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# COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

Journal of Beauty Without Cruelty - India

An International Educational Charitable Trust for Animal Rights

In this issue:

Population • *Panjrapoles* • Milk • Zoos • Chewing gum • Cropping



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Cover photo: Courtesy Neeraj Mishra



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## Editorial

# The overpopulation time-bomb

Indian mass transit users already know that, with six billion people in 1999 and an expected seven billion by 2013, human overpopulation is the biggest environmental and animal rights issue, exacerbating climate change and killing various creatures.

Carrying capacity is defined as the maximum number of a species that may live in a habitat indefinitely without menacing other species. The world has exceeded its carrying capacity for humans, endangering the animal kingdom. One example of this is the elephants getting run over by speeding trains.

Today, the woman in Wyoming knows as well as the man in Metiabruz that most nations are depleting their soil and water resources, and contributing heavily to atmospheric Carbon Dioxide levels, because of overpopulation.

Over 80 percent of the world's old forests have been destroyed, and wetlands are being drained for real estate developments. Innumerable birds, squirrels, snakes and other wildlife have died homeless as a result. We are losing an

estimated 30,000 species per year.

The world's per capita energy consumption increased between 1990 and 2005, leading to the development of nuclear energy. That could become disastrous in the event of natural calamities, as in Japan recently, where radioactive water has been dumped in the ocean to dilute the radioactivity — with apparently unpredictable results.

It is important to have fewer children, since having a child doubles one's environmental footprint, and having two children triples it. While cutting back on personal consumption of resources may reduce one's environmental footprint by 5-50 percent, it is impossible for parents to compensate for having children by consuming less themselves.

Indian population growth will eventually slow down because of higher death rates, ecological collapse and social disintegration, even if society doesn't shift to smaller families. Many environmental organizations focus on small but important steps, but human overpopulation is a controversial subject. Some claim that there is no

problem; others see it as a third world problem. Like all animal rights issues, raising public awareness will enable individuals to make informed choices.

Agricultural burning destroys animal habitats, as also overconsumption of resources. Failure to recycle decreases

dehumanization. Our economic dependence on growth has been disastrous. So has the depletion of soils by overfarming, and the erosion due to removal of vegetation. Urban sprawl, over-fishing, the removal of carbon sinks (trees), the inefficient use of fuel, the urbanizing of farmland,



Courtesy [www.CartoonStock.com](http://www.CartoonStock.com)

the earth's sustainable resources. The production and disposal of toxic wastes can prove fatal to animal and human. So can improper disposal of human waste and improper disposal of garbage. The misuse of pesticides is dissipating the environment for all. Overcrowding causes

urban growth where water is scarce, and eating meat, are injurious to the health of human and animal alike.

We know all this, but what are we going to do about it?



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# AWBI supports killing animals

By Diana Ratnagar

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)

released a nation-wide advertisement on 24 January 2011. The ad was sponsored by the Council for Leather Exports (CLE).

It was therefore paid for by thousands of bulls, cows, buffaloes, sheep and goats, slaughtered for their hides and meat, and processed for profit into leather goods by the CLE.

The CLE knows that such an advertisement subtly promotes leather goods by indirectly associating the wholesale slaughter with AWBI's professed stand for kindness. Shock and anger made many write to Beauty Without Cruelty, but all we could do was object – and hope this ludicrous hypocrisy will never be repeated.

Twenty-two years ago, the Government had seen nothing wrong in appointing the Chairman of the Expert Committee for the Promotion of the Meat Industry to the

When confronted, the present AWBI Chairman justified the CLE support on the grounds that the AWBI had no funds, and that the money taken from CLE had been put to good use (sic!).

**Kindness to animals will make a better India for all of us**

Celebrating Animal Welfare Fortnight 14<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2011

MAHATMA GANDHI said  
 “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

- It is the obligation of all human beings to treat animal life with respect, compassion and kindness
- Cruelty to Animals is a punishable offence
- Adopt a street dog / pup, he can be your most loyal friend and a reliable Guard
- Do a Noble deed a day - take care of street animals

Animal Welfare Board of India (www.awbi.org), a statutory body of Government of India, requests all citizens of the country to treat all animals with respect, kindness and compassion and ensure that they are not abused, while ensuring that the provisions and rules enacted in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 are also adhered to and obeyed by all.

