, Smt Anjali Sharma by Assistant Secretary, AWBI, Shri Vinod Kumaar focused on “The Relevance of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs) and State Animal Welfare Boards (SAWBs)”. In his talk he brought to the notice of the delegates, the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India’s judgment, in the matter of Geeta Seshamani vs Union of India and others, being W.P.(C) No. 440 of 2000, in which all state governments were respondents and where the order dated 6th August, 2008 states: “We direct the States, which have not constituted the State Animal Welfare Boards to constitute within a period of three months and also to see that the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCAs) be also constituted in every district as contemplated under the Rules”. He also brought to notice the unfortunate fact that, there were just over 40 SPCAs in the over 600 districts in the country with hardly any SAWBs.

Prof A.K. Gehlot, Vice-Chancellor of Rajasthan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Bikaner, Rajasthan introduced some of the initiatives introduced by the state for conservation of indigenous breeds of farm animals, especially in the context of the climatic and agricultural conditions of Rajasthan State. In his talk, he stressed the need for the State Government to set up an active and well functioning State Animal Welfare Board in Rajasthan so that the animal welfare activities can be carried out more effectively in the state. Dr. Dhirendra Singh Bhandari, Chairman, Rajasthan Goseva Sangh besides describing the work of the Rajasthan Goseva Sangh also shared with the delegates some of the effective measures taken by Gaushalas to make them more sustainable - like composting, production of herbal medicines and biogas. Dr Rajesh Mann, Director, Department of Animal Husbandry, Rajasthan State and President, Rajasthan Veterinary Council, spoke about the novel programme of providing free medicines for animals that had been launched by the Rajasthan State Government a year ago. Smt Jyothi Khandelwal, Mayor of Jaipur city in her address cited Jaipur Municipal Corporation’s efforts in improving welfare conditions for the street dogs and cattle by supporting the establishment of a modern well functioning ABC-AR centre as well as by providing for the welfare of nearly 6000 street cattle in Hingonia Gaushala in Jaipur.

The talk given by Shri N.G.Jayasimha, Director, Humane Society International (HSI) titled, “Can Humane Education change human behavior?” focused on the role, relevance and positive impact of a well designed humane education programme. Citing research done by Merz-Perez and Heide, 2003, he explained how animal abuse has been consistently linked with other violent criminal behaviours. He also cited a six year old “Gold Standard” study,(Ascione, Weber, & Wood, 1997) which proved that pet abuse was one of the four predictors of domestic partner violence. Highlighting the need for humane education to be integrated into the school curriculum, he said that “serial killers and school shooters almost invariably have histories of abusing animals”. Citing the investigation done by the National Association of Humane and Environmental Education (NAHHE) on children he said that the results of this study showed that Humane Education Programmes in Schools leads to significant gains in knowledge and a positive attitude towards animals. Other areas addressed by Shri Jayasimha included format of delivery as well as engaging ways to scale up Humane Education initiatives. Delegates at the Seminar actively participated in the Seminar by asking relevant questions as well as interacting with the speakers after the sessions and during the lunch hour. Nearly 300 delegates attended the seminar making the event an outstanding success. Besides, a poster exhibition and stalls put by different Animal Welfare Organizations enhanced the information value as well as offered better interactive participation for the delegates present. The Seminar ended with the Vote of Thanks given by Dr Geraldine Jain, Managing Trustee, Aashray, Jaipur.
Great Indian Dog Show Draws a Crowd!

The ‘Great Indian Dog Show’ held on Jan 20th 2013 at the C P Ramaswami Aiyar Foundation at Alwarpet drew an amazing response. Maj Gen (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon’ble Chairman, AWBI was the Chief Guest for the event. The event was flagged off by MP and Founder, People for Animals, Smt Maneka Gandhi. Praising Blue Cross and AWBI for this initiative Mrs Gandhi said that, “These events should be held in every city, and in every district. Its time to give the Great Indian dog a rightful place in the great Indian society”. Present at the event were Actors Trisha Krishna and Anuja Iyer and Smt Uma S Rani, Secretary, AWBI, but the ‘Real Stars’ who stole the show were “82 Great Indian Dog Stars”. Each of the rescuers shared a heart-warming story of unconditional love and commitment to rescue and care for their pets. Five year old ‘Ruby’ belonging to Prasad, who had been injured in an accident that left her hind-limbs paralyzed was awarded the trophy for ‘Best Rescue’ while Levin received the ‘Best Owner’ award for rescuing a blind dog and Aishwarya Varma’s 17 year old ‘Muthu’ received the award for ‘Oldest Dog’. Senior Veterinary Surgeon, Dr Jayaprakash who was on the Judging Panel, promised corrective surgery for Ruby. The event saw as many as 38 pups finding homes.
It wasn’t until the late 1960’s that Dogs Trust started to build Rehoming Centres (Shelters) but we had no money so they were poorly constructed and with little merit. Fast forwarding to the 1980’s, we had 14 Rehoming Centres and we were beginning to get ourselves established.

Today, we have 19 Rehoming Centres in the UK and one in Ireland. Another centre is currently under construction. We have some superb kennelling facilities with expert staff to care for the dogs. We look after 16,000 dogs a year.

As UK’s largest dog welfare charity, please do share with us Dogs Trust’s growth story – what were the key factors that helped Dogs Trust win strong public support and raise funds?

One of our unique and most important selling points is that ‘we never destroy a healthy dog’. We consider the work at the Centres to be on the curative side, in tandem with this, we invest around £6 million (INR 45,00,00,000.00) in the all important preventive work. Instead of carrying on with collecting dogs and rehoming them, we wanted to find some long term solutions. Around 65,000 dogs are neutered each year and 100,000 plus dogs are micro-chipped. Additionally, 15 education officers are employed to educate the dog owners of tomorrow to ensure the future generations are brought up with a good understanding of a dog’s needs.

Recently, we have started international work. This work takes several forms. Our International Companion Animal Welfare Conference brings together like minded people from around the world to impart...
best practices and provide networking opportunities. The Conference is now in its 16th year and attracts around 250 delegates each year. In addition, three times a year we have delegates from around the world coming to London for a week’s intensive training.

We also send youth education officers and animal behaviourists to other countries to share their expertise. Finally, we give some grants to worthy animal welfare causes, to groups who have a proven track record and for whom a small grant could make a huge difference to their work in the field of animal welfare.

Please share with us about the work of the Dogs Trust internationally on ABC Programmes?

Dogs Trust has worked on a number of such programmes. Most specifically, I would like to cite our work in the Romanian city of Oradea where a successful 5 year programme was run. This involved working in partnership with civic bodies, and other NGOs on a humane programme to reduce the numbers of dogs on the streets. The work included training vets to international standards of quality care on neutering, a catch neuter release programme and a youth education programme. Any change in peoples’ behaviour must be reinforced with an educational programme ensuring that future generations remain committed. We are working with Worldwide Veterinary Services (WVS) to support their International Training Centre (ITC) in Ooty. The ITC trains veterinary staff in neutering techniques and explains how successful ABC programmes can be run. It’s a very practical course that involves a catch, neuter, release programme in the local area. We have also donated money to a number of groups working on ABC programmes in their own countries.

What is your advice to Animal Welfare Organizations working in India on ABC-AR Programmes?

I do not really feel qualified to give advice, accepting that our cultural differences may mean my answers are irrelevant in an Indian context. However, having talked to a number of welfare groups during our stay in India, it was gratifying to learn of the successful implementation of the ABC (Animal Birth Control) Programmes being carried out. I do believe that one of the important issues for Animal Welfare Organizations to remember is that it is imperative that they know whether their efforts are really making a difference.

Whilst doing a systematic street dog count may not engender much excitement, it is invaluable to be able to validate and prove that the programme is having a positive effect. Taking a sustained and targeted approach in an area rather than a scatter gun strategy will have a more beneficial and impactful effect.

Another point I would make is that it is not necessarily the best choice to open a shelter in order to help dogs. Use your skills wisely, whether you are a veterinarian, a school teacher, a public relations specialist, a marketing or fundraising professional or a journalist - you could make a bigger impact on dog welfare using these talents.

Finally, a piece of advice I would give to welfare groups in all countries. Do not be deterred by the scale of the problem facing you. I don’t quote Fidel Castro often (!) but his advice that “it doesn’t matter how small you are if you have faith and a plan of action” should be heeded by animal welfare groups across the world. Dogs Trust has experienced some dreadful times in its history but our love of dogs meant that we kept the faith and ploughed on. Today’s successes are down to the people who struggled to keep us going during the hard times.

Please share with us some of the successes and major milestones that the Dogs Trust has had in rabies and dog population control projects in developing countries?
We have not, to date, worked on programmes to eradicate Rabies but we are looking forward to being partners with WVS in the “Mission Rabies” campaign in India due to start in September this year.

Your favourite book, movie and quote?

From the animal welfare perspective, John Bradshaw’s book entitled “In defence of Dogs” is a must for every dog owner to read. John, an anthropologist at Bristol University, manages to get into the minds of dogs and understands what a dog would ask for if the dog knew how to speak in our language. It details how we should regard our dogs so that both they and their owner get the best from a truly wonderful relationship.

War Horse – a powerful and emotional Book (and Film). The film is about how out of the chaos of World War 1, one horse witnesses the reality of battle. It is a story of a true friendship surviving the most terrible times.

And of course Lassie -- Lassie is a most moving and touching family classic about a dog whose family fall on hard times and have to sell him to make ends meet financially. Lassie escapes his new home and the story details the hazardous journey he undertakes before he makes it back to his original owners. It is a real tear jerker and anyone who reads it needs to have their handkerchief ready!

From a general perspective, my favourite book – I love History, particularly London’s history. Our Mayor of London, Boris, Johnson has recently written a fascinating book on London in which he finds some hidden gems and little known facts about our capital city. But as a standby, I love “Birdsong” by Sebastian Faulks, a book full of emotion and human feelings with the horrors of World War I as a backdrop.

Turning up to my favourite quote, I think Mark Twain came up with some wonderful quotes -- in context with this particular article I like this quote – “If you don’t know where you are going you are bound to end up somewhere else”.

It is perhaps a reminder that we need to know what we are doing, the journey that we are on, and how we are going to get to the end point.

A wish list of welfare measures for the street dogs of India?

My first wish would be for humans to treat dogs with respect and recognise the invaluable ways that dogs help us. Dogs Trust welcomes the day when the street dogs of India (indeed throughout the world) can enjoy a life free from the threat of pain and suffering, properly cared for and given the respect and affection they deserve. I look forward to that day when the dogs can gain easy access to veterinary care with local people taking responsibility for local dogs. That street dogs are not confined to overcrowded, understaffed kennels where “care” is of a questionable quality. Ultimately, I would wish that all dogs were in a home, loved and cared for, for life.
Let's Make India Animal Friendly, Compassionate & Conscientious

by

Amala Akkineni

Amala Akkineni, is co-founder, Blue Cross of Hyderabad, a registered non-profit animal welfare organisation she has run for the last 20 years, rescuing sick and injured animals from the streets. Educated at Kalakshetra, Chennai, in classical fine arts, she had a successful career in Indian cinema, completing 50 films in five Indian languages (Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Hindi). She is married to Telugu Film Actor, Nagarjuna. After films Amala has been working through various NGOs to support various social causes such as animal welfare, conservation, child welfare, empowerment of rural women and HIV awareness.

She uses her celebrity status to reach out to people in Andhra Pradesh to passionately promote social causes and environmental understanding, though she has a special leaning towards animal welfare.

On a personal note: Amala was born in Bengal and is of Bengali-Irish parentage. She is a vegan by choice, and loves reading, Yoga, meditation, scuba diving and going for long walks with her dogs. She is mother to grown sons and lives with her husband, Telugu film star Nagarjuna, in Hyderabad. Amala Akkineni can be reached at: a.akkineni@gmail.com

It’s 2013, the year, Indian cities march ahead joining the world of the empowered, promising the conservation of bio-diversity on one hand and distributing forests to coal companies on the other; while Indians face the challenges of recession, unemployment, safety for women, food security, water scarcity, global warming, and other urgent problems. The progressive visionaries are determined, but the rest of India limps behind like a beaten warrior, afraid to face the truth of having lost the battle.

On the one hand inflation and GDP and on the other dismay and disappointment. Dreams and visions still vitalize courageous optimists, but they’re weighed down by those who have forgotten how to dream, or reduced their aspirations to the very shoddiest hopes for new colour television sets or “star plus.”
While we are swaying within this growing gap and confusion, how on Earth can we see an opening to address the issues concerning animals and the environment? Seriously, “how on Earth do we address them”, we call into the endless silence… as the world watches their favourite TV show.

I remember during my school days at Kalakshetra, we had a black and white TV in the dining hall. My dance teacher Sharada would announce on Saturday for volunteers to teach dance at a local orphanage, or do gardening in the campus or feed the animals at the Blue Cross shelter. Of the 300 who heard the announcement only three of us would show up on Sunday morning while the rest would watch the Ramanyan on TV. We figured that’s how life is.

