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# **COMPASSIONATE FRIEND**

**Journal of Beauty Without Cruelty - India**

**An International Educational Charitable Trust for Animal Rights**

## **In this Issue:**

**Veganism**

**Dog Meat**

**Raptors**

**Camels**

**Short Films**

**Life Imprisonment for Animals**





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## Beauty Without Cruelty

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

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# From my Desk...

## Alas! Lockdown in Zoos is Permanent

**T**he lockdown has been difficult for us because we have felt caged and controlled, albeit in the comfort of our own homes. Knowing that the isolation imposed upon us was for our own good and temporary made the ordeal some what bearable. But, what on earth would we have done had we been told the lockdown would be for the rest of our lives?

Our own temporary and unbearable confinement must make us consider the permanent and extremely stressful confinement animals in zoos face. They, who have been mercilessly captured from the wild and caged or barricaded, only to be displayed for humans who pay to view them, certainly experience trauma while failing to grasp their own misfortune. The joy of living in their vast natural habitat is some thing they can but only dream of, but never ever experience again.

Other lives that are captive bred and born in the precincts of zoos are definitely doomed to total life imprisonment too. Sops like natural surroundings, no cages with bars, bigger enclosures and facilities could very well be compared with

the comforts in our homes during our own lockdown period.

Is it not obvious that the law of karma is catching up fast with cruel mankind?

It is high time we acknowledge how unethical it is to keep sentient beings captive in zoos. Nothing, nothing at all can justify it. Forget survival of species — every creature is an individual and suffers during its life confinement. Zoos are animal jails in which the inmates are not criminals, yet they are known to be secretly executed to feed other inmates. Carnivores and cannibals ahoy!

Zoos are nothing but outdated relics and have no place in today's technological world where wild life can be seen up close on screens. Those who wish to actually see animals and birds can always visit a sanctuary. However, studies by experts on different species have revealed all there is to know about them.

To make money there was a time when zoos exhibited human dwarfs, albinos and hunchbacks from around the world. We now need to condemn and bring an end to exhibiting other sentient beings. Wild life conservation, research and education that zoos claim to be undertaking are cloaks for making money while actually promoting a bizarre form of entertainment that involves men, women and children gaping at different species.

The majority of species in zoos are not extinct in the wild, endangered, vulnerable or threatened, and many such "showpieces" are traded both legally and illegally. Money from visitors is absolutely essential for zoos to exist and any and all creatures are promoted as crowd-pullers.

Simply sympathising with their plight is no solution.

Let's campaign to set them free.

Let's campaign to put zoos out of business.

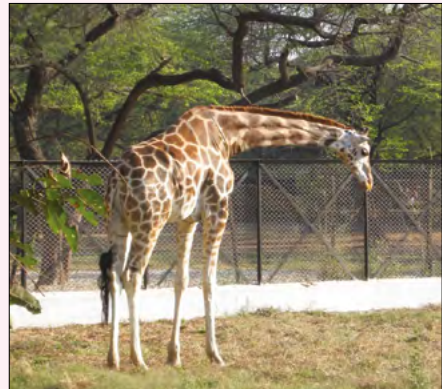
**NO VISITORS = NO ZOOS.**

Each and every one of us needs to solemnly pledge never to visit a zoo. We should not forget

## Zoos are Animal Jails



**Giraffes are the tallest terrestrial animals and ruminants from the wilds of Africa.**



**Their distinguishing characteristics of long necks and legs has unfortunately resulted in their life imprisonment around the world.**

that if we, like zoo animals, were made to stay under lockdown forever, what a meaningless and psychologically damaging existence it would be. In an effort to survive from day to day under unnatural confinement, we would lose our innate human nature just like zoo animals have lost their inborn wild behavioural patterns. It's happening right now to all the animals, birds and marine lives kept under permanent lockdown in zoos worldwide. We can, and we must stop it by never visiting a zoo ever again.



**Diana Ratnagar**  
Chairperson

## BWC gets Dog Meat Banned

**F**ollowing the outbreak of COVID-19, in May 2020 China declared a new list of livestock, i.e. animals allowed to be bred and slaughtered. Dogs and cats were not included although the Dog Meat Festival was due to be held a few weeks later. Dogs were rightfully placed under the category of companion animals.

