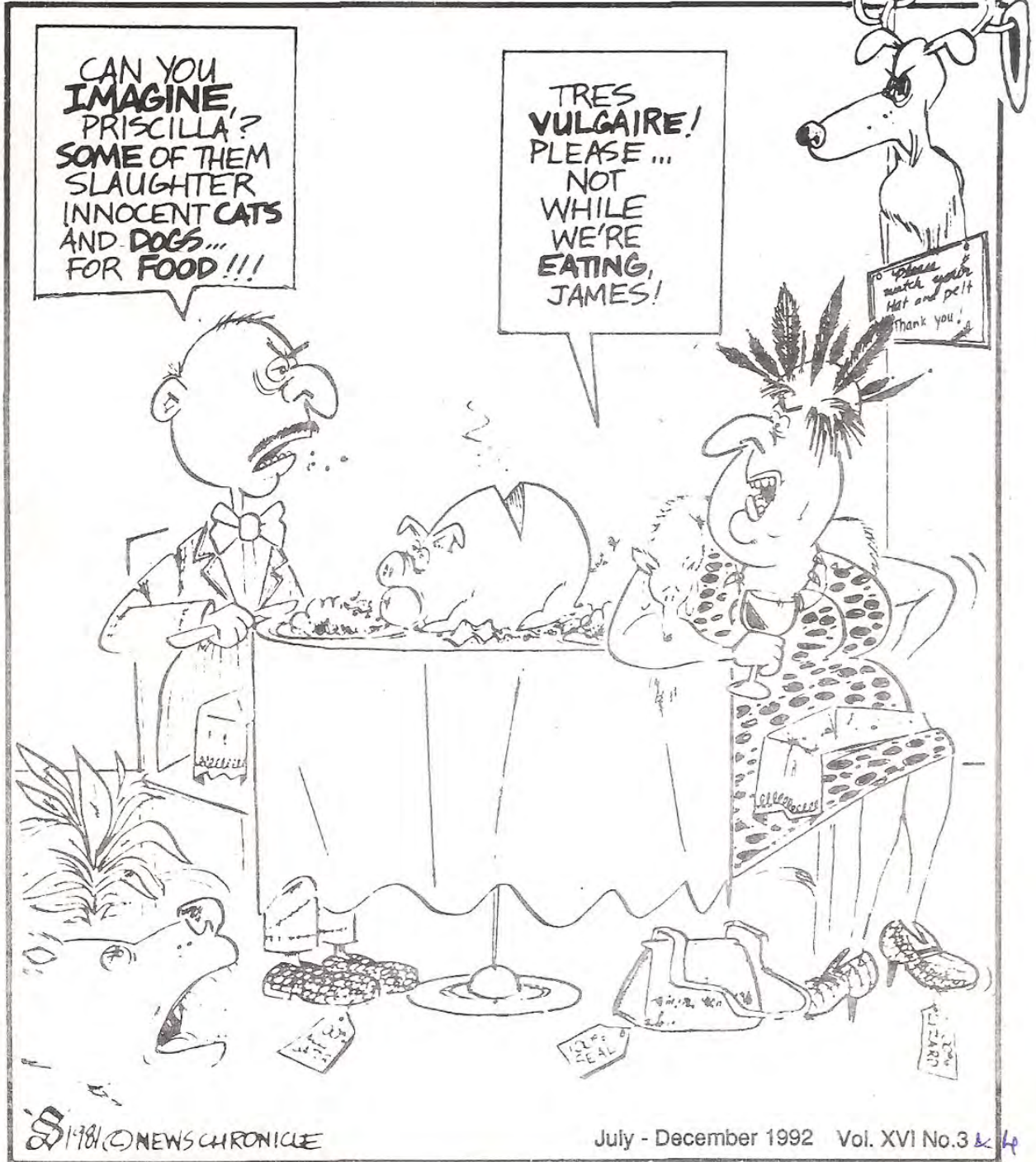


COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

JOURNAL OF BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY INDIA



CAN YOU
IMAGINE,
PRISCILLA?
SOME OF THEM
SLAUGHTER
INNOCENT CATS
AND DOGS...
FOR FOOD!!!

TRES
VULGAIRE!
PLEASE ...
NOT
WHILE
WE'RE
EATING,
JAMES!

Please
watch your
hat and pelt
Thank you.

