Human-Animal Conflicts
Prevent, Restore and Protect

It is inevitable that India, with 17% of the world's animal population, a fast depleting forest and grassland cover, expanding elephant, snake and monkey population, a fast depleting forest and grassland cover, with a thriving tiger, human-animal conflicts have emerged as crisis points, where immediate action is required. Action that is to be taken on issues of human-animal conflicts would be in two forms, the first one would be direct and immediate, and would involving rounding up in a corner an angry elephant, tiger or dog that has provoked the angry outburst from the humans and working in parallel to douse the flaming wrath of an angry mob.

The second action would be long-term and one that would need to explore the design of habitats and assess its feasibility in adequately protecting the welfare needs of both humans and animals. Whether it is to stem the tide of angry mobs threatening to kill a pack of hungry and aggressive street dogs, starving tigers or the angry mob. It is often the experience of village folk who are bitten by street dogs are often homeless people living on the streets or in pathetic dwellings that are called slums.

Looking at the situation more closely, we can see that situations like dog-human conflicts have emerged because of lack of proper systems in place to provide adequately for the welfare needs of the human beings as well as the animals. How are animal welfare activists to resolve such issues? Will a voice imploiring for peace and compassion be heard when people are angry, if their farms have been invaded by an angry group of elephants or their children bitten by angry dogs. Fury and rage, whether it is animal or human, cannot be easily quelled with pacifying talks. What both the species involved, animal and human are asking for, is sheltering space and access to resources. If we look at human-animal conflicts with understanding, we see that these situations have emerged because of the lack of proper systems in place to provide adequately for the welfare needs of the human beings as well as the animals.

National Centre For Disease Control Supports AWBI For ABC & Mass Rabies Vaccinations

Chennai: The 4th Annual General Meeting of the Animal Welfare Board of India was held on November 15th, 2013 at the Board's office in Chennai and was attended by Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Dr. R.M. Kharb, AVSM, Chairman, AWBI, Dr. S. Chinny Krishna, Vice Chairman, AWBI and Members of the Board, Shri Rajiv Gupta, IAS (Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports), Shri Gulzarilal Soni, Shri Doulat Jain, Dr. Arun Varma, Ms. Norma Alvares, Ms. Anjali Sharma, Dr. Sunil Kumar, Dy. Director In-charge, Central Research Institute, Noida, Dr. Ajay Kumar Yadav, Ministry of Agriculture, Rep. of Animal Husbandry Commission, Brig. S.S. Chohan, VSM (Retd), Rep. of Municipal Corporation, Gurgaon, Shri Surjit Singh, Joint Secretary (AW), Ministry of Environment & Forests, Special Invitee, Ms. Geethanjali, IFS, Deputy Secretary (AW), Ministry of Environment & Forests and Smt. S. Uma Rani, Secretary, AWBI.

Hon’ble Chairman informed Members of the Board about his sustained dialogue with National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health regarding implementation of Rabies Control Project under “One Health” programme for human and animals components. He said, “both the human and animal components are interconnected for Rabies Control and they must be implemented together. The Animal Husbandry Department says that dogs are not included in the list of livestock animals and hence cannot be addressed by them. Since the public health is concerned with the Human rabies control, this problem can be addressed by the Ministry of Health”. Hon’ble Chairman informed the Board Members that in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Singapore, the responsibility of Rabies Control in street dogs through Mass Vaccination and Sterilization is with the Public Health Department. Briefing members about the success of the first phase of Project Mission Rabies, Hon’ble Chairman informed members of the Board that the National Centre for Disease Control has approved a total budget of Rs.50.00 crores for a pilot Rabies Control project of which Rs.20.00 crores will be used for the human programme and Rs.30.00 crores will be for ABC and mass vaccination of street dogs.

The Board unanimously approved the Annual Report and adoption of the Audit Report and Annual Accounts of the Animal Welfare Board of India for the year 2012-13 as well as confirmation of the Minutes of the 39th General Meeting held on 23rd August, 2013.

