Dear Friends (For all those who are implementing ABC/AR Programme),

As you may be aware that the Animal Welfare Board of India is striving hard to ensure that AWOs and Municipal Corporations are conducting animal welfare programmes in the country in accordance with international standards of animal welfare, aspers and application of surgical skills. This is being done so that ABCAR Programme in the country can be carried out in a humane and professional manner with least trauma and pain to the operated dogs.

AWBI sponsored Training Programmes are being conducted in collaboration with proven international organizations such as Vets Beyond Borders, World Wide Veterinary Services and Humane Society International which are now already implementing ABCAR Programmes in Sikkim, J&K, Tamil Nadu, etc. for training of Vets/Paravets/Dog Catchers and Programme Managers. AWOs/Civic Bodies who would like to have their staff undergo the Training, have to send the applications to AWBI.

The Schedule of the Training Programmes and the application forms are available on the AWBI website (www.awbi.org). AWBI has taken care to ensure that the process of applying for the Training Programmes and the processing of the application is easy, with no long waiting period. However, despite making provisions for easy access to quality Training Programmes, many Municipal Corporations and Animal Welfare Organizations (AWO) are not taking advantage of this offer due to lack of awareness.

The other unfortunate observation is that even after having undergone training, the upgraded skills are not being applied in the manner in which it has been taught during the training.

Lastly, several complaints about the inadequacies in the ongoing ABCAR Programme have been received by the Board including cutting/trapping dogs in an inhumane manner causing intense pain and suffering to the dogs. There have been instances of operated dogs moving in the streets with abdomen omentum, oesophagus and eartootched female dogs with suckling puppies. These instances have put the AWCAR Programme in poor light. It is distressing to note that the AWBI guidelines outlined in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on ABCAR Programme are not being followed in letter and spirit. It is incumbent for all AWOs engaged in ABCAR Programme to follow the guidelines contained in the SOP for carrying out Spay/Neuter Surgery.

To protect the street dogs of our country from torture, pain and suffering, I request all Animal Welfare Organizations and Municipal Corporations engaged in carrying out ABCAR Programmes to be more responsible and committed and to ensure that the points listed below are scrupulously followed:

1. Conduct a proper dog census in the proposed area/ward that has been assigned to you. A WoVet/MC should issue clear instructions in this connection before starting the programme so as to systematically plan the programme strategy as well as the outcome.
2. CNVR – (same day release) is not acceptable as the concept has not been approved by the Govt. of India as yet. AWBI will initiate action against NGOs/Civic bodies who are found engaged in CNVR-same day release programme.
3. Stray Dogs for ABCAR Programme are being provided access to AWCAR Programme in an inhumane manner in full public view causing intense pain and suffering to the dogs which shows the programme in poor light. Dogs should be caught using “butterfly net method” which is humane. Civic bodies can avail of the facility by AWBI training programme for Dog Catchers.
4. To avoid post-operative complications and to ensure that minimum trauma is caused during Spay/Neuter Surgery, NGOs/ Organizations implementing ABCAR Programme must engage only experienced Veterinarians and Paravets and follow the 'Guidelines of the Standard Operating Procedures for Sterilization of Stray Dogs' issued by AWBI. Provided this is done, the AWBI will be happy to extend all possible assistance.

I hope NGOs/Civic bodies will make full use of the excellent training opportunity arranged by AWBI so that the Spay/Neuter Programme is successfully conducted in a humane, scientific and sustainable manner and dogs are not subjected to unnecessary pain and suffering.

With best wishes,

Sd/-

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

Vet Beyond Borders (VBB) is supported by teams of Veterinary Surgeons and senior faculty from internationally reputed Veterinary Colleges around the world who are found engaged in CNVR-same day release programme. The AWCAR Programme must engage only experienced Veterinarians and Paravets and follow the guidelines contained in the SOP for carrying out Spay/Neuter Surgery.