**Animal Welfare Board of India**  
 13/1, Third Seaward Road, Varambili Nagar,  
 Thiruvannamipur, Chennai- 600 041.  
 Ph.: 044-24454935, 24454938 Fax: 044-24454330  
 E-mail: awbi@ind3.vsnl.net.in  
 Website: www.awbi.org, www.leatherindia.org

Supported by **Council for Leather Exports (CLE)**  
 Website: www.leatherindia.org

The advertisement was quietly ratified, after its release, at a meeting attended by the AWBI Chairman, Vice Chairman, Assistant Secretary, Under Secretary of the Ministry and thirteen Members.

An unfortunate outcome was that, just before the Animal Welfare Fortnight ended on January 31, the CLE announced a sales target of \$8.25 billion by 2014-15, as against the 2009-10 level of \$3.4 billion.

Is the CLE's ambition of a compounded, annual, animal death rate of 15 percent achievable? Why not – with support from the Animal Farewell Board of India?



Diana Ratnagar is chairperson and managing trustee of BWC, and former honorary consultant to the Government of India on Animal Welfare.

Chairmanship of the Animal Welfare Board of India. Fortunately, public outrage eventually led to his removal.

## Inside panjrapoles

By Snehal Bhatt-Bhavsar

Years ago, animal activists managed to convince major retailers in the USA not to import leather from India because of the cruelty inflicted upon cattle here. Therefore, the AWBI ad — supported by the CLE — will go a long way in misleading potential foreign buyers of leather goods.

This is not the only way the AWBI is supporting the use of leather. The biggest returns from animals accrue to the *panjrapoles*. *Panjrapoles* (*goshalas*) recognised by the AWBI have annual tenders to pick up cattle carcasses. For them, the animal is more valuable dead than alive. The Vadodara *Panjrapole's* annual report reveals the death of 100 percent of its cattle.

One of the biggest *panjrapoles* has a tender of ₹20 lakhs, so figure out how many animals must be disposed every day at ₹150 each, and how much the dead-cattle-remover earns from the *panjrapole* annually.

The tender is called *Bhaam no Ijaaro*, meaning “contract for collection of dead animals.”

All the *panjrapoles* are funded by the AWBI, which approves of the carcasses being sold. That funds the leather and animal products industries indirectly. If you have an income from carcasses, why get a grant from AWBI?

All NGOs receive some animals almost in their last

as they fetch money. The live ones are not even kept in the sheds, which remain empty.

All Gujarati *panjrapoles* refuse to take sheep and goats. Some have put up boards saying “Animals of police case will not be taken.” This has resulted in cattle, sheep and goats going for slaughter, dying of starvation standing outside police stations, or stuffed into trucks for days to suffocate to death before reaching slaughterhouses.

A fortnight back, 16 bullocks going for slaughter were returned to the owner because Vadodara *Panjrapole* stated to a court in writing that, unless they got ₹1,000 per animal, they did not mind the bullocks being returned. It made a sensation. *Panjrapoles* have become integral parts of the animal products industry in the name of *jeevdaya*.

I have observed all this in the cities but, in the interior, the scene is different. There, they are humane and god-fearing. Not that they don't get money for the carcasses — most of them show an above 50 percent death rate in their yearly records.



BWC member Snehal Bhatt-Bhavsar of the Gujarat SPCA has inspected several *panjrapoles* for about 12 years on behalf of the AWBI.



Still alive... uncared for cattle on Vadodara *Panjrapole* grounds.  
Video photo: Courtesy Snehal Bhatt-Bhavsar

stages of life. This results in some *panjrapoles* not trying too hard to save the cattle. They have to spend to keep them alive, but allowing them to die would fetch them money.

Some of them keep a few healthy cows outside the offices where they accept donations but, when you go where hundreds are kept, you see them left to die in mud and muck before immediate removal,

# The milk myth

By Pramoda Chitrabhanu

Indian dairy cows and buffaloes face the same cruel fate as their western counterparts, becoming milking machines for human beings.

Great seers have reiterated the importance of love and compassion to counteract violence towards dumb animals. Since time immemorial, the core teaching of *Sarva Dharma* (all religions) has always been *ahinsa* (to do no harm, empathising with others' pain). That is why all its practitioners are vegetarians consuming no meat, fish, fowl, poultry, seafood or eggs.

