



COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

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Cover

The Calf

Illustration

Mr. B. R. Kumawat

Beauty Without Cruelty is a way of life which causes no creature of land, sea or air, terror, torture or death.

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS



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EDITORIAL

Technology at any cost – that is the slogan of the economically advanced countries and also of the developing countries who make frantic efforts to match their progress with the industrialised giants. In the process, all norms of true values of life are ignored or lost sight of. On the other hand, civilisation, culture and dignity rule out even scientific experiments which tread on the toes of innocent, defenceless man or animal. Pope John Paul has emphasised the need for universal love, when he said, "By learning to love and respect inferior creatures, man will also learn to be more human with his equals"

There is plenty of evidence attesting to the harmful effects of keeping animals in cages. The zoos pose the question whether they are sanctuary for the animals or prison house. People with a sympathetic disposition consider zoos as barbaric places where wild animals dragged out of their natural habitat, are incarcerated behind bars, where they forfeit their right to move freely as they like. What captivity means to the animal is demonstrated by the resulting abnormal behaviour which brings in its wake cage paralysis, chronic boredom and stereotyped, constrained movements. An animal's life in zoo prevents it from having nesting, bathing, playing, wallowing, social grouping. It is true that regular food supply and safety from predation are assured to animals in best managed zoos. But what about satisfying their psychological requirements? Food and life safety are not the only determinants of the well being of man or animal. Documented narratives show that in captivity in zoos, monkeys have chewed off their own fin-

gers. Irritation, despondency and mental deprivation weigh so heavily on the animals in confinement that they resort to self mutilation, with the awareness that there is no hope left for them.

Life of animals in circuses is even more pitiable. Some metropolitan and county councils in Europe have banned circuses which include performing animal acts. A spokesman for the Greater London Council which deprecates cruelty to animals said, "We are supposed to be a nation of animal lovers and yet we put up with the indignity and suffering that goes into performing acts by animals." When the 1982 Cape Town Festival included a programme of circus, some organisations including **Beauty Without Cruelty** The Animal Welfare Society, The Animal Anti-Cruelty League and others wrote, to the Mayor of Cape Town requesting him to prevent the shows of this nature from performing on municipal property. Regrettably the Cape Town Council could not take action on the request made, because it had no jurisdiction over the licensing and registration of circuses. Cruelty is inherent in the act of training animals to perform in circuses. Even if the animals are not physically beaten, they are psychologically intimidated.

Kindness is the golden chain by which society is bound together. As it establishes communion between men and animals, let men strengthen that spiritual fellowship, so that civilisation does not perish.

S. M. MASANI

This issue has been kindly sponsored by
HARSHAVADAN MANGALDAS FOUNDATION

**COMPASSIONATE FRIEND**

FROM MY DESK....

WONDERFUL NEWS ... The Government has banned the import of Animal Rennet. **Beauty Without Cruelty** feels so proud to have been instrumental in convincing the Government of India to impose this total ban. Our special thanks to all those from India and abroad, who went out of their way to help us achieve this goal. However, our task is not yet over – in spite of seven long years of writing innumerable letters to various departments and institutions, followed by constant personal approaches (most of which turned out to be frustrating). We shall only be fully satisfied when the Government makes it obligatory on all cheese manufacturers to display the ingredients, including the origin of rennet used, on their packages. Only then will the public be certain that the cheese they are consuming has not entailed the death of thousands of unweaned calves and would therefore not be contrary to their religious sentiments.

In response to the Petition regarding Karakul lambs, submitted to the Rajya Sabha Petition Committee by **Beauty Without Cruelty** and five other animal welfare organisations, representation was requested at a hearing on 21st January 1984, at New Delhi. Apart from myself, Mr. Dashrathbhai M. Thaker (Hon. Secretary, The Bombay Humanitarian League) and Captain V. Sundaram (Founder, Blue Cross of India) attended the hearing where we gave detailed evidence and were cross-examined by the seven Members of Parliament present. Fortunately, we were granted permission by the Chairman to screen our films which would enable the Members to get an idea of the intense cruelty, suffering and killing animals are subjected to when farmed. The killing of Karakul lambs within 48 hours of their birth was also screened. Exploitation of animals in different countries, such as mink and fox, farmed in small cages where they were specially bred and slaughtered primarily for their furs, proved how "research" could develop if a stop was not put to such practices now. We understand, the Committee will take some months to give its impartial



decision. In the meantime, this February/March (the lambing season) another batch of these innocent lambs will be brutally slaughtered at Bikaner for their valuable tight-curved pelts.