This gave BWC reason to again approach the state government of Nagaland to ensure that the rearing of dogs and cats for meat and their consumption stops. A copy of the FSSAI order which clearly stated that Ovines (sheep), Caprines (goats), Suillines (pigs), Bovines (cattle), Poultry and Fish can only be slaughtered for their meat and no other animals was attached for implementation.

Article 371(A)(ii) of the Constitution of India bestows special status to "Naga customary law and procedure" resulting in consumption of dog meat. Truck loads of captured dogs secured in gunny sacks with their mouths tied were being brought into Nagaland from Assam and West Bengal. A picture and appeal



to send an e-mail to the Chief Secretary was also widely circulated by animal activists on WhatsApp. In addition, the state had recently issued shoot at sight orders to kill dogs found roaming in the streets, as a result of which pets were also being shot.

However, within a month of our last representation, on June 26, 2020 the state cabinet of Nagaland decided "to ban commercial import and trading of dogs and dog markets and also the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked". Later we got to know that in March 2020 Mizoram had also dropped dogs from the list of animals allowed for slaughter.

BWC hopes that this time round the ban in Nagaland and Mizoram will be enforced.

### Form IV (See Rule 8)

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Sd/- Diana Ratnagar  
Signature of Publisher



## BWC saves Raptors from Pigeon Fanciers



In May 2020 complaints were received by BWC with supporting videos showing how pigeon fanciers of Punjab were capturing and killing raptors because they were attacking their pigeons. They were capturing them by bringing them down from mobile towers, using hooks, guns and even attaching iron claws on their pigeons so falcons that prey on them get injured.

Upon bringing this to the attention of the Wildlife Department, they promptly cracked down on the culprits and 24 FIRs were filed.

However, BWC feels the underlying reason is cruel pigeon flying which in itself needs to be stopped.

### IMPORTANT

**If your e-mail ID is not on our records; or has changed – do send it to +917410126541 as soon as possible.**

**Please mention your name and membership number (if you remember it).**

**Thank you! BWC Admin**

## BWC ensures No Camel Sacrifice again



To the best of our knowledge not a single camel was slaughtered in India for Bakri Eid 2020.

This year too BWC wrote to the Prime Minister, and Chief Ministers with copies to all District Magistrates and Police of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala, because in the past camels had either being killed or appeals had been made for their sacrifice in these states. We sent them the landmark Judgement of the Madras High Court and requested them to stop entry, sale and slaughter of camels. Most states responded positively. Meanwhile, Rajasthan assured us they would stop camels being smuggled out. Since the Border Security Force was short of camels, in 2014 the state had passed laws for their protection.

BWC also approached the Animal Welfare Board of India following which a circular was issued by the Secretary to all states' Chief Secretaries, DGs of Police and Animal Husbandry Directors.

Lastly, BWC suggested to leading animal activists of Hyderabad to file a case in the High Court to stop camels from being slaughtered, and they did.

# Should we Shut Down our Zoos?

*Zoos will serve their purpose better by turning into rescue centres for abused wildlife says Shubhobroto Ghosh*

**T**he entry of the man in the lion enclosure at Delhi Zoo in October 2019 is not the only such instance that has taken place within the earshot of memory. Over the years there have been numerous incidents of individuals entering the enclosures of dangerous predators in zoos in India, from Alipore Zoo in Kolkata to Gwalior Zoo in Madhya Pradesh and from Nandankanan Zoo to Jamshedpur Zoo. These incidents, along with other unsavoury developments including deaths of animals due to mismanagement at different zoos in India and abroad and particularly Delhi Zoo, give me a reason to ponder on the whole nature of keeping animals in captivity.

BBC produced an excellent programme on zoos entitled, 'Should We Close Our Zoos?' in 2016 and it is time to raise this question in the public domain in India too. There will always be a multiplicity of opinion on zoos ranging from complete closure to reformation, citing the best examples of zoos like Howletts, Port Lympne and Jersey and my personal view is that zoos will serve their purpose better by turning into rescue centres for abused wildlife and undertake breeding programmes only when there is a genuine possibility for reintroduction in the wild. In short, it is simply not on to stick animals in cages and leave them and then claim conservation and education benefits by creating pseudoscientific acronyms to impress the public.

Public consciousness is putting pressure on zoos, and the recent decision of Seaworld to stop the breeding of Orcas (Killer Whales) following the massive backlash they faced after the release of the film 'Blackfish' in 2013 is testimony to the power and role of the public in changing existing zoo attitudes.