Reverence for all life, i.e. *ahinsa*, lies at the heart of *Dharma*. It is an important tenet of Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism — the religions that originated in ancient India.

*Ahinsa* is the first rule of conduct prohibiting the killing or injuring of living beings. It is connected with the law of cause and effect because violence has negative karmic consequences. When animals are killed, mutilated, tied by force, heavily loaded or kept hungry *ahinsa*, the Code of the East, is violated.

Hence the belief that, when calves have to go without milk, humans cause their hunger and untimely deaths. This triggers negative vibrations. To do anything hurtful, to encourage others to do, or to appreciate others committing such actions, attracts negative *karma*.

When the cow, buffalo or calf is not allowed to live his or her destined life; if its life is



Photo: Courtesy "Dark Truth Behind the Milk Myth."

abruptly ended in agony, one becomes responsible for the same fate in one's own life. It is not surprising when this affects the longevity of the person. Reducing the longevity of others, we reduce our own.

The spiritually aware believe that to take anything without the permission of its owner is theft. Since we have not taken permission from the cow to take her milk, we are violating another principle of *Dharma*: no stealing.

When the mother is separated from her baby by

force, one acquires the *karma* of obstruction in one's life.

Saints have emphasized the renunciation of passion-creating foods in daily life, for self-realization. Since all animal products are passion-creating foods, one should eschew them.

Giving up dairy products is easy on the health of the body and soul. Dairy-free diets are credited with lowering the risk of colon and prostate cancers, diabetes, heart attack, high cholesterol, blood pressure, and so on.

It is shocking to hear otherwise intelligent people argue that the cows are not killed to get milk, so it is okay to drink milk. Fearful of change, they are not ready to improve themselves by giving up their bad habits. They don't realize that, by taking milk and milk products, one perpetuates the endless violence supporting the cruelty of the dairy industry.

One cannot be in peace if one is the cause of pain and suffering for innocent living beings. Think, ponder, and decide to give up milk. It's your life, and your choice. When you have a choice, make it a compassionate, not an unthinking, one.



*Pramoda Chitrabhanu is a BWC member, president of the Jain International Meditation Center, Mumbai, and author of "Dark Truth Behind the Milk Myth," from which this article has been excerpted.*

## Eliminating dairy products from your diet

**P**ure vegetarians abstain from eggs, and possibly honey, *varkh*, *choona*, shellac. They use no leather, silk or wool, yet include milk and dairy products in their diet. Few are able to consistently avoid dairy products, but wanting to do so is half the battle won. The information below, on avoidance of dairy products, should benefit those who are struggling, whether on ethical or health grounds, to give up milk products.

The following items in restaurants usually contain dairy items:

*Jalebi*, *jaangiri*, *emarti*: buttermilk or whey may have been used in making the batter.



They may be fried in a mixture of oil and ghee, or only ghee.

Festive sweets like *payasma/seviya*, *gujiya/karanjee*, *lovan-glatika (khoya)*, *malpua*, *anarsaa* and *halwas* like those made from *badam*, *gajar*, *sooji*, *doodhi* and *moong dal* contain milk and/or ghee.



*Bhaturas*, *naans*, *kulchas* and *rumali rotis*: curd or butter-



milk may have been mixed into the dough. Eggs are more often than not mixed into dough used for making *naans* and, sometimes, for the others. Most "pure vegetarian" restaurants buy ready-made dough, but rarely admit it. (*Rotis* and *phulkas* made in-house are vegan.)

*Dhokla*, *haandvo*, *rava idli/dosa* and

*upma*: such fermented items could contain buttermilk.



Bakery items, including certain breads, may contain milk and butter.



Non-dairy creamers could contain casein, the principle milk protein, derived by adding the enzyme rennin (from the stomachs of animals) or an acid. The creamer could therefore be non-veg or lacto-veg.



Nothing can be done to avoid such ingredients at the time of ordering, since the items are kept semi-prepared, with the dairy products mixed in. However, since the following items use dairy products as topping or garnish, or are prepared just before serving, it is possible to ask for the dish to be vegan:

Cheese is always one of the toppings of pizza. Cream or grated cheese could be toppings on vegetable dishes too.