The Research Institutes : at Bikaner for Karakul lambs, and at Garsa (Kulu Valley) where rabbits are bred and killed for their furs are not the only places where commercial rearing of animals has been planned. It is very distressing that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has many more such plans, the latest being the Small Animals Breeding Station of the Kerala Agricultural University where mass production of rabbits will take place for their fur and meat.

DIANA RATNAGAR
Chairperson

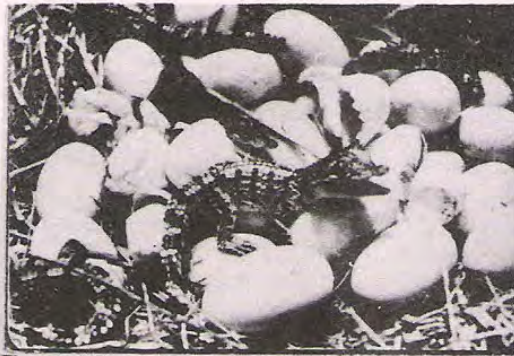
Please display
the enclosed
STICKER
and spread the
B.W.C. message

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VISIT TO A CROCODILE FARM

H. - J. WEICHERT
Deputy President, W.S.P.A.

The establishment at Pawo Nan combines an amusement park, zoo and an enormous crocodile complement kept under "intensive" management. The latter, of course, plays the most important role from the economic point of view. The revenue from admission charges, sales and the various kiosks and shops where crocodile and snake skin products can be bought, and various refreshment stands must be considerable. My guide to the farm was Mr. Korarit (Anant) Surarak, representative and bar owner. I was alone, and he did not know who I was.



The farm was opened 35 years ago, after some 15 years of experimenting. The total stock of crocodiles currently amounts to 39000 specimens, aged from two weeks to 85 years (3 specimens). There is a small number of alligators. I was told, with pride, that out of 23 species in existence, 17 can be found here! The crocodiles are mainly fed with chickens, every three days in fact. For this 5 tons of chickens are required. If there are any difficulties in obtaining this quantity, the crocodiles are fed with fish, which is always available in quantity. A fish meal, however, lasts for only two days.

The farm is furnished with numerous small, large and extremely large pools for the crocodiles. The vast majority of the pools contains a mixture of fresh and salt water. The animals in the large pools are 10 years of age and more. From time to time the 10 year

old animals, as well as the younger ones, are brought into smaller, covered, pools for



selection. They are then slaughtered in accordance with the instructions on the orders; the customer can express particular wishes regarding colour, skin structure, etc. If requested, younger animals from two years old will also be slaughtered; their skins are more expensive than those of 10-year old animals.

The importers of crocodile skins are mainly located in Europe, and especially in the Federal German Republic and in France. A number of skins are obviously processed in Bangkok.

Crocodile meat is much sought after in Asian countries and is exported to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, etc. Some meat remains in Bangkok and is supplied to hotel-restaurants.

The various crocodile species are crossed in order to obtain especially fine and beautiful coloured skins. This means that one is consciously trying to buy additional and more interesting examples. These are usually trapped in the wild, although zoological gardens often make a contribution. As Mr. Korarit (Anant) Surarak told me, even German zoos deliver crocodiles to this farm.

Animals scheduled for breeding - they must be ten years old - are also selected, separated and then brought to special pools

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for pairing-off. Special cubic boxes are provided for egg-laying, and these are sought out by the female crocodiles. Special animals are kept in individual boxes which are equipped with heated base-plates. Pythons and other snakes are also kept in similar housing.

According to my guide, the slaughtering of crocodiles is very simple and without any



problems. The animals have a steel peg driven into the brain. It is said that the death occurs within two minutes.

To entertain visitors, a man in one of the pools pulls several crocodiles out of the water by their tails and throws them onto a wide concrete platform. Adults and children crowd around the pools on walkways in order to watch them. There are also elephants dancing to music, and an elephant for children to sit on and be photographed; a large chimpanzee adds to the amusement.