Beauty Without Cruelty

INTERNATIONAL

AN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CHARITABLE TRUST FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS



International Jt. Presidents

Ms. Virginia McKenna
Mr. Bill Travers

INDIA BRANCH

President

Mr. Akbarali H. Jetha

Vice President

Ms. Nalini Z. Mehta

Chairperson

Ms. Diana Ratnagar

Hon. Secretary

Ms. Pilu Dady

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. D. R. Ratnagar

Committee Members

Mr. C. D. Beaman
Dr. M. M. Bhamgara
Mr. Dinesh Bhansali
Mr. Dady C. Dady
Mr. V. H. Dalmia
Mr. Noshir K. Irani
Mr. Ramesh K. Jhaveri
Mr. Harshavadan Mangaldas
Ms. Meher Mehta
Ms. Nergish K. Plumber
Ms. Crystal Rogers
Ms. Jyoti P. Shah
Mr. Kirit Sheth
Mr. Pallav Sheth
Mr. Frank Simoes

Magazine Edited by

Ms. Diana Ratnagar

Beauty Without Cruelty

is a way of life

which causes no creature
of land, or sea or air,
terror, torture or death.

AFFILIATED ORGANISATIONS



INDIA BRANCH

4 Prince of Wales' Drive, P. B. 1518, Wanowrie,
Poona 411040

Tel. (0212) 664321 Grams : "AHINSA"

Bangalore Centre

Mr. Sundershan Kumar (Director)
MF 4/1 SFHS B.D.A. Flats, B.I.M. Layout,
Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore 560076
Tel. (0812) 848864/643165

Bombay Centre

Ms. Sheela Dandekar (Director)
Post Box No. 3681, Girgaon,
Bombay 400004
Tel. (022) 8119125/8229235
(for messages only)

Delhi Centre

Dr. D. B. Jain (Director)
"Shakahar", 1 Darya Ganj,
New Delhi 110002. Tel. (011) 3273537

Madras Centre

Mr. S. Chinny Krishna (Director)
221 Mowbrays Road, Alwarpet,
Madras 600018. Tel. (044) 2343839

Surat Centre

Ms. Vishakhaben S. Kantawala (Director)
8/1 1644 Gopipura Police Gate,
Surat 395001. Tel. (0261) 36240.

Contents

World Day of Bulls	1
BWC News	1
A Lesson from Ranthambore	2
Poached to the bone,	
Tigers may now roar on assembly line	4
BWC opposes	
Sustainable Utilisation of Wildlife	5
Not Nailed!	5
"A whale of a problem"	6
Growing Jojoba to Save the Whale	7
Do you really love the Cow?	8
Do you drink milk?	9
Deathstock Council	9
Shed Antlers	10
Deadly Designs— On their Way Out	10
Mink Rags	11
What about the Cat?	12

This issue has been kindly sponsored by

FINOLEX PIPES LIMITED

World Day of Bulls

BWC alone obtained the support of 2,75,50,000 persons.

On 22nd July, 1992, declared as the World Day of Bulls, **Beauty Without Cruelty** and other animal rights organisations in every country presented the Spanish Embassies with millions of signatures to demonstrate the strength of feeling that existed against Bull-fighting and during Fiestas in Spain. The presentations were made to coincide with the opening of the Olympic Games at Barcelona.

Mr. Juan Manuel Lopez-Nadal, the Counsellor, Embassy of Spain, New Delhi, met Ms. Diana Ratnagar, Chairperson and Ms. Kamala Shastri, Hon. Secretary of the Delhi Centre, when they personally handed over the **Beauty Without Cruelty** signature petition forms requesting the Spanish Government to celebrate the Olympics by enacting legislation to ban Bull-fighting and the use of animals for public entertainment.

Special attention was drawn to 55 signatures of Members of Parliament and the fact that in India each MP represented 5-8 lac persons; thus the petition together with other individual signatures had the support of a minimum of 2,75,50,000 persons.

Beauty Without Cruelty (India Branch) managed to obtain the support of the highest number of persons worldwide. This was possible due to the help and co-operation given by our Members and friends. **Beauty Without Cruelty** thanks each and every one who contributed by collecting even a few signatures.

Although no response has been received from the Spanish Government yet, **BWC** does not believe its efforts have gone in vain. We are hopeful that Spain will some day put an end to Bull-fighting — we only hope this day will dawn soon!

BWC News

Bombay Office

Once again at the eleventh hour, after we had obtained the pay-order, the deal fell through. If any reader knows of any centrally located, suitable office space, please get in touch with us soon.