## Preserves or Prisons?

My personal zoo visits across three continents have taught me that Western zoos are NOT better than Indian zoos, although there is an assumption that Indian zoos are worse than Western zoos. A major concern is the continued and unchecked breeding of animals in zoos that lead to a multiplicity of problems like the one witnessed in Delhi Zoo



**The Litigon named Cubanacan produced as a hybrid of a Lion and a Tigon(Tiger X Lion) in a controversial experiment in Alipore Zoo, Kolkata. Photo courtesy: Alipore Zoo/Guinness Book of Records/Karl Shuker.**

recently, with Axis Deer dying in large numbers. Uncontrolled and irresponsible breeding of animals in zoos also leads to morally bankrupt and obnoxious actions like the culling of Marius, the two-year old healthy giraffe who was shot dead and then fed to lions at Copenhagen Zoo in February 2014. Whilst the case of Marius made headlines, thousands of animals are killed on the sly in zoos across the world, including some of the most famous in the world.

One of the lessons that the coronavirus crisis has taught us is that confinement is unpleasant. Could it not be, that just as we have felt choked during the period of lockdown, zoo animals experience the same emotions daily during their captive zoo existence? Also, many zoos have struggled to keep themselves afloat during the coronavirus crisis due

to lack of visitors and paucity of funds. Perhaps it is time for zoos to rethink their traditional role in entertainment and focus more on giving abused wildlife suitable homes for the rest of their lives. Captive zoo animals are in dire need of champions like Gerald Durrell, Bill Travers and Stefan Ormrod today to address their plight. The desire to change, should ideally come from within the zoo industry. Zoos like Howletts and Detroit show that it can be done, if there is a will, there is a way.

## Born Free Foundation

Below are extracts from a 2019 interview of Virginia McKenna with Shubhobroto Ghosh on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Born Free Foundation. As the star of 'Born Free' she acted as Joy Adamson to portray the relationship between her and her husband, George Adamson, with Elsa, the lioness. Together with her co star, Bill Travers, she founded Zoo Check in 1984, an organization that has now grown into the Born Free Foundation. Today, the Born Free Foundation is involved in a multiplicity of programmes involving wild animal welfare and conservation across the world and is a leading voice for wild animals kept in captivity in zoos and circuses. Virginia McKenna was also joint international president of Beauty Without Cruelty for over a decade starting 1983 with her husband, Bill Travers.



**Himalayan Black Bear in Kohima Zoo.**  
**Photo courtesy: Shubhobroto Ghosh**

## ***Why is it important to highlight the plight of zoo animals?***

Captive wild animals in zoos suffer mentally and physically. Captive animals cannot set themselves free. If we do not speak for them, who will? Captive wild animals are NOT separate from other wild animals, they share the same physiological characteristics as those that are free-living. Tragically, in today's world, animals are still being captured from the wild to cater to the seemingly insatiable appetite of unscrupulous zoos. African Elephants are being captured from the wild in Zimbabwe for zoos and I find this horrendous. All these years later, the issue of wild animals in captivity is still with us, and we will always continue to oppose it.

## ***What have been the main achievements of Zoo Check?***

We have been able to make the matter of wild animals in captivity a mainstream issue of public interest. Now our work to raise the issue of wild animals in zoos has created a more informed public, who can critically decide whether to go to the zoo to have a 'good day out' – or not. Zoo Check, in essence, has sown a seed in people's minds to reflect on the plight of captive wild animals, and try to understand the reality of life for wild creatures who can never be free.

## ***What do you think of zoos like the proposed one at Aarey in Mumbai that will be created by cutting pristine forests?***

Count me in! I support the campaign against creating this zoo in the midst of a pristine forest. We do not have the right to see everything up close. Nature should be about preserving natural areas and not 'ticking a box' to say we have seen everything from penguins to Polar Bears. My principal opposition to the zoo being proposed in Aarey is that the captive animals they will incarcerate will have no life. Existence for them will become meaningless, and the public will learn very little of any real value.



*Shubhobroto Ghosh is a life member of BWC. He is the author of Indian Zoo Inquiry and after 20 years of investigative work and campaigning in 2015 he managed to get the Calcutta Snake Park closed for keeping animals in unsatisfactory conditions and indulging in illegal wildlife trade.*



# Way Back in Time

## Leap year, a leap into freedom

**Christine Krishnasami**

*"Born free, as free as the wind blows....  
As free as the grass grows, born free to follow  
your heart...."*

Who can forget "Born Free," the film that tugged at our heartstrings and told the story of how Joy and George Adamson of Kenya rehabilitated in the wild the 36-kilo lioness Elsa, whom they had found as an orphaned cub and brought up with parental love and devotion?