Other notable decisions taken include the following:

- The Board has requested the Ministry to relax the conditions of Shelter House and Ambulance schemes by reducing the period of tenure from 30 years to 10 years under Shelter House scheme so that a large number of Gaushalas who are in possession of Government land can avail the Shelter House Grant. The Joint Secretary (AW) assured that he will look into the proposal submitted by the Board.

- In order to provide more assistance to the needy organizations who have expanded their activities during the past years after getting grant-in-aid under Shelter House and Ambulance schemes, the Board has decided to reduce the period from 10 years to 5 years and 5 years to 2 years to avail grants under Shelter House and Ambulance schemes respectively. In view of approval of this decision, the Board can consider proposals and utilize the budget allocation under these schemes in this financial year.

- The Board discussed about the use of Ambulances and decided that Tractor and Trolley can be used by AWOs for primarily transporting animals and also for transporting fodder, cow dung etc. which are all for the welfare of animals. The Municipalities/Civic Bodies working for stray animals in coordination with animal welfare organizations can also avail grant-in-aid under Shelter House and Ambulance Schemes.

- The Board has decided that the applications for Regular Grant will not be processed for consideration of grant unless the utilization certificate for earlier grant is furnished by the AWOs and in future no conditional grant will be issued.

- It was decided by the Board that PeTA will be approached for the utilization certificate for earlier grant is furnished by the AWOs and in future no conditional sanction will be issued.

- The draft SOP on ABC Laparoscopy for sterilization of street dogs submitted by Vikas C. Mehrotra, Head-Veterinary, Kari Storz Endoscopy India Pvt.Ltd., New Delhi has been approved.

- Consideration of SOP on ABC by CNVR Method and Same Day Release method has not been approved by the Board.

- The Board has approved release of a grant of Rs.3.20 lakhs to CPREEC for conducting a Seminar on Animal Welfare in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- The Golden Jubilee Souvenir prepared by the Board has been sent to the Hon’ble Minister of Environment & Forests for approval for printing and publishing in the same in New Delhi. There has been an undue delay in getting the approval of Hon’ble Minister. The Joint Secretary (AW) assured to follow up the matter.

- The Minutes of the Grants Sub-Committee Meetings held on 30.10.2013 and 14.11.2013 were approved and ratified.

- The Annual General Meeting considered the Revised Estimates 2013-14 and Budget Estimates 2014-15 submitted to the Ministry and ratified the same. The AGM decided that a letter to be sent to the Ministry for re-appointment of Rs.1.00 crore from Shelter House Scheme to Plan Scheme immediately.

- Consideration of matter relating to Revised Draft of the Animal Welfare Bill 2012. The AGM decided that this matter be discussed by the Legal Experts in the Legal Committee with the Joint Secretary, MoEF.

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Animal Welfare Camp in Bamanwadi Tirthsthan

Sirohi: In the tribal belt of district Sirohi—Tehsil Pindwara, a large number of livestock like sheep goat and cattle and buffaloes, camels are reared. There is also a famous pilgrimage site. The Jain community located in Bamanwadi village called Bamanwadi Tirthsthan. A few animal lovers from the Jain community wanted to organize animal health camp in memory of their beloved Guruji - respected Late Poojya Shri Kamal Vijay Maharaj.

It was felt that November 5th 2013 being the death anniversary of Poojya Guru Maharaj would be the best occasion for conducting an animal welfare camp. Ms. Romi Bhanalsi, Founder of Ashapuri Charitable Trust coordinated this camp. A two day animal health and vaccination camp was organized at the premises of Bamanwadi temple on November 5th and 6th, 2013. The work was supported by volunteers from PFA Sirohi along with personnel from the Animal Husbandry Department of Sirohi. Mr. Amit Singh Deol started the campaign for this camp by creating awareness in all the villages near this holy place. Mr. Mahveer Jain along with Shri Veer Desi Bhavesh Lal Ji and Mr. K. C. Kundan Group, Mumbai provided financial support for this camp.

