

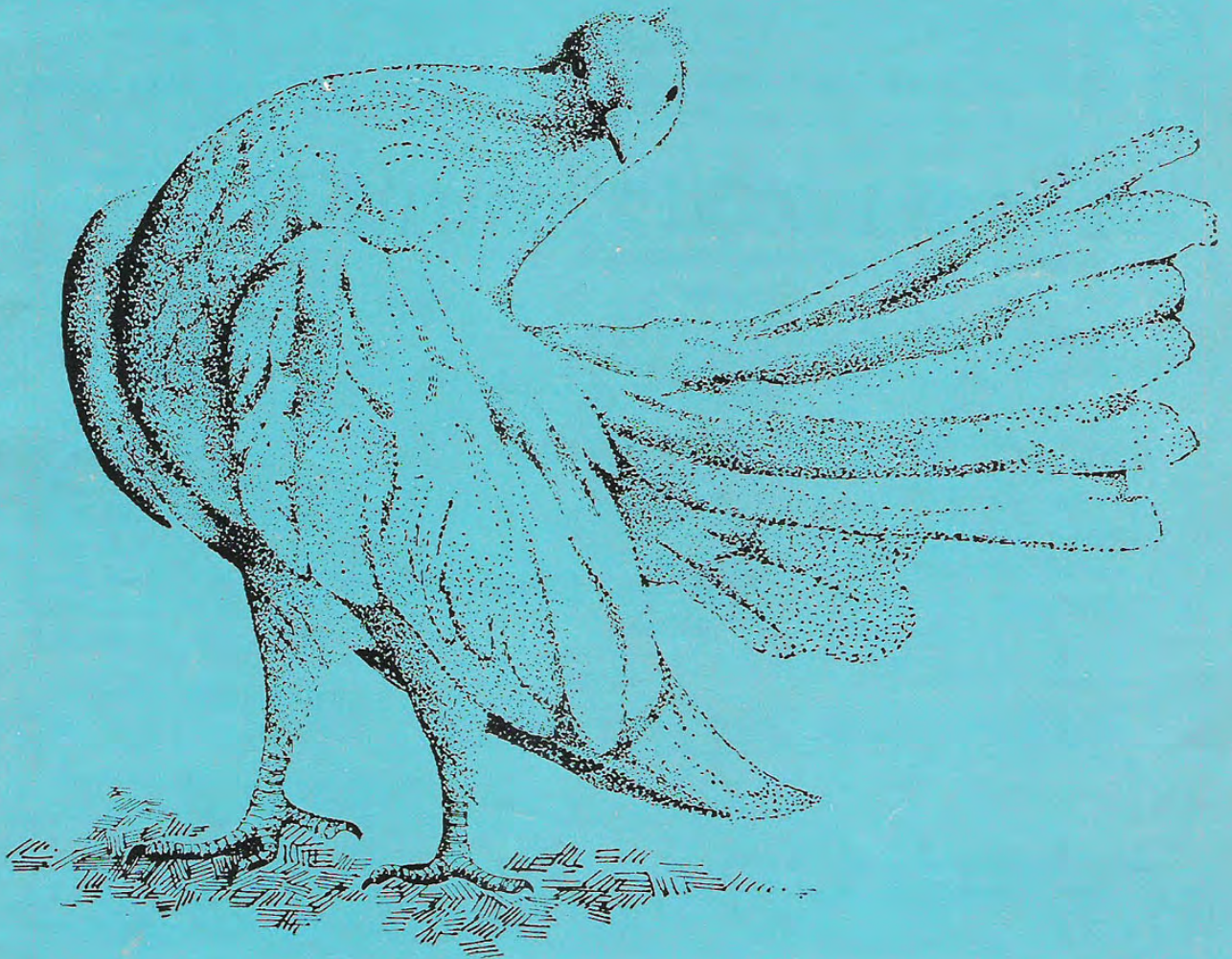


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PIGEON

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COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

EDITORIAL

Wildlife is big business. The fur coat of a South American ocelot sells for 40,000 dollars in Germany, the horn of a rhinoceros is worth more than its weight in gold, and the fabulous price paid for musk is only too well known.

Smugglers, working hand-in-glove with poachers, secure animals at ridiculously low prices and sneak their coats and other extracts out of their country to make enormous sums overseas.

One of the ingenious ways of smuggling animals and animal products is by using the laundering device. Here, illegal exports pass through another country where they receive valid documentation, so that the country they are destined for accept them without any qualms about the imbalance of nature caused in the country of origin. This method also helps the smuggled goods to avoid strict controls like in Colombia. Singapore, Colon (Panama), Leticia and other cities with free-port status are important laundry ports for the wildlife trade. Pre-legislation acquisition and stockpiling are the other methods of dealing in animal products. Some dealers such as the Ise-shima Zoological Garden (Japan), National Zoo (India), Zoopark Corten Rene (Belgium) and Siam Zoo (Thailand) carry on their nefarious trade in the guise of zoological establishments. The wildlife trade is also notorious for its wastage. The case of the orangutang is a good example. For every young orangutang reaching a testing laboratory, four adult females have been shot and three young ones have died in transit. This excludes those who have perished due to captive conditions and the ignorance of dealers and buyers of their basic requirements.