From rights to left: Dr. Catherine Scharer, VBB Founder and currently, VBB’s NGO Liaison Officer, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. R. M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon’ble Chairman, AWBI, Shri Arvind Kumar, Hon’ble Minister (MoA), MP. M. Jayagopal Purav, EC Member, AWBI, Dr. Helen Byrnes, Executive Officer, Helen Byrnes Project, VBB; Dr. John Darnell, Executive Officer, VBB and Dr. Sonal Chavan, Project Manager. Project VetTrain India

About the VBB-AWBI VetTrain India Project

Project VetTrain was launched in India by Vets Beyond Borders in 2009 with two main objectives:

1. To refine and develop the clinical skills of Indian veterinary graduates and ancillary personnel

2. To improve and standardize the quality of veterinary services provided by animal welfare groups in India.

The Pilot phase of VetTrain’s Training Programmes was conducted at the National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW), Ballabhgarh, Haryana and was a collaborative initiative involving VBB, the AWBI & Animal Welfare Division of the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India. During six successful training sessions from Feb-July 2009, a total of 178 Vets, Paravets and animal handlers received training from VBB faculty. Since then, this excellent Training Programme supported by AWBI has been conducted regularly and hundreds of Veterinarians working in AWOs and Municipal Corporations have had the opportunity to refine their skills and competence in ABCAR surgery to international standards of excellence.

BCCC Issues Advisory For Animal Cruelty Free TV Broadcasting

New Delhi: The Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) has issued an Advisory dated 19th July, 2012 that prohibits TV channels from telecasting content that depicts the harming and exploitation of animals. The Council is headed by former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Shri A.P. Shah. Referring to the Advisory, Gen Kharb said, “Since it is the welfare of animals, we welcome this Advisory and hope that many other agencies will come forward and show compassion to help animals institutionally”. Notable among Animal Welfare groups that have been actively campaigning on this issue are FIAPO and PFA.

Referring to some of the objectionable TV content telecast by some channels, the BCCC Advisory states, “Many of the general interest entertainment channels, in particular those airing reality shows, are exhibiting content that is extremely harmful to animals. Not only are animals hurt and killed before, during and post filming, in many cases animals, especially reptilian and wild mammalian, are depicted as cruel and fearful, when in fact they are placed in unnatural environments, and their natural behavior is repressed. Wrong impressions are thus created and unfortunate myths spread.”

Continued on pg 2...
Punjab to Sign MOU with AWBI For ABC Surgery

Amritsar: In a meeting with Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. R. M. Kharb, AVSM, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Parkash Singh Badal announced that the State Government would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with AWBI for ABC Surgery in the state. Regular Training Programs for veterinarians, paravets and municipal staff would be conducted to upgrade their skills for the application of humane ABC Surgery and better dog welfare.

Bhutan Bans Battery Cages

Thimphu: On August 2nd, 2012, during the launch of the second phase of the National Dog Population Management and Rabies Control Project, a joint project between Government of Bhutan and HSI, Minister of Agriculture & Forests (MoAF), Hon’ble Lyonpo (Dr.) Pema Gyamtsho, officially declared Bhutan as a country that would practice Battery Cage Free Poultry Feeding.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tashi Donji, Chief Livestock Officer, said, “it is important to maintain the bird’s natural habitat and it is not right to treat birds like they are some kind of egg producing machine, cramming them in a small space. He added that free range birds have no space to move freely, they are more prone to diseases and metabolic dysfunction.” The event was attended by Secretaries from MoAF and Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Mayor, Mr. Tshum lipsomdang, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, Chairman, AWBI, Mr. Rahul Seghal, Director, HSI, Dr. Rajesh Kumar Pandey, Royal Government of Bhutan-HSI Project Coordinator and senior officials from MoAF and other Non-Governmental Organisations.

Govt of India Bans Use of Live Animals in Education

New Delhi: The Ministry of Environment & Forests has banned the use of live animals in education. The Ministry in a written response to a resolution made by TMC’s Shri S. Nidhi called “Experiential Learning with Live Animals: India’s take on the Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP13)” to the UN’s Conference on Biodiversity on December 9, 2012. The resolution had been passed by 130 countries present there.

