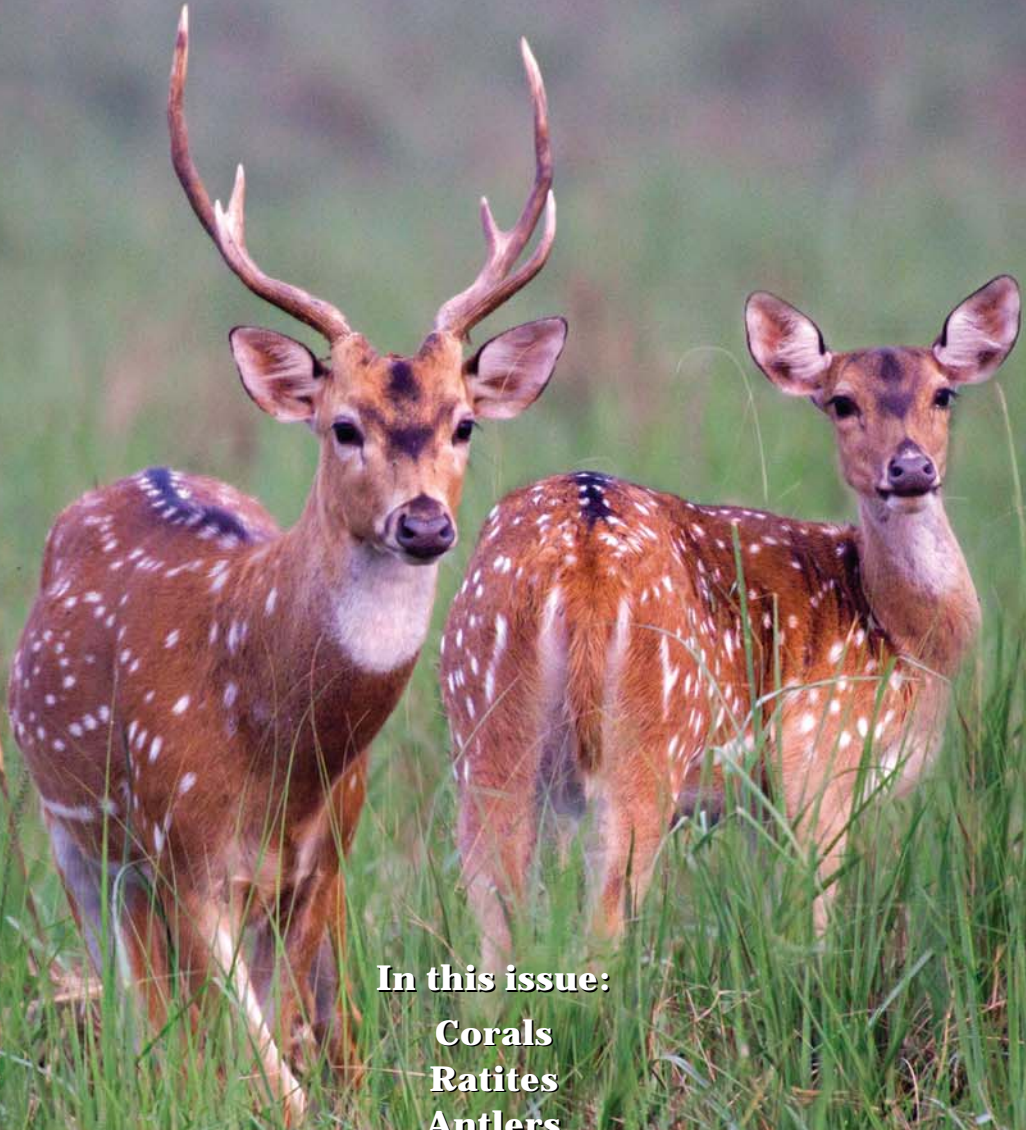


Vol. XXXV No. 4  
Winter 2012

# COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

Journal of Beauty Without Cruelty - India  
An International Educational Charitable Trust for Animal Rights



**In this issue:**

**Corals**  
**Ratites**  
**Antlers**  
**Turkeys**  
**Pet pelts**

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**Cover:**

Deer. *Photo courtesy:* Neeraj Mishra.

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**Editorial**

**Emu farmers and  
 promoters prove  
 flight-capable**

By Ashoke Dasgupta

Ratingites are flight-incapable birds including the African ostrich, and the Australian emu. Both are “farmed,” a euphemism for “bred to be killed,” mainly for their meat and oil.

The main income that may be generated from emus is from selling emu oil – though a Maharashtra State Animal Husbandry officer says no one knows how to extract it.

Touted as low-cholesterol and high-protein, emu meat is considered an oddity, though it has been consumed to small extents since the 1990s.

Emus have three toes. The centre one is amputated, often without anesthesia, because that toenail can rip a human open when an emu attacks – in self-defence.

Farmed ostriches are also subjected to stress and injuries, especially when rounded up for slaughter, as they are large, high-strung creatures. Old socks are often used as hoods to blind them as they are led off to be killed. Their meat is also a novelty item. As ostriches live up to 80 years, they are allowed to live a mere 3.75 percent of their natural life spans.