We must work for the total abolition of trading in wildlife. Regulations must be strictly enforced on the export, transit and import of wildlife species, their skins and trophies. It is imperative that some of the main wildlife importing countries like Japan, Belgium and Italy give up their profit-maximising tendencies. The Third Conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in February this year. Let us hope that some benefit is derived from the discussions that will take place.

Experts believe that the use of wildlife in international trade conflicts with the better use of it in its own country of origin—where it can attract tourists. In this respect, co-operation is essential for the protection of fauna against exploitation. It is recognised that wildlife, in its many beautiful and varied forms, is an irreplaceable part of the earth which must be protected for this and the generations to come.

Suneel Dobholkar

(This issue has been kindly sponsored by CENTURY RAYON)

FROM MY DESK...

BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (India Branch) takes great pleasure in announcing that with this issue of COMPASSIONATE FRIEND, we commence a Gujarati version of the magazine, entitled SATVANUKAMPA (a Jain word meaning compassion towards all living beings). Apart from meeting the need of those Members who have been asking for literature in Gujarati, we hope to reach many more persons with our new quarterly. In future, we hope to have a Hindi magazine also.

Our movement is gaining more and more support and our activities are expanding accordingly. Members will be pleased to hear we have opened two Sub-Branches of BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (India Branch). The Bombay Centre is under the Directorship of Ms. Usha R. Jhaveri (Tel. 827976 between 2 and 3 p.m.); and the Ahmedabad Centre has Mr. Bharat B. Shah (Tel. 78673 & 78873) as Director.

Our Members are of vital importance to us. Each Member forms a part of a lifeline. BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY - any organisation for that matter - is as strong as its Members. When we approach the Government for the amendment of laws, or for any other matter, it is the number of people we represent that counts, gives weight to our arguments. It is regrettable therefore that many Ordinary Members do not renew their annual subscriptions. Thus, in spite of enrolling new Members almost every day, our ordinary membership has not increased substantially. If you know of a past Member, who did not send in a renewal, could you please approach the person to rejoin?

The export of animal products from India goes on unabated, year in and year out. Frogslegs, one of our main concerns, were exported to the tune of Rs. 8.2 crores in 1979-80. In terms of the Foreign Exchange earned, the figure seems impressive. But it is nothing to crow over... A frog eats its own weight in insects every day. Thus the enormous culling of this useful creature entails the use of harmful artificial pesticides as a means of protecting our crops. Apart from the humanitarian grounds (the frog continues to be killed in a most inhumane way) the pesticides cost money and add to our pollution. The irony of it is that as of October 1980, apart from all types of snakes, even frogs have been given protection under Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. In other words, a licence for dealing in 'small game' is all that is required for the frogs to be caught and killed!

Diana Ratnagar
Chairperson

"LA BELLE DAME SANS MERCI ?"

By Pratima Sinha

Yes, it is you my lady who is a perfect example to whom this caption so aptly attaches itself. You are breath-takingly lovely in all respects. Your hair, oh! how it catches the lights of the sun's rays and lends your glorious head a dazzling halo. Your eyes, do you use mascara or eye-shadow? By the way, do you know from where they come? You are not bothered - anyway, compliments are always on the way. Your skin: flawless and so fine-grained; an expensive night-cream or perhaps a famous, much-advertised, 'non-greasy & non-drying' emollient does the job. Your clothes - 'heavenly' silk, so soft and seductive to the touch. Your accessories like your patent-leather shoes and handbag - so chic. Your crowning glory - an expensive coat or wrap of fur - how did it get there, around your soft, white neck? "O, don't bother me with such questions," you say, "I wear it and others admire it - that's all." You exhale expensive perfume - a sure case where musk or civet has been used; but you argue, "Whatever you wear, you must wear fragrance!"

The time has come to voice our protest on behalf of the dumb animals. You are being condemned for having been an accomplice in many murders. Get to know, as to who has suffered to give you glossy hair - yes, an animal. Learn as to how

your eyes look so beguiling in shades of blue, green or purple - yes, pitiable rabbits on whom m'lady's eye-shadows are tested. And, can you ever think as to how your skin glows? - no, you are ignorant of the fact: most of the world's costly facial cosmetic preparations are made from whale-oil and other animal ingredients. Why? I, not being an expert on skin care, can tell you that vegetable, nut and fruit oil extracts can keep your skin even more beautiful in the long run. Even your garments are productions of cruelty; the silk cocoons are stifled in heat so as to preserve the long, unbroken threads of silk. Furs! the thing which lends you a cool grace, adds a final touch of class (so you think!) and uplifts your social status, is perhaps from many a vulnerable fur seal, mink, or even chinchilla - UGH! are you really lovely? Wearing leather shoes, perhaps from a calf or a pig, when non-leather goods are available along with simulated hide products. Give up perfumes with barbaric animal extracts like musk or civet, and start using Nature's own gifts of mimosa, lavender, honey-suckle and other innumerable flowerbased scents.