Decades later, the situation is strangely familiar. The suffering and disparity in our country is obvious, and the urgent need for the large majority to escape it into a world of fantasy every evening, come 7 pm seems to be a national preoccupation, along with the growing incidence of health issues.

Interestingly, being animal friendly is not the anthem of the rich, that’s a misconception. A kind heart and a willing person is not limited to the affluent classes, but inhabits every sector of society irrespective of their income. And a brutal or cruel one is bound to abuse women and children as well.

The mysterious shift that pushes us from being knowers, thinkers or talkers into doers creates social change, similar to evolution. While the internet and information connectivity has driven understanding and awareness one thousand fold, the shift is still far behind. One thing becomes clear: Knowing or seeing does not guarantee that one will do the right thing. So, it is a false presumption that human beings will always do the right thing and perhaps this is the key to the shift.

The “One Health” concept is certainly a step in that direction… groups like Commonwealth Veterinary Association, are now promoting the one and only solution to health as “health and well being for all – people and animals”. And there are groups and individuals all over the country and the world bringing solutions to problems and easing suffering of animals.

For example, Jayasimha is travelling around the country explaining to Governments about the endless pain and suffering of egg laying poultry birds and ensuring the way to the end of battery cages state by state. Abodh Aras is showing youngsters and well meaning individuals that shelters are not places to imprison street dogs, and teaching them how to administer first aid and support the dogs in their freedom.

Nandita Shah is travelling around India conducting workshops on how to make excellent ‘Vegan meals’ and why we need to shift to a more wholesome and suitable diet, for the good of the animals and the planet. Norma Alwares is arguing cases in court, winning the battles against bull fights, mining, dog killing and bull racing to mention a few. And lets not forget World Veterinary Service -- Nigel and Dr.Ilona or Rahul Seghal and Dr.Chawla of Humane Society International, who set up and run training centers that ensure Vets and their teams from all over India and the world train to do the much needed surgeries to neuter stray animals and control the street dog population humanely.

And of course, Dr.Chinny Krishna, the pioneer of the ABC-AR Programme in India, which gave a new life to the street dogs of our country, who until then were mercilessly electrocuted is also now famous for the Great Indian Dog Show in Chennai -- to spread love and pride in adopting the Indian dog, and Dr.Nanditha
We bridge gaps and make partners, we brainstorm and applaud each others work, and in this we take refuge and solace that despite all the odds, the time of animal welfare has come!

“We bridge gaps and make partners, we brainstorm and applaud each others work, and in this we take refuge and solace that despite all the odds, the time of animal welfare has come!”

“If only we could be authentic in everything we do, as people, as members of a movement, as a society making choices, because the suffering of animals is immense. Laws are made to protect all that is good and sacred, but we have no value for them. From our homes to our streets, from our farms to our markets, from the experimental laboratories to the circuses to zoos to the forests, the suffering of animals is endless and relentless. They lose their homes, their lives, their freedom, their children, their parents on a daily basis.”

Krishna who takes Dr. Dog to the classrooms to assist children with learning challenges. We musn’t forget youngsters like Achala Pani who lead the foster care movement and find homes for hundreds of homeless puppies in Bangalore, or Pravalkira and Sriram who quit their corporate jobs and reach out to thousands and thousands of children and youngsters changing attitudes and minds to be pro-life and pro-animals.

Plastic Cow can be seen on U Tube, and groups like Karuna and VSPCA showed it in the Supreme Court to fight for the lives of Indian cows. Mission Rabies and the ARV programme joins hands to start a mass vaccination drive in parts of the country where rabies is rampant. And with the enthusiasm and faith we see a road that leads to the eradication of rabies in the future. We are shown by Dogs Trust, how data and android applications can decipher our exceedingly complicated puzzles of how to get our effectiveness and hopes across to logical minds, making effective street dog population counts easy and effective. Areas that have good ABC-AR Programmes in place have clearly shown positive results and vaccination clearly eradicates disease, and if we keep doing more what we do, it’s bound to reach the goal.

We thank the Gods for Maneka Gandhi, leading from the wings, via phone call and email, ensuring we get timely guidance and support on issues beyond our control. In every State there are kindred souls who pull the animal welfare movement through their organizations - representing the cause of animals in their States, painstakingly learning to discuss at Government forums, getting more and more effective at driving the point home, to end animal suffering: People for Animals, Blue Cross, SPCAs, CUPA, Help in Suffering, PAWS, Animal Rescue groups, adoption groups, Gaushalas, Wildlife groups, Friends of Snakes groups, everywhere, led by individuals and communities who could not stand by and watch, but had to do something.

Thanks to Erika Abrams and with excellent support from Dr Chinny Krishna, the Federation of Animal Protection Groups turns five, and gets more visible and communicative, having learnt the needs of the hour- India for Animals becomes a mission to bring pro-animal groups and people together to make our voice louder and deepen our understanding. For in discord and dispute there is no strength or purpose, while understanding brings progress and direction.

Reading the Hindu at the airport, I notice a young man pose for the supplement with his pet red ringed parakeet. He could be booked for wildlife crimes and fined rupees twenty five thousand or even sent to jail for three years. Sitting next to me, a peppy young professional offers me cold coffee and cookies, admiring the bird. She is shocked when I tell her it’s a crime to keep such protected birds as pets. I politely refuse the cold coffee and cookies she offers, but she insists. So, I gently tell her I don’t take dairy and both the things she offered me have dairy. She is disappointed and then tries again, “Come on! You can’t be so strict with your diet” I smile and explain dairy does not agree with me nor the cows. She finally backs off with understanding and an accusing look that I am incorrigible. “If you think it is inconvenient to be vegan, think of the inconvenience animals go through because you are not vegan” is the tag line that Dr. Nandita Shah has on her email signature. As per the FAO data, 65 billion land animals are reared for food every year, millions experimented upon and hundreds of thousands abandoned on the streets.
due to sickness or old age. What can we as a species do to appease our own conscience regarding their suffering? What can we explain to the animals about our widespread apathy and disregard? It’s good to know the forces we are up against.

**Some of the forces that drive the suffering of animals are:**

- Animals are treated as a source of food by a large majority and livelihood for much of humanity and are not looked upon as individuals or sentient beings.
- They speak a language different from our own and cannot communicate their misery in a way we empathise.
- Human greed predominantly supersedes all other feelings of concern.
- Our numbers have increased so greatly that we constantly compete with each other and the animals for existence.

**One may ask why should the welfare of animals be an issue?**

Worldwide, health reasons have driven us to make a conscious effort to improve conditions for the animals. The epidemic rise in chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like Coronary Artery Disease, Hypertension, Stroke, Diabetes, Obesity and Cancer have shown direct links to the foods we consume and the lifestyle choices we make. The consumption of foods rich in animal protein and saturated fats have been found to be linked to the alarming rise in the incidence of these NCDs. It is beyond doubt that animals raised in unhealthy conditions carry deadly diseases that mutate, causing even worse ones. SAARS, Avian Flu, Swine Flu, Mad Cow disease, etc. are proof of this. Besides disease, the use of antibiotics in farm animals and the sewage run-off from factory farms into water bodies and ground water all have a detrimental impact on human life. Hence, ecologically we need to work towards better practices, be they for animal welfare or human survival.

**Climate change** is another reason we must rethink our relation to animals. While forests are the best known and time tested solution to reducing Global warming, thousands of hectares of forests are cleared everyday across the globe to grow corn and soya to feed factory farmed animals. The farmed animals contribute to 18% of greenhouse gas emissions with methane being 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide. This is less than all of vehicular pollution put together that amounts to 14%.

For companion animals working day and night to provide us security and a reassuring friendship, something Indian women and children need more and more. And for the working animals too, who contribute immensely to the livelihoods of the less fortunate, for whom education and the right to education is a late and limping dream yet to be fulfilled, they need our help. And finally, as conscious beings, we would like to incorporate humane practices for our own satisfaction and peace of mind. There is a strong connection between our own lives, and the way we treat others. The greatest challenge is that as a nation our government itself is not committed to the welfare of animals and has it as the lowest of priorities in all sectors.

No matter how much or how hard animal welfare groups campaign and work at the grassroots, if government policy continues to be development driven and not welfare driven, and does not cover strict, stringent education, awareness and implementation of welfare and regulatory measures, the State governments will not follow and nor will the district authorities. The Judiciary, with all due respect, needs orientation specifically in animal protection issues to open their horizon to a pro-animal world for all the right reasons. In this day of information technology, there is no dearth of audio-visual evidence of the widespread and unacceptable animal suffering to do this. The way forward for the animal welfare movement, even for an optimist, may seem bleak, as we have no teeth, nor claws. Lost in the chatter of the world and her problems the voice of the animals is least heard. The Minister for Environment and Forests has promised the new Animal Welfare Law and that could change this predicament and the Animal Welfare Board of India has the responsibility to get this done. And like Atlas, we commit once more to work together to make a difference to our animal friends, and to make India animal friendly, compassionate and conscientious… “Is anyone listening?” we call into the noisy chatter, and pray the power goes off so the TV crowd will hear.
Changing Minds, Changing Hearts: The Compassionate Citizen Programme for Schools

As any good educator knows, in order for children to grow into socially responsible, productive adults, we must encourage students to question, to seek out information, and in many important ways, to educate themselves. An essential part of this process is ensuring that students are provided with good and honest information with which they can make the very best decisions.

Compassionate Citizen is the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India’s version of PETA US’ internationally recognised humane education programme “Share the World”. Designed to help students in the age group of 8 to 12 years to better understand and appreciate animals, Compassionate Citizen can be used by students in the language arts, science, social studies and value education curricula. Compassionate Citizen is provided to schools and teachers free of charge and has already been used by more than 15,000 private and government schools and nearly 3 million school children across India.

Animals are living, feeling beings and have their own rightful place in our natural world, yet throughout history, people have treated animals more like things to use, kill, exploit, eat, wear, experiment on and use for our entertainment. Gradually, thanks in part to the findings of naturalists like Dr. Jane Goodall, we are recognising that animals live in rich, complex and fascinating worlds that in many ways are like our own. It is widely acknowledged that many animals experience a wide range of emotions, including anxiety, boredom, suffering and joy.

Most children naturally feel concern and affection for animals but, unfortunately, they learn cruelty from society and often lose sight of their compassion. A lack of respect for other species can translate into insensitivity and cruelty towards fellow humans too. It is now well documented by psychologists, sociologists and people in law enforcement that violence against animals by children is often an early warning sign of future acts of violence toward humans. Humane education can help ensure a future in which animals, the environment they live in and humans are treated kindly and respectfully.

Humane-education examines what is happening to our planet, from human oppression to animal cruelty to environmental destruction. It explores how we can live with compassion and respect for everyone, not just our friends and neighbours, but all people, not just our dogs and cats but all animals, not just our school and home environment, but India and the world beyond. It is really about creating a world where

Puja Mahajan works as a Senior Education Coordinator at PETA India. Passionately committed to promoting Humane Education in India, Puja is part of a very active, versatile and talented team of Humane Educators at Peta India. She can be contacted by email on pujam@petaindia.org
kindness and wisdom are guiding principles in all of the choices we make and the relationships we form. Study after study has demonstrated that teaching children to respect and protect even the smallest and most seemingly insignificant animals will help them to value one another. As noted environmentalist and Director-General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Dr R K Pachauri says “I believe if we want a world with peace, contentment and happiness for all, then we have to educate children on the importance of love and respect for all living beings, for Mother Nature and for people across the globe. … Gandhi ji was right as always when he said, 'If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children’.”

As Bollywood superstar Anupam Kher, puts it, “There is no better approach to teaching children the value of human life than instilling in them an appreciation for all life. If you can teach a child to respect and protect the smallest and most maligned among us – as PETA’s humane-education programme does – you create a better citizen.”

After extensive research, educational consultants and teachers have determined that the optimal age to introduce humane education to students is between the ages of 8-12 years. Children at these ages still love animals unconditionally and yet are old enough to understand the ethical reasons why cruelty is wrong.

In the reproducible activities that form the core of the Compassionate Citizen programme, students can use their reasoning and writing skills to examine the meaningful and complex lives of animals, explore how our relationship with them has changed over time, discover alternatives to their use and learn how to respond when animals are in trouble. After completing the programme, students will have gained a richer understanding of animals and developed a sense of how to treat them as fellow beings, with compassion and respect.

The programme consists of a 28-minute video with animal footage, cartoons, celebrities, suggested topics of discussion and humour and a text pack. The pack includes guidance for teachers and reproducible worksheets. Although designed to be included in the monthly curriculum, the programme can also be used for a shorter period of time, including a one-day workshop.