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), which promotes the breeding and killing of many animal species for commercial gain, warned its clients about BWC on its website, stating, as reproduced verbatim:

“Beauty Without Cruelty, international charitable trust for animal rights, Pune, have started campaign to oppose this venture. It is argued that India with its heritage of non-violence does not need to go in for business that involves killing of beautiful innocent birds for meat purpose to satisfy whimsical food faddists.” This comment was posted around 1997, when BWC led a public protest in Bengaluru against ostrich farming.

This was soon followed by the then Chief Minister of Karnataka’s verbal assurance that “this government will not allow any projects that have the potential to harm the environment or cause disease,” referring to the Congo fever problem in ostrich farming and the possibility of another bird flu outbreak, as in Hong Kong.

Beauty Without Cruelty, along with the residents of Shirur, Maharashtra, carried out a successful public awareness campaign in July 1998 against the setting up of an ostrich farm with Belgian collaboration. Recently, there was a boom in emu farming which ended when about

3,000 investors found the promoters had vanished with around ₹ 200 crores. BWC requested the Ministry of Environment & Forests to advise state governments to stop it, hoping other states may learn from the Tamil Nadu experience.

Thousands of birds, including chicks a few weeks old, have been left unattended in farms in the Erode-Salem belt. Farm owners took flight after the government ordered raids on the illegal investment schemes such as buy-backs and circular trading that were being run around the birds.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha intervened, directing the police to attach properties of companies that ran emu farms. She also asked the Animal Husbandry Department to arrange food and medical care for the abandoned birds. No one cross-checked the promised returns. Now they – and the emus – are paying for their mistake.

The Union government was giving interest-free loans to “entrepreneurs” setting up emu farms. These loans were granted under the central government’s Poultry Venture Capital Fund and were routed through the NABARD and commercial banks.

A former president of RSPCA, Australia, Dr Hugh Wirth, had warned his Indian

counterparts, “There is hardly an emu farm in Australia now, all have failed on economic grounds; the claimed economic largesse from emu meat or oil did not eventuate.”

And the Poultry Marketplace section of the Agriculture and Agri-food Canada website ([www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)) says, “All producers are seeking markets for their products, and many have expressed the need for financial help from the provincial or federal governments in order to mount promotion campaigns in the form of brochures, posters, attendance at Trade Fairs etc. The majority of government monies available are cost shared with industry and many producers have invested so heavily in supplies (stocks, feed, equipment, housing, slaughter facilities etc.) that they are unable to raise matching funds.”

Quick, fat profits are irresistible to mankind, especially at the expense of dumb animals, though ratite farming has never attained its expected returns internationally, and the industry has been rife with scams in several countries.

Until the Central Government lays down a responsible policy against import and breeding for killing animals and birds, such exploitation will crop up every now and then, making Beauty Without Cruelty’s task never-ending.

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## Antler poaching and smuggling

By Khurshid Bhathena

Exports of articles manufactured from cervidae antlers and their shavings were prohibited in 1998.

It took Beauty Without Cruelty six years to convince the Government of India to impose a total ban on the trade in so-called "shed antlers," claimed to have been collected from jungles in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

Consignments had contained not only antlers shed by deer but also those of killed deer: either whole, for conversion into items such as cutlery and dagger handles; or broken into pieces beyond recognition as "shed antler waste"/shavings.

Porcupines gnaw shed antlers in the wilds, leaving unsightly marks. Even if and when they were shed, had they escaped the porcupines, not fallen into rainwater and rotted, and hadn't got infested by maggots, the natural decaying process would have made the antlers useless within two months.

Shedding is an annual occurrence after which new antlers grow. Neither the quantity nor quality of shed antlers is said to be good

enough to meet the growing world demand.

Antlers of the cheetal and sambhar species of deer are mainly used for display as trophies and as cutlery-, knife- and dagger-handles.

The antlers of swamp deer and hog deer, broken into pieces beyond recognition, were exported as "shed antler waste" to Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore to be used for smaller items such as buttons.

Antlers are also used in artwork, furniture, chandeliers, and novelty items.

### Imaginative uses

The soft covering on newly-developing deer antlers is called "velvet." Elk antlers, particularly in the velvet stage, are claimed to have medicinal and aphrodisiac properties, probably because they are mostly found on male deer, and testosterone is responsible for their growth.

Believe it or not, there is a farm in America whose business is to breed deer and elk, collect does' urine (undiluted, with no preservatives) and market it to be used as lures by hunters.

When sprinkled, the urine attracts male deer but, when they come looking for love, the unsuspecting, helpless deer are shot dead by lurking hunters.

Despite the ban on the multi-crore antler trade, traders have been caught periodically.

Seizures worth crores (articles and raw stock) have taken place at Mysore, Mumbai, Chennai, and on the peripheries of reserves. Yet, poaching and smuggling continue in connivance with the authorities.

The Maharashtra State Forest Department seized two tonnes of deer antlers in 1995. They had come into Mumbai from Madhya Pradesh and were on their way to Nagpur, booked as railway parcels in fictitious names and marked "buffalo horns."