And here was Ms Virginia McKenna, who played Joy Adamson in the film (Ms Adamson was murdered tragically in 1981 by a sacked employee), actually chatting with me in the lounge of the Windsor Manor on Tuesday, 24 November! Ms McKenna and her husband Mr. Bill Travers were in Bangalore to briefly oversee their "Operation Tiger," which involved the rehabilitation of six young, healthy and splendid tigers from a narrow, filthy cage in England to the relatively freer spaces of Bannerghatta Safari Park.

In January 1987, the Travers couple discovered the six tigers languishing in a narrow cage at the Cross Brothers' Circus, which Ms McKenna terms "a sordid, backstreet establishment in Maidstone, Kent." The "Sunday Mail" had been carrying stories on the plight of the tigers, arousing public conscience and a sense of outrage. Finally, the Maidstone Borough Council was able to prosecute the Cross Brothers. The tigers were removed temporarily to Longleat Safari Park.

Since no zoo or safari park in Britain was prepared to offer a permanent home to the tigers, the council made preparations to destroy them. As trustees of "Zoocheck," an organisation dedicated to that aspect of animal welfare pertaining to animals in zoos and circuses, Ms McKenna and Mr. Travers went on a nationwide campaign to save the tigers.

In May 1987, Ms McKenna was preparing to come to India in connection with a documentary film being made by Channel Four television in London by Rani Dube, co-producer of the film, "Gandhi." The Maidstone Council had agreed to postpone destruction of the tigers until a home could be found for them. When Ms McKenna mentioned this to Ms Dube, the latter immediately arranged for Ms McKenna to meet Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde, who happened to be in London.

Reacting with sensitivity and generosity to the condition of the tigers, the Chief Minister of Karnataka readily agreed to set aside a special area of Bannerghatta Park to serve as a future home for the tigers which had been marked for destruction after a nightmare existence. The rest, as they say, is history....

The Travers couple raised what finances they could for the project (a total of £60,000 sterling was the estimated cost of rehabilitation). Mr. Hegde arranged for an official permit to be issued, saying that he was happy to accept the tigers. Dr. M.K. Ranjitsinh from the Ministry of Environment in New Delhi sent the couple in England an import permit. The long months of waiting and worrying had borne fruit at last.

*"Stay free, and beauty surrounds you...."*

A new enclosure of more than 12 acres, designed as prime tiger habitat, is to be the nature of this happy ending. As Ms McKenna wrote in the "Zoocheck" journal: "Not, perhaps, the one that nature would have intended for them, but at least a life where they can feel the earth and grass under their feet, lie in the shade of a tree, swim in a pool, and, in the stillness of the Indian twilight, see only shadows in front of them, not bars."

### **At Windsor Manor Lounge**

I asked Ms McKenna the inevitable question about the making of "Born Free." How did she and Mr. Travers work so closely with those full-grown lions? Did the



beasts have their lips sewn with needles and thread, as happens with tigers in Indian films, tea advertisements and so on?

Ms McKenna was horrified. "Oh, no, we lived close to the animals until they got used to our presence and could tolerate our handling them," she smiled. It is this special combination of strength, courage and tender concern for an exploited, endangered species that lent such grace and truth to her portrayal of Joy Adamson in the film and which lights up even today those delicate features and statuesque form.

When I mentioned the torture which animals such as tigers, elephants, cobras, dogs & so forth are subjected to routinely in the making of films and video advertisements in India, Ms McKenna suggested that whenever a film is made in India using an animal, a representative from an animal welfare organisation (such as the Animal Welfare Board or Blue Cross, Madras, any of the SPCA's, **Beauty Without Cruelty** and so on) should be present. This is an excellent suggestion which should be taken up by the concerned authorities.

### George Adamson

Sad, impoverished and alone, past eighty, George Adamson still battles poachers valiantly and serves the cause of wildlife

and other wildlife products continues to thrive and to deplete various animal species alarmingly, the battle of the idealists and animal welfarists continues, perhaps never to end.