PETA has successfully conducted a Master Teachers’ training programme at the behest of the Government of Gujarat to educate and empower trainers to effectively use the Compassionate Citizen Resource material and include it as a part of their classroom activities. PETA has also held a teachers’ training programme in Delhi for trainers of Educomp that works to find innovative ways to improve the quality of education in schools in India. Well-known educational materials publishing house Sapphire (India) has included an exercise on “Be a Compassionate Citizen” in its English textbook.

The programme is part of the Value Education kit jointly launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in November 2012. PETA has sent recommendations for inclusion of Compassionate Citizen in the CBSE Teacher’s Manual on Environmental Education for standard 6 through 12, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)’s Environmental Studies text books for standard 3 through 5 and Maharashtra’s State board text book, Balbharati English text books -- for standard 1 through 5.

Teachers are encouraged to send feedback and offer suggestions for content to PETA to help us gauge the success of the programme. Vithika Rahul, Psychology Department Head, Delhi Public School R K Puram, said, "After thoroughly studying the details of the programme, I find this programme to be effective in creating empathy, love and tolerance amongst students … As the programme involves children from standard first onwards, it influences students from the grass-roots level."
The programme has a simple premise: in so many meaningful ways, animals are like us! They want to be warm, dry and have a safe place to live. To enjoy good meals and fresh water.

Just like us, animals want to live their own lives, make choices, avoid pain and embrace comfort. To spend time—or not—with family and friends and seek pursuits and pleasures.

The lesson plans also offer suggestions on how teachers may incorporate ethical debate into existing lesson plans, to encourage students to examine the choices they make and how those decisions impact animals. For example, by eating wholesome and plant-based foods, children will not only grow up strong and healthy, they’ll also stop animal suffering and conserve resources. Compassionate Citizen is currently available in English and Hindi.

Developing empathy for animals is also a key step towards developing empathy for—and rejecting violence against—all beings, including humans. The link between cruelty to animals and violence towards humans is becoming common knowledge and studies and cases support this contention. Moninder Singh, for example, killed more than 30 victims in Noida. Singh killed many animals in his youth. His parents encouraged him with guns and even had all of his killings of the animals framed. In the UK, two ten-year-old British boys who tortured and killed a toddler, reportedly also tortured animals. And in America, a teenager who killed his parents and two classmates, boasted about killing animals by putting firecrackers in their mouths.

Of course, not every child who hurts animals will hurt or kill a human being. But ignoring callousness toward animals—or dismissing cruelty as a prank—can be very dangerous. Animal abuse is not a normal part of growing up. Compassionate Citizen has been endorsed by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), as well as the Central Board of Secondary Education and many non-governmental organisations including People for Animals, Rashtriya Gram Utthan Sansthan Charitable Trust, Stray Relief and Animal Welfare (STRAW), Compassionate Living, Foundation for a Drug Free World (Pakistan), Deepalaya, Parikrma Humanity Foundation, and Akanksha Foundation.

Renowned schools using the programme include The Doon School in Dehradun, Springdales, Mother’s International, Delhi Public School International, and Sanskriti Schools in New Delhi; and Jamnabai Narsee, Cathedral Junior School, Lady Lilavatibai Podar and Ryan Global Schools in Mumbai. St Columba’s and Lady Vissani Academy schools have taken the lead in including Compassionate citizen in the official curriculum of their school. The more schools that include Compassionate Citizen as part of their curriculum, the more positive impact the programme will have on society. From showing a child how to put an animal’s needs first to discussing the larger social issues, every teacher can play a key role in spreading the compassionate message and encouraging children to look upon animals with whom we share this planet with respect and love. To order a free Compassionate Citizen Education kit, you can write to me at PujaM@petaindia.org. You can also download the material from compassionatecitizen.com.
The Karuna Clubs: Success in Design & Implementation

Shri Dhulichand Jain is a partner at Jain Industrial Corporation, Chennai. He is well known for his work in the field of Humane Education as the Founder Chairman of Karuna International and President of the Vivekananda Educational Trust, Chennai. A published writer and editor, Shri Jain’s books include, Jinavani Ke Moti (Hindi), Pearls of Jaina Wisdom (English), Springs of Jaina Wisdom (Hindi & English) and Universal Message of Lord Mahavira (English).

He is also the Editor of Karuna International’s Monthly Newsletter. Notable awards that Shri Jain has received include the Lifetime Achievement Award received from United Writer’s Association in 1999 and the Karuna Ratna Award received from Surana & Surana International Attorneys, Chennai in 2007. Shri Jain is also a nominated member of the National Governing Council of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development under the Ministry of Youth affairs and Sports, Govt. of India, New Delhi in 1999 and continues till date. He may be contacted by email at <karunainternational@yahoo.co.in>.

Karuna Clubs In Schools And Colleges: An Endeavour In Value Awakening For Holistic Development

Karuna International is a registered non-profit service organization working to inculcate and develop humane values in young students through Karuna Clubs in schools and colleges for the past eighteen years. The sole objective of Karuna International is to awaken in children and young adults their inherent love and compassion towards all living beings—plants, animals and fellow human beings; as well as to appreciate and help in their own way to conserve our environment, as enshrined in article 51 A (g) of our Constitution.

“It Shall Be The Duty Of Every Citizen Of India To Protect And Improve The Natural Environment Including Forests, Lakes, Rivers And Wild Life And To Have Compassion For Living Creatures.”

The concept of the Karuna Club germinated at a meeting of the International Vegetarian Council (IVC) at Chennai in 1995 when Shri Surendra Mehta, the President of the organization expressed his concern over the increasing fetish for non vegetarianism in children and young adults. His statement triggered a discussion amongst all present. I was the Convenor of IVC and was determined to do something about this. I had heard of some Karuna Clubs in Rajasthan and had contacted them but realized that nothing much was happening in the field. I spoke to a number of educationists as the idea was to “Catch Them Young” if we wanted to see a positive change in the minds and hearts of the coming generations. Thus, began our arduous journey on April 1st 1995 with just three Karuna Clubs in schools in Chennai.

We visited many schools and met Principals and Teachers, and also discussed with several educationists. Based on their guidance, we prepared a 14 point Programme to be followed in all
Karuna clubs. Everywhere we went, Principals were in doubt, as to how could we do all this when we have to race against time to complete our syllabus? I have to place on record that the untiring efforts of like-minded people like Shri Suresh Kanakriya and Prof. Gopalakrishnan went a long way in establishing the Karuna Clubs in schools, first in Chennai then in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh. By 1996, we had set up 17 Karuna Clubs in schools, and in 1997 we had over one hundred Karuna Clubs and that was a huge achievement for us at that time.

I am also happy to share that we have had the support of great animal welfare activists like former Environment Minister and MP, Mrs. Maneka Gandhi and also Shri. Nemichand Jain. Madam Gandhi gave her invaluable time to go through our plans, She suggested that we make our Karuna Clubs programmes activity oriented and child friendly. We thus came up with our 18 point activity programme.

Today, after 18 years, in order to motivate the schools to organize effective Karuna Clubs, several Kendras (Centres) are working with good co-ordination and team spirit. At present 35 Kendras are functioning in 12 states of India. More than 800 activists are working to motivate students to organize Karuna Club Programmes in around 2050 institutions (inclusive of schools and colleges). Every academic year, we see an increase in the number of Karuna Clubs in all the states.

Why should we start Karuna Clubs?

School is a compact campus with a vision for tomorrow. If we want to produce good citizens, every child must be properly moulded with moral values and guided about the significance of Karuna, so as to grow up to be a better citizen for the country. Therefore, for imparting character-building education, the importance of starting Karuna Clubs in educational institutions is vital. At a young age, children must be encouraged to feel love, kindness and affection towards all creatures, so that these qualities strongly register in their minds. An ordinary doctor will become extraordinary only if he/she practices his/her profession with Karuna or Compassion. This is true for other professions also. Thus, the main objective of the Karuna Clubs is to make the future generation responsible, productive citizens who will prove to be useful assets for the nation.

The theme for all the programmes of the Karuna Clubs is listed as below:

- Compassion
- Ahimsa (Non-Violence)
- Humane Values
- Animal Welfare
- Prevention of Cruelty
- Environmental Values
- Importance of vegetarian diet & its nutritional value & health benefits.

Karuna International Kendras periodically organize inter-club quiz contests, extempore competitions, drawing and painting competitions, debates and essay competitions and in this way monitor the performance of all the Karuna Clubs and accordingly award prizes and certificates to the best performing Karuna Clubs.

Training Programmes on “Humane Education”

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Board of India, we also sponsor “Humane Education Training Programmes for Teachers and Students”. The objective of the programme is to spread the message of “compassion in action towards all living beings”. Teachers are the most suitable persons who are able to reach the children easily and can inculcate the values of love and kindness towards all living beings in the minds of the children. Such value based education rooted in compassion
can help to develop a society of human beings who practice love and compassion all their life.

**Inter-School Teacher Training Programmes**

Teachers are crucial catalysts in a student’s world: they are strong role models and sources of inspiration. It is in this context that inclusion of humane education in the curriculum and the concurrent training of teachers for imparting such education becomes extremely important. A Teacher Training Programme organized by Karuna would be a one full day training programme conducted for a batch of 50 to 75 teachers. Audio-visual aids like Power Point Presentations, charts, exhibits and films are used to make the training programme interesting, fruitful and effective. The sessions include lectures, demonstrations, group discussions, quizzes, question and answer sessions, brain-storming sessions, field trips, projects and assignments.

**We have a team of talented resource people who speak on the themes of:**

- Value Education
- Compassion & Kindness to animals
- Prevention of Cruelty to animals
- Living in Harmony with nature
- Maintaining ecological balance and Vegetarianism

Certificates are awarded to each trainee teacher. Each school is also given an amount of rupees 5000 for organizing the training programme.

**Inter-School Students Training Programmes**

For students, a full day training programme is organized for groups of about hundred students. Students participate with great enthusiasm in these sessions as they are designed in an age appropriate manner, with interactive presentations by our resource persons.

Karuna International also organizes other Programmes like:
- Celebration of Animal Welfare Fortnight/Week.
- Inter – School Competitions for students.
- Rallies for Non-violence and Peace.
Workshops, Exhibitions and presentation of CDs.

- National Level Competitions on “Stories of Compassion”.
- National Conference and Regional Conferences of Karuna Clubs: the Conferences, bring together teachers, volunteers and students to interact, discuss and share ideas.
- Publication of the Monthly Karuna Club Newsletter.

A number of Publications and CDs on compassion and prevention of cruelty to animals along with an explanation of scientific facts and nutritional values of vegetarianism as well as the ill-effects of meat eating on health and the environment are distributed to schools free of cost every year.

**Our Achievements:**

- Fifteen lakh students and 40,000 teachers have been trained through our training programmes and are actively involved in promoting Karuna activities.
- 1 00 000 students have adopted Vegetarianism.
- 1,20,000 students in 96 schools have discarded use of leather shoes, belts and leather articles.
- 60% of Karuna Club students are girls and 75% are from middle and lower middle classes of society with a significant percentage coming from economically & socially disadvantaged communities.
- We co-ordinate with other animal welfare organizations like PETA, Beauty without Cruelty and Ahimsa Research Foundation.
- We recognize and appreciate institutions and teachers for their outstanding work, distribute awards / prizes to schools. Fifty Dayawan Awards are conferred on deserving students every year. Teachers and Students are regularly recognized for their efforts and motivated.

Karuna Clubs seek to inculcate in children a reverence for all the forms of life as well as concern for the environment. Children are born with an interest in and curiosity towards their environment, and they have a natural affinity towards other human beings as well as birds and animals. If this innate affection can be converted into an informed awareness and sympathy, they will grow up to be sensitive, compassionate adults who will abhor violence, practise kindness and create a truly refined and civilized society in the future. The curriculum for Humane education designed by us envisages a judicious balance of theory and practical exercises to convey the message of concern for human beings, animals and the environment. Students get a personal experience of the various facets of humane education and are able to develop their own convictions on these issues.
Karuna Club Activities

Schools that start Karuna Clubs are requested to take up a minimum of ten activities in a year (from the list below) and send us term wise reports at regular intervals.

- Celebration of Animal Welfare Week by conducting awareness rallies on animal and human welfare, printing pamphlets, enacting dramas and conducting competitions. Any other related activities according to the convenience of the school can also be undertaken.
- Feeding of animals.
- Keeping the environment clean and green-cleaning the school campus and introducing waste segregation.
- Adopting and observing trees in the school campus or from nearby areas.
- Celebrating Vanamahotsava day by Planting Saplings
- Growing plants in coconut shells /watching germination in the pots / Watering plants in the garden.
- Enacting animal stories like Panchatantra stories, compassion stories, Jataka tales etc. using animal masks, role play and mono acting.
- Preparation of an album of domestic animals, wild animals and endangered animals including their feeding habits.
- Projects on endangered species.
- Visiting a zoological park / bird sanctuary.
- Visiting an Old Age Home / Home for the handicapped / and sharing, caring and helping the blind by being readers/scribes.
- Visiting Goshalas & Panjarapoles, Blue Cross, SPCA, PFA etc. and collect information about animal welfare activities.
- Paper folding – animal shapes.
- Display of charts on nutritional values of vegetarian diet.
- Preparation of a First Aid Kit for animals /human beings.
- Making animal homes (natural habitats) like nests, burrows, caves etc.
- Making a model Bio-gas plant.
- Making paper bags and distributing them.
- Collecting a handful of rice on any day in a week and giving to orphanage or animal shelter.