Moreover there are 37 Bengal tigers, lions and other animals of the cat family on the farm. The large Bengal tigers are kept in two large open-air reserves, as are the lions. A number of the monkeys, mainly gibbons, are kept on a small island; they are, however, kept on long chains. Six leopards, two black bears, several smaller felines such as leopard-cats, and also long-tail monkeys are miserably housed in small wire cages.

I left Mr. Surarak in no doubt as to my

critical attitude. He agreed, but he stated that this kind of accommodation was only temporary. The installation of suitable, large reserves was planned on the plots already earmarked for this purpose.

Here too, animals represent an object for the amusement of and exploitation by man. A flourishing trade is conducted either by their presence or from their skins. The question as to whether the animals suffer and may finally, become extinct (when taken from the wild) interests nobody.

Without the importers and traders, mainly in Europe, and there especially in the world of women's fashions which so highly esteems products made from crocodile and snake skin, the situation for these animals would be incomparably better.

Courtesy : ANIMALS INTERNATIONAL

COBRA CRUCIFIED

CHRISTINE KRISHNASAMI

Under blaze of disc
rivulet of gold along
grassblade and welcoming earth
beyond man's language
beautiful, but not beyond
his diabolism and venomous greed —
who strips you of your armourless
silk and leaves you
nailed, writhing for
hours, days
on harsh treebark to die —
so that from your once-proud
gleaming skin he may fashion
a loathsome handbag for the
vanity of a pampered arm.

Courtesy : THE TIMES OF DECCAN

WHAT IS A CRACKPOT?

REVEREND BASIL WRIGHTON

We are so often labelled "crackpots" by those who do not agree with us, and have no use for our cause, that it may perhaps be worthwhile to attempt an elucidation of this elegant and comprehensive term, according to the context in which it is commonly used.

A crackpot is one who will not admit such self evident truths as that might is right and the end justifies the means.

A crackpot is one who rates his moral instincts higher than material gain, the dictates of Fashion, or even the sacred name of Science.

A crackpot is one who respects the life that comes from God, even though it is not his own life or that of his own species.

A crackpot is one who sees beauty and poetry and a divine purpose in even the simplest living beings and is incorrigibly averse to destroying them.

A crackpot is one who shows a deplorable lack of the hard-headedness and toughness of feeling which should characterise Modern Man.

A crackpot is one who has the inconvenient habit of putting himself in the place of

other sensitive beings so as to share their feelings, to rejoice in their well-being and sorrow in their pain.

A crackpot is one who would rather suffer than inflict pain.

A crackpot is one whose instinctive sympathies are with the hunted and tormented rather than with the hunters and the tormentors.

A crackpot is one who holds, in defiance of high society and ancient tradition, that it is uncivilised, unchristian, immoral and disgraceful to inflict pain or death on other creatures for one's own amusement.

A crackpot is one who persists in these unpopular and preposterous ideas even when all his neighbours are laughing at him.

Having glanced through the counts of this indictment and learned the worst, perhaps we shall not mind so very much when the inevitable epithet is flung at us, but shall take comfort in the words of St. Gregory : "May we turn away from cleverness that is baneful, and learn the foolishness that is worthy of praise."

Courtesy : ANIMALS' DEFENDER

THE YOUNG SCHWEITZER

"As long as I can remember, I have suffered because of the great misery I saw in the world. I never really knew the artless, youthful joy of living, and I believe many children feel this way, even when outwardly they seem to be wholly happy and without a single care.

I used to suffer particularly because the poor animals must endure so much pain and want. The sight of an old limping horse being dragged along by one man while another man struck him with a stick – he was being driven to the Colmar slaughterhouse – haunted me for weeks."

One Sunday morning during Lent, a

friend persuaded the eight-year-old Albert to go out and kill birds with their home-made sling shots.

