



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.

AWBI Newsletter

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Zero-Rabies City Shows the Way to Small Towns

From the Secretary's Desk

Rabies is primarily a contagious disease which can be easily transmitted to the children as they are often unaware of the fact that dogs infected by rabies, transmits the virus through licking and scratching them. The World Health Organisation has reported that more than 20,000 deaths are registered in India due to rabies.

ABC is a programme to sterilize and vaccinate neighbourhood dogs against rabies. Neighbourhood dogs were captured humanely, sterilized surgically, vaccinated against rabies and, when they had recovered, released where they had been caught.

Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is the nodal agency of the Govt. of India for implementing the Animal Birth Control (ABC) / Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) programme all over the country through the registered animal welfare organizations. During the last three years, the AWBI has sterilized more than 2.5 lakhs stray dogs in the country. However, it is happy to note that few municipal corporations and civic bodies have come forward to support and implement the ABC/AR programme on participatory basis in their respective areas. The AWBI has brought out a manual on "Standard Operating Procedures for Sterilisation of Stray Dogs under the Animal Birth Control Programme", which needs to be strictly implemented by all AWO's implementing ABC.

To achieve a better result for controlling stray dog population and to reduce the incidence of rabies, mass awareness campaigns are necessary to create and sensitise about the programme which should be equally supported by the local bodies.

The burden of rabies across the world can be decreased by promoting and implementing Animal Birth Control Programme, prevention and education programs and mass vaccination programmes.

- D. Rajasekar, IFS

Chennai: See what dogged determination can do. The incidence of the dreaded rabies disease, which has plagued India for years, has been virtually eradicated from the city. According to the department of health, Chennai Corporation, no cases of rabies were reported in the last year.

"There has been no case of rabies in the last one year, and in the last three

prevent rabies. The success of the programme hinges upon the sterilisation of 70% of the dog population in a given area within one reproductive cycle, which is normally six months. According to the corporation, over 80% of the dogs in Chennai have been sterilised. The current dog to human ratio is pegged at 1:40.

The overwhelming success of the programme in the city has led to its implementation in other parts of the state. Until now the programme was restricted to five corporations and

50 municipalities but the state level co-ordination committee, the first to be set up in the country early this June, decided to extend it to 561 smaller towns in Tamil Nadu.

"When was the last time you saw a dozen puppies suckling its mother on a Chennai Street? ABC is a humane approach to avoid killing of stray dogs in urban environs", said D. Rajasekar, Secretary, Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

Animal welfare organisations such as the People for Animals (PfA), the Blue Cross of India (BCI) and the So-



ciety for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have also played a major role in the success of the programme. The ABC programme in India was first conceived by the Blue Cross of India in 1966. In 1964, an estimated 16,000 dogs were killed by the Corporation, said BCI honorary secretary Saraswathi Haksan. The ABC programme was conceived as an alternative to this.

The programme has found mention in the timeline of Environment Milestones released recently by Radford University, Virginia.

The ABC programme, which has been endorsed by the WHO as a viable longterm solution to the stray dog problem, is being implemented in several parts of the country including all the metros. As of 2007, India had an estimated 20,000 deaths due to rabies annually, the highest in the world, according to a survey done by the Rabies in Asia (RIA) Foundation. □

Over 80% of the dogs in Chennai have been sterilised: Corporation

years, complaints of stray dogs have come down drastically", said Corporation Health Officer Dr. B. Kugantham, attributing it to better community care of street dogs. The number of deaths due to rabies had been decreasing steadily since 1996, when the corporation adopted the Animal Birth Control, Anti-Rabies (ABC-AR) programme. There were 120 deaths due to rabies reported in 1996. The number came down to five by mid 2000.

The ABC-AR programme consists of a process of sterilisation to control stray dog population and vaccination to

Follow these steps to save tuskers: HC

Bangalore: Constituting a state advisory board on wildlife, the high court asked the government to implement measures to prevent human-elephant conflict and deaths of tuskers.

A division Bench headed by Chief Justice P D Dinakaran nominated Karnataka State Legal Services Authority and High Court Legal Services Committee member-secretary M R Nayak and retired forester C H Basapanavar to the board. They have been directed to hold periodic meetings to take stock of the situation.