Remember as Wordsworth said :

"Do not mingle thy pleasures or joy with the sorrow of the meanest thing that feels."

THE PANTHERESS

By Nihal Mathur

She once roamed the wilds as free as the west winds that swept the mountain tops. She was the very life of the jungle and without her the deers, the boars, and the langurs would be as inanimate as the silent hills. The small check-dam in the mountain gorge was her favourite haunt and there, lying on the rocks, people often saw the pantheress.

Very Hot

One morning in May, while out on his beat, the Forest Guard gasped when he came up to the tank. There she was – the pantheress, crouching precariously on the rock that barely broke the water surface in the middle of the tank. Before fear could paralyse him, he realised – she was trapped!

Yes, that summer was particularly hot and rainless. The water level in the tank had receded sharply. Consequently, the rocks had risen precipitously high on three sides while on the fourth, there was the wall of the check-dam. How she came to be in such a predicament, he could only guess. Perhaps she had jumped in to quench her thirst or to cool off from the oppressive heat of the Aravallis. One thing, however, was certain: there was no way out for her now.

As the word of the beleaguered pantheress spread, preparations to capture her began. By midday the painful operation unfolded. Whole afternoon long they goaded her with poles, pelted her with stones and fired empty rounds in the air, to terrify her into submission.

Hauled Up

In a fierce will to survive, she garnered all her strength and with a mighty spring she leapt at her tormentors but failing to clear the parapet wall, she crashed against it and collapsed in the water. In one sweep of the net she was hauled up and caged. Evening approached and loading the cage onto the truck became an onerous task. It was decided to resume loading the next day.

It was a melancholy twilight. The forest stood still in shocked silence. At the parapet the pantheress lay in the cage lifeless with exhaustion. And that night it rained and the heavens cried.

Shy & Elusive

She would leave the forest now to go to a zoo in some distant city. There, the shy and elusive cat would be put on public display. The freedom of open spaces would be replaced by an asphyxiating confinement in damp walls. The feline grace of movement would degenerate into a heap of sloth and all that was inherent in her nature would be denied. And then, slowly and surely she would go mad. Like a demented animal, she would begin to pace the cell ceaselessly.

Early next morning the captors came and carried the pantheress away into slavery.

Courtesy : The Times of India

MEAT INDUSTRY INHUMANITY

By Richard Mooney

Britain's meat industry is severely criticised in a report published yesterday for the inhumanity of the systems it operates for the transport and slaughter of farm animals.

The report,* published as a House of Commons committee begins an important study of farm animal welfare, is based on the proceedings of a seminar involving meat industry leaders as well as behaviour and welfare experts held at Ammerdown, near Bath, earlier this year. Its findings have been endorsed by the animal welfare committee of the British Veterinary Association.

The "Ammerdown Report" contains horror stories such as chickens missing the automatic stunner and having throats cut while still conscious, or missing both the stunner and the cutter before being plunged into tanks of scalding water. But its authors do not suggest that there is any deliberate cruelty in the industry. "Although many of those in charge of animals know and care about the need for humane treatment, as with any routine work it is difficult not to become immune to imperfections in the system," the report states.

The animals' sufferings often begin on their home farms where sticks, electric goads and excessive noise used to help loading can cause stress and physical damage.

The report says improvements in facilities to ease these problems "need neither be elaborate nor expensive."

At livestock markets animals are moved around too much and subjected to further unnecessary harassment and the situation does not improve when they reach the slaughterhouses. Here the report criticises pre-slaughter handling facilities and inadequate staff training.

At the actual point of slaughter the report says pre-stunning is often ineffective and criticises the delay (up to 40 seconds) between stunning and slaughter. This frequently results in the animals having regained consciousness. Generally the report's authors prefer high voltage electrical stunning, adding that the carbon dioxide method widely used on the Continent should be studied.

The shortcomings of the system, apart from causing unnecessary suffering to the animals, reduce farmers' and traders' profits because damaged carcasses are worth less than perfect ones.

The Ammerdown Group's recommendations include the formation of joint working groups including farmer and meat trade members to study the design of animal transport vehicles and marketing practices; the drawing up of official guidelines, on pre-slaughter handling; and improved training of slaughterhouse workers and animal transport drivers.

* *The Transport and Slaughter of Farm Animals*, from the University of Bristol, School of Veterinary Science.