"This was a horrible proposal to me, but I dared not refuse for fear he would laugh at me. So we came to a tree which was still bare, and on which the birds were singing out gaily in the morning, without any fear of us. Then stooping over like an Indian on the hunt, my companion placed a pebble in the leather of his sling and stretched it. Obeying his peremptory glance I did the same, with frightful twinges of conscience, vowing firmly that I would shoot when he did. At that very moment the church bells began to

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sound, mingling with the song of the birds in the sunshine. It was the warning bell that came a half hour before the main bell. For me it was a voice from heaven. I threw the sling down, scaring the birds away, so that they were safe from my companion's sling, and fled home. And ever afterwards when the bells of Holy Week ring out amidst the leafless trees in the sunshine I remember with moving gratitude how they rang into my heart at that time the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill."

Years later reflecting on the incident, Albert Schweitzer realised that particular day

marked a turning point in his life.

"From that day on I have had the courage to free myself from all fear of men. Whenever my deepest convictions were involved I paid less attention than before to the opinion of others. I tried to escape from the dread of being laughed at by my comrades.

The great experience of my childhood and youth was the influence of the commandment that we should not kill or torture. All other experiences pale before it."

Courtesy : QUOTATIONS FROM ANIMALS,
NATURE AND ALBERT SCHWEITZER

SWAN RESCUE SERVICE

ANDREW COTTON

The Swan Rescue Service was started in 1977 in an effort to help save swans from serious injury and premature death. It has a private sanctuary for the swans in Norfolk and nine part-time helpers. Since 1977, 1041 swans have been rescued and 481 have died.

The reserve is run by Mr. Len Baker and his wife Sheila who can recount some fearful tales of injured swans. One swan called Ella that had been saved in 1977 when she was found tangled in a fishing line at the bottom of a boat-yard, was found again some-time later crucified to a tree by crossbow bolts; one through each wing and one through her chest. "She died in my arms as I took her down; it was the first time I shed a tear over a swan."

The number of swans to be found is decreasing rapidly largely as a result of the country's most popular sport – fishing. Over 40% of all the swans are suffering from lead poisoning because they swallow the lead weights left by anglers. Others are caught up by hooks and lines. One swan to find itself at the sanctuary had lost its bottom bill when it was severed by a fishing line but he was saved by having the missing bill replaced by a glass fibre model.

Swans are often deliberately attacked.

They have beer cans and bottles thrown at them, they are stoned, shot at with guns and cross-bows, they have coathangers hooked over their necks and are dragged along. Some people lure them on to the river banks in order to pull out their tail feathers and sell them to the makers of greeting cards.

Overhead power cables also claim a number of birds. Since 1977 until June of this year the sanctuary has dealt with 104 power cable injuries and at present have 13 birds in the garden with only one wing. Sixty-one birds have been buried as a result of these evil modern inventions. The French put large discs on the cables to warn the birds but so far in this country nothing has been done except in Cheltenham area where orange coloured plastic foils have been used effectively.

A twenty-two foot caravan at the sanctuary is used as a hospital unit and swans are operated on by Mr. Baker with the help of a vet.

In the last month the sanctuary has had to deal with 104 swans out of which 21 have already been buried. All the injuries were a result of fishing. It is hardly surprising that the number of swans in the country is probably less than a quarter of the numbers to be found twenty years ago.

Courtesy : THE ARK


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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IMPOSES TOTAL BAN ON IMPORT OF ANIMAL RENNET

A Hundred Years Ago (1884)

From The Times of India, February 1, 1884

Vegetable "Rennet" for cheese-making

The following report on a "rennet" ferment contained in the seeds of *Withania coagulans*, by Mr. Sheridan Lea, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, has been forwarded to us for publication :-

The report of the Royal Gardens at Kew for 1881 contains abstracts of correspondence, in which it was pointed out that, in order to introduce a cheese-making industry in India, some vegetable substitute must be found for the ordinary animal rennet, since cheese made with the latter is unsaleable among the natives. In response to the above, "Surgeon-Major Aitchison brought to the notice of the authorities at Kew that the fruit of *Puneeria coagulans*, a shrub common in Afghanistan and Northern India possesses the properties of coagulating milk"; and experiments showed that an aqueous ex-

tract of the seed capsules of the above plant does somewhat rapidly coagulate milk.

I was recently requested to make some experiments on the seeds of the withania to determine whether they contain a definite ferment with the properties of ordinary rennet, and the applicability of such a ferment to cheese-making purposes....