The feeling of Kindness and Compassion should be inculcated in the child in his formative and sensitive stage of early education so that he or she may grow up to be a Banyan tree of wisdom and compassion with the advancement of age and education – Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, Founder Chairperson, Animal Welfare Board of India

Shri Vidya Mandir – Secondary School, Salem – Planting of saplings.

Cleaning Campaign at Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Kundrathur
Abhishek Bhowmick is a keen animal welfare activist from the city of Mumbai. He also happens to be an Animal Welfare officer attached to the Bombay High Court. His love for animals is evident from the fact that he feeds 30-35 stray dogs in his colony daily with dog food and also takes care of their periodical vaccinations. Abhishek is not affiliated to any NGOs, but being a media professional with expertise in creative writing and communication; he helps a number of NGOs in designing their collaterals. Passionately committed to protecting the welfare of animals, Abhishek has taken up several cases of violation of animal rights and cruelty to animals, doing full justice to almost all cases. As a college student he threatened self immolation when police refused to accept his complaint against the society people who were cruel to animals. In 2011 Abhishek was honoured with the Godfrey Phillip Bravery Award for his noteworthy contributions in animal welfare. He is the same guy who was featured in the 2013 Coca Cola commercial with his stray dogs as the kindness ambassador. The campaign titled as Crazy for Happiness focused on celebrating random acts of kindness by ordinary people. With a truck load of dreams for animals, Abhishek wants to structure his own animal shelter in the outskirts of Mumbai. With continuous efforts to making this world a better place for animals, Abhishek started a Facebook page called ‘Animals - Facts and Anecdotes’ which he updates everyday with empathetic stories on animals. He spends over 30 percent of his salary behind animals and believes that loving animals makes an individual a better person. Abhishek can be contacted via email – abhishek.a.bhowmick@gmail.com

Sunday, September 2nd 2012, it was a usual day at the rescue office of PARTH (Plants and Animals Related to Human), a non-profit organisation that provides treatment to homeless animals on the streets. Darshak Shah, one of the trustees of the NGO received a call at their helpdesk. A caller frantically informed them about a seriously dehydrated cow lying on the road. Assuming it must be just another case of injury or general illness, Darshak and his team rushed to the spot. With acute vomiting and signs of diarrhoea visible on the sick animal the rescue team managed to rush the animal to the nearby cattle hospital. Sadly, the animal couldn’t make it. Reports suggested that the cow passed away due to ‘choking of plastic.’ With limited expertise in treatment of large animals like cattle, PARTH and its team couldn’t really relate to the exact cause of death. That’s when a senior veterinary doctor from the hospital enlightened them about the plight of cows and serious health hazards of plastic wastes which choke their digestive system. The team was shocked to hear some startling facts like:

- “Most of the cows in the cities of India that are left to forage from garbage bins on the streets of our country have their rumen half-filled with plastic wastes. Rumen is one of the four compartments of the cow’s digestive system.”
- “Plastic being a non-biodegradable waste once ingested by cows or any other large animal can neither be excreted as faecal matters, nor can it be vomited out. With increased accumulation of plastic in the stomach the animal dies a painful death due to indigestion”
- “Not to forget -- milk and dairy products derived out of these animals are extremely toxic for human consumption.”

This is the reality. We need to face the bitter truth that cows who are worshipped as a deity rummage on the toxic wastes of plastic and decayed and putrefying waste matter. Let’s keep religion aside. We are in a way digging our own grave by consuming toxic products of the dairy industry. The question that we need to ask ourselves – is it truly worth consuming such contaminated dairy products and is it ethical enough to use plastic when the damage is
so hazardous? Sadly, there are not many NGOs in our country who are equipped to handle cattle rescue – firstly because they are large animals, secondly the challenge of getting good veterinary care. In such an hour of crisis one organisation clearly rose up to the task of helping these cattle animals. It’s the Karuna Society for Animals and Nature located in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh.

In the year 2010, the organisation took custody of 36 stray cattle from Anantpur town. One of the cows died immediately and autopsy suggested that rumen of the animal was full of plastic. Slowly, Karuna started conducting expensive surgeries on each animal to save their lives. The organisation realized that thousands of cattle that actually walk on the streets peacefully actually have their bellies full of plastic wastes. Most cattle owners let their animals to forage from the garbage thrown on the streets. To combat this adversity Karuna Society created a short documentary film titled ‘The Plastic Cow’ which is freely viewable on You Tube and Karuna’s official website. The short film neatly emphasizes how the cow which earlier would graze on the gochars or reserved grazing lands is now forced to graze on filth and garbage. Kindness Trust of Australia promised to sponsor 100 surgeries to remove the plastic and other toxic material ingested by the cattle at the Karuna Shelter. The trust then filed a PIL in the Supreme Court of Delhi demanding a complete ban on plastic bags. The Karuna Trust in association with SPCA, Visakhapatnam and the Founding Members of the Plastic Cow Project -- Pradeep Nath, Clementien Pauws and Rukmini Sekhar filed the petition in the Supreme Court of India. On May 7th 2012. The Supreme Court in its first hearing announced that it may be considering a total ban on plastic bags.

The long term hazards of plastic have not even spared the wildlife. Elephants, turtles, wild pigs, exotic birds and fishes have all been found dead with the toxic plastic bags in their stomachs. The animals simply die an unobserved and painful death. No wonder the Supreme Court in its announcement stated plastic is more harmful than an atom bomb.

The repercussion of plastic usage is taking us to a point where there is no return back. We are simply seeding the plastic wastes into the environment to such a degree that now it has started entering into our food chain. Is there a way out? With conscious efforts we can certainly win our battle against plastic. It is time that the government greatly restricted the use of plastic by the manufacturing industries to very essential products like life-saving medical products used in hospitals and other such products of great utility for which there is no alternative material available.

Here's a tenfold path to moving ahead on the path of greater environmental sensitivity to the welfare of the cows and the protection of the environment.

**Step 1: Boycott purchases** - To survive we need to purchase commodities and to purchase we need to shop. Let us boycott the purchase of plastic bags from supermarkets like Big Bazaar, Hypercity and others who package our purchases in plastic bags. One possible approach to enforce action may be to mediate and engage in dialogue with such shopping malls. If that doesn’t work, peaceful protest marches outside the establishments may be conducted. Screening of The Plastic Cow documentary inside shopping establishments may work wonders to sensitize, educate and motivate communities to carry their own cloth bags and stop using plastic bags. Signing a petition and handing it over to the top marketing honchos of such retail chains may also be another positive step that may be taken.

**Step 2: Role of NGOs** - It's understandable that many of the NGOs in our country are not equipped with right type of information database that can aid them to conduct awareness at the country level and with multiple stakeholders participating. All NGOs affiliated to the Animal Welfare Board of India should be asked to contribute at least 60 hours of awareness drives in a quarter. The Board must take adequate measures to ensure that appropriate information packs in English and regional languages reaches out to the NGOs on time. The drives should be monitored by AWOs. A micro-site should be launched which can enable NGOs to download power-point presentations, audio-visual aids and other useful fact sheets on the adverse effects of plastic on the environment, animals and human health. The need of the hour is to have massive awareness drives to be conducted in schools, colleges and other institutions.
Step 3: Festive parades - India is a country of deities and festivals. The number of public holidays listed in our calendars is far more than any other countries. To conduct a parade on a usual day may get difficult as one has to rigorously go through the pain of getting permissions from different government departments. However, on festival days it becomes a little easier to organize such events. If you are an individual who wants to reach out to masses through a parade, then you will first have to gather police permissions and then go ahead with your event. Highlight the adverse effects of plastic on the environment through billboards and flipcharts. Make sure that a thematically attired mascot leads the parade. It could be something closely relating to the plastic cow and give a visual identity to your whole operation. Alternatively, you can also look into a dress code for your volunteers who could send the message loud and clear. Collate some facts and figures of the garbage dumps in your city with photographic evidences and tell people how toxins have been entering into their food chain through the plastic cow.

Step 4: Online petitions - There are plenty of websites like avaaaz, change.org and thepetitionsite that are doing a tremendous job in launching online petitions to influence positive social change. In this era of the internet such sites are actually a blessing in disguise. Make full use of it. Get the facts and figures from the health officer regarding the amount of plastic waste dumped in your locality. After this, launch a petition telling people about the condition of the cattle in your neighbourhood and explain to them the cruelty and suffering that they undergo and then request them to sign the petition. Don’t forget the awesome power of the crowds on Facebook and Twitter to create positive social change.

Step 5: Launch an anthem - We are a cricket crazy nation and our behaviour traits suggest that we tend to get influenced by things which are dramatized with music and art. There’s a new theme song for IPL every year. Let's not forget those old Doordarshan ads of ‘Mile Sur Mera Tumhara’ and ‘Padhna Likhna Seekho’ which are still fresh in our minds. We need a similar theme song to support the cause of Plastic Cow. We have already made our first impression with the Plastic Cow documentary. Media professionals who are associated to the cause can orchestrate the whole thing by roping in music directors and playback singers. Once the music video is created, the next task in hand should involve tapping some brands that can pump money to promote this music video as a part of their CSR exercise. Dairy giants like Amul, Mother Dairy and others may invest their money if they see potential in gaining some PR mileage out of this whole exercise. Remember one thing - every top company is allocated with a CSR budget to promote themselves. The new law states that companies have to pitch in 2% of their budgets for CSR work. This is the best time to target all the dairy giants, milk confectionaries as well as ice-cream companies which are all minting tons of money from milk.

Step 6: Redefine our curriculum - All of us remember the subject of Moral Science taught in our pre-primary and primary schools. Sadly, that subject never held any great deal of value. We were merely given out grades to fair well in that subject and as a result it never really affected our overall score. Moreover, we seldom remember reading any important topics on animal welfare. If we really want to bring out a change, schools and colleges must make moral science a completely activity oriented, compulsory subject until graduation. There should be a strong emphasis on project work and practicals as well as an effective way to evaluate performance. Students should be graded on the merit of their social service. Responsible citizens must form a group and meet the principals of various schools to discuss the benefits of introducing compassion education as a compulsory subject within the curriculum. The syllabus should briefly cover the calamities we are facing in today’s world. Ban on plastic should be given a great deal of importance.

Step 7: Employment schemes - For those engaged in the production, sale and distribution of plastic bags, alternative green livelihood options and income generating opportunities must be offered. Big companies like Hindustan Lever and Procter and Gamble must give first preference to such workers under their special schemes. Alternatively, government bodies can also take the onus of employing such workers under their welfare and
developmental schemes. This way we can reach out to masses and spread our message loud and clear. Individuals working with private limited companies can appeal to their Human Resource teams to create some form of employment opportunities for such individuals.

**Step 8: Tag it hazardous** - It took us ages to get the visual of cancerous lungs on our cigarette packs. On the contrary western countries launched their packs with messages like "Smoking Kills," "Smoking Reduces your Sperm Count," and other threatening messages. Indians versions of cigarette packs prior to the visual imagery of cancerous lungs only read a statutory warning on packs which used to be barely readable. Wonder why plastic manufacturers were not asked to follow the same protocol which could serve as a reminder to the people using plastic? Such a stand will not only underline the inefficiency of the court, but it shall also create a sense of urgency to ban plastic at the earliest. Tagging may not take off very soon, but some NGOs can stage a street play every quarter to showcase the adverse impact of plastic.

**Step 9: Intervention of civic bodies** - We have observed that often civic bodies from western India start imposing fines on people using plastic bags. The same rule is also made applicable for shopkeepers. But after a while the civic body goes into hibernation and plastic is again seen floating everywhere. Can we really put the blame on our Municipality? It would be unfair. They are not uniformed men in Khaki who are supposed to be taken seriously. Officials who are designated to collect fines are often manhandled and beaten up by people or shopkeepers. Unless and until this exercise is collaborated with police officials and with concerned citizens of the community, we may have a fairly low amount of success. NGOs must initiate a conversation between the commissioners of police and municipality to find a way out in eradicating the plastic menace. If police and Municipality turn a blind eye to our appeal, dharnas, rallies and in extreme cases hunger strikes could be the answer.

**Step 10: Don’t wait. Simply Act!**

One gentleman from Mumbai launched an anti-plastic campaign from a fish market in Vile Parle. The modus operandi he followed was simple and very effective – he planted volunteers inside the fish market who could talk to customers and explain the hazards of plastic on the environment. After this step, he started distributing cloth bags which were not only durable for prolonged use, but also carried a message on the hazards of plastic. People loved it and readily accepted the free token. No doubt we Indians love free stuffs and this campaign became an instant hit. After a while a number of stalls started selling out these bags at a nominal price. It took a while, but the anti-plastic brigade achieved what they wanted to. The entire market is now free from plastic. The amount of plastic wastes disposed in that area is now reduced by 40 percent.