Ahinsa Greeting Cards

This season we have not printed any new design Greeting Cards because we want to sell off all our existing stocks. Cards are available at nominal rates ranging from Re 1/- to Rs. 4/- each.

BWC Centres

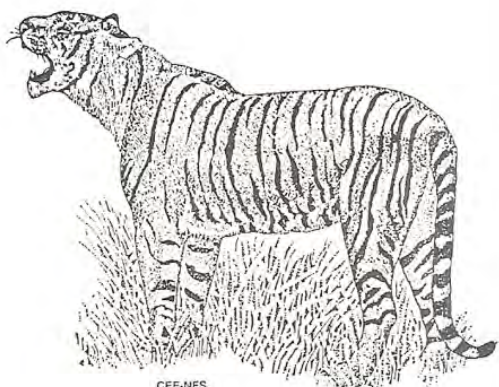
We are re-organising ourselves all over the country and by January 1993 we hope to have started a couple of new Centres. Names and addresses of new Centre Directors will appear in the next issue of our magazine.

"List of Honour"

The 1992 edition of our "List of Honour" booklet is under print and will be mailed to all **BWC** members shortly. This time it contains some useful information in addition to the brand names of those cosmetics and toilet preparations which conform to **BWC** specifications.

Deonar Slaughter House

We are glad that in response to the "Sunday Observer" photo-features (pull-outs of which were mailed to all **BWC** Bombay members) letters of protest were promptly sent to the Municipal Commissioner. No doubt, it will be a long battle, but a step in the right direction is being taken... Meanwhile, as per **BWC** ethics let us all resolve to completely stop the use of leather.



A LESSON FROM RANTHAMBHORE

Jyotsna Lall

Ranthambhore National Park in Rajasthan is virtually an ecological island in its vast degraded surroundings. Till some time back, it was known for its remarkably easy tiger sightings. Today, unfortunately, the sightings have become rare because there aren't many tigers left. The reason? Perhaps the unprecedented poaching that has recently come to light. Or, perhaps, events going back further in time.

Chequered History

Ranthambhore has had a chequered history — from being the hunting ground of the Jaipur maharajahs, to a wildlife sanctuary in 1955, to a Project Tiger reserve in 1973 and finally a National Park in 1981.

Today the park is very popular with tourists, but few visitors are aware that there are 60 odd villages surrounding the National

Park. Nor do they know that 12 villages were moved out of the park area in 1978, that the rate of 4 villages that are still within the Project Tiger boundary is yet to be decided, and that all the villages depend on the National Park for fuel and fodder.

At the time of creation of the National Park, a 115-square-kilometer band surrounding it, called the buffer zone, was demarcated to fulfil the fuel, fodder and timber needs of the people. What actually happened was that the buffer experienced tremendous pressure as soon as a large part of the forest was declared inaccessible. As a result, today the buffer is severely degraded and almost non-existent. Efforts to restock it have been negligible, which has further increased the pressure on the National Park.

Ranthambhore's problems stem not from it being declared a National Park but the high-handed way in which the whole process occurred. The people were not taken into confidence and they were abruptly cut off from their traditional resource base without alternatives being provided. This has led to acute mistrust between the park authorities and the people, with each regarding the other as corrupt.

Most villagers are unaware as to why the National Park was created. Several misconceptions have multiplied since the forest was declared closed to human interference; the most popular being that the forest has been pawned to foreigners! This misconception is reinforced when the villagers see foreigners in Maruti Gypsies in the forest to which they are denied access.

Poaching problems

As if pressure of fuel, fodder and timber collection, grazing and tourism were not enough, unearthing of the ugly poaching incident has further put a question mark on the future of the park.

To recapitulate the events, Mohammed Ashiq of Fatehpur, the kingpin of the tiger poaching racket, and his brother have been arrested. They had purchased tiger skins

and bones from their contacts in Sawai Madhopur — Munim Khan and Phundia Khatik, who were arrested in the last week of June.

Three others from Basso village on the fringe of the National Park have confessed to killing three tigers and have surrendered to the police. The head of this gang, Hirachand, committed suicide a few weeks ago. The Forest Department on their part have detained Shankar Jaga of Mordungri village for being involved in a poaching incident five years ago.