A lump of butter or ghee is often placed on *dosas*, *uthappam*, *soups*, *dals* and *roti*.



Butter is always applied to *pau*, and the *bhaji* could be made in butter too.



Last but not least, the green "veg" symbol on packaged foods is useless. Read the list of ingredients to ensure that milk is not included.

## Zoos: preserves or prisons?

By Shubhobroto Ghosh

The American Heritage Dictionary defines “zoo” as a place or situation marked by rampant confusion or disorder. A visit to a conventional zoo would make that definition appear appropriate, especially in India. Children screaming and running around when they are not gawking or pelting animals with stones; tiny, stinking cages that hardly allow animals to move and emaciated, bored, stereotypical creatures living purposeless lives.

All this in the name of conservation, education and recreation!

Zoos resulted from imperial conquest in ancient Egypt. The first zoos in the modern world sprang up in Europe, offering visitors a taste of the exotic and romantic. With imperial conquest on the upswing, creatures began to represent a flavour of the countries conquered by colonialists. And the manner of representation of animals in captivity was reflective of the mentality of the rulers of those times.

London Zoo, started by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1824, set the trend by becoming a bastion of the captive animal industry. When zoos started, there was hardly any concern for the well-being of captured animals. There

were always plenty more where they came from. In fact, this line of thinking led to the infamous display of a human being in the Bronx Zoo 1906 when Ota Benga, a Congolese pygmy, was displayed along with great apes. The exhibit was discontinued after protests from religious-minded people, who pointed out that it was unethical.

Times have changed — or have they? Today, we have a proposal to grant human rights to Great Apes to ensure their rights to life, liberty and freedom from torture. Regardless of the merits of the proposal, or the debate surrounding it, visit any zoo that houses Great Apes (Chimpanzees, Gorillas, Bonobos and Orang-utans) and see for yourself how they are treated. Reduced to objects of curiosity, it often appears during zoo visits that captive animals, especially primates, may be better-behaved than those taunting them from outside their prisons.

### Living museums

The zoo concept, as it progressed, turned into a living museum philosophy where many animal species were displayed from distant corners of the globe: two lions from Kenya, three kangaroos from Australia, crocodiles from Indonesia, and tortoises from Aldabra. Animal traders supplied this demand, often at terrible cost to the creatures involved. For every animal displayed, there were several that died en route. Zoos became entertainment-sector businesses like any other, and

animals turned into commodities like disposable water bottles, to be utilized and discarded at our whim.

Changing perceptions in the environmental movement, wrought in the '60s, led this concept to be challenged on an ongoing basis. Sensing opposition, zoos re-modeled and re-presented their roles from being entertainment-oriented to being conservation-oriented, serving the causes of environmental protection and stewardship. “Captive breeding” or “conservation breeding” became buzzwords and, since the 1970s, zoos have highlighted this aspect of their work to justify their existence.

Some animal species have benefited by propagation in captivity, but most of those schemes were run by enterprising individuals running specialist centres. They did not benefit because of concerted moves by the establishment. Also, one has to take into account a comparative cost-benefit analysis of any creature taken captive, at the species as well as individual levels. Several studies, including those conducted by the industry, point to the inherent deficiencies of the captivity concept. Many animals become neurotic and abnormal in captivity, and show signs of stereotypy in their cages. This phenomenon is particularly noticeable among large carnivores.

There is a broader philosophical argument in the captive animal



issue concerning zoos: whilst some think it unacceptable to keep animals in captivity under any circumstances, others believe it is fine if conditions are made suitable for the captives. Regardless of this split, the current situation in most captive places is untenable, and inappropriate for conservation. Having visited scores of zoos in India and abroad, I can say that most of them do not

because of uncertain academic taxonomic pontificating. In recent times, there have been several cases where animals have been killed in zoos for dubious reasons. The educational claims of captive animal facilities are compromised by the fact that the medium negates the message. Entertainment shows still rule the roost in many zoos across the world.

on building elaborate captive enclosures might be better used for field conservation, patrolling and enforcement rather than on captive displays. Several notable Indian conservationists acknowledged the zoo dilemma. Billy Arjan Singh, who contributed to this magazine many years ago on this topic, thought captivity constituted slow death for an animal. Kailash Sankhala, former director of Project Tiger and the Delhi Zoo, also wrote about his disillusionment with zoos. My conclusion, after surveying zoos in India and the UK, is that zoos in Britain are not significantly better than those in this country. This view appears to be borne out by recent zoo studies conducted in the European Union and ongoing investigations in the USA and Canada.



