



COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

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BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY

AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CHARITABLE TRUST

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Cover

Wild Cat

Illustration : Vijay Bendre

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EDITORIAL

When Human Rights dominate the thinking of people the world over, Animal Rights gather momentum in all responsible quarters, mainly on the ground that the innocent animals suffer any amount of indignities and atrocities without any reason. The International League for Animal Rights was founded in Geneva on 2nd April 1977, with Georges Heuse of Belgium as President and Peter J. Hyde of Canada as Secretary-General. In the preamble of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Animals is mentioned :-

- (a) Disregard and contempt for the rights of animals have resulted in crimes by man against nature and against animals.
- (b) Respect for animals is linked to the respect of man for men.
- (c) From childhood man should be taught to observe, understand, respect and love animals.

There is a continuous infringement of the right of animals to lead a peaceful life with freedom to enjoy their natural environment. Sometimes for educational purposes or for scientific, medical or commercial research, this freedom is curtailed or even extinguished. Education with a scar of cruelty attached to it renders itself inane. If man wants to complete his natural life span, why deny the same right to the animals? Any act involving the wanton killing of an animal is biocide, that is, a crime against life.

We want to have nourishment, to keep our physical existence neat and tidy and we want to rest after hard work. Animals have also the same craving, but a large number of us make an invidious distinction between man and animals and disclaim the latter's right to a reasonable limitation of the duration and intensity of their work; we also do not believe in adequate nourishment and rest for them. A pithy inscription in a booklet named "The Call of Compassion" published by St. Mira Institution, Poona, reads as follows :-

"Animals and birds have no voice with which they may speak to us. They have no money with which they may fight their cause. They have no Press with which they may draw our attention to their silent agonies. They have no radio, no television with which they may make known to us the injustice and cruelty inflicted on them, day after day. They can only suffer in silence and die, as they have done through endless centuries, until the heart of man is awakened and he declares: 'The Animals, too, are my brothers in the One Family of Creation.'"

S. M. Masani

(This issue is kindly sponsored by Ideal Jawa (India) Pvt. Ltd.)

FROM MY DESK ...

Members will be pleased to know that Mr. David M. Whiting, Executive Director BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY International has come to India for obtaining first hand information on animal exploitation carried out in the luxury trades such as the fur, leather and cosmetic industries. His field work which involves filming and photography is taking him not only to cities and towns, but to remote areas in the wild, where poaching goes on. Let us all wish him success in this venture which at times can turn out to be rather hazardous.

On 21st March '78, the World Forestry Day, our film "What Price Beauty?" was screened at Nagpur during a joint programme organised by the Indo-German Cultural Society and the Forest Department. The 600 people who saw the film were stunned to know that man could go to such a great extent for the sake of commercial gain. We hope the message of B. W. C. has gone to the hearts of all who have seen this film and such cruelties as the setting up of animal farms will never be allowed in India.

BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY will very shortly begin to market two new toilet soaps under our brand name of "Ahinsa" - Jasmine specially manufactured by Naulakha, New Delhi; and Neem specially manufactured by Swastik, Bombay. Please do use these soaps and encourage your friends also, since they are cruelty-free, of a good quality and reasonably priced as well.

Diana Ratnagar
Chairman

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF ANIMALS

PREAMBLE

Whereas all animals have rights,

Whereas disregard and contempt for the rights of animals have resulted and continue to result in crimes by man against nature and against animals,

Whereas recognition by the human species of the right to existence of other animal species is the foundation of the co-existence of species throughout the animal world,

Whereas genocide has been perpetrated by man on animals and the threat of genocide continues,

Whereas respect for animals is linked to the respect of man for men,

Whereas from childhood man should be taught to observe, understand, respect and love animals.

IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED :

Article 1

All animals are born with an equal claim on life and the same rights to existence.

Article 2

- 1) All animals are entitled to respect.
- 2) Man as an animal species shall not arrogate to himself the right to exterminate or inhumanely exploit other animals. It is his duty to use his knowledge for the welfare of animals.
- 3) All animals have the right to the attention, care and protection of man.

Article 3

- 1) No animal shall be ill-treated or be subject to cruel acts.
- 2) If an animal has to be killed, this must be instantaneous and without distress.

Article 4

- 1) All wild animals have the right to liberty in natural environment, whether land, air or water, and should be allowed to procreate.
- 2) Deprivation of freedom, even for educational purposes, is an infringement of this right.

Article 5

1) Animals of species living traditionally in a human environment have the right to live and grow at the rhythm and under the conditions of life and freedom peculiar to their species.

2) Any interference by man with this rhythm or these conditions for purposes of gain is an infringement of this right.

Article 6

1) All companion animals have the right to complete their natural life span.