It’s quite an achievement, isn't it? Even today once in a while those volunteers take the onus of holding billboards at the market to serve their fellow citizens with an empathetic dose of reminder - BAN PLASTIC. Little things go a long way and it could be cost effective too. Is there anyone who can think of a similar campaign in their respective geographical vicinities? If you believe you can, you will.

What you read above are ten different ways of stopping the use of plastic. Some of the ideas may take years to materialize. Only if we start thinking ahead of our time may we see a marked difference. Contribution of one prominent person may not be enough; it would need an uprising of sorts. People from all walks of life must join hands together and only then can we create a mass movement of positive social change in every city and across every street of India. Are you rebel enough to stop using plastic? On a higher note it would be fair to ask, "Are you rebel enough to be part of the movement that says, “No more Plastic Cows!” DON'T THINK, SIMPLY ACTION IT! ☣

(Note: All images used in this article have been sourced out from Wikipedia images)
Understanding Street Dog Ecology

The Importance of Programme Monitoring and Data Collection

By

Jack Reece, B.Sc., B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.,

Dogs are the main vector of human rabies in India and across the sub-continent with dog bites being responsible for about 95% of human rabies cases. It is important to note however, that not every street dog carries rabies, indeed even in highly endemic areas, only a tiny number of dogs might be infectious with rabies. While the concern of the AWBI and the many animal welfare groups undertaking ABC-AR work is for humane control of street dogs, it is important to realise that civic and medical authorities are more concerned with public health and the perception of nuisance caused by street dogs.

It is thus important when both proposing and conducting an ABC-AR programme that animal welfare groups are able to talk knowledgeably about the street dog population and the effects of the ABC-AR intervention upon the subjects of concern to the authorities.

One way to do this is by monitoring the ABC-AR work and learning important information about the lives of the street dog populations that is being controlled. The monitoring of an ABC-AR programme and the collection of data should be considered as essential to such programmes as excellent surgical skills, asepsis, humane dog handling and compassionate compounding is. Luckily, much information can be obtained with very little extra effort by day to day record keeping and analysis.

Civic authorities and government bodies often demand an accurate figure for the street dog population in an area. Sadly, if these bodies understood the ABC-AR concept better they would appreciate that there is little need for anything but the roughest estimate of total dog numbers to be made at the start of an ABC programme so that an appropriate sized intervention can be planned and financed.

This is fortunate since estimating accurately the street dog population across a city is a difficult, inexact and often, a time consuming exercise. A much better option is to make regular assessments of the effects of the programme once it is underway. This is much easier to do and involves knowing the number of sterilized and vaccinated dogs released into an area and conducting a survey across the same area to determine the proportion of ABC-AR street dogs in the population. This method is described in the free access, peer-reviewed paper titled, “A mark-resight survey method to estimate the roaming dog population in three cities in Rajasthan, India”. BMC Veterinary Research (2011) 7:46 http://www.biomedcentral.com/1746-6148/7/46 Hiby,L.R, Reece, J.F., Wright,R., Jaisinghani,R., Singh, B,. Hiby,E.F.

Dr. Jack Reece is an English vet who is working at Help In Suffering since 1999 as a volunteer. He runs the Animal Birth Control and Immunization program for Help In Suffering along with his team. He has written papers on ABC and gets invited by animal welfare organizations to give talks on ABC. He has helped set up ABC-AR programmes in various cities in India and neighbouring countries. Jack can be contacted by email at jack@his-india.in or by post at the address as mentioned below:

J.F.Reece, B.Sc., B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.,
Veterinary Director, Help in Suffering, Maharani Farm, Durgapura, Jaipur 302018, Rajasthan.
Another way to illustrate the effects of the ABC-AR programme on the local street dog population is by initiating a series of ‘Index of Abundance’ surveys. These surveys aim not to count every dog in an area but simply every dog seen along a defined route. By keeping as many variables as possible constant the figure obtained can be compared with those obtained earlier and any change seen is likely to be due to the ABC intervention rather than other variables. At Help in Suffering such Index of Abundance surveys are undertaken along the same routes through the city every six months (in March-April and in October-November) to eliminate climate variables, with the same staff to eliminate personnel variables, at the same time of day (dawn) to eliminate variables due to canine diurnal behavioural changes. The figure obtained for street dog numbers can thus be compared from one survey to the next and shows the effects of the ABC work on the dog population.

The results of these surveys for Jaipur are illustrated in Diagram 1 above:

It is important to note that the figures are not the total dog population of the area surveyed but serve to illustrate the changes over time. Such Index of Abundance surveys are easy to undertake and require no special equipment or knowledge beyond agreement amongst those involved on the surveys’ route and conduct. It is also important to note that as many Indian towns and cities are expanding rapidly the dog population within them might be expected to increase, and thus ABC work is being undertaken against an increasing population rather than a population in equilibrium. In Jaipur the Index of Abundance surveys are undertaken on foot (Photo 1) but a more efficient way of doing such surveys is on motor cycle since a large, more representative area of the city can be surveyed (Photo 2.) Another area of dog ecology that is easy to ascertain if good records of the ABC are maintained is that of the seasonality or otherwise of breeding. By monitoring dogs that are in season (oestrus) and pregnant dogs it is possible to determine if the street dogs in a locality breed twice per year (as...
conventional wisdom dictates is the case) or in some other way. Together with a knowledge of average litter size it is thus easy to accurately estimate the potential rate of growth of the street dog population. Diagram 2 illustrates the seasonal breeding pattern of street dogs in Rajasthan.

Diagram 2 Seasonality of breeding in street dogs in Jaipur and Jodhpur

(From: A mark-resight survey method to estimate the roaming dog population in three cities in Rajasthan, India BMC Veterinary Research (2011) 7:46 http://www.biomedcentral.com/1746-6148/7/46 Hiby,L.R, Reece, J.F., Wright,R., Jaisinghani,R., Singh, B,. Hiby,E.F.)

Guidelines to Conduct an Index of Abundance Count.

- Select staff capable of reliably sexing dogs, recognising ear notches and recording findings. Determine definitions so all surveyors are in agreement on terms (example: realistic estimations of age regarding puppies, young dogs and adult dogs; chained dogs, dogs on roofs etc).
- Determine whether surveys will be on foot, bicycle, rickshaw or motor cycle.
- Determine a set route through the area. The route must be reliably repeatable. Use or make a map with a clear description of the route and if available a GPS track. Route should be weaving randomly through the area taking in a cross-section of habitats (slums, rich areas, commercial areas, quiet roads, busy streets, etc) and long enough to count several hundred dogs.
- Determine the time of day for surveys and season. Dawn is often the best time for seeing dogs; benign weather helps greatly. Avoid doing the surveys during peak breeding seasons as the bitches are likely to be in dens with pups. Make a note of all these decisions so that subsequent surveys can duplicate conditions as exactly as possible.
- Set off on survey. Identify all dogs seen (Categories used could be male, female, male notched, female notched, lactating bitches, pups) whilst moving steadily through the route. The aim should be neither to attract dogs to the survey team nor to frighten them away from the team.
- Decide how far from route is going to be counted, i.e. how far upside streets will dogs be included.
- Note time taken for survey, staff and any unusual events along the route (such as major road works, festivals, marriages, etc.) which may change dog behaviour in the area. At the conclusion of the survey analyse figures (such as % notched; % lactating; male: female ratio; % pups). Record both survey data and analyses. Keep original counting sheets. Repeat survey in six months or one year. Compare results of surveys over time.
Clinical Guide to Rabies Diagnosis

1. Is the dog more than 1 month old?  
   - Yes  
   - No

2. Has the dog been sick less than 10 days?  
   - No (or is normal)  
   - Yes (or Not Known)

3. Did the illness develop gradually?  
   - No (Acute onset)  
   - Yes (or Not Known)

4. Are the symptoms progressing?  
   - No (Stable or improving)  
   - Yes (or Not Known)

5. Is the dog NOT circling or blind?  
   - No (Dog circling or blind)  
   - Yes (or Not Known)

6. Does the dog show 2 or more of these signs?  
   - No  
   - Yes

   Symptoms: Drooping Jaw; Drooping dry tongue; Abnormal sound barking, Licking own urine; Abnormal licking of water, Regurgitation; Biting/chewing at odd objects; Biting with no provocation; Aggression; Abnormal behaviour; Restlessness, Appears sleepy, Running with no purpose; Stiffness on walking/running, Imbalance of gait; dog sitting posture

Adapted from Tepsumethanon, V. et al. J. Med. Assoc. Thai (2005) 88: 419-422
A more difficult figure to estimate but one that is vital to a thorough understanding of the street dog population’s growth is that of survival or longevity. Such an estimate can be obtained if every dog which passes through the ABC programme is individually marked with a tattoo (Photo 3). Unfortunately, tattooing is not easy to master, and other methods of individual identification such as micro-chips are too expensive for ABC programmes. However, if a tattooed dog is recaptured later (accidentally during dog catching, as a result of being rescued following an accident, or deliberately for a revaccination programme) the dog can be individually identified.

The ABC programme records can then be used to reveal the time between the first capture when the dog was marked and the second, later capture. From this information can be calculated survivability and longevity (the method of calculation is given in the peer-reviewed free access paper: Reece JF, Chawla SK, Hiby EF, Hiby LR (2008) Fecundity and longevity of roaming dogs in Jaipur, India. BMC Vet Res. Jan 31; 4:6. doi: 10.1186/1746-6148-4-6. http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1746-6148-4-6.pdf or on the web site www.conservationresearch.co.uk/straydog/straydog.html).

Further monitoring and record keeping of the ABC programme will allow for internal programme audit which could be used to measure changes in the prevalence of certain diseases seen in the street dog population. Such information may make compelling evidence of an improvement in street dog welfare. Internal audit of the programme’s records allows for the early identification of any difficulties with the programme, illustrating, for example, if one surgeon’s cases take longer to recover than another’s, or if dogs in one kennel block, or operated on one day of the week experience more problems than average.

Because civic authorities are likely to be more influenced by public health data information on rabies cases may present compelling evidence in favour of an ABC programme. Canine rabies cases seen in a charity’s hospital or ABC programme could be used to show any change in numbers. This would be best done by definitive diagnosis but could be illustrated by noting cases diagnosed using clinical signs alone especially if all involved agreed to follow a set diagnostic procedure. A flow chart for the symptomatic diagnosis of rabies devised from a published paper is used at Help in Suffering. This is appended at the foot of this article. Recently, a veterinary rabies diagnostic capability using the latest, international immuno-histochemical techniques has been established at the Bangalore Veterinary School. Brain samples from suspect rabies cases can be collected easily, preserved in glycerol and sent for analysis to the School. By taking such samples as part of an overall monitoring process of an ABC programme valuable information on rabies epidemiology and the role of street dogs in rabies transmission which is currently lacking will be obtained.

From such information on rabies and information on street dog ecology obtained by careful, honest and diligent record keeping and monitoring of an ABC programme should emerge powerful evidence of the effectiveness of ABC programmes. This can be used to convince civic bodies that such programmes are essential, and in this way achieve the goal that is desired by all; that of humane enlightened street dog population management throughout the country (Photo 4) and only positive interactions between people and street dogs (Photo 5).
Applying Positive Reinforcement to Hand-catch Street Dogs

by

Steve Goward
Deputy Head, Canine Behaviour & Training – Dogs Trust

Steve has worked for Dogs Trust for the last 12 years and has developed his experience working with dogs whilst studying to improve his knowledge of training and behaviour methods. Steve travels around the UK delivering staff training and supporting the staff at the 19 Dogs Trust centres with a variety of behaviour advice and welfare assessment. Steve holds workshops all over Europe sharing ideas and his experience to improve the welfare of dogs. Steve may be contacted at <Steve.Goward@dogstrust.org.uk>

During a recent visit to Chennai I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to work with an experienced dog catcher and the managing trustee of IPAN (India Project for Animals and Nature), Nigel Otter. We were brought together to give a workshop on the use of positive reinforcement to hand catch street dogs in India at the Dogs Trust national dog welfare conference in Chennai. In the UK and around Europe I promote the use of positive reinforcement training to improve both the relationship and the welfare of the dogs in our lives.

Positive reinforcement basically is the concept of adding something pleasant to the interaction with a dog. This “something pleasant” can be food, a toy, play or simply a kind hand giving a pleasant social experience. Dogs have evolved to be social with us and through the domestication process a species has developed a species that doesn't just need our help to survive but actually values our interactions as part of their social repertoire.

