Message from Chairman

Dear readers,

On behalf of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) I would like to offer my apology for the inordinate delay in bringing out our regular monthly news letter. Several regular readers of our monthly news letter have written to me to revive the AWBI publications as they play an important role in contributing to our “Humane Education” programme besides keeping them informed about important developments in safeguarding the welfare of our animal friends.

The prime responsibility of bringing out AWBI publications is that of the editor of the Board whose incompetence has been the main reason for our inability to bring out our timely publications including the newsletter. I would like to place on record my appreciation for our Board Member Mr. N.G. Jayasimha who came forward to provide the services of Ms. Kavya Chimalgi as our Honorary Editor to revive our much needed publications.

I do hope from now onwards we shall be able to provide you our monthly News Letter on regular basis.

With best wishes and regards,

MAJ. GEN.(Dr.) R.M. KHARB,
AVSM(RETD.)
Chairman AWBI

First meeting of the Executive Committee of Pashu Bhalai Board, Punjab

The first meeting of State Animal Welfare Board (Pashu Bhalai Board, Punjab) was held under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Minister for Animal Husbandry (AH), Government of Punjab, S. Gulzar Singh Ranike, on 3rd June, 2015 in his office at Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.

Also present were the Financial Commissioner, Director (Member Secretary), apart from other members of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Punjab. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) was represented by the undersigned, Dr. Sandeep K Jain (Member).

Regarding the functioning of SPCAs the undersigned, (Dr. Sandeep K Jain) suggested that police officials may be involved in district-level committees of SPCAs, which the Hon. Minister agreed to. It was also suggested that all SPCAs in the state must be governed by uniform bye-laws (Memorandum of Association) and pattern. It was also suggested that SPCAs must be registered and these may apply to AWBI for recognition.

It was also discussed that the state government may initiate registration of pet and breeding dogs to check uncontrolled breeding of dogs. Additionally, it was suggested that measures to check the stray dog population may be adopted and that the concerned departments i.e. Local Government and Rural Development & Panchayats, may coordinate to ensure its success. The issue regarding some anomalies in the formation of State Animal Welfare Board was also brought before Financial Commissioner, AH, Punjab and it is hoped that this issue will be resolved soon.

It is worth mentioning that the state has chalked out a plan to construct Gaushalas in all districts of the state and, 25 acres of land is being allotted for this purpose.

It was also discussed and agreed that Department Animal Husbandry will write to the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, which organizes cattle fairs to implement the laws relating to transport of animals/cattle. Issues of slaughter houses, humane education and awareness were also taken up in the meeting.

The Hon. Minister advised that more interaction may be done to streamline animal welfare work and checking cruelty to animals.

Dr. Sandeep K Jain

Management of Goshala- Guidelines books, Printed by State Animal Welfare Board AP/ Telangana, Released by Sri Pocharam Srinivasa Reddy , Hon’ble Minister for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry Govt of Telangana on 30.05.2015 in the presence of Sri S.P Singh IAS, Principal secretary to Govt,AH D6 & F Govt of Telangana, Dr D Venkateswarlu Director AH, Telangana, Sri Swamy Swamy Bhagvan Das Member AWBI, Shri Ritish Jagirdar, Shri Jasmath Patel and Shri Jasraj Sri Srimal, Vikaram Chandak Members of State AWB, Telangana
Bombay HC bans horse-drawn carriages calling them illegal

Mumbai: Observing that the horse-drawn carriages plying in the city were "illegal and violative of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act", the Bombay High Court on Monday directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to completely ban them after a year.

A division bench of Justices AS Oka and AK Menon was hearing a public interest litigation filed by city-based NGO 'Animals and Birds Charitable Trust' alleging cruelty to horses by using them for joyrides.

The petitioners, including NGOs — People for Animals and People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), sought a direction to ban plying of Victoria horse carriages.

The high court directed all authorities to ensure that use of horse-drawn carriages in Mumbai shall be completely stopped after a year.

"We hold that the use of horse-driven carriages in Mumbai for joyrides is completely illegal. The activity of using horse-driven carriages only for joyrides solely for human pleasure is an avoidable activity. Horse-driven carriages only for joyrides is violative of Section 3 and 11 of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act," the bench said.

The court has also directed that all stalls meant for horses in the city be closed down after a year. Taking into account the fact that around 700 families are dependent of this business of Victoria carriages, the court has asked the state government to formulate a scheme for rehabilitation of these families.

Justice Singh's ruling — which came on a plea by People for Animals (PFA) — overturned a trial court order which allowed the release of birds back to Md Mohazzim from whom they were rescued. The alleged bird trader faces criminal prosecution under the Prevention of Cruelty Act.