Kamptee town of Nagpur District, Maharashtra, was once the nerve-centre for the international trade in antlers.

A few years after the ban on trade in antlers came into force, the Wildlife Protection Society of India took a prominent person along with three companies to the Supreme Court for hunting, theft and illegal trade in wildlife.

The illegal trade in antlers (and other wildlife products) still flourishes in Nagpur. Only when wildlife body-parts are not smuggled out successfully does the public get to know about it as in August 2008, when twelve

antlers were seized at the Kamptee octroi post.

Five were found to be of a non-Indian deer species: fallow deer found mainly in Europe and the USA; the others were of Indian animals: spotted deer and sambhar. This gave rise to suspicions of an international cartel at work.

Significantly, a couple of months later, 630 deer antlers were seized in Kokrajhar, Assam, which is strategically located for this trade, sharing borders with Bhutan and West Bengal, and close to Bangladesh, Nepal and China.

Another haul of 560 kgs. of antlers were discovered at the Chennai Central Railway Station in November 2011. They were packed in 32 parcels, addressed to a New Delhi trading company.

Twenty tonnes of deer antlers worth ₹ 2 crores were seized in July 2012 by the Thiruvallur District police of Tamil Nadu, from an exporter who claimed to have purchased them from Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. The antlers were used by his company to manufacture buttons, sword handles and walking-stick

handles, which he somehow managed to export legally to the USA, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Uganda!

### Strange disappearances

Deer often get killed when farmers electrify their fences to safeguard their crops.

When their bodies are not found, the suspicion arises that the antlers may have been



Well-orchestrated poaching. *Photo courtesy: The Hindu*

removed to be traded illegally, and the venison (deer meat) consumed.

For example, in May 2010 in Nanded District, Maharashtra, nine blackbucks were electrocuted this way, but the carcasses of only four were found.

Every couple of months, a news item appears saying that deer have been illegally killed for meat within, or on the outskirts of, a protected wildlife area. The needle of suspicion usually points to politicians and their aides.

One wonders why large numbers of deer are frequently found dead where they are being bred in captivity.

No one investigates whether they had antlers, or what happened to their carcasses.

In January 2012, four chinkaras/antelopes of the Delhi Zoo were said to have been killed by stray dogs, but the assertion did not stand up to scrutiny.

If the government makes sure that the antlers, skins and other parts of these deer are not auctioned or buried, but the entire carcasses incinerated, there will be no chance of the antlers of such deer being traded

illegally. In fact, they would not, then, be killed.

At BWC's behest, the Central Zoo Authority of India directed all zoos in the country to destroy, not auction, carcasses in 1996.

Maybe India's wildlife personnel do not know that antlers and "deer horns" (each priced at ₹ 8 lakhs) are offered for sale by Indians on the olx.com website.



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

## Talking turkey

By Ashoke Dasgupta

Turkeys are selectively bred for many generations to grow faster and bigger than their wild ancestors and, traditionally, eaten in the West at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In fact, all edible fowl (ducks, geese, guinea fowl and chickens) are artificially reared for the dining table. Some are advertised to have been obtained from so-called “ecologically sound and organic hen-coops of backyards.”

The normal lifespans of domesticated turkeys are ten years, but they are kept alive for only about six months – by which time they, develop a marketable weight or enough flesh/meat. Turkey broilers are slaughtered at 12 to 27 weeks of age, or as soon as they can provide 5.5 to 7.5 kilograms of meat.

The main Indian demand is at Christmas and the New Year and, to a lesser extent, Diwali and Thanksgiving.

## Bred to be eaten

Like the ostrich and emu, the turkey is not native to India, but has been imported and raised here at farms – mainly in Maharashtra, Punjab, Manipur, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

क्रिसमस vs. ब्रोकर

Christmas  
25 December

क्रिसमस  
२५ दिसंबर




Robins and turkeys are both birds.  
रोबिन और टर्की दोनों पक्षी हैं।



Sharing the spirit of peace and joy is  
contrary to putting a turkey on the table.

शांति और आनंद के पीछे का तात्पर्य बांटना और  
टेबल पर टर्की को सजाना परस्पर विरोधाभासी है।

 Peace on earth, goodwill to men – and birds.  
पृथ्वी पर शांति, मनुष्यों और पक्षियों को सन्नाहना प्राप्त हो।

A Christmas message from BWC. File photo

The turkey farming industry would not have grown had government institutions not taught farmers how to breed and kill turkeys, and even provided slaughtering and marketing facilities.

## Cruelty unlimited

With the help of a 16-page Turkey Management Guide, the Central Poultry Development Organization, or CPDO, (Southern Region) at Bengaluru promotes turkey farming in the south.

A bird flu scare looms over Bengaluru after 3,481 turkeys died at a Hesaraghatta farm in late October, as reported from the CPDO. Some of the cruelties recommended (beginning and ending with de-beaking) to be inflicted on the birds are reproduced verbatim from the guide:

**Debeaking:** Poults (young fowl) should be debeaked to control feather picking and cannibalism. Debeaking can be done at day old or 3-5 weeks of age. Remove the beak at about one half the distance from nostril to the tip of the beak.