The court directed the state to implement short term measures:

- Filling up vacancies in forest department
- Reasonable compensation for crop loss and injury
- Giving DFC power to take decisions in such cases
- Increasing mobility
- Involving local volunteers in preventing human-elephant conflict

- Providing flying squads, wireless sets, vehicle and arms in 3 months.

Long-Term Measures

- Elephant proof trenches, high voltage electric fences
- Changing crop pattern
- Population management
- Land management

Govt Proposals

- 75 guards, 25 foresters and 6 RFOs in affected places
- Relocate 20 elephants that have strayed into Hassan Kodagu border area
- LPG to 5,000 households at 80% subsidy in areas within 5 km of forests, solar energy to 200 villages.
- Put up barriers across 100 km in five years
- Prevent cultivation sugercane, banana and maize near forests.

Two temple cows rescued

Chennai: Police rescued two cows from a slaughter house near a famous Shiva

temple in Padi. The temple authorities lodged a complaint with the police, as posters informing that the cows donated to the temple are being sent to slaughter houses started appearing in the neighbourhood.

"In Hindu culture and scripture cows are considered sacrosanct, but in our state even the temple cows are not spared", said Shri K P Suresh Kumar, Vice-President of Tiruvallur district Hindu Munnani. "Devotees believe that killing a cow is sacrilegious, but at the Shiva temple, the sale of cows to slaughterhouses has been going unchecked since 2003," he alleged.

When contacted, the temple endowment officer Shri Jayachandran, said for the past few years, a certain group of people have been associated with the temple under the pretext of temple welfare group, who maintained the cattle-shed. Following the incident, the temple authorities seized 13 cows from the shed.

The two rescued animals are doing well. Based on the complaint, a person who sold the cows has been arrested. Investigations are on, the official added.

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Published by Shri D. RAJASEKAR, IFS
Secretary

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Editorial Team

Bones of pulses, cereals keep veggie dogs growling fit

Chennai: Tara Rao is a vegetarian and the proud mama of three dogs. And, like her, her dogs too have gone the green way, "I feed them with cold milk, butter toast and biscuits in the morning. This is followed by ghee and salt rice and vegetables in the afternoon", says Tara. It's not just her pets who are turning vegetarians. Every night around 40 dogs from the neighbourhood turn up at Tara's residence and are treated to veggie delights.

Tara is one in a growing crowd. Man's best friend is turning to a green diet as many dog owners see red when it come to meat. More and more vegetarian dog owners are opting for veggie biscuits, imported veggie treats, and to top it all, vegetarian dog food for their canine mates.

In places like Chennai, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, where a large percentage of the dog owners is vegetarian many are not comfortable serving meat to their pets.

Cashing in on the trend are companies like Pedigree which have introduced 100% vegetarian dog food. "This product is for adult dog of all breeds," says Ajay S. Iyer, regional Sales Manager - South and East, Mars International India, which markets Pedigree. With the country home to about 40 lakh pet dogs - of which Chennai alone boasts one lakh-Mars is confident that its vegetarian offering will find scores of takers. Since the product was launched, we have clocked a 25% growth in this category", says Iyer.

Pet Vet Enterprises, a distributor of pet food in the city, too says there is growing demand for vegetarian dog biscuits and other imported treats. The company sells anywhere between 100-200 kg of vegetarian dog biscuits a month mainly through vets.

"While there is a huge demand for chicken and other meat biscuits vegetarian dog biscuits also sell equally well," says L N Ramesh of Pet Vet Enterprises. "But these are premium products (priced at Rs.300 for 120 grams) and are available only in highend stores", adds Ramesh. Though dogs descended from wolves, domesticated ones can adjust to an omnivorous life (eat both plants and animals) say veterinarians. However, they are not in favour of bringing up dogs on a home cooked vegetarian food.

"Very often, home cooked vegetarian food contains loads of junk carbohydrates, whereas dogs need lot proteins in their diet", said Dr. A P Nambi, a veterinarian based in the city. A dog's diet should consist of balanced proportions of proteins, carbohydrates and fats.