The need to catch dogs in India has been on-going for many years and has been and continues to be done in a number of ways. The use of catchpoles, nets and wire loops are common place in the process of catching dogs. Although I understand the need for safety and speed when catching large numbers of dogs, there is a potential negative effect that could lead to problems in the future. Many street dogs in India are well adjusted to life on the streets and are accustomed to people being close and even getting physical affection from people in the local community.
Dogs learn in much the same way we do, they associate a situation with an outcome—i.e. they remember what circumstances result in a positive experience and therefore seek out those situations in the future or in the event of a negative experience avoid further interactions with situations from which they expect negative outcomes.

One of the factors that has a huge impact on learning and memory formation is the intensity of the situation or experience. If you consider your own life and think about the experiences that remain strong memories in your mind they will likely be either very positive or very negative experiences. This of course makes sense from an evolutionary perspective as it would make no sense to forget things that you saw as potentially life threatening.

If we create extreme negative memories during catching dogs they are much more likely to avoid these situations in the future. If there is a need to recapture for vaccination or medical reasons or even due to the dog being a danger to the community the previous negative memory of capture will make this task extremely difficult.

The other dangerous effect of poor capture and handling during the ABC process is that dogs who were previously not aggressive towards people could quickly learn that aggression works and use it more often in close proximity to people in the community.

When dogs are caught using the wire loop the dogs are more likely to injure themselves whilst trying to escape and there is less control from the catcher who is more likely to get bitten, because with wire loop it is far more difficult to keep the dog away from them. For dogs who are too dangerous to be handled, the use of the net and catchpole should be the first choice. During my short time in India I was lucky enough to spend a few days on the streets looking at a number of locations and the dogs living in those areas.

At each location we were able to handle and therefore catch many dogs. The use of a muzzle can improve the confidence of the dog catcher as this will keep them safe when handling the dogs and keep them safe in case the dog who at first seemed to be friendly becomes fearful and tries to bite the handler.

As we demonstrated in our workshop at the conference through the use of videos it was clear that many dogs would approach people and within a few moments would allow themselves to be touched. With these types of dogs the use of hand capture is both less stressful from the dog’s point of view but this also allows the dog catchers to encourage the other dogs in the area to stay put, as the dogs being caught are not screaming and barking and hence alerting other dogs in the area that something negative is happening.

Having the local community involved helps in so many ways. I met a lady who regularly fed the dogs in her community and she knew all of the dogs and any new arrivals. She knew where they would be at certain parts of the day and if they had any problems. I believe this knowledge is vital for effective dog population control as well as creating positive relations between the community and their dogs.

Whilst I was out with one particular group of dog catchers it occurred to me that they were making it very easy for the dogs to identify that trouble was on its way. Dogs are incredibly good at “perceptual learning.” This means they are excellent at identifying things in their environment that have either
a positive or negative “predictive value.” This means, for example, that the vehicle, the uniform and their equipment all hold a very strong negative association from which the dogs can predict, or feel they are predicting, that as these things arrive into the dogs’ environment they may be in danger, making capture more difficult. By creating a more positive predictive value to the arrival of the vehicle you could make the catching in that area more straightforward and more positive. If the vehicle is passing through an area known to have dogs that needed to be captured then by creating a feeding station so that dogs are fed on a number of occasions, catchers could start to change the negative association of the vehicle arriving to a positive association. Creating a more positive outlook from the dog’s point of view can make future capture much easier. Using non-descript vehicles may reduce the dogs’ ability to identify dog catching vans and keeping equipment hidden until needed can also make approaching the dogs an easier task.

The most important aspect of using positive reinforcement to aid the capture of street dogs in India is having a good understanding of canine body language and the skills to assess every situation individually and decide on the most appropriate method of capture. The more dogs that can be captured, transported and treated in a positive way throughout the ABC process the better for all concerned from the people catching the dogs, the people caring for them in the shelter and the community where the dog is released back into.

When dealing with animal welfare we are constantly trying to improve methods of interacting with the animals we are responsible for. I believe we are responsible for the dogs on our streets and in our shelters across the world because we have domesticated them and invited them into our lives and therefore we have a duty to care for them using the most up-to-date knowledge and understanding we have available to us.

---

**Appeal to AWOs! Please Help Stop the Misuse of Oxytocin in Cows**

A significantly large number of Indian farmers routinely use Oxytocin, a Schedule H drug to force a lactating cow to give milk beyond her body's capacity. This abuse of oxytocin is a violation of the PCA Act, 1960 and calls for strict legal action. Oxytocin is a hormone indicated for use only in emergency conditions, as when a cow is in labour and uterine contractions need to be stimulated to save the life of the mother and calf. In a PETA Report titled, “Inside the Indian Dairy Industry: A Report on the Abuse of Cows and Buffaloes Exploited for Milk” a study carried out by Dr RP Parashar, President of the DAV Research Society for Health has been cited. In the study, Dr Parashar has noted that, “in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi, 82% cattle breeders were using the injection to stimulate milk let-down. In areas like Sonipat, Rohtak, Faridabad, Gohana, Bahadurgarh, Loni, Ghaziabad, Hapur and Buland Shahr over 62%-68% cattle breeders were found to be using oxytocin for milking cows and buffaloes while it was found to be 23% to 32% in remote areas of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana”. When oxytocin is used to increase the secretion of milk, temporarily due to the effect of the hormone, the smooth muscles of the udder respond and contract, but when the hormone is repeatedly given over a period of time, the muscles start getting fatigued and unresponsive. Additionally, the lactation period is actually shortened and the cow starts going into a cycle of infertility. When the cow fails to conceive, she is sent away for slaughter, transported in the most horrendous conditions. Research carried out by scientists at Dr B.R. Ambedkar University, Agra has revealed a higher incidence of uterine prolapse in dairy cows injected with oxytocin regularly. In a study carried out by Dr R.B.Chaudhary under the guidance of Dr Prakash Chandra, Prof & Head, Dept of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Sciences, R.B.S. College, Bichpuri, Agra, it was observed that in cows given oxytocin at high doses, as prevalent in field conditions, 50% of the cows suffered from uterine prolapse while the remaining 50% of the cases were affected with reproductive abnormalities.

Besides, it was also noted that the frequency of urination was increased from 8% to 20% in comparison to controls. Additionally, marked abnormalities were noted in the quality of milk, especially with reference to taste, colour, flavour and odour of the milk. Another observation noted was that cows given oxytocin also had a decrease in calcium which was below the physiological range. Several studies carried out in the field show that administration of oxytocin to induce milk let-down can cause weakness, bone disorders, lameness, decrease in conception rate, sterility, increase in length of the oestrous cycle and abortions. An appeal is therefore made to all Animal Welfare Organizations to come forward to conduct awareness camps among dairy farmers in urban and rural areas to help them understand the adverse effects of using oxytocin in cattle. Animal Welfare Organizations interested in conducting awareness programmes on the dangers of oxytocin use in cattle may please contact Dr. R.B.Chaudhary, Editor of Publications, AWBI for more information on the matter.
Cancer represents the current leading cause of death in pet dogs throughout the world and as in humans, the cancer rate varies depending on the environment and individual circumstances (age, breed, neuter status). Historically, the veterinary profession has often had a pessimistic approach to cancer, however recent shifts have occurred such that many veterinarians feel that they owe it to their companion animal patients and owners to be well-educated and informed on current treatment methods.

The specialty of veterinary oncology and radiation oncology has therefore gained significant momentum in the past 25 years. The concept of preventive oncology is one that aims to reduce the impact of certain types of cancer on canine health as a whole. Preventive oncology efforts are focused on research that identifies risk factors that can be manipulated early on to minimize the likelihood of cancer development (carcinogenesis). An example of preventive oncology is the impact of routine early spay/neuter programs on the development of mammary tumour development, which will be further discussed.

Cancer: Mammary Tumours as a Hormonal Cause: A simplistic definition of cancer is a condition that arises from the accumulation of genetic abnormalities (mutations) that lead to uncontrolled cell growth and proliferation. Mutations can arise from a variety of factors, most notably hormonal, environmental and genetic factors.
Mammary gland cancer in the female dog is a well-established model of hormonal carcinogenesis. Mammary tumours represent the most common cancer to affect the female intact (unspayed) dog. Risk factors for tumour development include age, breed, and body weight, however one of the most recognized risk factors is spay status, emphasizing the importance of hormonal exposure. Of note, many mammary tumours in the dog are preventable. Dogs spayed prior to their first estrus have a 0.5% lifetime risk of developing mammary tumours.

The protective effect of ovariohysterectomy (spay) decreases with each estrus cycle and most studies have not found significant benefit after 4 years of age. The same study that identified a 0.5% risk of developing a mammary tumour for dogs spayed before their first estrus found that the risk increased to 8% and 26% if dogs were spayed after their first estrus and second estrus, respectively.

There is overall agreement amongst investigators of canine mammary tumours that the greatest benefit on prevention of mammary cancer is achieved by not allowing a dog to go through any heat cycles. While ovarian hormones are important for normal development of mammary tissue, it is likely that there are irreversible and critical effects from ovarian hormone exposure on the development of mammary cancer. Additionally, administered (exogenous) hormones are known to increase the risk of mammary tumour development.

Mammary tumours typically behave in a local fashion but approximately 25% will spread (metastasize) to other sites such as lymph node, liver, spleen, lungs, and bone. The treatment of choice for most mammary tumours is surgical removal; there has been controversy relating to whether or not intact dogs with mammary tumours should be spayed at the time of mass removal. However, two recent studies have suggested that there may be a modest decrease in the risk of mammary tumour development in dogs spayed later (after the 2nd heat cycle) and it is clear from current information that a simple procedure such as early spay can make a substantial positive impact on the population of female dogs at risk for mammary tumours.

Cancer: Transmissible Venereal Tumour and Environmental Transmission

TVT is so efficiently transmitted from dog-to-dog that even pet dogs travelling to endemic regions may be exposed to TVT and carry it back home to a non-endemic area.

Transmissible venereal tumour (TVT) is also known as Sticker’s sarcoma, venereal granuloma, infectious sarcoma, and transmissible sarcoma. TVT is a naturally occurring infectious tumour that is spread from dog-to-dog through intimate behaviour such as licking, biting, sniffing, and copulation. While typically affecting dogs, it can also affect other members of the canid family, including foxes and coyotes. TVT has a worldwide distribution, it is more common in tropical and subtropical regions such as India, China, the Middle East, the Southern United States, Central and South America, and parts of Africa. TVT is the most common tumour in areas where breeding is poorly controlled and there are a large number of free-roaming sexually active dogs, such as un-neutered street dogs.

Any breed, age, or gender of dog is susceptible to TVT, although sexually intact and mature street dogs pose the greatest risk. The most common sites of occurrence include the...
Preventive Canine Healthcare

external genitalia but other sites such as the nose, mouth, and eyes can be severely affected.\textsuperscript{17-20} While spontaneous regression can occur, it is often months before this begins, thus leaving dogs “infectious” for long periods of time.\textsuperscript{21} Both the primary lesions affecting the genital organs and the secondary lesions affecting the head and face tend to cause chronic discomfort and pain in affected dogs, emphasizing the importance of intervention. Pain control should always be considered a part of therapy for dogs with significant lesions.

The best strategy for minimizing the impact of TVT on the dog population is to prevent this cancer from being endemic. Early spay and neuter programs will help to minimize intimate contact and control of dogs affected are required for a successful program. TVT can be easily treated and in pet dogs, treatment typically consists of 2-6 doses of chemotherapy administered intravenously each week until the lesions regress.\textsuperscript{17} It is important to note that treatment typically requires confinement while the tumours regress, to limit transmission of the cancer to unexposed dogs. For street dogs that do not have owners or public funds to treat and manage their medical and housing care, humane euthanasia is a valid and supported option. While seemingly harsh, euthanasia is an option that ultimately protects the population of dogs at risk as a whole and decreases chronic suffering secondary to TVT lesions.

A Note on Euthanasia and Quality of Life

Veterinarians worldwide make a pledge to first consider the needs of their patients in order to relieve disease, suffering or disability while also minimizing pain or fear. Quality of life is an important and emerging concept for veterinarians and pet owners everywhere and maintenance of good quality life should be applied to all animals, including street dogs, abandoned pets, and pets with terminal disease such as cancer. Quality of life can be measured in a number of different ways, however at the heart of all scales is to ensure suffering is minimized or prevented. It is likely that similar to humans with end stage cancer, approximately 80% of dogs with terminal cancer experience pain. Euthanasia should always be a rational and legitimate option for animals suffering from pain that cannot be adequately controlled. While a difficult decision for many pet owners and veterinarians, it is important to remember that every animal, whether street dog or beloved pet, deserves respect and dignity, and humane euthanasia serves a role to provide just that at the end of life. □

The text of this article is based on the material presented by Dr. Jessica Lawrence at the National Dog Welfare Conference 2013 sponsored by Dogs Trust.