**Desnooding:** Removal of the snood or dewbill is to prevent the head injuries from picking and fighting. At the day old the snood can be removed by thumbnail or finger pressure. At 3 weeks of age it can be cut off close to the head with sharp scissors.

**Detoeing or toe clipping:** Clipping is done at day old by removing the tip of the toe just to the inside of the outer most toe pad including the entire toenail.

**Turkey egg:** ... Under proper feeding and artificial lightening management turkey hens lay as much as 60-100 eggs annually. Nearly 70 percent of the eggs will be laid in the afternoon...

**Points to be noted during**

**brooding:** ...Turkeys are not the best starters in life and will really need some tender loving care (sic) to get them safely through the first four weeks of life. The average mortality rate is 6-10% during this period.

**Force Feeding:** Starve out problem is one of the major factors for early mortality in poults so special care has to be taken for supplying feed and water. In force feeding, milk should be fed at the rate of 100 ml per litre of water and one boiled egg have to be given at the rate of one per 10 poults up to fifteen days and that will compensate the protein and energy requirements of the poults.

**Free range feeding:** Since turkeys are very good scavengers, it can consume earthworms, small insects, snails, kitchen waste and termites, which are rich in protein and that will reduce the feed cost by fifty percent. To avoid leg weakness and lameness in free ranging birds, calcium should be supplemented at the rate of 250 gm per week per bird in the form of oyster shell.

**Health cover:** Turkeys in the free range system are highly susceptible for internal (round worms) and external parasites (fowl mite) hence once a month deworming and dipping is essential to improve the growth of the birds.

**Intensive system of rearing, Housing:** ... The young stock house should be at least 50 to 100 meters away from the adult house.

**Catching and handling of turkeys:** Turkeys of all age group can be easily driven from one place to another with the help of a stick. For catching turkeys a darkened room is best, wherein they can be picked up with both

legs without any injury. However, mature turkeys should not be kept hanging for more than 3-4 minutes. ... The temperament of turkeys is usually nervous; hence they get panicky at all stages.

**Natural mating:** The mating behaviour of tom is known as strut, wherein it spreads the wings and makes a peculiar sound frequently. In natural mating the male female ratio is 1:5 for medium type turkeys and 1:3 for large types. On an average 40-50 poults is expected from each breeder hen. Toms are rarely used for mating after first year due to reduced fertility. There is a tendency in toms to develop affinity towards a particular female, so we have to change the toms for every 15 days.

**Artificial insemination:** The advantage of artificial insemination is to maintain high fertility from turkey flock throughout the season.

**Collection of semen from Tom:**

- The age of tom should be 32-36 weeks for semen collection
- The tom should be kept in isolation at least 15 days before semen collection.
- The tom should be handled regularly and the time required to collect the semen is 2 minutes.
- As the toms are sensitive to handling, the same operator should be used to get maximum volume of semen.
- Average semen volume is 0.15 to 0.30 ml.
- Use the semen within one hour of collection.
- Take the collection three times weekly or on alternative days.

**Insemination in hens:**

- Artificial insemination is done when the flock attains 8-10% egg production.
- Inseminate the hens every three

weeks with 0.025-0.030 ml of undiluted semen.

- After 12 weeks of the season it may be better to inseminate every fortnight.
- Inseminate the hen after 5-6 o'clock in the evening.
- The average fertility should be 80-85% over a 16 week breeding season.

**Economic Parameters in Turkey Farming:**

**Food efficiency:** 2.7 – 2.8 (kgs feed given to produce 1 kg of meat)

**Mortality during brooding period:** 3-4%

**Common Diseases of Turkey:** as many as 18 are listed.

**Stampeding:** Turkeys are subject to fright especially during night. Severe losses from injury, straying, smothering, bruising, broken limbs and death by predatory animals may result into stampedes. Avoiding disturbances at night and providing low intensity light at night may lessen it.

**Cannibalism:** Feather picking is a mild form of cannibalism to which turkeys are addicted, especially during the growth period. It can be prevented almost completely by debeaking.

**Theatre of the absurd**

The president of the USA publicly – and absurdly – “pardons” *one* turkey every year while millions of others are doomed for slaughter. In fact, pick-your-own-turkey farms exist for those who wish to choose the bird they plan to eat.

 Ashoke Dasgupta is the editor of Compassionate Friend

## Fact, not Fancy Pet pelts

By Nirmal Nishchit

A dog-skin industry flourished for some years in Chennai, in the early 1980s. It was the brainchild of a research officer attached to the Municipal Corporation.

The authorities, in a bid to reduce the city's stray dog population, announced that the owners of the dogs would have to claim them within 24 hours. Upto 120 unclaimed dogs were electrocuted daily by making them stand in a metallic cage and passing a high-voltage electric current through it.

Flayers would then separate the skins from the stiff carcasses. The tanned leather was used for making leather goods like fancy cushions, wallets, handbags, jackets, footwear, vanity cases, and so on. (Chennai is home to the Central Leather Research Institute.)

