**RABIES-FREE INDIA: A VISION**

Authentic data pertaining to the population of stray and pet dogs and human and animal rabies cases in India was presented by Ministry of Agriculture (for animals) and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The only published national data available is on rabies, one of which is based on the National Multicentre Rabies Survey, conducted in 2004 by the National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in collaboration with the World Health Organization. The WHO has estimated that 300,000 people receive post-exposure prophylaxis annually due to rabbit bites by year 2009. (Debashish RA. 2004).

One may conclude that even though the rabies is not a notifiable disease for Veterinary and Public health departments but it is a serious problem affecting the whole ecosystem human, animal and wildlife. The Animal Welfare Board of India (Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India) has a very important role to play in capacity human awareness generation and training of Vets / Paravets / Dog Catchers for effective implementation of the Animal Birth Control Programme and motivating the role of stray and pet dog owners and rural and urban authorities in human mass vaccination of dogs.

The WHO has stressed that only mass sustained rabies immunization of stray and pet dogs can control the disease in dogs and human beings. As per the WHO Expert Consultation on Rabies, 50-80% of all human rabies cases are attributable to post-exposure prophylaxis by rabies. The country's dog population needs to be immunized to create herd immunity to break the chain transmission of rabies virus. The effectiveness of large-scale mass immunization of stray dogs of human rabies is authenticated by the fact that incidence of rabies in humans has been significantly reduced in the last two decades consequent to mass immunization of Stray and pet dogs.

The AB C/AR programme does indeed encourage animal welfare activities, encourages the Central and State governments to focus on the animal welfare policies / legislations. The Animal Welfare Board of India is an umbrella for the SPCAs & AWOs and animal welfare workers. The Board encourages animal welfare activities, advises the Central and State Governments on issues relating to Animal Welfare, particularly on the prevention of cruelty to animals, and also helps to formulate animal welfare policies.

---

**MOEF PROPOSES NEW LAW TO PROTECT ANIMALS**

New Delhi: In order to make animal abuse in the country, the ministry has called for higher penalties for cruelty against animals in its proposed draft Animal Welfare Act, 2011.

This law intends to modify the approach of our authorities in dealing with animal protection by moving from a defensive position to a positive, welfare and well-being oriented approach through the draft Animal Welfare Act, 2011,’ a ministry statement said.

According to the ministry, India was one of the first countries to enact a law on the subject of animal cruelty through the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

However, over the last few decades, there has been increasing concern that the legislation has not been as successful as its authors intended. This apparent lack of success can be attributed to the provision of relatively weak penalties for violation in addition to an absence of proactive and preemptive measures for the prevention of animal cruelty,’ it said.

India has one of the most comprehensive laws on the subject of wildlife protection but unfortunately domesticated animals do not enjoy specific protections under it, it said.

---

**REWARD OFFERED FOR PROTECTING BIRD**

Manipur: Manipur has announced cash rewards for the protection and conservation of its state bird Nongin, also known as “Mrs Hume’s Pheasant.” Recently, the Manipur Government announced that it would offer a cash reward of Rs 50,000 for a live pair (male-female) of Nongin. This is part of the Manipur Wildlife Department’s plan to provide economic incentives to people to protect the state bird as its habitat for conservation.

Classified as “near threatened” because of recent information suggesting the bird is resilient to exploitation and habitat degradation, Nongin is an extremely rare bird. There is no exact official record as to when Nongin was last sighted in Manipur. It’s an extremely rare bird,” a Kharsingh, Manipur’s Additional Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)-cum-Chief Wildlife Warden, said.

There were reports recently that the locals in Ukhrul District killed one or two Nongins. However, when we announced the cash rewards, the locals handed over a live Nongin to the Forest Department,” Kharsingh said.

“Prior to the latest sighting, Nongin had been feared extinct in Manipur. The bird has been kept in the zoo at Imphal. Buoyed by the success of the reward program, the state government now nulls similar rewards for anyone who would find Hornlock Gibbons, Burmese Green Peafowl and Serow.
THE ROLE OF THE動物 Movement IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMALS

He Republic of Seychelles, the Swedish Government and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) at the United Nations organised an event on the 8th October 2010, to brief the G77 nations on animal welfare and its relevance to sustainable development.