There are also many owners who do not wish to impose their dietary preferences on their dogs. "My labrador retriever is two years old, but I have not given him vegetarian food so far. That's because dogs have a keen sense of smell and it would be tough to change his diet at this stage," says Nishtha Shah.

An early orientation to vegetarian diet holds the key. What could probably work in favour of dogs is that they don't have a shorter small intestine like some of the members of the cat family and neither are they totally dependent on meat-specific proteins. So dish out the greens to your pup.

Founder, PFA Pune, who is a vegetarian turned vegan took stage to make sincere appeal to the masses in choosing vegetarianism and its benefits.

Shri Nilesh Bhanage, Founder of PAWS addressed the closing ceremony of the workshop, honoured the guests with certificates and scented candles as a small token of appreciation.

Shri Pinjarapole Gaushala, Pali, Rajasthan inaugurated Ambulance Service for the benefit of dumb, speechless, sick and injured animals in and around the Pali city. Shri Doulat Jain,



Vice-Chairman, AWBI attended the inaugural function.

Sahayog Organisation, Hyderabad organised an essay writing competition on the eve of World Environment Day. The competition was held in Hindi, English and Telugu Language. Several students participated in the essay writing competition.

In the event of Mrigshira Karti day, the organisation strongly opposed the

Pets

Dos

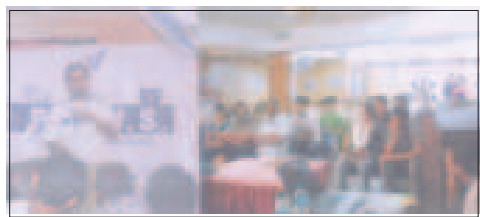
- Double-syllable names such as Trixie and Coffee work best. Call your pets by name repeatedly to make it easy for them to recognise it. This will come in handy if they are lost.
- Find a veterinary doctor who can give you a contact number for emergencies and a vaccination card. The card must be filled in meticulously and immunisations should never be delayed.
- Check if your puppy's collar is too tight. Slip your hand through it. If it isn't possible, loosen it. Check that it's not so loose that the puppy can walk backwards and slip its head out
- Any training must be done through positive reinforcement. Also called reward-based training, the pet is motivated by treats for obeying commands such as 'sit' and 'come'.
- Ensure that fresh, clean water is available throughout the day.
- Designate fixed feeding and sleeping areas to provide them with a sense of security. Their very own stuffed animals will be a bonus.
- Enlist friends and family to pet-sit for you when you're out of town, or contact a commercial kennel for temporary care provided they come with good references from friends.

Don'ts

- Don't allow professional trainers to train your dog in your absence. Many subject them to extreme cruelty that scars them for life. Training is best done by family members. Training them to do unnecessary things such as standing on two legs or shaking hands are to be avoided.
- Dogs are highly social animals. When they are kept habitually tied, they turn aggressive and might resort to constant barking in agony. When indoors, allow dogs to move around freely.
- Pets must never be tied or left outside the house as it could result in heatstroke or abuse from passersby. It is particularly unsafe for young pups and kittens that could be pet-napped.
- Don't allow pets to sit inside cars even with the windows down, during the summer. In as little as one minute, temperatures could go up to a point, where it's fatal.
- Avoid chocolate, raisins and spicy foods that are dangerous for dogs.
- Never self-medicate. Paracetamol can kill pets. Many human medicines are lethal for animals. Always call a vet in case of an illness.

AWOs Report

Plant and Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), Thane organised a seminar on 10.5.2009. They unites four Districts and seven NGOs in its workshop. Welfare of Stray Dogs (WSD), People



for Animals, Govardhan Charitable Trust, Terra Anima Trust, Thane SPCA and Hariyali Trust are some of the NGOs came together to enlighten 50 participants across the districts of Pune, Mumbai, Raigad and Thane. Mr. Punam Singhvi opening the show with his presentation on green vegetation and ecosystem. Mrs. Shakuntala Majumdar, President, Thane SPCA conducted a one-to-one session with the participants teaching them numerous ways to handle a case of animal cruelty.