A captive brother in the Kolkata Zoo. Photo: Courtesy Rob Laidlaw, Zoocheck Canada.

satisfactorily meet the needs of their creatures. While some zoo directors and zoos show a willingness for open dialogue the vast majority are, regrettably, motivated by profit alone. Zoos all over the world continue to belie their claims by dealing with animal traders, a problem particularly manifested in South-east Asia, where trading in live animals is rife. Several investigations have confirmed this.

Zoos also discriminate against hybrid animals. These animals are accorded stepmotherly treatment, and even killed

The Oscar-winning film “The Cove” showed the multiplicity of issues surrounding the capture and trade of dolphins for marine parks and zoos. Yet the zoo industry, while taking some steps towards transparency and negotiation with groups and agencies that highlight problems, has tended to be impervious to criticism.

Captive situations often lead to premature deaths among wild animals that cannot be properly treated by veterinarians who do not have a clue about wild animal husbandry. And it does appear that the vast sums spent

There is room for all concerned to tackle and question the future of zoos and what it may entail for the thousands of animals in their care. This needs transparency, honesty, integrity and a willingness to accept new ideas, not the pompous peddling of acronyms which the zoo industry does better than anything else.



*Shubhobroto Ghosh is a member of BWC. He was project coordinator of the Indian Zoo Inquiry, conducted on behalf of Zoocheck Canada and Compassionate Crusaders Trust. The views and opinions expressed in this article are his own, expressed in a personal capacity and not as a representative of any organization.*



## Fact, not fancy Chewing gum

By Nirmal Nishchit

Chewing gum is available in myriad shapes, sizes and types such as bubble gum, gum balls, pellets, pops, sticks and ribbons. Many are sugar-free, a few are medicated, and some are energy gums containing ingredients such as nicotine, caffeine and ginseng.

It is said that chewing gum improves memory and enhances cognitive powers; reduces stress; aids alertness and concentration; helps manage weight; and improves oral/dental health and digestion. It is also said that chewing gum promotes weight gain and stimulates salivation, which sends the pancreas the message that food is coming, so insulin may be released; this could set the chewer up for the onset of adult diabetes.

Few ask what chewing gums contain but, like other packaged foods, some may turn out to be non-veg. They consist of a gum base, filler, softener, sweetener, flavouring, and preservative.

**Gum Bases:** Mainly considered mouth fresheners, people have been chewing gum for over

5,000 years. Tree resins or gums like mastic, spruce, sorva and jelutong, as also paraffin or candelilla wax are known bases but, in the 1800s, chicle latex or sap for chewing gum from chicle-sapodilla, tropical evergreen trees began to be widely used because of its smoother, softer texture.

Today, chewing gum is also made from synthetic rubber. In fact, manufacturers prefer synthetic rubber because it is cheaper and easily available as compared to latex.

Some chewing gum bases may contain about 15 percent latex, the rest being synthetic rubber such as Polyisobutylene, Butadiene-styrene, Polyethylene and Polyvinyl Acetate (all of mineral/petroleum origin).

Preparation requires the raw gum base to be melted down in a sterilized steam cooker, and pumped into a high-powered centrifuge to rid it of undesirable dirt and bark. Other ingredients are then added in varying, but secret proportions.

**Fillers:** Chewing gum fillers are Calcium Carbonate (of mineral/animal origin) and corn starch.

**Softeners:** Refined vegetable oil or glycerine (animal/vegetable origin) is added to keep the chewing gum fresh, soft and moist.

**Sweeteners:** Artificial (and said to be harmful) sweeteners like Xylitol and Mannitol (both plant), Sorbitol, Saccharine, Aspartame and Sucralose (all vegan) in place of sugar/corn syrup/beet juice may be used.

**Flavourings:** Mint flavouring is from aromatic plant oils. Most fruit flavours are artificial, e.g. apple from Ethyl Acetate, and cherry from Benzaldehyde.