The Ministry has stated that it had received a petition from Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) which had informed the Ministry that there was an urgent need to ban the use of live animals in education. The Ministry has welcomed this move and assured that it would take necessary action in this regard.

AWBI Calls For Halt to Surat’s ABC Surgery

Surat: The Board has called for a temporary halt to the ABC Program in Surat after reports that dogs in Uda were bleeding and dying due to opening up of the stitches after faulty ABC Surgery. In a letter to Surat Municipal Corporation Commissioner, Manoj Das, Assistant Secretary, Shri S Vinod Kumar called for an immediate suspension in ABC Surgery, being carried out by Surat Municipal Corporation.

Sharp Drop In Deaths Due to Rabies

New Delhi: While reporting about deaths due to different diseases in the Parliament on April 29, 2012, Shri Gulam Nabi Azad, Hon’ble Minister of Health noted that just 233 deaths due to rabies were reported in 2011. The revised data on rabies deaths was based on observations made by the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases – ProMED, an organization set up in 1994 with a peer review mail network of over 40 000 public health professionals in 185 countries.

For AWBI Chairman, Gen. Kharb who has pledged to make India rabies-free, this news refirms his views, that the actual number of deaths due to rabies in the country is much lower than the official estimates made by WHO and other health organizations. Until this new data was obtained, India’s annual death rate due to rabies had been erroneously estimated at figures varying from 20 000 – 35 000 deaths each year, accounting for 36%-63% of all global deaths due to rabies. Says Dr Chinny Krishna, Vice Chairman, AWBI and veterinary surgeon who was District Veterinary Officer of West Bengal during his tenure, “I firmly believe that the actual number of deaths due to rabies in India yearly”. According to Dr Chinny Krishna, the previously estimated figure of 35 000 cases yearly is due to a combination of inadequate case tracking, faulty diagnostic work, and official projections based on obsolete and erroneous assumptions about how rabies spreads.

Caution! All Vets & AWOs Engaged in ABC/AR Programs

In case any Animal Welfare Organization in India that has been granted recognition from the Board is also getting grants from AWBI, under the ABC Grants sanctioned under Central Sector Scheme, does not follow the Guidelines drawn in the Animal Welfare Board of India’s SOP ABC Manual in letter and in spirit, then the Animal Welfare Organization of India that will act strictly against the Animal Welfare Organization by derecognizing the Animal Welfare Organization and immediately stopping all financial assistance to the said Animal Welfare Organization and further, the name of the erring Animal Welfare Organization will be blacklisted by AWBI and displayed on the Animal Welfare Board of India’s website.

Strict action will be initiated by the Animal Welfare Board of India against Veterinarians involved in the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary College, Agartala, Hon’ble Chairman spoke about AWBI’s role in preventing cruelty to animals, and the key animal welfare issues of concern in India. The event was attended by over 200 Veterinarians. Hon’ble Chairman also mentioned that during his visit to Gujrat, a Seminar on Management of Gaushalas had been organized at Anand and, during his visit to Bhubaneswar, he noted that plans are on to expand the ABCAR Programme.
The Plastic Cow Project
Where, When and How Did the Plastic Cow Project Begin?

Puttaparthi: Explaining how this Project came into being, Ms Clementien Pauws, President, Karuna Society for Animals and Nature, says, “In December 2010, Karuna Society for Animals and Nature at Puttaparthi received 36 stray cattle from Anantapur town for permanent custody. Soon after arrival one of the cows died. The post mortem conducted by our veterinary surgeon revealed that the animal’s rumen was full of plastic. After examination of all the animals, he advised us to start surgeries to remove plastics from their rumens and save their lives. We at Karuna, having realized that cows on Indian roads that forage from garbage bins are full of plastic, sent an appeal on the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisation (FIAPO) network. Philip Wollen responded immediately and he told us to continue the rumenotomies with the assurance that the Kindness Trust would fund 100 surgeries as a pilot project. Till date, 56 surgeries have been done. So, that was how the Plastic Cow Project was started. Pradeep Nath from VSPCA has also organized for the surgeries and he has over 1000 rescued cattle. The education and awareness part of the Project has been initiated in Jaipur and New Delhi. Hopefully, many more such initiatives in other cities of the country will be launched”.