2) Abandonment of an animal is a cruel and degrading act.

Article 7

All working animals are entitled to a reasonable limitation of the duration and intensity of their work, to the necessary nourishment and to rest.

Article 8

1) Animal experimentation involving physical or psychological suffering is incompatible with the rights of animals, whether it be for scientific, medical, commercial or any other form of research.

2) Replacement methods must be used and developed.

Article 9

Where animals are used in the food industry they shall be reared, transported, lairaged and killed without the infliction of suffering.

Article 10

1) No animals shall be exploited for the amusement of man.

2) Exhibitions and spectacles involving animals are incompatible with their dignity.

Article 11

Any act involving the wanton killing of an animal is biocide, that is, a crime against life.

Article 12

1) Any act involving the mass killing of wild animals is genocide, that is, a crime against the species.

2) Pollution or destruction of the natural environment leads to genocide.

Article 13

1) Dead animals shall be treated with respect.

2) Scenes of violence involving animals shall be banned from cinema and television, except for humane education.

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OUR GET-TOGETHER IN POONA

Mr. David M. Whiting, Executive Director of BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY International, has come out to India for extensive field work. In honour of Mr. and Mrs. Whiting, B. W. C. India Branch held a Get-together of members and their friends on 14th February 1978 at the Audio Visual Room, St. Vincent School. About eighty-five persons attended the function.

Miss Diana Ratnagar, Chairman B. W. C. India Branch, welcomed those present. Mr. S. M. Masani, Executive Committee Member and Editor of "Compassionate Friend", introduced the guest speaker. Mr. Masani explained that Mr. Whiting was visiting India at the invitation of Mrs. Rukmini Devi Arundale, Chairman All-India Animal Welfare Board. As the son of Lady Dowding, Founder-Chairman of B. W. C. International, Mr. Whiting came from a family who loved and respected all forms of life - including snakes, crocodiles and all wild animals. He was a highly skilled aircraft engineer but had left this job in order to work for BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY.

Mr. Whiting commenced his address by speaking of the field work B. W. C. engaged in, and which is taking him to distant parts of the world. He vividly described the bleak, cold winters of Canada, the dark forests where innocent wild creatures were caught in gin traps. The trapper, after setting up his trap, visited it a week or ten days later, thus the poor victim often died an agonizing death through thirst, starvation and cold. And the tragedy of it was that two out of the three animals caught were thrown away, as they were of no use to the hunter. Mr. Whiting referred to the gin traps which his step-father, Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, had described as "a diabolic instrument of torture". Unfortunately England exported these traps though their use had been banned in his country. And what was the purpose of this cruelty but to boost the human ego which regarded furs as a status symbol....

Mr. Whiting mentioned the Musk Deer of Nepal which though facing extinction, were snared and hounded for their musk pods; musk is used as a fixative in perfumes. He then spoke of the civet farms he had visited in Ethiopia. The civet cats were sentenced for life in minute cages and had their scent glands scraped every ten days for the purpose of extracting civet - also used in the perfume trade. And this in spite of the fact that over eighty satisfactory synthetic substitutes were available in the market.

Another creature facing extinction was the sperm whale. This highly intelligent mammal was being killed in some part of the world or another at the rate of one every ten minutes. Sperm oil, used as a lubricant for precision instruments, was regarded as indispensable by the motor industry. However, Jojoba beans had been discovered in Mexico and were now grown extensively in America in order to replace sperm oil. Mr. Whiting urged that the Jojoba plant be grown in the arid regions of India.

Mr. Whiting commended the India Branch as being one of the most active of B. W. C. branches, and praised the charts and photographic blow-ups available for display. But there was much to be done, and it was not enough that only a few worked for the cause; all had to do their bit. There was one life, one universe, the choice of the kind of world we lived in was up to us. Mr. Whiting appealed to each one present to try and enrol a new member and thereby spread the message of BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY.

Mr. D. R. Ratnagar, Hon. Treasurer B. W. C. gave the vote of thanks.

The function ended with the screening of the film, "What Price Beauty?" shot on location by Mr. Whiting. With feeling and sensitivity the film exposes the appalling cruelties going on all over the world for the sake of commercial gain. "What Price Beauty?" arouses the conscience and brings home its message by deftly focusing on facts.... as such the film is a **must** for all who care for the world they live in.

Pilu Dady
Hon. Secretary

(Continued from Page 5)

Article 14

1) Representatives of movements that defend animal rights should have an effective voice at all levels of government.

2) The rights of animals, like human rights, should enjoy the protection of law.

Final text, adopted by the International League for Animal Rights and affiliated national leagues on the occasion of the Third International Meeting on the Rights of Animals (London, 21-23 September 1977). The Declaration will be proclaimed on 15 October 1978 by the International League, affiliated leagues, associations and individuals who wish to be associated with it prior to being submitted to the United Nations.