A Hundred Years Later (1984)

Maharashtra Herald, February 10, 1984

Say cheese or grimace!

The seven-year long campaign by **Beauty Without Cruelty (BWC)** – an international charitable trust working against animals being exploited and killed for luxury trades – promoted the government to totally ban import of Animal Rennet in the processing of cheese.

The **BWC** India Branch Chairperson, Ms Diana Ratnagar, told newsmen in Pune on Thursday that her organisation would continue to pursue the government to make



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it obligatory on cheese manufacturers in the country to display their ingredients including the origin of the Rennet used on cheese packings.

Rennet – a vital ingredient in cheese making, is extracted from the stomach of un-weaned (under 2 weeks old) calves specially slaughtered for the purpose.

Ms. Ratnagar said that Calf Rennet imported in India was being used by cheese manufacturers without public knowledge that the cheese produced was non-vegeta-

rian and its consumption could go against religious beliefs. "We feel we have achieved some thing; our efforts have not gone in vain", Ms. Ratnagar said.

She said that non-animal Rennet of fungal origin has been recently developed by the Mysore based Central Food & Technological Research Institute, and it is commercially available for cheese manufacturers. This not only provides an alternative for animal rennet, but "is readily available and equally good" she said.

BUFFALO CALVES STARVED TO DEATH

ARVIND KALA

Unknown to Bombayites, an estimated 8,000 female buffalo calves are starved to death by city dairy owners who find it uneconomical to rear animals that won't give milk for three years.

Every year in Bombay, around 12,000 female calves survive the high mortality at birth, and Maharashtra's dairy corporation buys 4,000 as part of national policy to conserve good cattle. But the other 8,000 are allowed to waste away because the dairy owner prefers to sell the milk the calf would drink. (Male buffalo calves are slaughtered for beef.)

So why isn't the female calf also sent for slaughter? One reason is that the Government considers she-buffaloes a national asset. In the past, cattle owners sent female calves to villages and bought them back after they had grown. As transportation charges have now gone up they don't feed them.

Large private dairies near Jogeshwari station hold rows of buffaloes with distended bellies. UP bhaiyyas replenish their fodder, they bathe the animals and a veterinary doctor checks them periodically. But near these animals, you find a scrawny calf, its head drooping with weakness.

"We are holy Hindus," says Dr. Verghese Kurien, Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board. "We don't like to

slaughter cattle. We just let them stand in the sun and dehydrate."

This destruction is particularly tragic because Bombay gets the best cattle in a country known for its poor livestock. India accounts for 20 per cent of the world's cattle but produces five per cent of the world's milk.

Unfortunately, the economies of the city dairies makes the death of female calves inevitable. Feeding a buffalo in a village costs Rs. 8 a day. In Bombay it is Rs. 20. Actually, the state dairy corporation should buy all the calves. But the price it offers, Rs. 400 for a six-month-old female calf, proves less than what the owner would spend on it.

Time and again in the last two decades, the Government has said it would like to shift private cattle outside Bombay. One reason is that one buffalo is said to need as much water as 10 humans. Another is that the dairies bring flies and cattle-dung chokes drains.

The cattle owners say they aren't averse to shifting provided they aren't shifted again when Bombay expands. "In 1951, my dairy was shifted from Central Bombay to Jogeshwari because Jogeshwari was uninhabited," says one private cattle-owner. "Now Jogeshwari is crowded and they want to shift me out again. At this rate I might get pushed out of Maharashtra itself."

Courtesy : INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHANGE OF HEART

BARIN BISWAS

I have always been fascinated by the forest. My early years in it meant moving at night in a jeep with searchlights and shooting everything that moved. Criminal, one may think. But that's the way it was, and still is with the world – thanks to some very unintelligent human beings. But experience teaches everyone, even the hopeless.

As a young boy of seventeen with a few slaughtered deers behind me, I walked out one January morning with a .275 bore rifle, fitted with a telescope. I felt very powerful in the midst of nature's bounty. I wore a monkey cap, on my hands were woollen gloves. I had on a hunting jacket and a hunting knife hung from my belt. The king of creation had entered the jungle, I felt. I was looking forward to shooting a stag. The monkeys called out, announcing that the enemy had entered the forest. Then they disappeared. So did the birds.