They then tried to export the items, but luckily there were no takers for "dog leather," resulting in stocks being passed off as simply "leather". Eventually this ghastly trade ground to a halt.

In comparison, the cat-and-dog-fur industries of China, Thailand and the Philippines have always flourished. Truly

a horror story for dog- and cat-lovers... no wonder, after a long and vocal campaign focusing on Chinese fur products, supported by Sir Paul McCartney and others in 2007, the EU banned the cat and dog fur trade.

### Dog and cat fur

However, items made from cat and dog furs and skins are being exported to other countries including India, and they are not labelled as such.

One finds attractive, cute decorative fur items displayed



Kittens and puppies' fur used for trims and trinkets. *Photo courtesy: File photo*

in certain shops, even sold on roadsides. People buy them because they are inexpensive, not realising their origins.

These cat-and-dog-fur knick-knacks are imported mainly from China and are usually not labelled. If they are labelled, cat fur may be called Katzenfelle, Goyangi, house- wild- mountain- or wild-cat; whereas dog fur could be labelled gae-wolf or sobaki and dog skin as special, lamb, or mountain goat skins. The finished products range

from golf gloves, handbags, and jackets to bed-sheets with fancy home decorations thrown in.

Given the staunch relationships between humans and dogs/cats, people who suspect the origins of such items to be the skins and furs of companion animals never buy them. But, unfortunately, there are many other unsuspecting buyers. They cannot imagine that real fur could be so cheap, leave alone that they may be pets' pelts.

The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade has found dogs hanging by their necks from wire nooses with water poured down their throats through a hose until they drowned, for good measure. Many were skinned alive. These were once someone's pets, rounded up, transported in sacks and crates, and held in dingy buildings, often without food or water.

Like the EU, India needs to impose a ban on imports of dog and cat fur/skins. Beauty Without Cruelty approached the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, but the ban hasn't happened yet.

Meanwhile, we request readers to remember the cost of an item should never be the criterion for judging whether it is of animal origin or not. Inexpensive stuff can contain fur, silk, leather – in this case an innocent pet cat or dog's pelt.



## FYI

### Dals

**D**als include dried pulses, lentils, peas and beans, stripped of their outer hulls, and split.

Beauty Without Cruelty was surprised when told that *dals* are polished with leather but, upon investigation, we discovered it was so! One brand was marketing unpolished *dals* claiming “we do not add marble powder (very harmful for intestines), oil polish (added fat), water polish (source of water is unknown) or leather belt polish (animal skin touch).”

Pictures of *dal* polishing machines with leather belts were found on the Internet so we got initial proof of *dals* being polished with leather.

An inquiry was made with a *dal* mill owner in Gujarat. It was orally learnt – hold your breath – that tiger skin was used, especially to polish *moong dal*. Difficult to believe, given the protected status of the tiger in India, but we were told that tiger skins are commonly used for this purpose in North Indian mills. Our efforts to confirm this or to trace the sources of the skins have not been successful yet.

BWC then wrote to the India Pulses and Grains Association (Mumbai) and 28 manufacturers. Not one

of them responded, indirectly proving that pulses and grains are polished with leather.

Next, we wrote to the Indian Institute of Pulses Research at Kanpur. The explanation received from Prasoon Verma, Scientist-SG (ASPE) is reproduced below:

“Regarding polishing of pulses, it is to inform that first grade *dal* (dehulled splits) is never polished. Polishing, though not recommended, is done for second and third grade *dal*. Edible oil, colour and powder are used to improve appearance of the product. Commonly leather belts are used for rubbing *dal* against screen to give shine and uniform look. Polishing is avoidable as thorough washing before cooking is required for polished *dal*. However, it is claimed that polishing improves storability of *dal*. Polishing is not an essential operation for any pulse.”

### Conclusions

The use of leather for polishing *dals* is no different from the use of leather for producing *varkh*.

Particular unpolished *dals* may be harmful GM produce containing animal genes.

Not only *dals*, but also grains such as rice are polished. To the best of our knowledge, no leather is used in the process.

## Hormones

**H**ormones are peptides or steroids produced by a tissue like the endocrine gland and conveyed by the bloodstream to other parts of the body to effect physiological activities such as growth or metabolism. Since hormones are regularly administered to cattle and poultry, their harmful effects are present in meat and milk consumed by humans.

## Antibiotics

**L**ow doses of antibiotics given animals and poultry daily aim to prevent their getting sick but, like hormones, are harmful to animals – and the humans who consume their flesh, eggs and milk. Antibiotic-resistant bacteria pose serious dangers to human health.

## Agrochemicals

**F**ertilizers can contain the blood and bones of animals, or fish and poultry waste. Pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, etc. kill insects and bigger creatures too. They are used by grain, fruit and vegetable farmers. Residues on produce are harmful to humans. Pesticide- and bacteria-contamination can be reduced by washing and peeling all fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating them. “Inbuilt” pesticides in genetically modified crops cannot be reduced.