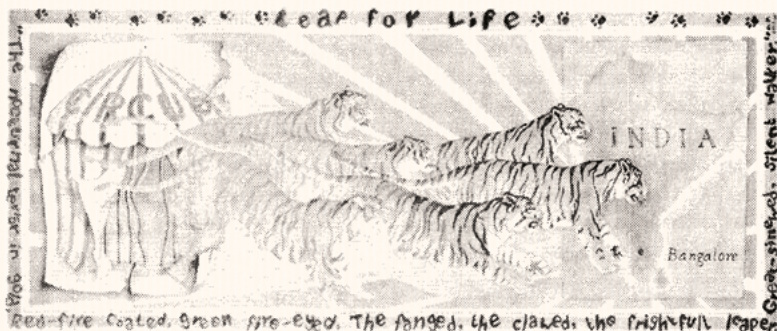
### Leap for life

By kind permission of Mr. M.K. Appayya, Additional Chief Conservator of Forests & Wildlife, we were able to see the tigers from England on 23 December. Mr. N. Srinivas, urbane and dedicated Assistant Conservator of Forests at Bannerghatta National Park, went the extra mile to show us around this beautiful, sprawling scrubland housing a variety of wildlife.

The tigers which had been given a new lease of life were referred to variously as Bill (after Mr. Bill Travers?), Joy, Orphan, David and Mangy — who did suffer from mange but is recovering under the care of the veterinarian, Dr. Ramaiah. We think the other tiger should be called "Glinny" for Virginia....

A couple of the tigers bore marks of the whip and harsh circus treatment. But their youth, general good health and salubrious new surroundings give every indication that this Indo-British "Operation Tiger" is going to prove a "roaring success."

In honour of this project, "Zoocheck" has issued a greetings card showing six handsome young tigers leaping in a line out of



at the isolated Kora National Reserve some 340 kilometres northeast of Nairobi, Kenya. As international trade in ivory, skins

a circus towards a map of India with Bangalore marked out with a conspicuous dot. The caption edging the card reads: "The nocturnal terror in gold, red-fire coated, green fire-eyed, The fanged, the clawed, the frightful leaper, Great-sinewed, silent walker"

COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

From Beauty Without Cruelty, Printed in India, October – March 1988

# Animals under Lockdown

***Zoos depend on public footfall to survive, and even if there are swarming crowds to zoos or none at all – zoo animals suffer the most says Suparna Baksi Ganguly***

Imagine for a moment that you will never see the world except through bars, wake up to see the same scenery for weeks, years and decades, sometimes in solitary confinement and sometimes with the same sad, depressed companions, never lead a joyous full life, and never a moment of privacy, your confinement probed by staring eyes and indifferent chatter... then welcome to the choice less world of animals in zoos, held captive by force.

We are living today on a planet, where for the first time in seven decades, people are going through a period of fear, isolation and confinement, held captive by a deadly pandemic. It is a time to understand, reflect and feel the distress that animals in zoos and captivity experience every day in their harsh, unrelenting lives.

## Plight of Animals in Zoos

There have been improvements made in certain captive establishments, but sadly, most of the world's zoos still have primitive housing facilities and spaces for their animals. "Enrichment" is an unknown word, and its benefit for the animals behind bars, has been neglected and ignored.

No amount of enrichment, however, can ever make up for loss of freedom! As humans are facing this now and have come up with environmental enrichments in their daily lives like movies, social media, video calls and virtual experiences of travel and socializing,



**A 16 year old male leopard dies at Nandankanan. Photo courtesy: mycitylinks.in**

the zoo animals have no recourse to alter the basics of their natural behavior and consequently, their wellbeing.

The myriad animals in zoos include mammals, invertebrates, fish and reptiles, most of them living in dire circumstances. They are denied access to the five categories of enrichment deemed essential for every living being, which include nutrition, physical environment, sensory stimulation, activities and social structure....

If animals have to be kept in zoos, then it is our moral obligation to respect them as unique species, with each evolving for a particular niche in nature. The same needs to be recreated in their environment to reflect their natural history and social structure – the best that nature may have provided in its abundance.

The long term effects of lack of enrichment in zoos is displayed in the boredom, depression and apathy of zoo animals... most of them display serious signs of stereotypic behavior and post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD).