In its plea, the NGO claimed the trial court released the birds into Mohazzim's custody despite concluding that he wasn't the owner. It submitted photographs to the judge that purportedly show that Mohazzim kept the birds in small cages. The pictures did not make it clear whether their wings and tails were clipped.

Justice Singh expressed anguish that instead of being allowed to fly free, birds were "exported illegally to foreign countries without proper food, water or medical aid".

"Running the trade of birds is in violation of the rights of the birds. They deserve sympathy," the judge noted. He posted the matter for further hearing on May 28.

Source: Times of India
Date: April 8, 2015

Birds have 'fundamental right to fly' they can't be caged: Delhi HC

Birds have a "fundamental right to fly" and cannot be caged, the Delhi high court has said, issuing notice to an alleged bird trader and holding the trade as a "violation of the rights of birds". A notice was also issued to the Delhi Police.

"Birds have fundamental rights, including the right to live with dignity and they cannot be subjected to cruelty by anyone... They deserve sympathy," said Justice Mannmohan Singh.

Justice Singh's ruling — which came on a plea by People for Animals (PFA) — overturned a trial court order which allowed the release of birds back to Md Mohazzim from whom they were rescued. The alleged bird trader faces criminal prosecution under the Prevention of Cruelty Act.

In its plea, the NGO claimed the trial court released the birds into Mohazzim's custody despite concluding that he wasn't the owner. It submitted photographs to the judge that purportedly show that Mohazzim kept the birds in small cages. The pictures did not make it clear whether their wings and tails were clipped.

Justice Singh expressed anguish that instead of being allowed to fly free, birds were "exported illegally to foreign countries without proper food, water or medical aid".

"Running the trade of birds is in violation of the rights of the birds. They deserve sympathy," the judge noted. He posted the matter for further hearing on May 28.

Source: Hindustan Times
Date: May 18, 2015

In sanctioning the proposed cull, the letter said, the Chief Minister was "in fact be acting in the face of, and in violation of the Supreme Court view. We at the Animal Welfare Board of India trust that it is not your intention to do so," the letter said.

Source: The Hindu

Elephants in Palakkad’s temples face cruelty: Animal Welfare Board of India

Marvellous arrangement of colors, people, and decorated elephants make Kerala temple festival very attractive, but the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) reports suggest otherwise. Their report reveals that elephants with injuries were paraded and were forced to stand for hours in hot and humid climate without any protection by the organisers of temple festivals in Kerala, recently.

The organiser has violated the Supreme Court's directions which had stated all the organisers, owners of the elephants and the festival coordination committee to ensure that no elephant was engaged in the performance of any festival activities or meted out with cruelty.

Three separate reports, which dna has the access, mentioned that the elephants with abscesses, wounds, foot ailments, cataract, impaired vision of dermatitis were used during the festivals.

The reports were prepared by the AWBI after it carried out spot inspections in Mudappallur, Kannambara and Arunjomuthy of Palakkad district in May this year.

"If it is established before this court that an elephant has been meted out with cruelty, the organisers, the committee members and any one involved with it shall be impeached in the case and be proceeded for contempt," a Supreme Court bench had said while hearing a PIL filed by an NGO Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Center highlighting the cruelty meted out to these animals.

Source: DNA
Date: July 20, 2015

Cruelty in pet shops: Plea to law panel for rules

NEW DELHI: Animal welfare organizations have written to the chairman of the Law Commission, Justice A P Shah, for recommending promulgation of the pet shop rules.

Drawing his attention to cruel practices that are rampant in pet shops, organisations like the Humane Society International, People for Animals (PFA), Blue Cross and Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPo) have urged Shah to recommend notifying of the draft rules which were framed by the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) in 2010.

De-beaking birds, docking tails of dogs, plucking feathers and de-clawing of kittens are common at pet shops. So are malpractices in breeding. Many animals don't survive the trauma of being transported in small cages without adequate water or food - 40% don't survive the shock of captivity and transportation - unweaned pups are put up for sale and many animals are caught from the wild in complete violation of the Wildlife Protection Act. Exotic birds are bred in massive numbers and kept in tiny cages, PFA has found.

Source: Times of India
Date: July 3, 2015
The programme commenced with the Karuna Prayer rendered melodiously by the students of SJT Surana Jain School. National President, Sri Kailasam Dugar, welcomed the audience, expressing his deep appreciation for their untiring work to inculcate humane values in their students through Karuna Club activities. Chairman, Sri Dulichand Jain introduced the Chief Guest, Sri. M. Meenakshi Sundaram, Secretary, Vivekananda Educational Trust outlining his long years of committed service to education.