Numerous high level meetings have been held between the Minister of Environment and Forests of Rajasthan, the Chief Conservator of Forests, the Chief Wildlife Warden, the District Collector and the Field Director of the park. The result of these meetings has been to question the accuracy of the latest census figure of 17 tigers as against that of the previous census in May 1991, which was 45.

The Forest Department is of the view that the May 1992 census cannot be accurate as it was very badly organised: all the senior officers were away yet the tiger census was conducted because May is the traditional time for the exercise. The department officials say that they would welcome a CBI enquiry so that the truth can come out.

At the Centre, the Minister of Environment and Forests Shri Kamal Nath convened a meeting on 13 July and appointed a task force to look into the matter.

The issues

The issue on hand is not just the poaching in Ranthambhore but the many questions arising out of this shocking incident. If the reported tiger skin and bones trading route exists, then obviously Ranthambhore cannot be the only source to feed this route. It

implies that poaching also takes place in other tiger reserves.

Project Tiger was probably one of the most expensive wildlife conservation ventures, with no expense spared, yet poaching is reported in one of its most famous parks. Twelve villages were rehabilitated under the "no human intervention" clause of Project Tiger, four villages still await their fate while facing hardship and uncompensated crop raids by wild animals. All this to what avail if despite money, policing and rehabilitation, Ranthambhore remains the final loser?

In all this the village communities, rightly or wrongly, blame the Forest Department. They claim that deforestation has increased since the Forest Department took over the management. They say that there were many more tigers in pre-Project Tiger days and that none of the tiger census figures are to be believed. Some claim that the same tiger's pug marks are recorded over and over again! Some villagers also say that the forest is not large enough to contain 45 tigers and that if there were so many, there would be a tiger at every turn.

And what should one make of the words of an old villager: "First they (the Forest Department) took our forest away from us and then they destroyed it"?

The conservation of protected habitats is a tricky issue and needs careful handling. The trick is to maintain a balance between the interests of the people living around the protected habitat and the wildlife within. This is of utmost importance because there is no way that a protected habitat can remain protected unless the people living around it have a stake in it, as well as having alternatives for their livelihood. So far, this has not been achieved in Ranthambhore.

The need of the hour is not to brood over the poaching incident but to learn a lesson from it so that a similar tragedy does not occur again — in Ranthambhore, nor anywhere else.

Courtesy : CEE - NFS

Poached to the bone, tigers may now roar on assembly line

Rajiv Shirali

To Asian Tigers, Liberation Tigers and the ordinary jungle variety, is now being added a new species — "industrial" tigers. Officials of the Switzerland-based International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), alarmed that tiger populations in some Indian national parks and sanctuaries are falling prey to poaching by tiger bone smugglers, have come up with a bizarre proposal to set up captive breeding centres, so as to ensure a continued supply of tigers and their bones for China's traditional medicine industry.

If they have their way, the magnificent striped cat, known as the king of the jungle, is about to be reduced to the status of an assembly-line product. Ulysses Seal, head of the Captive Breeding Specialist Group of the IUCN, claimed recently that with modern reproductive techniques, it was possible to breed 2000 "industrial" tigers in seven years.

IUCN officials came up with the proposal after a census in June this year had revealed that the number of tigers in Rajasthan's Ranthambhore National Park.

Like the highly-endangered rhinoceros poached for its horn, these tigers have become victims of the Chinese system of traditional medicine, which uses tiger bones to cure a variety of ailments. These bones are considered a good cure for ulcers, rheumatic pains in joints, typhoid and malaria. China's traditional medicine men recommend baths in "tiger bone broth" as a cure for rheumatism and the application of powdered tiger bone to burns and eruptions on the skin.

The Chinese even make wine out of the bones, and this is regarded as a general tonic, one kilogramme of bone yielding about 50 bottles of tiger bone wine. Even educated Chinese living in western Europe order the traditional medicines from home. There are

other uses for the bone, too. Keeping some on the roof is supposed to drive "devils" and evil spirits away.

With such demand, tiger bone commands astronomical prices. Peter Jackson, Chairman of Cat Specialist Group of the Species Survival Commission, an offshoot of the IUCN, who came up with the captive breeding proposal a few weeks ago, has revealed that poachers can get the equivalent of \$170 to \$250 per kilo of tiger bone at the India-China border. The price in Laotian retail shops is as high as \$370 per kilo.

Jackson has argued that there has been a sharp increase in poaching to meet the demand for tiger bone in China, and since there are fewer than 7000 tigers in the wild in the whole world, there is a real danger of the species becoming extinct within 10 years.