References:
Positive Health Benefits of Canine ABC Programmes on Local Dog Populations

By

Andrew Yoak

Andrew Yoak is currently doing his PhD at the Ohio State University. His current research work is focused on investigating the drivers of disease epidemiology in the dog population and if the local animal birth control (ABC) organizations are making a measurable impact on non-vaccinated diseases. The final report of this research project can be accessed online at http://www.rufford.org/rsg/projects/mammal. He can be contacted at <yoak.4@buckeyemail.osu.edu>

India has had canine Animal Birth Control (ABC) programs running for almost five decades and the scientific evidence of their success is absolute. Like many things in life, both time and money must be invested but the long term benefits vastly outweigh the costs. Every city that invested in its infrastructure with a sound, science based ABC program has seen a dramatic decline in the incidence of both canine and human rabies, often eliminating it entirely.

More and more municipalities are seeing the stark contrast between ABC and kill programmes. To see the differences between the two regimes, one needs to only look at the long history of kill based programmes, first established under British rule. In Chennai, 100 dogs were euthanized in 1860. 104 years later, 16 000 dogs were killed by the municipality, a 160 fold increase. Even accounting for the increase in the city’s human population size, this is clearly a fruitless activity, akin to bailing water out of a sinking ship.

Perhaps even more seriously, research in other areas in Asia and South America have suggested that the large perturbations to the dog’s social structure caused by indiscriminately killing large numbers of dogs, can actually increase the rate of inter-dog fighting because of territorial disputes. While attempting to control the dog rabies problem, these groups can, counter intuitively, actually increase it’s spread.

This is an important time for the future of ABC programmes. Many have been established by welfare groups and local governments all across and have been sterilizing street dogs

In Chennai, 100 dogs were euthanized in 1860. 104 years later, 16 000 dogs were killed by the municipality, a 160 fold increase.
The evidence we collected shows that for 7 out of 10 diseases, the prevalence is lower in the cities with an ABC programme and for some, the duration of ABC is also important. Because our data only includes those dogs that have not been sterilized by their respective ABC programmes, this shows that the ABC programmes are not only improving the health of those dogs they are treating, but also the health of other dogs that live in their city.

Some of these diseases that have lower prevalence in ABC areas have potential interactions for groups other than street dogs, like humans and domestic livestock. This suggests that ABC in a street dog population may actually benefit the health and livelihood of the people living in the area. This work is preliminary, but I hope that additional research will confirm our conclusions.

In the early years of ABC, when veterinarians cobbled together a clinic with scattered resources and little public understanding of what precisely they were doing, it was reasonable to continue with sterilizing local dogs and never wandering out of their capture radius. While many clinics still have limited finances, it is becoming much easier to partner with local scientists and increase the body of scientific work at ABC centres. Many collaborative efforts undertaken with no additional funding by utilizing existing records or the addition of minimally demanding data collection.

Other times, universities or scientific NGOs are actively looking for programmes to invest in and create a long term partnership that can produce answers to the deeply interesting questions that only long term work can do.

Approaching a potential collaborator with a light outline of what sort of work you are interested in as well as the potential resources and data you can contribute will normally produce better results than sending out a mass appeal for assistance.

If an ABC programme sterilizes a dog in its city, the life of that dog, several others around it, and the people who live in the area will be at least marginally improved. But if data on that dog is meticulously collected, formed into a scientific paper, and published, the ripple effects reach out much further than the city boundaries.

If you are looking to increase the impact of an ABC programme, there is no greater goal than dissemination of this kind of scientifically validated knowledge to others.
Using Smart Phones to Track Street Dog Populations

By

Lex Hiby

Lex Hiby is a biometrician, currently working as Director of Conservation Research Ltd (CRL), a consultancy based in Cambridge, England. CRL specialises in the design and analysis of wildlife surveys, in particular aerial survey of marine mammals, and in the automation of large photo-id catalogues. CRL has assisted in the formation of photo-id catalogues for grey seals in the North Sea, Baltic and Irish Sea, harbour seals off the coast of Alaska, whales off the coast of Argentina, cheetah in the Serengeti reserve in East Africa and fire salamanders in the USA. Customers include WCS in Bangalore, the Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, the European Union, National Marine Fisheries Service in the US, University of Cork, University of St. Andrews, University of Virginia and the Department of Fish and Game in Alaska.

In cetacean aerial surveys, CRL developed the “racetrack” technique of effective strip width estimation, which allows for diving behaviour. CRL also has experience of wildlife surveys in forests. It was employed by WWF Indonesia to estimate the size of the remnant population of Javan rhino in the Ujung Kulon reserve from camera trap photographs obtained by Mike Griffiths of WWF.

Besides, CRL has developed and distributed free software (“Dungsurv”) to those interested in monitoring forest elephant densities using dung counts. Lex Hiby was employed by WCS to lecture on techniques of survey in forest at the Nagarhole reserve in Karnataka and has co-authored a paper on line-transect surveys from game trails. He may be contacted at <lexhiby@gmail.com>.

With the support of Humane Society International, we at Conservation Research Ltd have been able to design an automated system for recording data collected by Animal Birth Control (ABC) programmes in India (presented recently at the Dogs Trust International conference in Chennai). The system uses GPS-enabled “smart-phones” to record the exact location of each dog collected for neutering and vaccination and displays the location on a map when the dog is ready for release to ensure that each dog is released in the right place.

India is the home of the mobile phone – in urban areas it seems that everyone has one – so there should be no problem in asking the people collecting the dogs to touch an icon on the screen when the dog is collected to record its location and take its picture. They can also press a second icon to record a short voice message describing the dog. Once the dog is at the shelter, the picture and voice recording are used to identify the dog and record in which kennel it was housed before and after it is operated – the kennel number becomes an identification feature until it is released. The smart phone screen has other icons to record the locations of dogs seen on the way to the area from which dogs are to be collected (see the adjacent illustration). The icons represent five types of dogs – males and females already neutered or not and lactating females.
The people collecting dogs every day are experts in recognising those types and need only touch the screen to record what they see. Others working at the shelter or volunteers can use the ‘phones to establish the ratios of the dog types in areas of the city where data is lacking.

The percentage of dogs that have already been neutered is obviously something the shelter needs to know and the percentage of females that are lactating provides the first indication of the effectiveness of the ABC programme in controlling the roaming dog population. To monitor the density of roaming dogs on the city streets the phones can be used along standard routes across the city once or twice each year, again providing evidence of the effectiveness of the ABC programme.

Back at the shelter, the smart phone records are downloaded to an offline database which displays the percentages on a map of the city and sends a map of the release locations back to the phone. Clinic data is added to the records following the operations. In time, such data provides valuable information for monitoring the success of the neutering operations and other treatments as well as revealing seasonal patterns and rates of breeding.

The database also generates compact tattoo codes to identify individuals using a tattoo in the inner surface of the ear. Such individual identification allows the survival of the operated dogs to be estimated. Besides, this special database has customized software to aid in calculating the current number of operated dogs and, from the percentage of operated dogs seen, the total number of roaming dogs and their distribution across the city. To see the system in more detail and try it out, please check the first link on the Conservation Research website (www.conservationresearch.co.uk). A second website (www.roamingdogs.org.in) is under development to allow upload of data from the offline databases to a central database for archive and further analysis.
Ilona is a Finnish veterinarian with a DVM from Finland. She is involved with IPAN’s (India Project for Animals and Nature) work in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu since 2004. She is married to Nigel Otter (Hon. Animal Welfare Officer, Managing Trustee of IPAN and Chairman of WVS India).

Ilona is also the Clinical Director of Worldwide Veterinary Service International Training Center (WVS ITC) since 2010. She has recently completed an MSc degree from the Royal Veterinary College of London in 2012.

Some of the Awards that she has received for her work in the field of Animal Welfare includes the Kulapati Munshi award from the Bharatiya Vidyapith Kendra in 2013 together with Nigel Otter.

She is passionate about veterinary skills development, and rabies control work in India! Ilona serves a shining beacon of inspiration and guidance training hundreds of vets and paravets on international standards of care during ABC surgery. She has two daughters, Emma (8 years) and Saara (5 years). Ilona can be contacted at ilona@wvs.org.uk

with related negative associations and sensational reports in the media. By promoting the availability of human post-exposure vaccines in hospitals and awareness among medical doctor to give it promptly after all animal bites and scratches has been of great value in the management of rabies.

It is a well-known fact already for all readers of Animal Citizen that killing of healthy dogs – besides being inhumane – is totally ineffective in controlling rabies. It is important to start also addressing the fact that human post-exposure vaccinations – however essential they are in preventing individual deaths due to rabies – are just one component

“Rabies eradication is only possible by systematic mass vaccination of dogs”

Rabies control in India in the past has largely been done by haphazard killing of dogs in areas with an increase in the dog populations along
Rabies control has not been ‘owned’ officially by any department. It is a neglected zoonotic disease that kills ‘too little people’ to be made a notifiable disease and it causes too little economic losses to the farming sector to be important to the agriculture department. However, rabies is an animal disease that kills people, mostly children – and ALL these deaths could be prevented if rabies was effectively controlled by veterinarians vaccinating dogs.

In applying effective disease control measures to reduce outbreaks of rabies. Eradication of any infectious disease is only possible by focusing on the main host species of the infectious agent in question. In the case of rabies the main host species is the domestic dog (acknowledging that rabies can be present in a number of other mammalian species as well). Therefore, rabies eradication is only possible by systematic mass vaccination of dogs. Here, I want to emphasize the word POSSIBLE. Rabies has been eradicated from many countries by this very method – mass vaccination of dogs that is systematically sustained over years and years and that is also combined with quarantine and movement controls for dogs coming from areas outside the rabies-free zone.

Veterinarians are in the frontline of this work and their input is needed in many different sectors. In rabies-endemic countries, like in India, the veterinary curriculum should strongly address this key role of veterinarians and provide the students with tools to help them to take this role seriously. That way, when they graduate and work as Vets in the field, they can really contribute to rabies control.

It is obvious that the allocation of time and resources within the veterinary curriculum has to reflect the particular demands and animal health and welfare situation in a country. Veterinary education in India needs to inspire veterinary students to take up the challenge and start fighting for rabies eradication – just like the previous veterinary generations battled for eradicating rinderpest from India – and succeeded in it!

The one crucial difference between rinderpest and rabies in terms of their eradication compared to their high reproductive capacity of dogs compared to that of cattle. Besides vaccinating dogs, we need to be able to control reproduction in order to achieve and sustain protective vaccination coverage (herd immunity) in any given dog population. Animal Control (ABC) – ARV programmes that utilize donated/public funds to surgically sterilize ownerless and/or free-roaming dogs and vaccinate them against rabies has been proven as the best way to go in controlling both the dog population as well as rabies.

However, effective ABC-ARV programmes work mainly in big cities and the vast rural India is not covered with quality ABC-ARV programs. It is in these areas not covered by well-established NGOs and their ABC-programmes, where the challenges in rabies control really are in today’s India. Dogs are not high on the list of priorities for most of the stakeholders in dog population management and rabies control.

The disowning of rabies control by the different government sectors puts animal charities, individual veterinarians and veterinary associations in the frontline of championing change. The vast majority of rural villages have never heard of rabies vaccination for dogs and even well-to-do dog owners, who could afford having their dogs sterilized, end up having unwanted litters that are then abandoned on the streets. The solution is in the introduction and enforcement of systematic annual vaccination month as a concept for effective rabies control. Besides, education on responsible pet ownership is also vital.

53
Veterinarians can be the focal point for the emergence of effective solutions in rabies control. Government veterinarians, animal charities and primary health care centers can join hands in arranging annual systematic door-to-door rabies vaccination of dogs in rural areas and in lower-income residential areas. Quality spay/neuter surgeries should be on the list of services provided by every vet engaged in clinical practice (both government and private) to prevent unwanted litters and to improve the rehoming chances for female dogs. Veterinarians can also educate public and prospective new dog owners about the breed-specific health and welfare problems of many pedigree dogs to help to improve the image of the ordinary country dog as an excellent pet.

Veterinarians in all employment sectors should also be aware of the rabies situation in their areas and must be able to provide factual information to the public as well as to the media. Misconceptions regarding the prevalence and incidence of rabies in a dog population are harmful for the welfare of dogs as well as for the genuine efforts of rabies eradication and should be avoided by collecting, recording and publishing authentic data. It is in the Veterinarians’ hands to humanely euthanize suspected rapid dogs, instead of letting them be killed by the community, and to ensure that samples are taken and sent to a laboratory for confirming the diagnosis so that, again, proper factual information can be generated for the benefit of the rabies control efforts in the community.

In many countries it has been shown that promoting responsible ownership by providing effective preventive medicine and surgery measures, like vaccination and spay-neuter, has significant benefits for the veterinary profession since vets become known to the dog owners from the start. That helps to create better rapport and makes it easier for the owners to approach the vets for any health problem in the future. It is clear that a good vet-animal owner relationship improves the welfare of animals as diseases are prevented or treated in time.