Among the eminent speakers who presided over this briefing were Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, Asst. Secretary General at International Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR); Dr. Augustine Mahiga, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania; Mr. Jamie Perez, National Projects Officer, FAQ, Columbia; Shri Vinod S. Kapur, Founder and Chairman of Keggfarms, India and Mr. Michael Baker, Director General, World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). The briefing was well attended by over one hundred senior representatives of the G77 Nations.

This briefing was linked to the specific task of agreeing on the text to be included in the Agenda 21 Resolution on sustainable development with special bearing on Environmental and Agricultural Sustainability - responsible animal management affects land use, climate change, pollution, water supplies, habitat conservation and bio diversity for the better.

The importance of responsible animal management was iterated by all the speakers. Shri Vinod Kapur of Keggfarms presented a number of case studies sharing the realities of his poultry-based successful business enterprise. He shared that the intertwining of the values of animal welfare with a business model led to the poverty and hunger reduction among the underprivileged rural poor, especially the women.

Shri Kapoor shared his experiences on the sustainable poultry management practices followed by over one million economically challenged homes in the state of West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Orissa, Assam and Manipur in India. He shared that the concept of animal welfare for the well-being of humans was not merely an abstract idea, but can be a flourishing ground reality.

Shri Kapoor’s presentation was well received by all the members of G77 most of whom expressed their willingness to replicate this Good Practice. The Republic of Seychelles, the Swedish Government and the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) at the United Nations are now planning to lead the initiative to introduce a Kuroiler based program for poverty alleviation and women empowerment with the collaboration of Keggfarms.

The proposed text for inclusion into the Agenda 21 Resolution in Second Committee on Sustainable Development reads as follows:-

"Preamble: Recognising that many economies and hundreds of millions of people, in particular the poor, depend on animals for food, a living and social status and that animal welfare promotes food security, poverty and disease reduction and environmental protection.

Operative: Encourages member states, the UN system and civil society to develop and grow practices related to animal welfare, as a component of development, environment and disaster reduction activities towards sustainable development."

(Courtesy: Human Society International)

AN INSPIRING STORY ON ANIMAL RESCUE

Mumbai: Recently a couple of phone calls received from SPCA, Thane about the sad plight of three Persian cats and a few birds inside a very dirty cage in the fabrication workshop. To find the main entrance into the shop, where approximately ten workers were labouring in filthy conditions.

Investigations led to a shocking discovery! At the very rear end of the workshop, the owner had fabricated cages, two of which housed turkeys, Indian hens, pheasants and geese – all in a 200 square foot enclosure. The cages were devoid of a single drop of water or morsel of food for the hapless animals.

The three cats were locked up in a pitifully small cage, without any sunlight or any other source of light for that matter. However, volunteers found three large Star Tortoises in a cage, had to have them picked up immediately. Their legs were stretching unnaturally on all sides on account of walking on the tiled floor. There were some lady’s-fingers strung around for the reptiles to eat, but not a single bowl of water.

Further on, near the entrance, was a 4x7 dungeon-like enclosure with around 15 goats tied to the characteristic mimiscule ropes that are found on cattle so often. The area was so small that the goats were literally sitting one on top of the other! Apart from the goats, several pigeons were also found and what could have been either cockatiels or budgerigars.

The place stank due to the overcrowding and the wet floors and lack of sunlight didn’t found ease the situation at all. Some of the volunteers went to the Versova Police Station to lodge a complaint.

The police were co-operative and spoke with the Chief Conservator of Forests who confirmed that the reptiles were indeed Star Tortoises and Scheduled animals under Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and began the panchanama on the spot. The owners arrived in the midst of the investigation and were visibly ruffled and unhappy with us for interfering in their affairs. However, the police investigation had already begun and there was no way for them to change anything in any way.

The Star Tortoises were packed up and removed from the premises and brought back to the police station. The owners meanwhile were detained, while we completed lodging the FIR. The one happy twist to this story was that the Chief Conservator of Forests and the police inspector handling the case, turned out to be long lost friends from the IPS era and were reunited with much thrill on both sides!

The owner of the place was produced in court and remanded to custody in jail. He is now probably languishing in Arthur Jail now. The court will decide about the fate of the other animals. The judgment is expected to be in their favour – God willing! Or another NC to be lodged and have the court orders them to be picked up.