**Preservatives:** The preservative/antioxidant used in chewing gum could be Butylated Hydroxytoluene (BHT) which is vegan, or Butylated Hydroxyanisole (BHA), which contains Hydroquinone prepared from Bombardier Beetles.

**Disposal:** The disposal of chewing gum is a big issue from the hygienic point of view. That is why it is banned on certain campuses.

**Advertisements cowed down:** Chewing gum ads in India mainly focus on making teeth white and avoiding tooth decay, e.g. Happydent, Center Fresh, and Orbit White. A 2005 Orbit ad showed a cow chewing with the tagline “It’s working.” The ad for Chlor-mint also showed cows being fed the chewing gum then, ridiculously, being milked for ice cream. Even a disclaimer that this was a “symbolic representation” didn’t reduce a political party’s ire. However, an ad for Mentos chewing gum got away with the disclaimer, “Donkeys are not intended to be working animals.”



The chicle trickle has grown into a torrent. Photo: Courtesy Yogesh Khanage

## Around the world Europe's first vegan supermarket

**D**ortmund houses Europe's only all-vegan supermarket. Vegilicious, occupies over 100 square meters in the city centre, technically making it the only vegan supermarket in Europe. Offering chocolates, fake tuna and even dog food, the store is hoping to cash in on a small but rapidly-growing market.

Using soy, spices, and oils to supplement traditional animal-based ingredients, the shelves are stacked with over 1,500 products. Vegilicious offers chocolate bars, cereals, and even meat imitations, like fake chicken wings, which use cane sugar sticks to serve as “bones.”

There are 30 cheese alternatives, and no need to eat animal products any more.

Starting with a café and online shop the Kalkowski couple, who own the supermarket, and their 16 staff, have maintained a customer flow of 120-150 people per day. They have even managed to attract non-human clients, selling vegan dog and cat food.

## To be or not to be

**T**he potentially disastrous decline in bees, a vital pollinating element in food production for the global population, is likely to continue unless humans change their ways, from the use of insecticides to air pollution, according to “Global Bee Colony Disorders and other Threats to Insect Pollinators,” a United Nations report.

Of the 100 crop species that provide 90 percent of the world's food, over 70 are pollinated by bees.

Bee colonies have been collapsing in many parts of the globe, and the report cites more than a dozen potential factors ranging from declines in flowering plants and the use of memory-damaging insecticides to the worldwide spread of pests and air pollution.

Human beings are yet to develop the technological prowess to be independent of nature. Listing dangerous factors, the UNEP report notes that new kinds of virulent fungal pathogens that can be deadly to bees and other pollinators are now showing up worldwide, migrating from one region to another due to shipments linked to globalization and rapidly growing international trade.

Some 20,000 flowering plant species upon which many bee species depend for food could

be lost over the coming decades without greater conservation efforts. An Anglo-Dutch study has found that since the 1980s, there has been a 70 percent drop in key wildflowers, among them the mint, pea and perennial herb families.

Climate change is another menace which, left unaddressed, may aggravate the situation in various ways, including by changing the flowering times of plants and shifting rainfall patterns, in turn affecting the quality and quantity of nectar supplies.



Bee here now. Photo: Courtesy Neeraj Mishra

Declines in managed bee colonies date back to the mid-1960s in Europe but have accelerated since 1998, especially in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The United Nations Environment Programme has announced that it will implement a new initiative to protect bees, bats, birds and others essential to global crop production and biodiversity.

The five-year, \$26 million scheme is designed to tackle the recent decline – and, in some cases, near collapse – of important pollinator populations around the world.



# "Cropping" is mutilation of pups' ears

By Khurshid Bhathena

The April 2011 issue of the *Indian Kennel Gazette* carried a special feature on Doberman Pinschers, advocating cropping their ears. Several other breeds of dogs born with drooping ears also need to beware of this nightmare!

To measure up to Kennel Club breeds' standards — and win prize money for their owners — the dogs' bodies are surgically mutilated at tender ages — ears cropped, and tails docked.

Any time between six to twelve weeks of age,



Dog plastic surgery. Photo: Courtesy Animal Life Organized Protection.

puppies' ears are trimmed or literally cut off with a pair of scissors. Some veterinarians feel that the younger they are, the easier



I love my floppy ears, Why don't you? They prevent insects from getting into my ears. Photo: Courtesy HubPages.

it is, and ruthlessly opine the only difference is akin to that between cutting paper and cutting heavy cardboard. Approximately two-thirds of the dog's ears are amputated, and the edges stitched. The ears are then bandaged in an upright position with the help of artificial supports.