After an hour, dawn began to break. The forest had come to life. The dew drops on spider webs looked like diamonds as they sparkled in the sunlight. I reached the river. By the bank, I found a solitary tree that would hold my weight. I climbed it and at about 20 feet above the ground I made myself comfortable, completely hidden by the foliage. I began my wait for the deer. This was deer country.

After nearly two hours, a stag broke past

the undergrowth. It came out very slowly as it walked towards the water. It glanced cautiously towards left and right. After it seemed convinced that there was no danger, it relaxed and walked gracefully towards the water. A few seconds later, a doe followed with two fawn towards the stag. The fawn frolicked everywhere, very nimble on their feet. There was poetry in everything they did. It was sight for the gods. A family of deer, and I thought of my family. I must have behaved just like these two. They had now spread their forelegs and were drinking the crystal-cool water with identical reflections forming in the still river.

For the first time, something deep within me stirred. I felt I had no right to strike them down. I slowly put back the safety catch and watched them have their fill. The fawn were a sight, both comical and graceful at the same time. They seemed to be curious about everything around them. Their noses and ears seemed to take in every smell and sound. After a few minutes they walked off, I waited for about ten minutes, too wonderstruck by the drama. Then I climbed down.

I felt elated, for from now on I had had enough of guns. I was transformed. While walking back, I tried to hide the gun from the creatures of the forest. I was going back a friend, not a foe.

Courtesy : THE TIMES OF INDIA

This page is given with the idea of encouraging Readers to write us.

FROM YOU TO US, COMPASSIONATELY

P.O. Box 18, Poona 411 001.

Last year on Nagpanchami Day, I had the opportunity of looking carefully at a cobra possessed by a woman sitting on the pavement near Dharavi/Sion. While quite a few coins had been cast on the cloth surrounding the snake basket, I was horrified to see that the snake's mouth had been smashed up, rendering it incapable of biting, and the head was held up to give the impression that the reptile was gentle and harmless.

This festival has, I understand, a semi-religious basis, being a tribute to the snake for destroying the large number of rats and mice which would otherwise destroy the harvest grain.

I wonder how many people would respond, and in what manner, if they were aware of the condition of the snakes exhibited?

HUMAYUN ABDULALI (Bombay)


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ITS FUR AND MEAT SPELL DEATH FOR RABBIT

DR. M. M. BHAMGARA

A news item in the Times of India dated 13th November 1983 reads "A novel project to popularise exotic rabbits as source of meat for human consumption, undertaken by the College of Veterinary Sciences of the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University in Hyderabad, has started paying dividends Experiments carried out at the College showed that a healthy two-and-a-half month old rabbit can yield two and a half kg. of meat with high protein content. The College has made efforts to make exotic rabbits easily available and to double the content. The College expects to help solve the problem of protein deficiency"

So there we have the genesis of another animal farm. Poultry farms are in thousands all over India. Crocodile farms have also come up in most States. Even a Karakul lamb farm has been started. Now we need rabbit farms "to solve the problem of protein deficiency" so-called. Of course, the rabbit fur will provide welcome side-income. **Beauty Without Cruelty** will have another front to fight at; and Vegetarian and Humanitarian Societies their hands full saving one more animal from butchers' knife. And both better act fast, lest money-minded flesh eatarians feel drawn to make a fast buck on the fast breeding rabbits!

Protein Bogey

Why do these so called experts keep raising the bogey of "protein deficiency"? F.A.O. of United Nations has categorically denied any protein deficiency in average Indian diet. They have clearly shown that there are only pockets of food deficiency or calorie deficiency, or, in plain language, just not enough to eat. And if these pockets of poverty get enough to eat, they will automatically get enough protein for their needs! Let this fact be broadcast by all news media, and let us not think of breeding exotic animals – including worms! – for human consumption. Yes worms too have been suggested to ease our food problem. Almost same time that rabbit meat was suggested to us, some

other (worm!) scientists had found out that worms meat is 72% protein, with higher levels of essential amino acids than steak (57%) and soya bean (44%). Of course, these figures are misleading, because worms body would be mostly water. 72% protein may be found only in dry worms, whereas soya is 44% protein in its natural state.