In the second session, Ms. Pooja Mishra of WSD gave lecture on First Aid and medication of stray dogs. Mr. Kedar Bhide, Hony. Sarpamitra from Forest Department who dedicated more than half of his life in the rescue of snakes, answered the questions asked by the participants. Mr. Manoj Oswal,

preparation of Fish Medicine in which lakh of fishes were killed. They helped an organisation which prepares vegetarian medicine for the same diseases.

Rashtriya Gokul Samrakshana

Kendram, Anantapur Dist. (A.P.) conducted Animal Health Programme for two days. Asst. Director of Animal Husbandry, Dharmavaram attended the programme. Several animals were treated .

Government of Kerala

No.14916/AHF2/09/AD

Agriculture (AHF) Department
Thiruvananthapuram
Dated: 9/6/2009

From

The Additional Chief Secretary to Government

To

1. The Director of Animal Husbandry, Thiruvananthapuram
2. SPCAs of all districts, SPCA Dist. Veterinary Centre, Thodupuzha, Idukki
3. The Director of Panchayats, Thiruvananthapuram
4. The Director of Municipal Administration, Thiruvananthapuram

Sir,

Sub: Agri(AH) Department - Illegal and inhumane killing of stray dogs in Kerala - Reg.

It has come to notice of government that stray dogs are killed in a cruel manner in many parts of the State. It is also seen that the dogs are being captured in a most barbaric way and treated in an inhumane manner.

As you may kindly aware that cruelty inflicted on any animals is a punishable offence under Prevention of Cruelty Animals Act 1982, beating any animals or killing of any animal (including of stray dogs) in an unnecessarily cruel manner is a punishable offence. The Government of India has formulated Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules 2001 for controlling the population of the stray dogs and also prescribed the procedures for sterilisation and vaccination to be followed for controlling the population of stray dogs. It is obligatory on the part of local authorities of the state, the SPCA authorities and by Animal Husbandry Department to coordinate and cooperate for successful implementation of ABC (Dogs) Rules, 2001.

I am therefore to request you to take up the matter seriously to stop illegal and inhumane killing of stray dogs and effectively implement the ABC/AR programme immediately.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-

Minimol Abraham
Under Secretary

For Additional Chief Secretary to Government

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Cruelty Cases in the month of June, 2009 and Action Taken by AWBI