There have been demands in China that tigers should be reared in captivity for medical supplies, and when Jackson recently visited that country, he even discussed the subject with the Chinese authorities. He was taken to a tiger breeding farm in north-eastern China where there are now 62 animals, up from a mere 14 in 1986.

Jackson and other IUCN officials had reservations about breeding tigers for their bones, and also doubted whether enough tigers could be bred to meet the demand for bone. But Ulysses Seal appears to have convinced them that this was a feasible proposition. According to him, the demand for rhino horn and other parts of this animal for Chinese medicine and Yemeni dagger handles has reduced the world's rhino population from 80,000 to 10,000 in the last 20 years. This, he says, cannot be allowed to happen to tigers.

The IUCN is in favour of "sustainable utilisation" of wildlife species, so that they yield an economic return, and it is in the process of drawing up guidelines to achieve this. Besides, in countries like Canada and New Zealand, farmers have made a successful business of breeding animals like elk, red deer and ostriches and "harvesting" them for their meat, skin and antlers. But there is also a substantial body of opposition to such "game ranching"

Courtesy : THE ECONOMIC TIMES

BWC opposes Sustainable Utilisation of Wildlife

Beauty Without Cruelty has written to the Director General, IUCN, that as an international animal rights organisation, we wish to put on record the fact that we strongly disagree with the Proposed Policy Criteria and Requirements for Sustainable Use of Wild Species. Basically **BWC** does not believe in the two so-called ethical statements on which the Policy is based. We do not feel that people have a right to derive economic and other benefits from wild species; nor do we accept that there can be unavoidable or necessary killing.

BWC believes in the right of each and every creature on earth to live without being exploited or killed for any reason whatsoever. Our motto: **Beauty Without Cruelty** is a way of life which causes no creature of land, sea or air, any terror, torture or death. We care for and wish to protect all animals, wild species included. Compassion for all living creatures is what we uphold, irrespective of whether the species is in abundance or not. We have reverence for all life and do not for a moment consider wild species as renewable resources to be exploited commercially and therefore can not support the Policy.

We could confidently add that those who believe in breeding animals for "harvesting" (meat, bones, skin, antlers etc.) are only those who talk of or only those who want to preserve the wild species concerned for what they themselves can commercially gain by farming/hunting them. There is no question of genuine protection, leave alone love for the wild life.

Not Nailed!



In January this year, **BWC** came across a diamond merchant who said he had 200-300 tiger nails which he wished to stud with diamonds and emeralds and export as jewellery. He boasted of having paid Rs. 2000/= per piece, but refused to disclose his supply source.

In spite of taking 3 nails from him and the Bombay Natural History Society confirming that they were of tiger (*Panthera tigris*), the Government is yet to file a case against the offender. Why then should **BWC** not have good reason to feel that the Wild Life staff in Bombay is conniving?

"A whale of a problem"

The whale, the world's biggest living species is still the most hunted animal, despite 15 years of sponsored save-the-whale talks, zodiac blockades and government lobbies.

Whale hunters spend millions of American dollars for their vigil, from Antarctica to Sri Lanka, which makes them richer year by year.

By the time a poor creature is harpooned with devastating modern spears - it takes hours to die - slit open and packed to Japanese shops, it fetches over US \$ 300000 for a whaled minke.

Japan is the main villain, and according to the wild life experts, if whales one day leave this planet for good it will be directly responsible for it. Today a Japanese businessman pays 200 dollars a pound for whale flesh. A whale is clearly worth more dead than alive.

American expert Mike Sutton says the ten largest whale species were hunted so intensely that some of them, including the blue whale may never make a comeback.

So the fight to end commercial whaling continues.

The worst part of the story is that three countries, Japan, Iceland and Norway want to reintroduce commercial whaling. They were unwilling parties to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium in 1986. But Japan actually never stopped whaling the experts say. One look at the thriving business in Tokyo is suffice to say that the harpoon guns were kept in gleaming working order. A lacuna in conditions has made

the matter worse. It allows whale catching for research. The year is not over and Norway has already crossed its research limit of capturing or killing 110 whales.

Norway has announced that it will start commercial harvesting of minke whales in 1993. The decision could jeopardise its bid for Economic Community membership and spark off American boycott of Norwegian fish and other products.