In this camp a total of 6316 animals benefited, with 729 animals getting general treatment while surgery was performed on 12 animals, 20 animals were treated to combat infertility, 228 animals received vaccinations, and 5555 sheep and goats were given deworming medication.
Jaipur Celebrates Compassionate Living Festival

Jaipur: The Jaipur Federation of Animal Protection Organisations (JFAPO) organized a Compassionate Living Festival on November 30, 2013 at Shilp gram in Jawahar Kala Kendra, Jaipur. The event was organized by 12 animal welfare organizations who are part of JFAPO. The event drew support from animal welfare activists and groups in Delhi, Mumbai and Goa. Over three hundred people attended the festival. The venue décor was taken care of by Arch Academy of Design, Jaipur. The first fifty visitors at the event received prizes sponsored by Hotel Clarks Amer and Senso Vegetarian Shoes. The event received wide coverage in the electronic media online as well as TV channels like Zee, Etv Rajasthan, Siti network and Firstindia news.

Information stalls were set up by Help Suffering Lives Society, Tourism and Wildlife Society of India, Initiative to Conserve Nature & Animals (ICAN), Greenpeace India, Angel Eyes, Jaipur, Help in Suffering, Raksha, RAW, Pragya Chaitanya Foundation Trust, JFAPO and FIAPRO. Besides Senso Vegetarian Shoes, product stalls with a range of eco-friendly products were set up by Green N Good, Rangini, New Delhi, The Happy Store and Arch Academy of Design. Besides art and craft, vegan food stalls were a special attraction of the festival.

Source: www.fiapo.org

Slaughterhouses Close For a Day in Rajkot

Rajkot: A recent event at Rajkot will be marked with golden letters in the annals of the history of activities for animal welfare. This event exemplified what could be done by and for animal welfare activists. Besides, this event shall be remembered with pride and joy by all animal welfare activists. This was an event where slaughter houses of Rajkot remained voluntarily closed to pay befitting tribute and homage to an outstanding animal welfare activist the late Shri Jayantibhai L. Shah on his first death anniversary.

Shri Jayantibhai Shah worked relentlessly and incessantly for nearly six decades to save sick and abandoned animals of the bovine community from slaughter houses and to shelter and maintain large number of animals at a local animal welfare institute, the Rajkot Mahajans Panjarapole established in 1896. Not only in India but possibly for the very first time in the world, slaughter houses remained voluntarily closed to pay homage to an animal welfare activist, who was very much against the interest and activities of the butchers and their slaughter houses. That is why, the event under reference is unique, exemplary and historical in every respect.

It is pertinent to note that motivation from an outstanding animal welfare activist like Shri. Rajendra R. Shah, Co-opt Member of AWBL (Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India), also Hony. Secretary of Rajkot Mahajans Panjarapole and very active and energetic propagator of “jeev daya” (compassion towards all living beings) was instrumental for the event under reference. The slaughter houses were locked for the day at his hands (please refer to the adjacent photo on the top left hand corner). A meeting was organized after the closure of slaughter houses which was well attended by the office bearers of Butcher’s Association, family members of butchers and a large numbers of local social workers, political leaders and animal welfare activists.

Reliance Retail Outlets Go Veg

Mumbai: Shri Mukesh Ambani, a strict vegetarian and animal lover has finally taken that long awaited decision to ban all non-vegetarian products from his Reliance Retail chain. All 100 Reliance Delight stores that sell a range of fresh and frozen meats and seafood, including the Godrej brand of “Real” frozen chicken will be shut down. It appears that a section of shareholders of the Reliance Industries have been campaigning for the popular Reliance outlets to go vegetarian. Earlier in October, Reliance had planned to launch a fast food chain called Chicken Came First, a Kentucky Fried Chicken-clone, through its joint venture with the 2 Sisters Food Group of Birmingham. Fortunately, for the birds and the animals, the idea has been dropped.

Source: www.fiapo.org and http://www.mudraa.com

“A man can live and be healthy without killing animals for food; therefore, if he eats meat, he participates in taking animal life merely for the sake of his appetite. And to act so is immoral.” – Leo Tolstoy.

“It is my view that the vegetarian manner of living, by its purely physical effect on the human temperament, would most beneficially influence the lot of mankind.” – Albert Einstein.
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To

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