Keeping the ears upright is the bottom line. They are therefore continuously taped up, usually for five days at a time, till they stand up on their own without the help of a brace, swab sticks or Styrofoam cups. The cruel cropping can go on for months because frequently, ears that drop are re-taped (even more than

twice) so that both match in shape and height.

The suffering for the innocent pups is unimaginably acute. Sores develop and oozing blood attracts flies, infections follow: pain, pain, and more pain.

If pointed ears are so beautiful, the dogs' owners should undergo similar processes.



Khurshid Bhathena is a BWC trustee, and its honorary secretary.

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## Readers write

# The inhumane docking of a pup's tail

I am an animal lover who believes in the motto "Live and let live." I had the privilege of helping at one of Pune's renowned veterinary clinics in February 2011. While doing so, I came



The pup, when it arrived.

across a case that continues to disturb me:

An auto-driver and his helper entered the clinic with a Boxer pup, not more than a month old. The pup had a thread tied around its tail close to its anus, which had obviously not been attended to for a long time.



A close-up of the tail. Photos: Courtesy Aloka Deane

The tail had become gangrenous, and swelled to five times its original size. The pup did not seem to have been given any pain-killers, and was squealing in pain.

The people who brought him said an unknown boy had tied the thread around the pup's tail.

Tying a thread around pups' tails is a docking method.



A view of the infected tail, and the anus.

The intention is to cause the tail to fall off, eventually, because of a lack of blood supply to it.

I wonder how a small boy could playfully tie a thread in the same skilful manner breeders do.

Performing surgery on so young a pup is risky, but we had to cut its tail off. The gangrene had spread so much that it had to be amputated close to the anus.

It is disturbing that the people who brought the pup did not bother to bring it again to follow up. Even more alarming was that they

returned with another dog to be examined, but didn't bring the pup, which proved that they were breeders. When queried about the pup's condition, they nonchalantly stated that it was OK, didn't need further check-ups, and had been given away.

The fate of that poor little pup remains unknown. I wish there was a law to prevent such inhumane behaviour,



The tail, after surgical removal.

and fail to understand why these beautiful creatures have to have body parts chopped off to appease human vanity. It is my request that we take a stand against such cruelty.

**Aloka Deane**  
Pune



Beauty Without Cruelty has again requested the Minister of Environment and Forests to ban all dog mutilations – docking tails, cropping ears, de-barking, filing teeth and removing dewclaws.

## Vegan recipes

### Hummus

(Serves 2)

#### Ingredients:

125 gms Chickpeas/Bengal Gram/Kabuli *Chana* soaked overnight in water  
 1 tsp Garlic paste  
 2 Limes, juiced  
 2 tbsps Tahini (sesame seeds/*til* and olive oil blended into a smooth paste with a little water) )  
 Salt  
 Olive oil  
 Paprika

#### Preparation:

Boil chickpeas in a minimum of water with 1 teaspoon salt till soft. Do not discard water. Sauté garlic paste in oil. Blend all the ingredients, adding water if necessary to obtain a smooth, creamy and thick consistency. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle paprika, if desired.



These Middle Eastern dishes are served with black olives and pita bread, but plain Indian *khakra* may be substituted.

### Baba Ghanoush

(Serves 2)

#### Ingredients:

1 big Aubergine/Brinjal  
 2 tps Garlic paste  
 4 tbsps Tahini (sesame seeds/*til* and olive oil blended into a smooth paste with a little water)  
 1 pinch Cumin powder  
 2 Limes, juiced  
 Salt  
 Olive oil  
 Parsley

#### Preparation:

Prick aubergine with fork in several places and grill over an open flame turning frequently till it blackens and blisters, feels soft and has a smoky taste. Peel skin and mash to a smooth paste. Sauté garlic paste in oil. Add Tahini and cumin, add lime juice and mix well. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with parsley.



## FYI Candles

In India candles are usually made from a paraffin wax base (petroleum origin, available in blocks, cylinders or flakes), entirely from beeswax (available in blocks and thin sheets) or, more likely, a blend of the two.