## Sentience – human and animal

By Beryl Scott

The word “sentience” is defined as “having the ability to experience feeling or sensation” and, while humans are accorded rights based on their sentience, non-human animals do not enjoy the same consideration. In most countries, they are legally defined as “property” or “things,” with no more feelings than chairs or tables!

The recognition of animals’ rights is directly linked to the acceptance of the fact that they are more than inanimate objects; that they experience sensation, feelings, pain, joy and a range of emotions, just as humans do.

Sentience is necessary for the ability to suffer which, in turn, demands the recognition of rights. However, we have purposely refused to acknowledge animals’ sentience and stripped them of their rights so that we can subjugate and exploit them for our own benefit.

### Legal status

Any improvement in laws protecting the well-being of animals rests heavily on their legal status being changed from that of “things” to that of “sentient beings.” At the moment, animals are legally regarded as nothing more than inanimate objects in most countries. If this

classification continues, they will never be accorded the basic rights and protection to which they are entitled. Nor will effective animal welfare laws be put in place to monitor such rights. Animal welfare legislation should be an adjunct to animal rights, the same way child welfare laws are to children’s rights!

Anyone who has enjoyed the company of a companion animal knows that they are more than capable of showing fear, loyalty, love, pain and even more complex emotions such as jealousy and embarrassment. Yet we persist in ascribing it all to “instinct,” as opposed to cognitive ability, i.e. awareness, perception, memory and judgement.

Although most countries have some animal welfare laws, these are not based on the idea that animals are entitled to be protected, and treated with care and respect, but because cruelty to, and abuse of, animals may disturb *human* sensibilities. Laws are consequently in place to prevent this.

### Law flaw

The Treaty of Rome, signed in 1957, was the first legal base for the European Community and is periodically revised to take policy changes into account. It eventually resulted in the addition of a reference to animals and their welfare.

The 1997 animal welfare protocol, included in the

Treaty of Amsterdam, referred to animals as “sentient beings” for the first time.

In 2009, the text of the protocol was included in the text of the Lisbon Treaty with the proviso that member states should pay full regard to animal welfare “while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage.”

While not as stringent as one would wish, this recognition of animal sentience has created legal obligations in the EU and served as a precedent for animal rights activists all over the world in campaigning for change to the legal definitions of animals in their own countries.

In 2004 Beauty Without Cruelty-South Africa presented a petition, signed by over 100,000 people, which called on the government to change the legal definition of animals, from that of “moveable property” or “things,” to that of “sentient beings.” Random members of the public, when asked, agreed that animals can and do feel pain, joy, loyalty and a range of emotions previously thought to be experienced only by humans. A tsunami of public opinion was, unfortunately, not enough to persuade the government, so the status

of animals in this country remains as unjust and antiquated as ever.

### Science ahead of law

While the subject of sentience may be controversial, science has discovered compelling evidence that animals have the ability to feel, both physically and emotionally; that they are not the inanimate objects the law would have us believe. While there is no legislation specifically directed at laboratory animals in our country, Beauty Without Cruelty-South Africa successfully called for an acknowledgement of animal sentience in the voluntarily adhered-to standard “The Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes.” The law may not recognise animal sentience, but science does, now!

The American philosopher, Gary Francione, has said “All sentient beings, human and non-human, have one right: the basic right not to be treated as the property of others” and philosopher Jeremy Bentham stated, “The question is not, ‘can they reason,’ nor ‘can they talk,’ but ‘can they suffer?’” Together these quotations may be enough to persuade us that animals deserve to be acknowledged as sentient beings and, in a just society, they must be accorded rights.

 *Beryl Scott is the chairperson of Beauty Without Cruelty-South Africa.*

## Spread the word...

### Corals are of animal origin

**C**orals or *moonga*, set in finger-rings, are worn by many men and women who have probably never bothered to find out where or how the stones originated.

Red corals, mainly obtained from the Mediterranean Sea, are used for making jewellery. Their origin is animal, not mineral or even plant as assumed.



Red Jasper

If people wore red jasper, a mineral gemstone with properties similar to coral, though to a lesser degree, coral reefs around the world would be saved.

There are 55,000 coral reefs that occupy less than a quarter of 1 percent of the earth’s marine environment, according to the UNEP. These are threatened by humans.

In March 2012, the UNESCO recommended that the World Heritage Committee should consider listing Australia’s Great Barrier Reef as a world heritage site.

Coral reefs grow extremely slowly – 2.5 centimetres a year. They are as important to oceans as trees are to land. Coral mining, even if done under the pretext of removing only finger-jellies (worn-out corals), harms the environment.

Millions of tiny marine creatures live in coral reefs;



Coral

so do big grey mammals called dugongs or sea cows, which spend their lives in coral reef formations like those around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Indian coral reefs are also found at Lakshadweep, off Port Okha and Dwarka in the Gulf of Kutch, and off Rameswaram in the Gulf of Mannar, between India and Sri Lanka.

## Around the world

### Eviction of Vietnam bear rescue centre



According to Animals Asia's website ([www.animalsasia.org](http://www.animalsasia.org)), its Vietnam Bear Rescue Centre faces eviction from Tam Dao National Park, following an aggressive campaign by the park director, Do Dinh Tien.