Courtesy : Financial Times, London

OPEN THE EYES OF YOUR HEART

We live in a world where again and again
We see cruelty, misery and wrong
And the animal kingdom subjected to pain
As the weak in the hands of the strong.
Though indifference and apathy is the response
Of the many who cannot be swayed,
We must take up the fight of our brothers in pain
So desperately needing our aid.
Oh! it is no use seeing if you've got no feeling,
You must open the eyes of your heart!
And it is no use sighing, complaining or crying,
If you don't mean to play your part.
For compassion means action, it isn't a fraction
Of use if you just take flight.
If you know how to love, you must learn how to act,
And see that the wrong's put right!
Though the poor sentimentalist turns up his eyes
And weeps buckets of crocodile tears,
And assures us that "nothing can ever be done",
We must show him that we don't share his fears!
For with right on our side, we shall win in the end,
And the heart of the world shall be turned,
And the poor, tortured, terrified, animals find
The peace which they surely have earned!

Crystal Rogers

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A STRAY DOG

My first recollections are by my mother's side, bathed in her affectionate licks, and romping with my brother and two sisters. The air around us was always pervaded with the smell of fish because we lived in the fishing village of Danda at Khar (Bombay). The fisherfolk were sometimes kind and threw us pieces of fish or remnants of food; but very often we went hungry and had to scavenge the dustbins for whatever morsels we could dig out.

The most frightening factor of our young lives was the 'DEMON VAN' which regularly came around. As soon as the 'VAN' slithered to a stop, men jumped out with sacks, seized our comrades, and in spite of their painful protests, threw them into the "Mouth of the Demon" like lifeless objects. Mother had warned us to take cover behind the huts whenever we spotted the 'Demon'. Unfortunately, one morning it was she herself who was caught along with my brethren. Being curious by nature I had strayed off to sniff at a dead bird which saved me from the "gallows" so to say.

I whined and pined for my mother but she never came back. I was at a loss as to what to do and then recollected the words she had whispered in my ears one day - "In the midst of adversity keep your tail up". After deep thought I decided to leave the locality and seek greener pastures. Bidding farewell to my friends I started out on my 'Journey of Hope', taking shelter wherever I could, eating what I found on the roadside, drinking water from the drains and often receiving shouts and blows on my back and legs, badly injuring one of my forelegs. I cried out in agony and shivering with fright, cowered in a corner. Suddenly I heard the angry protest of a lady and the blows stopped. I was picked up and felt a soft hand on me while a gentle voice whispered

"poor doggie". For the first time in many months I had received such tender treatment and I was reminded of my dear mother.

I showed my gratefulness to the lady by licking her hand and wagging my tail. I was then taken to her house across the road. My wounds were cleaned and dressed and my gnawing hunger was satisfied by bread and milk. I was even given a gunny bag to sleep on. Was all this real or was it only a poor doggie's dream?

I awoke next morning in my new surroundings but could hardly get up for the excruciating pain in my wounded leg. The kind lady whom I had secretly nicknamed "My Guardian", was around and I felt reassured. However, the next morning I found myself being borne away in a car and my fears returned tenfold. Where was I being taken? perhaps to the 'Lethal Chamber', was the thought enveloping my mind. On reaching my destination, I was even more terrified as I was put on a table while a number of strangers kept feeling my injured foot and turning me over from side to side. "My Guardian" was nowhere around and I felt a sense of being deserted. I mused about my future, wondering whether I would be spending my life in the S. P. C. A. or whether I would be on the roads again. How wrong I was to be proved on both these assumptions!

One fine day I found myself in the van again - not knowing where I was being driven. I was tense with anxiety which turned to a wonderful surprise - for when the van stopped I saw "My Guardian". Overjoyed and wagging my tail vigorously I leaped into her open arms.

I have since been named TWIGGY - and quite like the sound of it. I couldn't

Continued on Page 16

HAWKSBILL TURTLES FACING EXTINCTION IN INDONESIA

Hawksbill turtles are facing extinction in the waters near Indonesia because of indiscriminate hunting to meet increased Japanese demand. Their shell is used to make "tortoiseshell" objects.

Japanese trading firms are reported to have increased their imports of hawksbill turtles because the current Diet session is expected to ratify the Washington Treaty which bans trade in wild animals which face extinction. The hawksbill turtle is designated as one of the species facing extinction in the treaty.

The indiscriminate hunting and near extinction were disclosed in a report on hawksbill turtles in Indonesia and Malaysia by a team headed by Itaru Uchida, 47, head of the Himeji Municipal Aquarium in Himeji City, Hyogo Prefecture. Uchida warned in the report that unless Japan quickly establishes a system of co-operation with the countries concerned so that the turtles can be increased, there is the danger of their extinction.

The survey team headed by Uchida was funded by the Japan Hawksbill Turtle Association (141 tortoiseshell work companies), Nagasaki Prefecture and Nagasaki City as well as the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. Uchida is the only Japanese on the committee of experts on sea turtles of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The team of five, including marine biologists, made a survey and questioned turtle hunters, government supervisors and

scientists on three Indonesian islands and Borneo for one month from August 31, 1979.

The team's report said that resources were facing extinction because of indiscriminate hunting and because hunting has become more efficient as a result of mechanisation.

Uchida pointed out that when a survey was carried out in 1973, the lengths of shells averaged around 90 cm but this time the shells were only around 30 cm long. He said that the drastic decrease in the number of large turtles is decisive proof of indiscriminate hunting.