Better Welfare for Stray Cows in Punjab
With New Law & Rehab Support

Joga (Mansa): Punjab will have better cattle welfare soon, if Chief Minister, Shri Parkash Singh Badal’s orders are executed. Instead of a Cow Welfare board, the state will have a proper Cow Welfare Commission empowered with authority to punish individuals engaged in cow slaughter or causing any harm to cows in the state. Besides, the Commission would also help in rehabilitating stray cows. Under the new Punjab State Government Law, any individual engaged in causing injury to cows, can face up to 10 years of imprisonment. Shri Badal has also ensured that long term follow-up and care for stray cows will be provided by issuing directions that Municipal Corporations sign MOUs with local Galanwals for protection and maintenance of stray cows. The announcement was made by Shri Badal on June 10th, 2012 after his visit to Joga where the dead bodies of slaughtered cows were seen.

Mumbai’s Sick Horses to Be Spared the Carriage Drive

Mumbai: In a petition filed by Animals and Birds Charitable Trust and the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chief Justice Mohit Shah and Justice Nitin Jamdar at the Mumbai High Court have issued an order prohibiting Mumbai’s horse carriage owners and drivers from using horses to pull carriages, without a fitness certificate issued by a registered Veterinarian. Of the 371 horses examined by the BMC, 196 were found to be in poor health.

Flex Your Creative Neurons!
Send In Your Best Idea, Save Animals, Pitch & Win A Prize

New Delhi: The Federation of Indian Best Protection Organisations (FIAPO) is inviting applications for the most unique idea on an animal welfare project. What would you do if you had a million rupees to do Animal Welfare work? Think about it. Who knows, your idea may well be the breakthrough one? The competition, known as Dragon’s Den will be conducted during the India for Animals Awareness Camp scheduled for August 24th to 28th, 2012. The winners will be awarded with a substantial prize money, and may also be invited to attend the World Animal Protection Congress in London in January, 2013.

How You Can Help
Here’s a Six Step Action Plan to Start the Plastic Cow Project in Your City

Step 1: Identify the place and cow owners and count the number of cows affected. Talk to the cow owners and find out what their problems are. Why they are leaving the cows on the streets. Make sure you have photographs of the cows eating garbage from the areas surveyed.
Step 2: Read the Plastic Cow Film. Create a presentation and poster. Print copies of the poster and distribute it in your community.
Step 3: Network with other AWOs, NGOs and like minded people in the community and persuade them to join you in the campaign to make your neighbourhood a zero-waste zone. Make sure that you involve key opinion leaders in your community, who can mobilize support in large numbers.
Step 4: Give talks and screen the Plastic Cow film to members of your community and run a signature campaign. Contact the Municipal Commissioner of your city and persuade him or her to ban the use of plastic bags. Also ask them to pass the bylaw.
Step 5: Get sponsorship and organize sensitization programs for the small dairy farmers as well as try to help them by arranging for supply of fodder.
Step 6: After consultation with senior and experienced Veterinary Surgeons and, if facilities are available for conducting large animal surgery, you can explore the possibility of organizing a surgery camp for the cows to remove the plastic from the cows’ rumen after proper tests. Invite dignitaries, media and the community. Show them the plastic that has been obtained from the cows. For those cows that have no owners, try to find out people in the community who will adopt the cows.