(Thane SPCA)
The first International Training Center (ITC) Animal Birth Control surgery course was held as a trial course in where protocols for further training programs were designed and course materials prepared. Three veterinarians and two assistants attended this 10-day course in October 2010. The course included theory lessons related to the ABC-projects, sound surgical principles and responsible use of antibiotics as well as some recommended practices for clinical protocols most commonly seen in charity veterinary practices in India.

63 animals were sterilised during the practical sessions of the course. This included 56 dogs and seven cats. In addition to the routine spay/neuter surgeries, three emergency cases were attended; one dog with a broken leg and two cattle cases. The other cattle case was a buffalo with a prolonged dystocia due to partial uterine torsio and a dead calf; ITC prolonged dystocia due to partial cattle case was a buffalo with a leg and two cattle cases. The other three emergency cases were routine spay/neuter surgeries, seven cats. In addition to the course. This included 56 dogs and during the practical sessions of the India.

The teaching team included Dr. Ilona Otter, the clinical director of ITC, Dr. Devi, the assistant veterinarian of ITC, Dr. Dagmar a volunteer veterinarian from Worldwide Veterinary Services (WVS), UK and “Ali,” a volunteer veterinary nurse from WVS (UK). The feedback from the participants was very good and we are looking forward in arranging the next training course. The objective of the WVS International Training Center is to provide practically-focused, continuous professional development courses to veterinarians, animal handlers, veterinary assistants and ABC/AR project managers in India.

Initially the focus is in training personnel to work in and run effective ABC/ARV programs that aim to make a significant change in the dog population as well as reducing the human rabies incidence. The ITC aims to develop further to provide training in topics covering other animal species and other topics as well, for example working equine health and welfare, wild animal health and welfare, shelter management and best practices in feline veterinary medicine.

WVS ITC aims to coordinate an India National Rabies Network by working together with the AWBI, state governments, Animal Husbandry Department, animal welfare organisations, local government bodies, primary health care centers and village panchayats to reduce human rabies deaths by 5%. This means, effectively, that we will be saving a life of a child under the age of 15 years, every day. Join the initiative and email Dr. Ilona at ITC to get 2 million dogs vaccinated by 2013. The ITC website http://www.wvsitc.com/ is going to count the number of dogs vaccinated under this project so that anyone can check the progress and success of the project.

The amount of money people spent every year in India for human post-exposure vaccinations is enough to vaccinate 30 million dogs against rabies every year. And when effectively done, this would prevent the deaths of over 20,000 people who now die of rabies every year.

Join the initiative and email Dr. Ilona at ITC to find out more details! Gramya Bhavan/ RDO-building complex, Aruvankadu 643202 The Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, India tel: 0423 2204538 / 9626877538 email: ilona@wvs.org.uk web: http://www.wvsitc.com (IPAN)
‘गो-ज्योति’ लालटेन का

श्रीमान् गो-ज्योति लालटेन’ एक ऐसा निपटाव कार्यकर्ता है जो गायों को बचाने के लिए जीवन का घर बनाता है। गो-ज्योति लालटेन के द्वारा बचाई गई गायों में अनेक गायों के पितृत्व के लिए अनुमोदन भेंट की गई है।

यह समय से विद्युत के लिए गायों का जागरूकता होने लगी है। नाकारा ले आयुष्मान परिवर्तन तथा गायों पर नए कोशिश बनाये हैं। इसमें एक में वहाँ गायों का अधिकतम संख्या का स्वागत किया गया है। गो-ज्योति के दायित्व के लिए यह 2020 में गायों की गणना की गई है। गो-ज्योति में ए.डी.ए. नियमों की आवश्यकता है।

गो-ज्योति लालटेन ने अपने अनुमोदन के लिए कृतार्पण नियामकीय नियमों के लिए आप भर्तिकृत गायों के लिए यह आवश्यक है।

‘गो-ज्योति’ लालटेन को वित्तीय संपत्ति से पूर्ण नहीं करता है। गायों की संरक्षण के लिए अनुमोदन भेंट की गई है। गो-ज्योति को जीवन के लिए यह 2020 में गायों की गणना की गई है। गो-ज्योति में ए.डी.ए. नियमों के लिए अनुमोदन के लिए यह आवश्यक है।

गो-ज्योति लालटेन ने अपने अनुमोदन के लिए कृतार्पण नियामकीय नियमों के लिए आप भर्तिकृत गायों के लिए यह आवश्यक है।