To have a killing spree now, some countries, including Iceland, Norway, Greenland and Faroe Islands have formed the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission.

The Minke whales which are 9 metre long and weigh about 16000 kgs are not more than 750000 in the Antarctic waters. Japan says they are plenty in number, but the IWC claims that it is still much below the Minke's original pre-whaling figures. There is no indication that the population of the specie is increasing, IWC pleads. The plight of the 120-tonne blue whale is worse. To counter the threat, France has proposed an Antarctic whale sanctuary like the one existing in the Indian Ocean, but amazingly it will come up for consideration in the next IWC meeting in Japan.

Courtesy : MAHARASHTRA HERALD

India's Stand

As a member country at the IWC annual meetings, India has been against Whaling, even for "research" purposes. Why then does the Government not ban the import of Sperm Oil?

Growing Jojoba To Save The Whale

Beauty Without Cruelty has been interested in promoting Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*) plantations in India because the oil from the Jojoba seed is an established substitute for Sperm Oil derived from slaughtered whales. Currently, Sperm Oil is being imported into our country.

For nearly two decades, **Beauty Without Cruelty** (India Branch) has been distributing Jojoba seeds, however, there have been difficulties in germination. **BWC** has therefore now decided to supply Jojoba Saplings instead, on a first come first served basis to Life Members of our charity.

BWC is in a position to supply Jojoba Saplings upto 10,000 numbers (1,000 are required per acre of land) as under:

- * Small Saplings of one to one and a half months for transplantation within three months of order.
- * Large Saplings of fifteen months (as soon as male/female plants have been identified)

in bags for transplantation to be supplied within one year six months of placing the order. (70% female and 30% male plants are required for good pollination.)

The cost of the Small Saplings is Rs 60/= each and of the Large Saplings Rs 175/= for each male and Rs 200/= for each female Sapling ex-nursery Poona. On orders of more than 5,000 numbers a 10% discount will be given. The payment can be made as a Donation to our charity in which case the donor benefits under section 80-G of the Income Tax Act.

80% of the payment is to be made when placing the order and the balance of 20% pro-rata at the time of lifting the Saplings from our nursery. Lifting and freight to the site will be arranged and undertaken by the grower at his cost. However, advice will be given by **BWC** for transplanting the Jojoba Saplings.

Jojoba Plantations not only help save the Whales but help gain high financial profits for the growers. For detailed information write to **BWC**, Post Box 1518, Poona 411040.



COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

From Beauty Without Cruelty, Printed in India, July - December 1992

Do you really love the Cow?

Diana Ratnagar

In early October 1992, leading newspapers carried information about a cow producing "eleven calves a year!" Sensational one would think, till one thinks again and wonders how this could have happened. That too at Gandhiji's Sabarmati Ashram.

Some may recall that a similar news item had appeared two years ago when it was stated that a cow had set a national record in Embryo Transfer by yielding 44 embryos in a single flushing. It was considered as a "good performance by cow institute". The Institute being none other than a Panjrapole! (It was and is surprising how Panjrapoles are running dairies and undertaking such "highly sophisticated technology" operations. They have lost sight of the concept or purpose for which they were originally established. Most of them no longer willingly accept old and sick animals so that they can be fed and looked after for the rest of their natural life spans.)

The feat of a single cow having eleven calves in one year at one of Gandhiji's ashrams is obviously against the Gandhian principles. In fact, how many of us have tried to understand what Embryo Transfer (ET) entails and if it is good for the cows and buffalos or of it is yet another so-called scientific discovery aimed at unethically exploiting the animals for a drastic increase in milk production?

We consume milk. It is therefore obligatory that we give the issue serious thought. If not for the poor hormone treated animals, for ourselves who will partake their milk.

In simple words, this is what happens in "Embryo Transfer":

The bull's sperm is kept ready for artificial insemination.

A genetically superior and high milk yielding cow termed "elite" is chosen. Hormone treatment is given to her by which she

super-ovulates, that is instead of releasing a single egg every three weeks, she starts releasing four or six eggs together.

These eggs are fertilised simultaneously by artificial insemination. The semen straw is put inside an artificial airgun which is introduced into the uterus of the hormone-treated cow, about five to six times a day.

As if this were not bad enough, on fertilisation, the eggs are flushed out from the uterus using a catheter. The 20 to 25 embryos removed are then washed and usually frozen, awaiting transfer into that many low milk yielding surrogate cows who go through the full term of pregnancy. (At the Sabarmati Ashram of the 15 surrogate cows, 11 delivered identical calves carrying the genes of the "elite" cow and bull.)