Whether it is calf, sheep, cow or rabbit, no creature can give us more than 50 lbs. of protein from one acre of cultivable land. Compare that to the following figures. One acre yields : 215 lbs. protein if land is used for wheat crops.
360 lbs. protein if land is used for soya crops.
419 lbs. protein if land is used for cabbage crops.
770 lbs. protein if land is used for most leafy greens.

What is said above regarding cabbage and other leafy vegetables is of interest. We never think of edible leaves as good sources of protein, because most of the edible leafy greens have only one per cent protein. But leaves grow in profusion, and if their water and cellulose can be removed, the residue contains a good quantity of protein. Prof. N.W. Pirie of Rothamsted Experimental Station of U.K. has devised machines which can deal with one ton of leaves per hour, extracting 500 lbs. of protein of high digestibility coefficient. In October 1976, Prof. Pirie had said in Bangalore : "Cultivation of leafy crops in the wet tropics yields a greater amount of protein than any other method of land use."

So let us raise cabbage and eat it, rather than feed it to rabbits and then eat rabbits! Or feed the cabbage to worms and eat the worms! First hand food is always superior to second-hand food; and it is ecologically sound too! Let those who would eat exotic animals or their offals go to Hong Kong, Malaysia or other cities in East Asia where some restaurants serve monkey brains, snake, tortoise, turtle, lizard, flying squirrels and bats.

As for us, we say "Long Live Rabbits – In Their Wilderness!"

NEWSPICKS

Daily Nation, December 22, 1983

Frogs in demand

French consumption of frogs' legs had increased 10 times in the past 10 years, resulting in massive imports from Asian countries and a growing threat to the existence of the French variety, the Batrachological Society of France has reported. Mr. Alain Dubois, Secretary-General of the society said: "In 1981 France imported 4,500 tons of frozen and processed frogs' legs, from about 250 million frogs, mainly from India, Laos and Vietnam.



Sunday, January 8-14, 1984

Computers as Guinea Pigs

In the United States, every year more than 60 million animals are either killed, or used for various experiments in the laboratories of medical schools, colleges and a myriad chemical companies. Among those slaughtered include 30 million rats, 1,61,000 dogs, 50,000 cats and 47,000 monkeys. These statistics are alarming and animal conservationists are furious. They consider these unnecessary.

The advent of computers, however, seems to have heralded a solution to this problem. Now, in several universities and research companies, scientists are designing computer models of biological systems, and of compounds with complex molecules that can be used to get answers that were once obtainable only by sacrificing a lab animal.

Times of India, January 20, 1984

An Aphrodisiac

Incredible as it may seem, the Gulf Sheikhs have been paying as much as Rs. 10 lakhs for the privilege of shooting a single Great Indian Bustard in Pakistan and are now willing to pay more if permitted to hunt the bird in India. This was revealed the other day by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mr. Shiv Charan Mathur, after a visit to the Gulf countries. Evidently, he knew, what he was talking about.

The flesh of the Great Indian Bustard is prized in the Gulf as an aphrodisiac and the Sheikhs are under the impression that if they jack up the price, the Union Government will relent. But that is unlikely. A few years ago, the authorities sent a Sheikh and his hunting party packing, bag and baggage, which included an impressive fleet of American limousines and refrigerated vans as well as a number of trained falcons. Agitations by conservationists had then forced their hands.

But comprehensive measures are still needed to protect the bird. The species is already extinct in Pakistan; in India it is prey to poachers and vandals. Some 14 years ago, the total population of the Great Indian Bustard was estimated at 1400 in the country; it has declined steeply since. The Rajasthan government has already taken the initiative to preserve the bird's habitat in the state but Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and West Bengal have yet to emulate its example.

DO YOU KNOW?

It takes 10 lbs. of grain to produce 1 lb. of meat.

Enough cereal is produced in the world to give everyone 2 lbs. daily.

800 million people are starving in the world today.

90% of the protein fed to food animals is excreted in their faeces.

SCENT TO THE ORIENT

Japanese sources of musk from the Musk deer have changed significantly since 1979.