Vets working in rural India may feel that there is no scope for small animal practice there while the truth may well be that people do have dogs but have just never thought of taking them to a vet. When vets start promoting responsible dog ownership; spay-neuter and vaccinations, it is likely that they will start expanding their number of small animal clients too.

To make the eradication of rabies from India possible, veterinarians need to see and appreciate the positive trickle-down effect of their efforts in joining mass rabies vaccination campaigns and of learning to do high quality spay/neuter surgeries.

Mission Rabies 2013 is a mega-project aiming to bring together veterinarians from different parts of the country to jointly vaccinate 50 000 dogs in one month with the help of various organisations and local bodies. This is a wonderful chance to campaign for the veterinarian’s role in rabies control and to show how mass vaccination of dogs through effective inter-sectoral cooperation and lots of genuine goodwill is very much possible. Mission Rabies project is recognized and approved by AWBI. Interested vets/volunteers/AWOs please contact me at WVS ITC (ilonawvs.org.uk) at the earliest.
John Hicks has been crusading actively for the welfare of animals since the early 1970s. Born in Britain in 1951, John has worked for CIWF and also founded Animal Activists in 1974. In 1975, he led a hunger strike and successfully stopped ICI from using beagle dogs for a smoking experiment. In 1976, he closed down Swear and Wells, UK’s biggest fur chain. This victory was widely reported by the media. He served as a Director of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection for two years and was Director of the League Against Cruel Sports for five years. Later, he was Head of West Country Operations (Running campaigns and wildlife conservation) John won the first ever High Court Injunction against the Devon and Somerset Stag Hounds which in effect changed the law regarding hunting in the UK making hunting difficult in many areas. He is currently the Founder of International Animal Rescue (worldwide) and is also the Founder, International Animal Rescue Goa and Founder of the Primate Trust India and the Primate Trust in the UK. He has served as an adviser to the Governments of Malta and Mauritius on animal welfare issues.

Monkeys are my all consuming passion, I never fail to be amazed by them and as you get to know them you see every human trait reflected in their behaviour. Like humans they are selfish and aggressive, if you are at the top echelons of society, life is good but if you are a mere minor, life can be harsh and very cruel. Just like human society the best goes to those at the top who live on rich pickings whilst those lower down live on the scraps. Also just like humans monkeys lie! If they get caught trying to snatch something a more senior monkey wants, they will immediately attack a monkey of lower rank trying to convince everyone it was not them doing wrong but this other monkey.

In contrast, just like humans, there is another side. Monkeys can be amazingly loving, caring creatures. If you watch a mother with her baby, the tenderness is just the same as in a human mother and baby. Real concern is all too obvious when a member of the troop is injured. Even senior troop members can be seen grooming and caring for a junior member of the troop that is injured, even though the injury may have been inflicted by that very monkey in a fit of rage. Again as with humans they live their lives in a state of constant warfare. We defend our countries to the death and monkeys defend their territory to the death. Fights between rival troops are savage and any troop member being isolated from his troop during these confrontations are almost certainly going to be killed or at least so badly savaged that they die from their wounds.
Life is particularly savage in Langur society because of infanticide practiced by male Langurs. The troop leader or Alpha Male is under constant harassment from other male monkeys that have been driven out of their troop and are desperate for a troop of their own. When one of these males sees a weakness in the existing Alpha Male of a troop he will make a savage attack on the Alpha Male to drive him off. These fights are so savage that the deposed male will almost certainly die from his injuries. However, there is a real possibility that the male challenger will also be badly injured which may almost immediately lead to another injured male challenger.

At this time there is great turmoil until a new Alpha Male is truly established and the females live in fear for the lives of their babies. The first act of the new Alpha Male is to hunt down all babies that are not old enough to survive without their mothers and kill them. This brutal act is carried out to bring the females back into season for mating. Young females that are no longer suckling are tolerated as they may become suitable for mating during the Alpha Males reign. However, all young males that are not killed flee for their lives and live in small all male troops and as these males become mature they are the ones which risk death by challenging other Alpha Males for their troops. These young males live a precarious life because if caught by an Alpha Male in his territory he will not hesitate to kill them.

Fights for dominance with macaques are just as vicious but at least the victorious male does not go round killing the babies. It is interesting to note that male macaques give close attention to babies and love playing with them. One problem we have experienced is that when introducing a new baby monkey to a troop, it is the Alpha Male that grabs it and refuses to let any other monkey care for it. The real problem comes when we need to take it back for bottle feeding as often the Alpha Male does not want to give up his new companion. However, thankfully after an hour or two they normally get tired of domestic duties and hand the baby over to the most senior female. All our baby monkeys receive 24 hour care until they reach about a year old. We start introducing them to other young monkeys as soon as we consider them strong enough to cope but they are never left unattended. The three species we deal with all get on well whilst young and it is fun to watch them playing. It is at this time their different characters come to the fore. Generally, the macaques are never happy unless causing trouble.

They are so intelligent that they know all too well when they are not to play with something and just like naughty school kids, that becomes their only interest. I have lost count of the number of mobile phone that have been deliberately dropped into our swimming pool. One little monkey called Baldrick whilst playing freely in the garden ran up to my front door where my phone was hanging, grabbed it, rushed to the deep end of the pool and calmly leant over and dropped it. He then watched with fascination as it slowly descended to the bottom. Fascinated by this he then dived in and brought it back up and repeated the exercise. This highlights one of the main differences between Langurs and Macaques. Macaques love water, they are the most amazing swimmers one could get, when swimming under water one could easily mistake them for an otter, they are that good. This love of water starts at a very young age.
Providing Enriched Environments for Monkeys

When keeping monkeys, environmental enrichment is every bit as important as good food. A bored monkey will become mentally ill and will display stereotypic behaviour such as rocking from side to side or biting itself. In extreme cases, monkeys will actually bite into their own flesh and cause terrible wounds from self-mutilation simply from boredom.

Taking Care of Orphaned Monkeys

Baby orphaned Langurs suffer far worse from stress than macaques and it is vital they have just one person to bond to as quickly as possible and that person needs to be with them 24 hours a day. Even with this level of care, success cannot be guaranteed. We have had baby Langurs crying for their mothers 20 days after rescue. Orphaned baby monkeys need to be given human replacement milk made for human babies. Babies generally need to be fed every 2 hours day and night until they reach 3 months. After that, according to demands, feeds can be gradually reduced to every 3 hours. By 5 months, night feeds can be reduced to 5 hours and daytime feeds to every 4 hours. Monkeys stay on the bottle until at least 1 year old when they can be slowly weaned off.

One classic example is Pani, a Rhesus Macaque, who was at the time only about 6 months old. As with all our babies he had an extended play time running around our garden. On this occasion he ran up to our main entrance to the house which overlooks the swimming pool and jumped on top of the wall that is about 12 feet above the pool.

We were all stunned when this tiny little creature dived off the wall into the pool. I panicked thinking he must have hurt himself and dived in to rescue him. By the time I was in the pool he was out running back up the stairs to do it again. This quickly became his party trick but not content with just jumping in he did the most amazing summersaults on the way down.

Langurs generally hate water and unlike macaques are well behaved. They love playing with macaques but macaques of the same size can become a little too much for them and they have to be supervised closely. Langurs are the statesman of the monkey world, they sit for long periods just taking in all that is happening around them. If they are doing something wrong and you shout at them they stop whereas a macaque would consider this encouragement to be even more destructive.

All our babies need 24 hour care when very young they need feeding every two hours. Interestingly, Langurs always get out of the bed if they want to go to the toilet and are comparatively easy once they have adjusted to being orphaned. However, Macaques are very different!

The last time we were away another baby macaque was brought in and our friends who were looking after the monkeys phoned for advice. I told them they would have to put nappies on him and my friends said they were not that stupid. Nappies on a monkey, what next! There was no way I could convince them until I thought to tell them to look at some photos and they were stunned to see Baldrick with his green knickers on. Another amazing thing is that we have never had problems putting nappies on either species of monkeys and what is more they just accept them and never try to take them off. This fact I find staggering even after all the years we have been doing this work.
Sadly monkeys suffer horrendously at the hands of man. We have destroyed their forests and with it their food supply and so in desperation, monkeys have been driven into the towns and cities. Rhesus Macaques have adapted amazingly well to this change but have now become a major problem. Thanks to Dr Sandeep Rattan and the Forestry Department in Shimla there is now a humane way of dealing with this Rhesus Macaque problem through laproscopic sterilization.

I do hope that this humane sterilization will replace the barbaric measures taken by so many Forestry Departments throughout India. Whilst writing this article Pani the Rhesus Macaque I wrote about diving into our swimming pool was diagnosed with cancer and operated on. He never fully came round from the anesthetic and died in my arms. It is hard for the uninitiated to imagine how devastated my wife and I are. He was only 6 years old but at least he enjoyed those years. We are so lucky and privileged to be in a position to help these wonderful creatures but devastated beyond words when one dies.

People have no understanding of the stress involved in moving monkeys and the Rhesus Macaques in particular suffer dreadfully. As previously stated one of my Rhesus Macaques has just died from cancer which left his mate alone and miserable so we decided to move another female in with her. Katrina was in a cage less than 100 meters away with a Bonnet Macaque but as the Bonnet Macaque grew up, she started bullying Katrina and so we knew at some point she would have to be moved. As a result of the bullying there was no attachment between the two monkeys. However, Katrina was so stressed out by simply being walked from one pen to the other I had to sit with her for over three hours to calm her down.

The following morning she was still badly stressed and I again spent many hours during the day sitting with her. From past experience we know it will take about a week for her to adjust and this is just moving her less than 100 meters to an area she already knew from being walked. Bearing in mind how stressed Katrina has been, imagine the terrible suffering of those monkeys trapped and moved to new locations without even the rest of their troop. The very thought breaks my heart.

Human-Monkey Conflicts – Key Facts

- This conflict is of man’s making and yet it is always the monkeys that get the blame. 80% of India’s forests have been cut down in the last 100 years.
- Because of loss of habitat and food, monkeys have been forced into towns and cities to survive.
- Once forced into urban areas, Rhesus Macaques in particular have flourished due to the abundance of high calorie, readily available food dumped on every street corner in garbage heaps.

Guidelines on effective human-monkey conflict management

- Probably the most important factor is to remove the freely available food supply by proper waste management.
- People need to be educated not to feed monkeys as this leads to monkeys losing all fear of humans and instead look on them as an easy way of obtaining food by intimidation. This can eventually lead to real aggression and humans getting bitten.
- Monkey numbers need to be controlled in the same way as the stray dog population through sterilization.
- Sterilization should only be carried out on wild monkeys by minimally invasive surgery as via laparoscopy. Dr Rattan from the Shimla Forestry Department is the leading expert in this field and every major town and city that has problems should be forced to set up this humane system of monkey control.
- Monkeys should never be trapped and relocated. This leads to the breakup of troops which causes massive suffering and those monkeys relocated will be attacked by the monkeys whose territory they are being dumped in and will die slowly from their wounds if not killed immediately.
- All Forestry Departments should be encouraged to plant trees that provide monkeys with food. However planting fruit trees which humans eat is a waste of time as greedy humans will chase the monkeys off and take the food themselves leading to yet more conflict.
- It should be against the law to cut any Banyan Tree. These trees are probably the most beneficial in the whole of India and not only provide food for monkeys but for a huge variety of birds and other creatures.
- Apart from humans, monkeys have few enemies because they are at the very top of the eco-system. Monkeys are a favourite food of Leopards but because monkeys are so alert and intelligent, few fall prey and those that are taken are often injured or sick. Large pythons will also take monkeys if the chance occurs.
Help Make India Rabies Free!

Project Mission Rabies is an initiative started by Dr. Luke Gamble, Founder, Worldwide Veterinary Services. A well equipped mobile veterinary clinic that has been especially designed for this Project will travel to ten rabies hotspots in the country and vaccinate 50,000 dogs in one month. For more details, check out http://www.missionrabies.com. The Animal Welfare Board of India is a partner in this project and requests interested animal welfare activists, para-vets and veterinarians to come forward and express your full support for this Project by volunteering your time, talents and resources to make this Project a grand success. Interested vets/volunteers/AWOs please contact Dr. Ilona Otter at WVS ITC (ilonat@wvs.org.uk) at the earliest.

Interested in small animal surgery?

Join the WVS ITC practical basic small animal surgery training for 12 days in Ooty, Tamil Nadu. Already over 300 veterinarians have attended with great satisfaction.

"We were impressed by the professionalism and good management of the WVS ITC surgery course and are looking forward in collaborating with WVS in the future for this cause."

- WVS ITC - International Guests,
  Dr. Daniel Brockman (BVSc, CertVR, CertSAO, DipACVS, DipECVS) and Dr. Vicky Lipscomb (MA VetMB CertSAS DipECVS MRCVS) from RVC London

"Brilliant training!"
WVS ITC past participant,
Dr. Jayadevan, Kerala