Standard commercial candles contain 60 percent paraffin, 10 percent beeswax and 30 percent Stearin or Stearic Acid (of animal or plant origin). The acid is an essential additive because it strengthens waxes, brightens colours, gives a smooth glossy finish, and slows the burning down.

Scale wax (from insects – used for container candles only), other waxes or blends as used for taper and drip-less candles, are also utilised. Some candles have small amounts of Candelilla or Carnuba palm waxes.

Eco-friendly shops often stock candles made of beeswax, to which decorative and scented ingredients like petals of flowers, leaves, silk threads, attars, essential oils and colours may have been added.

Unfortunately, candle manufacturers do not declare their ingredients. Anyone interested in knowing the ingredients needs to ask the manufacturers.

## Veg @ Lent

For the third consecutive year, BWC has come out with a vegan recipe leaflet. This year, they were distributed in different parts of the country, and also e-mailed. BWC will be happy to send a print version to any member in India, on request.

## BWC news & views

### Circus attractions

Elephants, dogs, camels, horses, exotic birds and cats still perform, or are exhibited, in India's circuses. Getting animals eliminated from circuses is a matter of time and, if we wish to hasten the process, we should not visit circuses featuring animals.

The *Cirque du Soleil*, Circus Oz, and The Flying Fruit Fly Circus are internationally-acclaimed circuses without animals. Chinese circuses also have outstanding acrobats such as girls performing on bicycles so, BWC feels, why not Indian gymnasts? Circuses can, to their advantage, introduce human acts and promote them as attractions instead of animals.

BWC asked a couple of *Mallakhamb* trainers to approach circuses and introduce this 12th. century gymnastic art. Literally meaning "gymnast (*malla*) on a pole (*khamb*)," it involves twisting, turning, stretching and balancing on poles, bottles, canes or ropes, with swords and torches.

The *Bhatke Vimukta Vikas Pratishthan*, an NGO which helps tribal folk, was also contacted since nomadic tribes like the Dombaris could be encouraged to join circuses to their own – and the circuses' – advantage. Liking the idea, they said they'd approach the Indian Circus Federation. Girls

from the Dombari community, famous for their gymnastic skills, are often seen in the streets balancing themselves precariously on high poles and swaying on ropes with great confidence.



Some circuses have begun including performances by traditional Indian artistes, while others feature artistes from countries like Argentina, Nepal, Uzbekistan, Ethiopia and Russia. Photo: Courtesy Arul Horizon.

### Spread the word...

A BWC member informed Aus that Barilla pastas (macaroni, spaghetti, etc.) print "IT MAY CONTAIN EGG TRACES" on their boxes, despite which the vegetarian symbol is also printed on the boxes by the Indian importer. Strong complaints have been filed by us with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Government of India), and the Food and Drug Administration (Maharashtra State). This is not the first time, and it will probably not be the last, that non-veg packaged foods have been passed off as veg. We advise members to read labels carefully, especially on imported foodstuffs.

### Delayed justice

A Ministry of Environment & Forests committee, set up for elephants killed by electrocution and trains, recommended the Wildlife Protection Act be amended so power distribution companies and train drivers may be culpable for homicide. BWC has been writing to the government about this for years.

### [www.bwcindia.org](http://www.bwcindia.org)

Guess what — BWC is important enough to have its website hacked into! So take a look at our recently-revamped website. There are over 60 topics under both Learn About and *Hinsa* vs. *Ahinsa* to which more will be added. *Compassionate Friend* from 1977 to date can be read online. Our films "Beauty Without Cruelty" and "What Price Beauty?" in English and Hindi can be seen. In addition, you'll find our Investment Guide, recipes, information regarding our achievements, campaigns, legislation, and much more. Members can, on registration, send unlimited *Ahinsa* e-greetings.

### BWC petition to stop greyhound racing in India

Please continue collecting support on printed forms and online at <http://www.bwcindia.org/greyhoundpetition.aspx> CAPE-India has joined BWC-India in this campaign.

# How animals are suffering in zoos

## WORDSEARCH

Can you find these words in the rectangle below?

Deprived

Unnatural

Impoverished

Damaged

Chained

Solitary

Stereotypic

Psychotic

Lonely

Miserable

Bored

Frustrated



By Joanne Fisher

Courtesy: ZOO CHECK

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