In October 1981, attention was drawn to the large imports of musk to Japan from Nepal in spite of Nepal's 1973 ban on exports of musk. Since 1979, imports from Nepal have dropped from 196 kg. to just 11 kg. in 1982. Thus Nepal has fallen from first to fourth place as a source.

Meanwhile imports from China have trebled, making it the single most important source in spite of its having imposed a 5-year ban on the killing of musk deer in Szechuan province in 1981. A large proportion of the Chinese musk comes from north-eastern provinces which are unaffected by the ban. It is also noteworthy that Japan's imports from Hong Kong and the U.S.S.R. have doubled. Hong Kong, of course, does not produce its own musk but the U.S.S.R. has a long history of Musk deer hunting. At the peak of the industry in 1855, 81,200 pods were produced (each pod contains about 25 g. of musk) but this led to a population decline, and the trade had virtually stopped by 1900. Since then, the population has built up and production in 1980 was about 5,000 pods (125 kg.) but this was estimated to be only 20-25% of the potential sustainable yield.

India banned exports of musk in 1972 and Japan's customs records of imports from there have dwindled to nothing. However, South Korea does record importing 5 kg. from India in 1982.

A report received from Dr. G.M. Oza of the Indian Society of Naturalists reminds us that probably only two out of every five Musk deer poached in India have a musk pod and, in Nepal, Bhutan and Sikkim, only one in four Musk deers caught in snares carries a pod.

In addition, Musk deer farming is practised commercially in China and possibly the U.S.S.R. Experimental farming is being carried out in Korea, India and possibly Bhutan

and Nepal. The volume of farming in China is not known, but in 1980 there were five farms, one of which held 31 adult male musk deer. Musk is extracted once a year when on average each animal yields 6-8 g., which would mean a total production of under 0.25 kg. for the farm.

Courtesy : TRAFFIC BULLETIN



Editorial Note :

Few people realise the severe suffering the Musk deer undergoes when deprived of its freedom, that is "farmed". In fact **Beauty Without Cruelty** is totally against farming (breeding and exploiting) any animal for commercial gain.

NEWSLETTERS

BOMBAY CENTRE

C/o Super Prints
Ruby Auto Engineering Compound
43 Queen's Road
Bombay 400 002
Tel.: 312027 Ext. Super Prints

From September to December 1983 **Beauty Without Cruelty** Bombay Centre screened "What Price Beauty?" and "Ivory Poachers" on five occasions. In addition to this publicity tables were taken at six functions held at various places. The response received has been encouraging and we continue to give publicity to our cause.

The 23rd November, 1983 edition of the "Economic Times" carried a two full-page spread on **BWC**. This generated many enquiries resulting in memberships.

The response to the Greeting Cards Gift Scheme was good and we are glad that a considerable number of Bombay Members participated. We have pleasure in announcing the winners – those who sold the most number of greeting cards packets :

1. Ms. Dilnavaz Dadiseth
2. Ms. Karen Andaz
3. Mr. Ramesh Mehta

(Mr. Pervez Buhariwalla would have stood second, however he does not wish to claim his prize.)

Our heartiest congratulations to each of the winners entitled to a surprise gift. The gifts will be presented at a function being planned shortly.

SHEELA DANDEKAR
Director

SURAT CENTRE

8/1644 Gopipura Police Gate
Surat 395 001
Tel.: 36240

During the last quarter **Beauty Without Cruelty** Surat Centre organised two video screenings of our films, "What Price Beauty?" and "Ivory Poachers". These programmes were accompanied by lectures. We have also been concentrating on membership development and hope to enrol a larger number of members than we did during the past four months.

We are pleased to announce that the Jasvantiben Dharmchand Choksi Public Charitable Trust has promised **BWC** an annual donation of Rs. 2,000/- With this amount our Surat Centre will hold competitions for students.

Representatives of several institutions, including **BWC** Surat Centre called on the Home Minister, Gujarat State, in order to request the Government not to make it compulsory for school children to dissect frogs. The Minister promised to discuss this matter with the Medical Council and was hopeful that a stop could be put on dissection undertaken in schools.

PRAVINCHANDRA M. ZAVERI
Director

We remind each Member to enrol atleast
ONE new member !
It will be your 10th ANNIVERSARY (1974-1984) gift to
Beauty Without Cruelty
(India Branch)