Courtesy : The International League for Animal Rights

An unforgettable story of mother love
IN MEMORY OF A WILD CAT

by W. J. Wessels

A cat nursing her young always tempts me to put out my hand, stroke the mother apologetically and say, as I did on one occasion many years ago, "I am sorry, kitty, terribly sorry".

I have never told the story. I could never trust myself even to try, but I always intended putting it in writing without revealing my name, for I am still ashamed that I was the cause of it all.

As I said, it was many years ago. I was a young man then, not long out of school, and I had just started farming on my parents' property, a farm at the foot of rocky, wooded mountain.

It was a Saturday afternoon, and the native labourers, wanting to get away, had finished feeding the horses, and milking, much earlier than usual. Having nothing to do, and being so early, I took my .22 rifle and went for a walk along the foot of the mountain. There was still a fair amount of game in these parts. Mountain hare came down to nibble at the young grass, daisies warmed themselves in the late afternoon sun, guineafowl were found, sometimes in fairly large flocks. Wild cats were sometimes met with, but these were shy and seldom seen.

I do not remember what I saw on this walk, but I do know that I did not fire at anything until coming to a sloop about two miles from the homestead. It was a fairly deep one, caused by flood waters down the mountain side. I walked along this, going away from the mountain for some distance, looking down every now and then into the bed, the sides of which were fairly overgrown with grass and small bushes.

Finally, a movement caught my eye and I spotted a wild cat. It looked as if she was about to pounce on something. I fired. To find this cat here was rather unexpected, and I was quite excited. It is not often that one gets the opportunity of killing vermin, and wild cats can be troublesome near the fowl runs. I knew that I must have hit it.

Climbing down the bank I saw that cat, which I had expected to be dead. It was moving rapidly along the bed of the slope going toward the mountain. Hurriedly I climbed back and ran some distance in the direction in which the cat was going, only stopping when I was sure I must be ahead of it.

Before long I saw her as she jumped out of the shrubs, trying to get on a ledge a few feet up on the far bank. My rifle was at my shoulder in a second, but I did not pull the trigger, for I saw two kittens come out of a shallow hole on a level with the ledge to meet her. Except for her front feet she did not reach the top of the ledge, then slowly slipped back from the sandy, sloping surface, clawing the earthen wall as she fell back.

She was quite near me, and although I was certain that she was badly wounded, I did not see any blood on her. She disappeared in the long grass and bushes and I did not see her again until she came walking along the ledge. She had worked her way around and had found an easier way to her home.

On reaching her little ones she immediately lay down. I noticed that there were three kittens, and not two as I had thought at first, gathering around for their supper. Except for her panting, the mother was very quiet for some time. Then she lifted her head and arching her back, tried to wash her babies. The effort was too great for the wounded mother, so she took one in her arms and by holding it near her mouth, licked it all over. Then I had a surprise which shocked and disturbed me, for I saw what, at the time, I thought to be a horrible thing. She fastened her teeth in that little kitten's neck and killed it!

The second was washed and killed in the same way.

By this time I had jumped into the bed of the sloop with the idea of saving the life of the three kittens, but I was too late. When I reached her she was gathering them to her and trying to cuddle them as all mother cats do. It was a pathetic sight.

When she saw me, she pressed the kittens to her own body shielding and protecting her dead babies from the enemy. She lifted her head and spat, for I was very close by now.

From the open mouth there was a rush of frothy blood. Her head strained back and the hind legs kicked frantically, scattering the dead kittens. Her whole body stiffened with spasms running down the muscles; the fore and hind legs strained straight back; the mouth opened again; there was a gurgle and more blood from mouth and nostrils. Then the whole body shivered and was still. The mother cat was dead from a bullet through her lungs - and I had fired the shot.

I wonder if there was hate in her eyes? I did not look. I was afraid of what I might read there. I put my hand on the dead body, and remained where I was for a long time. I found myself repeating a few words too late. "Poor, poor kitty. I am sorry, kitty, terribly sorry".

The sun had set. The night was growing dark. I placed the bodies of the dead kittens against that of the brave mother - the wild cat mother who had killed her babies rather than let them suffer and die of hunger.

Blinded with tears, I clambered out of the sloop, and as I picked up my rifle, which I had left on the bank, I felt it was sticky. I looked and there was blood on the palm and fingers of my hand.

Poor, poor kittens, you were so far from the homestead. I don't think you would have worried the fowls.

I closed my hand over the bloodstains as if they were something precious.