Date of Report & Nature of Cruelty	Communication sent to Officials	Action Taken
3.06.09 Brutal killing of stray dogs in Indore, MP Department, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	The District Collector/Collectorate Office, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh The Superintendent of Police, Madhya Pradesh The Deputy Director, Animal Husbandry The Municipal Commissioner, Office of the Municipal Corporation of Indore, M.P.	18.6.09 Improper management of Kennels and cruelty inflicted to dogs by the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Navi Mumbai The Municipal Commissioner, Bombay Municipal Corporation Mumbai – 400 001. Dr. Jairaj G. Thanekar, Executive Health Officer, Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai The Commissioner of Police, Navi Mumbai Lt. Col (Retd.) Dr. J.C. Khanna, Member, AWBI and Hony. Secretary, BSPCA Ms. Aditi Lahiri, Navi Mumbai -400 614
3.6.09 Illegal possession of two Kites in a shop in Sahar Road, Mumbai Shri Bhagwan, Chief Conservator of Forests, Thane	Shri R.B. Sule, I.F.S, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Dept. of Forests, Govt. of Maharashtra	19.6.09 Brutal killing of Stray dogs in Kulasekharapuram Panchayat in the District of Kollam, Kerala The Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala Shri S.M. Vijayanand, Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Department, Govt. of Kerala, Shri M.R. Hariharan Nair, Ombudsman of Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGIs) Govt. of Kerala The District Collector, Collectorate Office, Kerala The Superintendent of Police, Office of the Superintendent of Police, Govt. of Kerala The Municipal Council, Municipal Corp. Office, Kerala
8.6.09 Illegal catching of stray dogs for bait purpose in Bengaluru Karnataka, Bengaluru – 560 001	Sri. C. SivaSankara Reddy, I.F.S, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of A.P. Shri Hitesh Malhotra, I.F.S. Principal CCF (WL) & CWLW, Govt. of A.P., Hyderabad – 500 004. The Director General of Police, Office of the Director General of Police, Govt. of Karnataka, Bengaluru – 560 003. The Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department, Govt. of Karnataka, Bengaluru – 560 001 The Secretary, Municipal Administration / Local Bodies, Govt. of Karnataka, Bengaluru–1	24.6.09 Complaint on Illegal Transportation 26.6.09 Brutal Killing of stray dogs in Navalur Panchayat area Director General of Police, Govt. of Bihar The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry & Vet. Services, Govt. of Tamil Nadu The Director, Municipal Administration, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Chepauk The District Collector, Collectorate Office, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu. The Joint Director, Animal Husbandry Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu Ms. Mahalakshmi Rajaram, Chairman, Navalur Panchayat, Chennai.
8.6.2009 Illegal possession of Fox in "Just Inn" in a Holiday Resort Shri Bhagwan, Chief Conservator of Forests, Thane	Shri R.B. Sule, I.F.S, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Dept. of Forests, Govt. of Maharashtra, Thane	30.6.2009 Cruelty to Elephant at Palani Temple in Palani, Dist: Dindigal, Tamil Nadu The District Collector, Collectorate Office Dist: Dindigul, Tamil Nadu The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowment Board, Office of the Hindu Religious Endowment Board, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600 034. The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chennai – 600 006. The District Forest Officer, Forest Department, Dist: Dindigul Tamil Nadu The Superintendent of Police, Office of the Supdt. of Police, Dist: Dindigul, Tamil Nadu The Executive Officer, Palani Dhandayuthapani Temple, Dist. Dindigul, Tamil Nadu
12.6.09 Illegal Cock fights in Dhaka Colony in Ludhiana	The Deputy Commissioner, Collectorate Office, Punjab The Senior Superintendent of Police, Office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Punjab.	The District Collector, Collectorate Office, Dist: Dindigul, Tamil Nadu The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowment Board, Chennai – 34. The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chennai – 600 006. The District Forest Officer, Forest Dept., Thanjavur, TN The Superintendent of Police, Dist. Thanjavur, TN The Executive Officer, Thyagaraja Temple
12.6.09 Ill-treatment of stray dogs caught under Navghar Municipal Corporation, Vasai	The Commissioner, Navghar Manikpur Municipal Corporation Mumbai, Maharashtra	The District Collector, Collectorate Office, Dist: Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowment Board, Chennai – 34. The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chennai – 600 006. The District Forest Officer, Forest Dept., Thanjavur, TN The Superintendent of Police, Dist. Thanjavur, TN The Executive Officer, Thyagaraja Temple
Malpractices in Elephant Ride in Dubare Elephant Camp	The Principal CCF (WL) & CWLW Govt. of Karnataka	The District Collector, Collectorate Office, Dist: Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowment Board, Chennai – 34. The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chennai – 600 006. The District Forest Officer, Forest Dept., Thanjavur, TN The Superintendent of Police, Dist. Thanjavur, TN The Executive Officer, Thyagaraja Temple
Improper care of the stray cows rescued by the MCD	The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi The Chairman, Delhi Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Delhi – 110 054.	The District Collector, Collectorate Office, Dist: Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowment Board, Chennai – 34. The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chennai – 600 006. The District Forest Officer, Forest Dept., Thanjavur, TN The Superintendent of Police, Dist. Thanjavur, TN The Executive Officer, Thyagaraja Temple
15.6.2009 Use of explosives for catching fishes on Moolamattom power house of the Idukki Dam	The District Collector, Collectorate Office, Kerala The Superintendent of Police, Office of the Superintendent of Police, Kerala The Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Govt. of Kerala Shri A.G. BAbu, Co-opted Member & Secretary, Idukki SPCA Kerala	The District Collector, Collectorate Office, Dist: Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu The Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowment Board, Chennai – 34. The Commissioner, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Chennai – 600 006. The District Forest Officer, Forest Dept., Thanjavur, TN The Superintendent of Police, Dist. Thanjavur, TN The Executive Officer, Thyagaraja Temple

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.

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