Japan accounts for 80% of imports of tortoiseshell. Its annual imports amount to 40 tons (about 40,000 - 70,000 turtles), but in 1973 when the Washington Treaty was signed, the amount jumped to 73 tons. Trading firms are believed to have engaged in speculative buying in the belief that the treaty would be ratified immediately. In 1979, because of expectations that the treaty would be ratified, the import volume was 63.5 tons.

The trading firms involved are not the major ones, but small-medium trading firms specialising in tortoiseshell. Imports from Indonesia account for 30% of total imports, with 20.3 tons in 1973 and 19 tons in 1979.

Courtesy : Asahi Evening News (Japan)

A MESSAGE OF PEACE TO THE MESSENGERS OF PEACE

At last, the Government has released the long awaited official announcement on the export of pigeons.

The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, the Gemological Institute of India, the Bombay Diamond Merchants' Association, 'Zaveri Mahajan Motino Dharam No Kanto' and the Pearl Merchants Association together wrote a letter on the 29th of October '80 to the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Pranabkumar Mukherjee, to stop the export of pigeons. Before this, a number of letters, telegrams and requests were sent by animal protection institutions and other like-minded societies, groups and individuals to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Besides, representatives of different institutions had met Mr. Mukherjee in this regard. All their efforts have not been in vain.

At a function held at the Taj Mahal Hotel in Bombay on the 4th of November 1980 to give away the export awards in the field of gems and jewellery, Mr. Rashmikant Mehta, the Vice Chairman of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, declared on behalf of Mr. Pranabkumar

Mukherjee that: "The Central Government has announced a ban on the export of pigeons." This disclosure was loudly applauded by the large number of invitees and business people present.

The Central Government is to be congratulated for banning the export of pigeons, thus respecting the sentiments of the followers of 'Ahinsa' and 'Jeevadaya'.

According to the public notice published on the 4th of November 1980, new contracts for the export of pigeons cannot be made. However, official exporting firms who had signed export contracts before the publication of this notice were unfortunately exempted from the ban until their commitments were met. All the same, they will have to abide by the formalities laid down.

Courtesy : 'Jainprakash'

Note :- BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY also made a representation to the Government. We feel that in the name of old orders, it is likely that exports will continue for quite some time.

I M P O R T A N T

The BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY (India Branch) Membership is now approximately 1,500. For convenience, and specially as many of the names are similar, it is essential that members when writing to us, sending donations or renewing their subscriptions, quote their index number. Thank you.

NO CLAY PIGEON

By Anant Kartik Mithal

For years my younger brother had wanted an air gun, and finally, when no one seemed willing to do anything about it, he forced the issue and bought himself a beauty. So, at the young and impressionable age of fourteen, he was the proud owner of an air gun, about as high as himself.

After he had fooled around with it for a day, I took him up to the roof to teach him to shoot. We started off with a tin propped up next to the barsati wall and moved on to anything from the light bulb (which fortunately we missed) to the water cooler (which we didn't). Occasionally, to relieve the monotony, we would take pot-shots at the pigeons that came to roost on the wall.

Missed

Suddenly, Keshu said, "Pigeon, up there, on the barsati roof!" I upped and fired. It didn't even look around to see what had happened. I must have missed it by a foot. Irritated both by my lousy shot and the pigeon's nonchalance, I fired again. No effect.

This time Keshu fired, and the shot clanged off the pipe on which the pigeon was sitting, and it stirred. Fantastic shot!

All afire by this terrific success, I tried again. It was all a big joke. I couldn't possibly hit it, my aim wasn't that good. I let go.

The pigeon just hopped up and fell on its side. From where I was, all I could see were two feet clawing at the sky, Keshu gasped: "You got it!"

Relief

A bit dazed, a bit sick, I handed him the gun and ran forward. Some cooler,

less disturbed part of my mind told me to kill it if it was only wounded to stop any further pain. It was dead.

I sighed with relief.

Then, suddenly, one foot moved skyward. I shouted for the gun, but couldn't possibly hit those feet and couldn't kill it that way either.

Sick, I got a ladder and climbed up. I tried to knock it down with a stick so that I would not have to touch it, but could not. There was no option. I reached out and picked it up.

Repelled

I stood there on top of the ladder, and it lay in my hand, head rolling, perhaps dying because of my foolishness. There was a very faint heartbeat. Suddenly repelled, I threw it down and it landed with a flat, hollow thump.

My brother offered to shoot it to save me any further injury, but could not bring himself to do it. Sadly, I took up the gun.

It lay there, huddled at my feet, a bundle that I had created by destroying. I could not bring myself to make the classic gesture, prescribed by all the best hunting novels, to put the gun to its head.

I took a step back, fired — and missed.

Heavy-hearted, I reloaded. This time I could afford no more mistakes. I put the gun to its head and killed it.

We didn't feel like laughing any more. The new toy felt like a snake. It had hurt. We went down.