HOW POACHERS CAN GET AWAY

The following advertisement appeared in the "Poona Herald" in February '78 :- Tanned skin fur for sale in top condition 1) Lion's (male and female skins) 2) Deer (black buck) skins 3) Black Panther skin 4) Sea Lion's skin etc. Contact K. M. Vijaykumar, C/o Great Bombay Circus, Pune 30. Phone 440402.

21-2-'78 Three B.W.C. field workers visited the Circus and inquired about the tanned skins for sale. They were informed that the skins belonged to Mr. Vijaykumar, who told them that since he was a good friend of one of the Forest Wardens he was able to obtain skins direct from the forest where the animals were poached. However, the skins he had in his possession at the time were licensed and only if there was a certainty of purchasing any would he show them.

23-2-'78 B.W.C. field workers contacted the Maharashtra Forest Department in Poona from whom it was understood that Mr. Vijaykumar was under suspicion.

26-2-'78 B.W.C. field workers met the Divisional Forest Officer at his residence. The D.F.O. requested that on the same day two other B.W.C. field workers should go to the Circus and contact Mr. Vijaykumar from whom a skin should be purchased along with a cash-bill. This was done and it was noted that during Mr. Vijaykumar's term of holding a Dealer's License this was the very first cash-bill issued. Furthermore, the same had been back dated 16-2-'78, a day before his license had expired. The black buck skin which was purchased had bullet marks. A fresh rubber stamp of the D.F.O.'s Office (no longer in use as the D.F.O. stated himself) was on the skin. Amongst the other skins available for sale were that of a lion, lioness, antelope, black buck, llama, sea lion, python, black panther etc.

27-2-'78 On meeting the D.F.O. in the morning B.W.C. field workers were told that Mr. Vijaykumar had already been informed by the Forest Department authorities that there would be a Search at 2-30 p.m. the same afternoon. Further the D.F.O. advised that the two B.W.C. field workers should go to the Circus and return the skin since a record of the same had already been taken. Ironically while they went there, Mr. Vijaykumar visited the D.F.O.'s Office. At the time of the Search, the D.F.O. rang up Mr. Vijaykumar from his Office in the presence of B.W.C. field workers and requested Mr. Vijaykumar to take back the black buck skin and return the money. B.W.C. field workers accompanied the D.F.O. to the Circus where the Search was in progress. It was noticed that the skins were asked to be fetched for inspection and there was no Search as such in the several tents of the Circus.

24-3-'78 Till this date several futile efforts were made to contact the D.F.O. who on one occasion asked over the telephone "What action do you expect me to take?" but was unwilling to talk further to the B.W.C. field worker.

25-3-'78 B.W.C. field workers visited the Chief Wildlife Warden and requested that on the basis of letters sent to him and the D.F.O., necessary action against Mr. Vijaykumar should be taken for issuing a back dated cash-bill and for being in possession of any illegal skins, e. g. python. Furthermore, the forest Department should follow up the case where the Circus had shifted.

Readers will appreciate that BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY can only give the Forest Department help in catching the offenders, however, it is the duty of the Forest Department to ACT - and act efficiently - in order to stop the offenders from dealing in illegal skins and thus eliminate poaching of India's wildlife.

NEWSPICKS

The Times of India, Wednesday, March 22nd, 1978

"You're brave beating up baby seals" says a telling poster carried by London demonstrators protesting against the killing of seals in Newfoundland. They and thousands of other humanitarians have called for an end to the seal hunt in Canada. It appears that the method of killing seals is extremely cruel and the species is facing extinction. It is one of the most harmless, playful and lovable of animals and yet some people's greed is such that they wouldn't mind doing the cruel destruction job. The supreme irony is that the killed seals provide fur for the rich and the flamboyant!

Often the cuss words "You're a beast!" are an insult to the whole kingdom of lower animals. Not one of them wantonly kills, least of all for providing ridiculous luxuries for their fellow creatures. Man, the most evolved of all, has no such compunction and liberally shows his inhumanity to man and animal alike. There is a streak of cruelty in him.

As far as **whales** are concerned, fortunately an international quota has been fixed for the number of these sea mammals which may be hunted annually. But there are reports that the restriction is not always obeyed, the plea being that whalers have to live. Surely the Japanese and the Soviets (who do most of the whaling) can find alternative jobs for those who depend on annihilating a vanishing family?

Animal Talk, March / April 1978

In mid-December, Kenya announced a ban on the sale of all game skins and trophies in their country. Although big game hunting has been banned in that country since last May, poachers have destroyed thousands of **elephants** and other wildlife for the valuable ivory and skins.

Representative Anthony Beilenson (Calif.) has introduced a bill in Congress that would outlaw the import of ivory or other elephant products in this country. In addition, the Administration would be directed to request that the Convention on International Trade in Engangered Species suspend all trade in elephant products among its member nations.