BWC-India signed the petition on the website on behalf of its members, and posted the appeal to its Facebook page.

On Friday 5 October, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development informed Animals Asia that the Ministry of Defence had issued an order to evict the sanctuary and its 104 rescued bears. This follows Mr Tien lobbying the Ministry of Defence to declare the sanctuary an area of "national defence significance," says the website.

Mr Tien has been pressuring Animals Asia to relinquish the land since April 2011. It is believed that he intends to hand it over to the Truong Giang Tam Dao Joint Stock Company, in

which his daughter has an investment. This company has submitted an application for development of an "eco-tourism park" and hotels on the site, the website continues.

Please visit the Animals Asia website to support its struggle individually.

### Arctic fish need protection

Central Arctic Ocean ice is melting faster than expected. Scientists are trying to protect the area from unregulated fishing. Some 2,000 scientists from 67 countries signed a petition released by the Pew Environment Group at the International Polar Year Conference in Montreal last April, calling on governments with Arctic coastlines to set a catch limit of zero in waters beyond the 200 miles from shore that represent each nation's exclusive economic zone.

No commercial fleet has geared up yet to fish there, but South Korean officials have said the Arctic may be the next big commercial fishing spot. China may also be interested. Forty percent of the once-inaccessible waters were open in summer 2007. Fish may move into the central Arctic as the ice melts. They may also have been there all along, hidden by thick ice.

No one knows what fish may be scientifically valuable in those waters.

### US meat consumption falling

Nearly every year since World War II, as America's population has increased, so has the number of animals raised and killed for food. The amount of meat Americans eat per person has also increased until the last five years, when American meat consumption began to drop 12.2 percent. Sixteen percent of Americans now eat vegetarian more than half the time.

The USA has been raising and killing several hundred million fewer farm animals each year, resulting in billions of fewer animals enduring inhumane factory farming practices than would be expected given historical trends.

The CME Group, one of the world's largest derivatives exchanges, points to increased feed costs as the driver of this trend. Rising feed costs raise the prices of animal products, and CME notes: "Add in the efforts of a large number of non-governmental agencies that oppose meat consumption for reasons ranging from the environment to animal rights to social justice and one could conclude that it was amazing that consumption held up as long as it did."

## Readers write

### Mixed-up

The photographs in *Hinsa vs. Ahinsa* 104 are mixed up. The photograph on the left is not silk, but the one on the right is. You are promoting pure silk in an effort to discredit *ahinsak* silk. I am certain the photograph captioned "Not silk" shows pure silk Benarasi saris, a big lapse that may convey the opposite message to what you are trying to convey.

**Shubhobroto Ghosh**  
New Delhi

*On double-checking, we find the photographs are as they should be. One cannot tell the difference between real and artificial silk from photographs, or even by looking at polyester in shops. Women are wearing saris specially woven in Benaras with polyester yarn supplied by BWC. BWC personnel own saris which people think are silk, but are not. Your reaction proves our point: that artificial "silk" may look better than the real variety.*  
– Ed.

## *Hinsa vs. Ahinsa* Second print edition



I love this. The front cover is stunning in its simplicity – really nice design work. I love the concept and the way it has all been pulled together. It really works.

**Jen Lozano**  
UK

### हिंसा vs. अहिंसा

Compassionate Fashion Day  
18 August

करुणामय फैशन दिवस  
१८ अगस्त



"Ahimsa Silk" and "Peace Silk" are not *ahinsak*.

Each punctured cocoon used represents the suffering and death of a moth. They are no different from conventional silk for which each boiled cocoon represents a death. 1,500 lives are sacrificed for a mere 100 grams of silk.

'अहिंसा रेशम' व 'शांति रेशम' अहिंसक नहीं है। प्रत्येक छेद किया गया कोया पतंगे की यातना व मीत को चित्रित करता है। ये पारंपरिक रेशम से कतई भिन्न नहीं है, जिसके लिए उबला प्रत्येक कोया मीत का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है। केवल १०० ग्राम रेशम के लिए १,५०० जीवों की हत्या की जाती है।



Silk  
रेशम



Not Silk  
रेशम नहीं

No silk, unless purely artificial, made of yarn such as polyester, can ever be truly *ahinsak*.

यदि पूर्णतया कृत्रिम एवं पॉलिस्टर के धागे से निर्मित न हो तब तक कोई भी रेशम सही मायने में अहिंसक नहीं होता।

Shun Silk.  रेशम से दूर रहें।

## Anniversary greetings!

I wish BWC a very happy birthday! BWC holds a special place in my heart for a couple of reasons, chief among them the unparalleled guidance your research materials have provided my activism. I have enormous respect for BWC. I hope that, as India wakes to understand how its actions impact the animal kingdom, BWC will lead the way with its investigations, research, and inspiration, heralding a more just, compassionate dawn.

**Amrita Dutta**  
Vegan India  
Bengaluru

I am happy to greet you and your team on the occasion of BWC's birthday, 12 September 2012. May God give you all His blessings, strength, support and zeal to sustain the noble work you have been doing so well. May the goals you have set be fulfilled.