## Recent Deaths of Zoo animals in India

In India, in particular, 18 animals died in zoos from March to June 2020. The zoo narrative, for the first time, raised serious concerns on the Covid-19 lockdowns, impacting in a deadly way, on the animal inmates. The details of the several deaths are compiled below by FIAPO:

Date	Zoo	Incident
03.03.20	Mysore Zoo, Karnataka	A four-year-old Tiger and a King Cobra which was brought from the Pilikula Biological Park, Mangaluru in an exchange programme had died, reportedly, due to health issues.
19.03.2020	Nandankanan Zoo, Odisha	A Leopard dies of tick-borne disease. The same disease had claimed the life of another tiger in the same Zoo in 1999. Another white tiger 'Subhranshu' died in October 2019 due to haemorrhagic enteritis and Ascites caused by a life-threatening tick-borne protozoan parasite. Two other tigers and a Giraffe had also died of the tick-borne disease at the Zoo in the last few years.
April 2020	Nandankanan Zoo, Odisha	Death of six Common Palm Civets due to 'lung inflammation' in a span of two weeks.
22.04.2020	Delhi Zoo, Delhi	Kalpana, a white tigress, died of acute renal failure.
24.04.2020	Delhi Zoo, Delhi	Five employees held guilty of negligence for the death of a ghariyal.
03.06.2020	Jawaharlal Nehru Biological Park, Bokaro, Jharkhand	An 18-year-old female lion, Rameshwari, died due to blood clot in heart.
09.06.2020	Nahargarh Biological Park, Jaipur, Rajasthan	18-month-old tiger Rudra died due to leptospirosis. This is the fourth big cat death in the past 10 months at the park, allegedly due to gross negligence of authorities.
14.06.2020	Vishakhapatnam Zoo, Andhra Pradesh	Lioness dies in the Zoo.
23.06.2020	Nandankanan Zoo, Odisha	Himalayan Black Bear named Kulu passed away of Tuberculosis.
24.06.2020	Siddharth Garden Zoo, Aurangabad, Maharashtra	A six-and-a-half-year-old tigress named Kareena died due to a kidney ailment.
26.06.2020	Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, Telangana	An eight-year-old white tiger died due to neoplastic tumour.
27.06. and 30.06.2020	Chhatbir Zoo, Punjab	A 30-year-old female crocodile died of a kidney & liver infection on and a three-year-old ostrich found dead.



All animals died prematurely, contributing to the doubts that lack of resources, trained staff and indications of medical negligence, should be few of the main reason to phase out zoos, apart from the ethical concerns of keeping wild animals in captivity for human entertainment.

## Are Zoos Necessary?

With the best of intentions but plagued with lack of adequate resources, the Central Zoo Authority has been unable to adhere to its main agenda – that of captive breeding of endangered species for eventual release into the wild, to provide the best natural enclosures for animals in the facility and to provide education on biodiversity. Instead zoos today have become a place for family entertainment and picnics and do little to justify their existence.

Pandemics like Covid-19 will not be the last to plague the planet. To be mindful of such crisis in the future and to start the phasing out of restrictive, badly maintained and poorly looked after zoos would be the first step in the right direction. Zoos depend on public footfall to survive, and even if there are swarming crowds to zoos or none at all - zoo animals suffer the most.



**Lioness Rameshwari dies in Bokaro Zoo, Jharkhand in June 2020. Photo courtesy: news19.com**



**Six Common Palm Civets dead at Nandankanan. Photo courtesy: newindianexpress.com**

Veterinary failure and lack of resources due to lockdowns will lead to many such unnatural deaths and the present and future pandemics is proving that the zoo business is unsustainable and financially unviable, in the current scenario and in the foreseeable future.

## Fate of Captive Elephants

One of the emerging pandemic situations that showed an unexpected turn was the fate of captive elephants in the hands of private ownership. Like zoo animals, these elephants are held in intensive captivity and the pandemic exposed the fault lines that they live on.

There were anguished cries of help from owners requesting the government authorities and the public to assist in the feeding and upkeep of these, expensive to maintain, animals.

Petition was filed by WRRRC in the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, requesting the Bench to look into matters of safety, upkeep and nutrition of captive elephants in the State.

Unfortunately, exploitation of captive elephants is historically entrenched in a critical loophole in the law. Section 40 of the Wildlife Protection Act allows for their



**Chained, injured, sick and eventually dead – the plight of elephants in so-called Hathi gaon near Jaipur. Photo courtesy: kornetsky at wuethrich.eu**

capture and ownership. In India, there are approximately 2675 captive elephants with more than 1800 owned by private individuals. The Covid-19 situation exposed the vulnerability of owners to market forces. Together with the near absence of congregations and the closure of traditional venues where these animals are displayed, ridden, exposed to tourists and paraded, the avenues of income generation was abruptly switched off. Owners today are unable to have their expenditures matching the income and the profit the elephants generated.