The "elite" cow then re-starts ovulation which is converted into super-ovulation by man and the same cycle repeated. Instead of giving birth to about 10 calves during her entire life-span, the poor animal can be made to produce 100 or more embryos annually as a result of super-ovulation 6 or 7 times a year.

There is something very wrong. Today it is ET for milk production; tomorrow it is bound to be for beef production. Only recently in UK the first commercial beef animal produced by ET was slaughtered.

God's creation and ways can not be tampered with or improved upon by man without adverse effects in the long run. The scientists who have developed ET in India should be ashamed of themselves. ET unethically exploits the sacred cow (and buffalo) for a drastic increase in milk production. Before it is too late, religious heads should condemn it and institutions like Panjrapoles and Gandhi ashrams should totally abandon it so that unsuspecting farmers are not lured into buying an embryo for a "mere Rs. 300/-" for their ordinary cow.

If you really care for the Cow (and buffalo) and want to help, you can NOW. Write to: The Union Minister for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture (Govt. of India), Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi 110011. Request that an immediate ban be imposed on Embryo Transfer.

Do you drink milk?

Purnima Toolsidass

Do you know how highly toxic the milk we drink and the beef we eat are?

This is due to an injection called "Oxytocin" which milkmen in India flagrantly use before milking the cow, at least twice a day. There is a mistaken notion that it produces extra milk. What actually happens is that it only makes the milk flow smoother and faster. "Oxytocin" is the drug used for women in labour. The effect of this drug, if used appropriately, is to increase contractions of the uterus and expedite childbirth. If used indiscriminately, it could rupture the uterus.

Think of the millions of cows who are being administered "Oxytocin" twice a day. It is most shocking and distressing to make them undergo such abuse when we know that the pains of delivery are terrible. It is a disgraceful abuse of the gentle creature on whose milk we are raised.

As a result of this, the cow becomes incapable of bearing calves around 2-3 years time and is sent to the slaughter house - years before her end would normally come, - resulting in increasing shortage of milk and milk products.



The effect of "Oxytocin" filters through into the milk and is considered particularly harmful for the eyes. Growing children are naturally more vulnerable.

The beef of such cows is also found to be highly toxic due to a large amount of this drug being injected into the animals.

The "Oxytocin" injection is banned in India and abroad for veterinary use, but the ampoules are cheap and readily available, freely and openly used since the implementation of the ban is so lax. Recently milk, with and without "Oxytocin" was tested. Three reports proved the nutritional harm done by "Oxytocin" and without really having increased the milk yield.

Deathstock Council

During the VIII Plan, the Government of India intends encouraging killing of animals. It has decided to set up the National Livestock Production Development Council with the view of increasing meat and poultry production. Plus a National Marine Fisheries Development Board which will increase the production of marine products.

This is obviously bad news for the millions of animals which will be specially bred to be killed for their flesh. If you care for them, then write a protest letter to The Union Minister of State for Food Processing at New Delhi.

Shed Antlers?

Antlers of two species of deer, Cheetal (*Axis axis*) and Sambhar (*Cervus Unicolor*), are mainly utilised by traders. These antlers are considered most suitable for display as trophies or for converting into items such as cutlery handles. However, antlers of Swamp deer (*C. duvauceli*) and Hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), broken into pieces beyond recognition are exported as shed antler "waste" to Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore. These pieces are said to be utilised for "medicinal purposes".

Export of shed antlers is allowed by the Government of India. Only if the antlers are in their complete form can they be ascertained as having been naturally shed. But, export consignments often contain unshed antlers of killed deer. This is because it is difficult to obtain shed antlers in large quantities. Shed antlers unless picked up soon are gnawed at by porcupine causing unseemly marks on them. Even if they escape the porcupine, don't get maggot-infested and if when they were shed they had not fallen into rain water and rotted, the natural process of decay itself causes the antlers to become quite useless well within a short period of two months after shedding.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is aware of the fact that most of the 300 metric tons of antlers exported are not in one piece but made up into articles or as scrap which can not possibly truly indicate whether or not they were shed. This obviously encourages poaching of deer. It seems therefore that the Ministry has given its consent for the export of so-called shed antlers only to please tribals who receive Rs. 15/- to Rs. 20/- per antler and the trophy dealers who get much more by way of export earnings. **Beauty Without Cruelty** has requested the Ministry, in the interest of giving due protection to the deer of our forests, to reconsider its decision.