Courtesy : The Times of India

THOUSANDS OF ANIMALS SUFFER BUT COSMETIC SAFETY TESTS CONTINUE

by Dee Dunhein

"The question is not, can they reason? Nor, can they talk? But, can they suffer?"

Jeremy Bentham's concern for animals prompted those words two hundred years ago. As we learn more of atrocious experiments performed on live animals in laboratories all over the world, the philosopher's words still echo throughout the humanitarian community.

Animal experimentation runs rampant in the United States. Millions and millions of animals every year, from quinea pigs to monkeys to dogs and cats, suffer and often die at the hands of businesses, research agencies and schools, all in the name of science or profit.

The multi-billion dollar cosmetic industry plays a leading role in these animal experiments. Avon and Revlon, for example, two of the biggest names in the industry, have their own private animal laboratories, (Avon's in Suffern, N. Y. and Revlon's in the Bronx). Thousands of animals each year are tools for cosmetic safety testing in these labs and others like them. Products tested in this manner include: toothpaste, hair conditioner, hair dye, talc, face cream, deodorant, eye makeup, hand lotion, perfume, cologne and lipstick.

One common cosmetic test, used most typically for shampoos and other hair and face products, is the Eye-Irritancy Test (also known as the Draize Eye Test) In this test, undiluted versions of the product being tested are placed in the eyes of animals to

observe and record the damage done. The animals typically suffer swelling, redness, blistering and discharges from their eyes as a result. And when ingredients are toxic (poisonous) enough, and are administered repeatedly in large and concentrated doses, the resultant ulceration and hemorrhaging lead to destruction of the eye and blindness.

Rabbits are usually used for these tests because they don't have the proper tear ducts to flush away the burning chemicals. Yet, despite the agony felt by the rabbits, the cosmetic researchers insist upon using such innocuous terminology as: "... solution is gently instilled in the eye ... may cause slight discomfort and irritation." The companies also insist that the chemicals are either naturally expelled or are followed by a rinse of the eyes. The chemicals only stay in the animal's eyes for a short time, they say.

But, according to some other researchers and lab workers, the animals still suffer. According to their reports, the lab animals squeal, jump, claw and struggle wildly in their attempts to dislodge the painful substances from their eyes. Because of this, holding devices like stocks are used to keep the animals from moving about. Some companies even use metal clips to hold the eyes so that the animals may not even blink.

Like most cosmetic companies, Avon and Revlon deny extensive use of the metal clips and the stocks. Revlon claims

that their lab animals are well-treated and that their eyes are rinsed out soon after experimentation. Avon says that stocks are "rarely used to hold animals in place and, if required, are used only for very brief periods of time. Animals have free access to water and food during each test day."

But, despite tight security at both labs, one anonymous lab worker disputed these contentions; "They (the rabbits) don't like it. They're scared. They're held down for the testing. In holders. They shy away from people." Another employee: "I can't tell you what goes on in here ... I'll feel safer if I don't. I'm sorry. I'm safer if I don't talk about it."

So the question becomes: Who to believe?

Another common cosmetic test administered to animals are the Lethal Dose-50 tests, used to check on a product's safety in case it is inadvertently swallowed by its human consumers. The LD-50 tests are so named because half the animals must die from eating the product before the testing is stopped. This supposedly enables researchers to learn how many milligrams of a substance it takes to kill a certain amount of weight.

Since the animals usually won't eat vast quantities of lipstick or mascara voluntarily, these LD-50 tests often take an extremely nasty turn. If the animals refuse to eat, painful stomach tubes are used to push the chemicals down their throats into their digestive systems.

Because of their particularly ugly nature, the LD-50 tests have run into the most opposition both inside and outside the

cosmetic industry. In a **National Enquirer** article last year, for instance, Dr. Robert Scheuplein, chief of the federal Food and Drug Administration's Dermal and Ocular Branch, was quoted as labelling the LD-50's "stupid ... mindless ... an infliction of pain ... and a waste of time and money"

Now, however, Scheuplein says he was referring only to those instances where the LD-50 tests are taken 'too far'. In these cases, the products are not toxic enough to kill the required 50 percent of animals. So, the companies reach the prescribed death level by massive overdosing, forcing enormous quantities of hair dye or whatever the substance is into the animals' stomachs, causing their internal organs to rupture.

The same **National Enquirer** article quoted Dr. Earle W. Brauer, Revlon's vice-president of Research, as saying that 'standard' LD-50's are used to test every product that Revlon produces. Now, not only does Brauer refuse to talk about it, but one aide said that he "disassociates" himself from the subject. Frank Johnson, a Revlon public relations official, explained that executives and researchers alike at all cosmetic firms have been "burned" by negative publicity over these experiments. Accordingly, he said, they are "gunshy", afraid to talk about the issue because of its emotional impact.

One Revlon scientist, however, did agree to talk about the LD-50's with Johnson present. She said that the LD-50's do not necessarily result in death for 50 percent of the animals because the end results can be statistically estimated after the prescribed doses have been administered. But neither she nor anyone else at Revlon or Avon cared to discuss what then happens to the test survivors.