**M. R. Kodhandram**  
Tiruvannamalai

## Vegan recipe

### Coconut

Coconut or *nariyal* is used in many dishes, particularly in South India. The following are three benefits pointed out by The Coconut Development Board, Government of India:

- The water in tender coconuts is the most nutritious, wholesome beverage nature has provided.
- The coconut's kernel is a natural anti-bacterial and anti-viral food.
- Virgin coconut oil is abundant in vitamins, minerals and anti-oxidants, which make it the "mother of all oils."

### Mixed vegetables in coconut milk

(Serves four)

#### Ingredients:

- 2 cups shredded coconut
- 2 tablespoons tamarind pulp
- 3 tablespoons coconut oil
- 4 red dry chillies
- 1 teaspoon cumin seeds
- 2 teaspoons coriander seeds
- 10 cloves garlic (optional)
- 12 French beans
- ½ cup green peas
- ¼ cauliflower
- 2 potatoes
- 2 carrots
- 100 grams red pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 teaspoon mustard seeds
- 1 teaspoon black split *urad dal*
- 10 curry leaves



#### Preparation:

Soak 1 cup shredded coconut in 1 cup hot water to extract milk. Keep half aside. Add 2 cups extra water to the other half to make thin coconut milk.

Soak tamarind pulp in ½ cup hot water for half an hour. Strain and keep aside.

Heat 2 tablespoons oil and sauté 2 red chillies, cumin, coriander, garlic and 1 cup shredded coconut. Grind to a fine *masala*.

Cut French beans, shell peas, separate cauliflower florets, peel and dice potatoes, carrots and pumpkin. Boil vegetables in thin coconut milk to which turmeric powder, tamarind extract and salt have been added. When almost done, add *masala* and cook on low flame for 10 minutes.

Heat 1 tablespoon oil and fry 2 broken red chillies, mustard seeds and *urad dal*. Add curry leaves, followed by vegetables and thick coconut milk kept aside. Simmer for 2-3 minutes.

Serve with rice/*roti*/*puri*.

Go to [www.bwcindia.org/Webforms/Recipes/VeganFood.html](http://www.bwcindia.org/Webforms/Recipes/VeganFood.html) for an assortment of Beauty Without Cruelty's tested and tasted, healthy and delicious vegan recipes.

## BWC news & views

### Indian National Pledge

BWC requested the Government of India to consider adding a line to the Indian National Pledge taken by schoolchildren and others, and printed in school text-books.

The suggested line, highlighted below, was drawn from Article 51-A(g) Fundamental Duties which reads, "...to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers, wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures."

The pledge is:

India is my country and all Indians are my brothers and sisters.

I love my country and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage.

I shall always strive to be worthy of it.

I shall give my parents, teachers and all elders respect and treat everyone with courtesy.

I shall show compassion to all living creatures and strive to protect the environment.

To my country and my people, I pledge my devotion. In their well being and prosperity alone, lies my happiness.

### Modest success

Fearing that more animals may be killed if the Pune Municipal Corporation's Kondhwa abattoir was privatised, BWC joined the agitation by organisations and spiritual leaders from the Jain community against the Standing Committee's August 2012 sanction to privatise the abattoir. The outcome was that all political parties unanimously quashed the resolution.

Meanwhile, nothing seems to deter the Government of India from proceeding with its expansion plans for 25 slaughterhouses.

### Ritual killing halted in and around temple

The Bhargavram Parshuram Temple is at Chiplun, a hamlet off the Mumbai-Goa highway, in Ratnagiri District, Maharashtra. PAWS informed BWC that there was a good chance of prevailing on the temple's trustees not to allow goats to be sacrificed this *Dussera* onwards, if organisations working for animals pressured them. As before, BWC joined forces with *Sarvajeet Mangal Pratishtan* and appealed in person to the Trustees, including the Collector who was Chairman of the Trust, and is usually expected to kill the first goat. Our representative visited on *Dussera*, confirming that no sacrifices took place.

### Many thanks...

Donations marked for the Corpus of our Trust were appreciated, as were the amounts sent for other expenses.

Readers who have not yet sent us their e-mail addresses are requested to please do so at the earliest, so we can e-mail them *Hinsa vs. Ahinsa* once a fortnight. Additional IDs of those who are likely to appreciate these pictorial messages will be welcome. There will be no charge for them.

*Karuna-Mitra* and the BWC wall calendar have been despatched with this issue of *Compassionate Friend*.

### Important

Beauty Without Cruelty was recently shocked to know that some other organizations' presentations were including BWC. We didn't authorise these animal welfare activists to include the information – factual or fabricated – in their propaganda. They have now agreed to discontinue that practice. However, we would like our BWC members and others to know that BWC never participates in joint publicity stunts for fund-raising. We are totally independent, focusing uncompromisingly on our aims and work while keeping a low profile.

# Animal Rights for Human Rights

No breeding



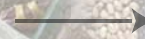
Enough water

No feeding grains



Sufficient food

No killing



No starvation

No pollution



Clean environment

No eating meat



Health and happiness



Beauty Without Cruelty

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