Sri Padam Kumar J. Tata, President, KI, Chennai Kendra presented a report (Power Point Presentation) of the various activities conducted by the Kendra and Karuna Clubs. He highlighted the special programmes: Say No to Leather, Ban Meat Export, Ahimsa Rallies, Drawing Competition to promote Vegetarianism, etc.

The motivational talk, ‘Humane Values in Education’ by the Chief Guest was truly inspiring. He said that teachers are “Power Generators” chosen by God for their noble work. The audience sat in rapt attention devouring every word with awe and admiration. He reiterated the importance of our culture which gave us all the humane values essential for life. He said that schools and teachers are the only hope to bring about the required change.

The Guest of Honour, Smt Uma Murthy, delivered a short talk, positive that we, the teacher fraternity will make a difference. She asked the teachers to use every opportunity available to inculcate humane values, not wait for the Value Education period alone.

The Principals and Teachers were honoured with a momento, a silver coin, to show our gratitude and appreciation for their services to the cause of Karuna. The resource persons, who make our training programmes successful, were also honoured.

Smt. Lakshmi Neelakantan, CEO, Karuna International gave a brief introduction to the Kendra activities planned for this academic year. The audience was asked to share their experiences and give suggestions. This interactive session had the teachers speaking with pride about their activities and the effect on their students. Next was a session of Spot Prizes, where in prizes were given to the teachers who truly practiced the Karuna Values that we teach. Sri Suresh Kankaria, Genl. Secretary, KI proposed the Vote of Thanks, thanking the Chief Guest, the host school, members and every person in the audience.

The programme concluded with the National Anthem sung by the students of SJT Surana Jain School. The participants left with renewed dedication to serve the cause of Karuna after a sumptuous lunch.

Karuna International, Chennai Kendra felicitates Principals & Teachers

Press Release

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA, CHENNAI 15.06.2015

On 5.6.2015, the Animal Welfare Board of India received an email complaint regarding a person named Surendar Dagar of Gurgaon posting in facebook about his dog used in a dog fight and forwarded it to the Commissioner of Police, Gurgaon for investigation and punishment for the culprit. It has been brought to the notice of the Board that the culprit, Surendar Dagar has been arrested by the Jhajjar Police after an investigation.

The Board wants to thank all the authorities involved in the investigation which resulted in the arrest of the offender. It is hoped that the investigators could achieve a breakthrough and get the necessary information for smashing the animal fighting ring.

The Animal Welfare Board of India is established under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 for the promotion of animal welfare generally for the purpose of protecting animals from being subjected to unnecessary pain or suffering, in particular.

Section 3 of PCA Act, 1960 has prescribed the Duties of persons having Charge of animals as “It shall be the duty of every person having the care or charge of any animal to take all reasonable measures to ensure the well-being of such animal and to prevent the infliction upon such animal of unnecessary pain or suffering.”

Under Section 11(1)(m)(ii) of the PCA Act, 1960 it is prohibited to incite an animal to fight another animal.

The Supreme Court of India in its judgement dt.7.5.14 in the SLP (C) 11686 of 2007 AWBI Vs A.Nagaraja & Ors has directed that ‘AWBI is also directed to ensure that the provisions of Section 11(1)(m)(ii) scrupulously followed, meaning thereby, that the person-in-charge or care of the animal shall not incite any animal to fight against a human being or another animal.’

AWBI has advised all the State Governments to enforce the PCA Act 1960 and the Rules made thereunder effectively and has also forwarded the landmark Supreme Court judgement dt.7.5.2014 to all State Governments. This direction could be achieved only if the law is enforced effectively. Unless law enforcement authorities crack down hard on such illegal animal fights and prosecute the offenders resulting in conviction and imprisonment, such illegal animal fights which perpetrates cruelty on the animals would continue.

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA
First meeting of the Executive Committee of Pashu Bhalai Board, Punjab
Karuna International, Chennai Kendra felicitates Principals & Teachers
Press release of Animal Welfare Board of India
CMV Rules - 2015

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

PRINTED BOOK
Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India under No. RNI No. TNBIL2003/10675

AWBI NEWSLETTER
(Monthly)
Official Organ of the Animal Welfare Board of India

If undelivered, please return to:
ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA
13/1, Third Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar,
Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 600 041.
Phone : 044-2445 4956, 2445 4905
Fax : 044-2445 4330
E-mail : awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in

CMV Rules 2015