What happens to most of them is not very pretty. According to a research scientist at a large independent lab (one which does work for cosmetic companies that do not have their own lab facilities for animals), most of the animal subjects continue to suffer until they finally die.

"Oh, they're used for other tests, maybe industrial, governmental, anything," he said. "Don't forget, these hamsters, rodents, guinea pigs, rabbits and all are expensive. Anyone can tell you that. We get them by the hundreds from breeders. We use them again. Yes, they are highly reusable."

The words rang in my ears. HIGHLY REUSABLE.

Skin irritation tests are a third type of testing frequently used by the cosmetic companies. In these tests (also called the Draize Patch Tests), the hair of the animals is first removed either by shaving it off or by peeling it off using adhesive tape. After all the hair is removed, cuts are made in the skin. Then chemicals and cosmetics are placed in the cuts and padding is applied to press them into the bare skin and hold them there for varying amounts of time.

Once again the animals are held tight in restraint devices while they're forced to suffer bruises that can resemble severe chemical burns. After a period of one or two days, the covering is removed and the skin is inspected. The results are then compared with control animals who were not tested. If found lacking, the tests may be repeated again and again on the same animals.

This method is commonly used to test astringent preparations such as aftershave lotions, with guinea pigs often serving as the real 'guinea pigs'.

If these and other testing methods are so inhumane, why do the cosmetic companies continue to make use of them?

The companies cite two main reasons. First, they say that since they are responsible for the safety of their products, they must thoroughly test these products before putting them on the market place. Often, they insist, this means trying out their products on animals somewhere along the line.

Much evidence has been compiled, however, to suggest that many of these tests are quite suspect in the results they produce, or at least are not as reliable as the cosmetic industry claims.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) in Great Britain, for instance, notes that more animals are subjected to the LD-50 tests than are necessary for statistical accuracy. More importantly, it says, the tests themselves are often inaccurate, are actually not valid for substances of low toxicity, are relatively expensive and lack significance because they only test for the lethal dose, not the all-important toxic dose (the dose capable of causing permanent damage to a body organ or system).

In fact, the RSPCA says, the LD-50 test is so suspect that an LD-1 test (using the dose which kills one percent of the tested subjects) would make far more sense.

Similarly, other tests frequently used by the cosmetic industry have been proven to be statistically and scientifically questionable. A 1971 study of 25 cooperating cosmetic companies (including Avon and Revlon), for example, indicated that in skin and eye irritation tests, the results varied widely. The results varied so widely, in

fact, that the study concluded: "... the rabbit eye and skin procedures currently recommended by the federal agencies ... should not be recommended as standard procedures in any new regulation. Test results are unreliable."

Also, in numerous cases, the cosmetic researchers duplicate tests performed by their competitors on the same products instead of pooling their experimental data. Thus, in the name of free enterprise and the competitive system, more money is spent and more animal lives are wasted.

The cosmetic conglomerates cite federal regulations as the second main reason for testing their products on animals. A long explanatory statement from the Cosmetic, Fragrance and Toiletry Association, Inc. (CFTA), the trade organization of the cosmetic industry to which 90 percent of the companies belong, notes that "while not explicitly required by federal laws and regulations, the use of animal testing is often a necessary consequence of legal requirements that apply to the cosmetic, toiletry and fragrance industry."

Regulations drawn up by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the CFTA contends, require that "each ingredient used in a cosmetic product and each finished cosmetic product shall be adequately substantiated for safety prior to marketing." And, the CFTA adds, the FDA acknowledges that "... the use of animal tests is generally recognized and accepted by regulatory agencies as the principal basis for assessing potential risks from exposure to chemicals..."

But, as Hyman Gittes, chief of the FDA's Colors and Cosmetics Evaluation Branch and Allen Halper of the FDA's Division of Regulatory Guidance, pointed

out, the FDA does not require cosmetic companies to perform any one specific test. Nothing in the regulations says the companies must use animal testing, Halper said.

Nor does anything in the FDA regulations say that the cosmetic researchers cannot use pain-killing drugs to relieve the agony of the suffering animals as they undergo testing. In fact, regulations of the 1976 Animal Welfare Act promote the use of anesthetics, analgesics or tranquilizing drugs during most animal experiments. Each site using live animals must fill out an Annual Report of Research Facility for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Tests involving pain or distress to the animals without these drugs must be reported.

However, there are ways of getting around these regulations, as the following portion of an Avon report from two years ago shows. The report notes that in one experiment the **Draize Eye Test** was performed and lists this test in the "pain-no drugs" column. The explanation reads: "Use of anesthetics, analgesics, or tranquilizing drugs would interfere with test results."

The form is signed by a "responsible official" (in this case the company's Vice-President of Research) and approved by the attending veterinarian. It then gets filed away. So much, then, for safeguarding and protecting the animals.

Still worse the cosmetic companies hide behind a veil of secrecy when it comes to laboratory testing, afraid to let the general public discover many of the facts about their brand of experimentation.