Deadly Designs — On the Way Out

Top fashion designers, including Norma Kamali, Bill Blass, Giorgio Armani, Caroline Herrera, Oleg Cassini, Gianni Versace and Donna Karan, won't touch or design fur. Like most people, they recognise that fur now carries a social liability.

Retail sales of fur are estimated to have dropped from \$1.9 billion in 1989 to \$1 billion in 1990 and U.S. Mink "production" has dropped from 4.5 million in 1989 to 2.4 million in 1990.

Jindo, whose chairman once declared his intention to make the company "the McDonald's of fur" has closed the last of its 40 U.S. stores. Most furriers may have lost their livelihoods, but the animals have gained their lives.

With no market left in the U.S. or Europe, furriers from around the world spent millions on Japan's first international fur fair. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) sent a couple to march barefoot through central Tokyo carrying a banner reading "We'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur" in Japanese and English. They were swarmed by reporters who ran the story and photos around the globe on the fur fair's opening day.

A furrier in a letter to the "Fur Age Weekly" stated: "Tell any woman that you are a furrier and she will blink, take a step backward, and perhaps walk away. We no longer belong to the human race."

Courtesy : PETA

Mink Rags

In 1991 the Ministry of Environment & Forests (Govt. of India) discovered that Mink Coats were being sold by furriers in Delhi. On making enquires it was found that mink is imported, mainly from USA and Canada, into India as "Rags". Assurance had been given by the then Finance Minister to the Minister of State, Environment & Forests that the Customs would be alerted to prevent such illegal imports. (As Mink is not found in India it is not covered by the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 1991, and therefore no action can be taken under this law.)

Beauty Without Cruelty has been determined to oppose this illegal import and to stop it. In several representations to the Govt. of India, **BWC** requested that seizures be made and necessary action be taken against the importers to ensure that Mink and other furs of wild or farmed/ranched animals are not smuggled into our country. Luckily, the Central Board of Excise and Customs has taken a keen interest and has informed **BWC** that at Bombay the Customs authorities on close scrutiny detected three cases in 1991 and one case in 1992 wherein illegal import of Mink furs was noticed. Appropriate legal action has been initiated.

Mink pelts in small pieces or as accessories to other garments are still being smuggled into the country as "shoddy wool" / "rags" / "pre-mutilated woollen rags". Shops selling furs in Delhi, Bombay and other places ALL have Mink Coats which are made up of these fur pieces. It seems that due to cheap labour in India these coats can be purchased at about half the price they'd be available abroad. The

fur industry is desperate for sales, why else would they want to lure the tourists into buying fur coats in Third World Countries?

If you see any shop selling Mink or foreign animals' fur coats, please inform **BWC** immediately. Without involving your name some thing will be done. Only then will there be a drop in the number of such fur coats available.



What about the Cat?

Saji Nair

I had my examination that particular day. As usual, mother wished me luck, as I left the house. I was nervous though I was well prepared for the exam. I have this belief that I have to wear a green dress for the exams. Unfortunately that day both my dresses were at the laundry. Cursing my luck and praying fervently I left for college. I was trying to console myself thinking that Process Instrumentation (PI) is a subject which everyone clears, so I'll also clear it without any difficulty. But a black cat which was sitting on the pavement ran across the road as it was being chased by a dog. I was literally in tears. I was prepared for the exam but didn't a black cat cross my path?

With a heavy heart I entered the examination hall. The question paper was ok. But there were times when the papers were very easy but I had just managed to scrape through. So what about this exam?

On that fateful Monday, the BE-Electronics, results were declared. The marksheets were being distributed. I could hear the students shout and yell. All seemed to have got good marks in PI in 60s and 70s. When I got my result in hand I just scanned through it only to see a '6'. I looked again.

Good gracious it was 60 and not a six. Wow not bad at all! I had been blaming the cat for a possible failure.

But then it struck me, what would have the cat thought — it would have been accusing me thinking me to be inauspicious, because wasn't it true that it was only after it had seen



my face that the dog gave it a chase? I felt miserable at the very thought. But then, I don't believe in this saying but I wonder what the cat believes?

Courtesy : EVE'S EXPRESS

COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

From Beauty Without Cruelty, Printed in India, July - December 1992