Founding Members of the Plastic Cow Project include:
- Mr. Pradeep Nath - President, VSPCA, Vishakhapatnam. www.vspca.org
- Mr Philip Wollen - Founder, Kindness Trust, Australia.
www.kindnesstrust.org
- Ms Rukmini Sekhar - writer and animal activist. ruki.sekhar@gmail.com

AWBI’s Advisory Brings In Reforms for Bull Castrations

New Delhi: Maj. Gen.(Retd) R. M. Khurth,AVSM, Chairman, Animal Welfare Board of India has issued an advisory to the Veterinary Council of India on April 4th, 2012 mandating that all bulls in the country be castrated humanely. The Board has made it mandatory that bull castrations done by State Animal Husbandry Departments be carried out only by registered Veterinary Surgeons with proper use of anesthetics and pain-killers.

The Advisory states, “It has been brought to the notice of AWBI that in many veterinary polyclinics, hospitals and dispensaries in India, the procedure in large animals, specially male calves is performed by casting the animal on the ground and then using a Burdizzo castrator to crush the spermatic cord. This crude method of restraint and castration is often carried out without the use of sedatives, analgesics or anesthetics and causes the animal to experience extreme pain, fear and stress, which amounts to cruelty to animals as per the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and is therefore a punishable offence.

Statistics indicate that castration of Bull calves using the Burdizzo castration is one of the most commonly practised animal-husbandry procedures in India. Animals exhibit acute pain responses both during and after castration, including struggling, kicking with hind legs, tail swishing, foot stamping, head turning, restlessness, reduced activity, increased recumbency, abnormal standing posture and reduced grazing. The tests and scrotum are richly supplied with nerves, and any damage to them causes immediate and prolonged pain. Findings suggest that pain persists for several weeks following castration. Castration in the cow commonly performed is, in fact, considered to be one of the most stressful experiences. Blood cortisol concentrations have been studied as indicators of physiologic stress in animals, and these concentrations are found to increase following the current procedure of castration.

When used correctly, analgesics, sedatives and anesthetics reduce or even eliminate fear and pain during and after the procedure. If used properly, the chosen agents should include short-acting local anesthetics that will have an effect for approximately 45 to 90 minutes or longer-acting pain-relief drugs that will last for several hours. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs can also aid in pain relief. Since castration causes not only severe pain but also highly elevated levels of fear, distress and anxiety, a combination of analgesics and anesthetics is recommended for use from castration from an animal welfare point of view.”

Samabhava Saves 27 Year Old ‘Biscuit’
With Special Book Exhibition

Bengaluru: In an interesting book exhibition organized at the Alliance Française de Bangalore on 21st-23rd July, 2012, the 27 year old ‘Biscuit’ who was taken care of by Samabhava at the Kcpa Animal Welfare Shelter in Bengaluru.Samabhava is the only AWO in the city exclusively dedicated for the welfare of working equines. The organization regularly carries out health camps for working equines. To know more, check out www.samabhava.org.
नौकर की उपयोगिता बढ़ाने हेतु, बिजली संयंत्र-बैल बालित जनरेटर-कानपुर गौशाला सोसाइटी द्वारा मूल्यवान का उपयोग कर उसके व्यापारी बनने के उद्देश्य से बैलबालित जनरेटर का निर्माण किया जा रहा है।

बीस नंबर, बैंडे, गोवर फिचर में व्यापक विकास का पता लगाता है।
विभिन्न स्थानों का बुनने का लक्षण आज आर्टी एन एक्स ब्लॉकीन्ग कार्यक्रम के आयोजन में है। इसी प्रकार हमें अभी तक के व्यक्ति में बिजली की कामना में उत्पन्नता के साथ दूर होने के लिए दूसरे हैं।

शीर्ष पुरुषोत्तम तोषनीवाल महासिद्धिकांक कानपुर गौशाला सोसाइटी 55/112, जनरल गंज, कानपुर-204001

श्री पुरुषोत्तमालालाल तोषनीवाल
महासिद्धिकांक
कानपुर गौशाला सोसाइटी

55/112, जनरल गंज, कानपुर-204001

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