I met frustrating dead-ends when attempting to communicate with Avon and Revlon, for instance. Over and over again

I heard things like: "You must go through the proper channels if you're going to ask this type of question." "We know it's a hot issue, that's why you can't talk to everyone around here about it." "You were instructed not to call here...we were instructed to transfer your calls...we can't talk to you about it."

Not long after my first phone calls, I was blocked from speaking with anyone at the research and lab facilities. All calls were transferred to public relations or consumer affairs departments. Secretaries and receptionists were given instructions not to allow my calls through, and automatically told me their bosses had "no comment".

As an attending veterinarian in one lab, Dr. Herbert Morton, put it, "... After doing this for so many years, you don't go around spilling your guts. I can't give you any information. I have nothing to say. Period."

On what basis, then, is there hope for an end to, or at least, a drastic cutback in, animal experimentation in the cosmetic industry?

First there is a little hope in the actions of the CFTA and the cosmetic companies themselves, who are being subjected to

growing public pressure to change their ways and are finding it increasingly expensive to continue their animal tests on a large scale. According to the CFTA, the cosmetic industry is also taking positive steps to eliminate much of the wasteful duplication in their animal tests.

Secondly, much more hope comes from the news that alternative tests are being rapidly developed. Such alternatives include: the use of cell, tissue and organ cultures; the use of computer models and more extensive computer analysis; the use of paid human volunteers and proper supervision in certain limited tests; improved experimental design and statistical methods; the use of bacterial cultures; and other testing methods found to be effective and viable.

Thus, the future may not be bleak for the animals in the cosmetic laboratories if an outraged public continues to exert more and more pressure on the companies which perform these tests and the federal and state governments which allow them to continue. Only an aroused and knowledgeable citizenry can bring a halt to the **LD-50**, **Draize Patch** and other tests which currently cause countless thousands of animals to suffer and die in this country each year.

Courtesy : ASPCA Bulletin

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ask for a better life - home cooked meals, relaxing in the sun, playing with two other comrades (who obviously have no 'Lineage' like me) or, when in a mischievous mood, chasing the neighbour's chickens or the numerous cats who also live in our compound. Amidst all this joy I never forget to send up a prayer of thanks for this 'haven' and cross my paws for continued

good luck. But I have moments of sadness too, when I think of my less fortunate comrades and earnestly appeal to other humans to open their hearts and their homes to homeless creatures. These "WAIFS" have so much to offer in return for a little human kindness - companionship, loyalty, a free watch and ward service and a lifetime of devotion for better or for worse.

Courtesy : Blue Cross Bulletin

NEWSPICKS

Financial Express, Delhi, Nov. 29, 1980

CAT SKIN EXPORT

The Animal Byproducts Utilisation Centre in the zoological gardens which was started about five years ago by the corporation of Madras for processing and manufacturing several valuable exportable items from stray dogs' skins is now fetching good revenue, besides providing some employment.

Skins of commercial value are of several kinds such as bovine, canine, feline, lupine, porcine, ursine, etc., but of all these, it is now learnt cat skins are highly priced at more than \$ 150 per piece as it is used to cover the soundbox of a highly sophisticated traditional musical instrument resembling a violin played with a bow. In Japan it costs \$ 184/- each and is being used in an instrument called 'shamisen'.

According to experts, the extremely expensive cat's skin is generally taken from its stomach but it is likely to be marred by fighting scars which may produce unevenness in the sound quality. A cat's skin must be well pounded, stretched, dried and while processing the most difficult part of the job is in stretching the skins as they tear rather easily and must be of absolutely uniform thickness to produce a good and melodious sound from a three-stringed instrument.

India is rich in stray cat population and leather technologists may impart their know-how and expertise to process cat skins not only for local needs, but also for export. Market surveys have to be conducted in musical instruments producing countries so that exporters may avail of an early opportunity to enter the markets before other countries take advantage of it.

(PTI) Times of India, October 24, 1980

HUNTING BANNED

The Rajasthan Government has completely banned the hunting of wild animals and birds in the state till March 31 next year.

According to a notification of the state government, the hunting or trapping of wild animals or birds will be banned under the Wild Life (Protection) Act.

Daily Telegraph, October 17, 1980

WHALE OIL BAN - Move on Air Fares

The European parliament yesterday voted to ban imports of products using whale oil from next July. The vote is not binding on any E. E. C. member country but will give a powerful psychological boost to efforts to preserve whales.

Free Press Journal, 19th November 1980

ILLCIT DEAL IN ANIMAL SKINS

A top West German fur and leather trader has been using forged documents to carry on a multi-million-dollar traffic in ocelot and crocodile hides from Paraguay, an international conservation agency revealed in Geneva recently.

A World Wildlife Fund of India press release issued in Bombay stated that the trader has been using the documents to import skins of thousands of endangered animals worth some 12 million dollars.

On learning the news of the scandal, Paraguay President General Alfredo Stroessner promised to take immediate action to stop the trade, the press note added.

COMPASSIONATE FRIEND