This has, again, called for a review of the present laws which permit and facilitate through various nefarious means, the private ownership of captive elephants.

### **Supreme Court Notes Prevalence of Infectious Diseases in Animals**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No.743/2014, on captive elephants, directed in their Order dated 06.03.2020, to form a veterinary inspection team to examine the elephants at Amer Fort and Haathi Gaon in Rajasthan. The Inspection

was due in July 2020 and their report is awaited. The riding elephants in Jaipur need testing for Tuberculosis, a deadly infectious disease, and worldwide, is one of the top 10 causes of death. In 2018, approximately 10 million people were infected with Tuberculosis (TB) globally. There are 10 elephants with TB positive test results but are still in circulation being used for tourist rides. This bizarre state of affairs is done with approval from the very bodies that need to protect the

health and safety of animals and humans viz. the Forest and Tourism Departments of the State of Rajasthan.

Elephants in captivity under private ownership have borne the worst brunt of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. They remain significant susceptible victims for contracting Zoonotic Tuberculosis from infected humans, due to reduced nutrition, lack of veterinary care, constant chaining, lack of exercise and consequent lowering of mental health conditions as well. Disease transmission of zoonotic diseases is and will be the main source of future pandemics and



**Tourists ride on elephants in Ajmer, unbeknownst the animals' suffering. Photo courtesy: ohmyrajasthan.com**

there never has been a better reason for phasing out use of animals for public viewing, riding and other forms of entertainment.

## Appeals from Elephant Owners and Circuses asking for Help

An appeal for public help came from the custodian of 18 year old Rupali, wild caught in Assam. Traded in 2018, to an individual in Madurai, the deal was done in the notorious Sonepur Mela in Bihar where thousands of animals are trafficked. Another request for assistance was circulated on WhatsApp by a mahout of an institution in Karnataka, for an elderly elephant who needed urgent care.

Along with other elephant owners from across India, the appeals poured in for providing fodder and veterinary care for the beleaguered elephants, blaming the poor animals for their inability to be employed for income generation.

Circuses have not been far behind in their inability to survive the pressures for providing livelihood for their staff and animals. Ever since the beginning of the lockdown numerous reports have emerged where circus owners are unable to provide for both their human and animal workers.

Stressed animals are sources of danger to the public and their mahouts. On 24th May 2020 a young temple captive elephant Deivanai killed her mahout, bringing focus on the lack of focus on welfare conditions prompting the captive elephants to retaliate with fatal results.

With huge pressures on a challenged and fragile humankind's state of health, economy and livelihoods, the days are numbered for keeping wildlife in captivity in zoos and as props for celebration or entertainment.

## Government Takes Note

A Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) Memorandum dated 07.11.2013 stated that Chief Wild Life Wardens do not have the power to issue 'No Objection Certificates' to the transfer of elephants for religious purposes.

In 2015, the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) decided to stop registration of elephants for performances under the Performing Animals Rules in view of the cruelty and abuse suffered by the animals in circuses.

In line with the MoEF&CC 1998 notification, AWBI in September 2016 issued an advisory asking MoEF to ban elephants from performances stating "This move is both informed and scientific and in the best interests of this species and the human." This culminated in a draft MoEF&CC notification dated November 2018.

In a White Paper submitted to the Government of India on June 15, 2020 FIAPPO with other member organizations appealed to the Ministry of Environment MoEF& CC for a review of the policies governing elephants - both wild and captive.

In spite of taking note of public concerns in the field of captive elephants and wildlife, there is still a long way to go.

It will be a tough lesson for mankind to absorb that institutions where animals are used for display, entertainment and exhibition are based on unsustainability, for the pandemic has revealed the fragility of human economies and livelihoods.



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*She is also a life member of BWC - India*



# Veganism: The Ethical Necessity



Talk given to the group Jain Journal as an awareness-raising webinar, 5 May 2020 by

## Ranjit Konkar

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Vegan for 29 years

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Credit for organising talk: **Rajkumari Mutha**, BWC Life Member

*Block arrows denote progression from one slide to the next*

### Q1: How does one pronounce it? 😊

Answer: NOT vay-gun, wagon, vay-gaan,  
V-jun, V-gaan, ...

but: V – gun, V – gun – ism

The beginning and end of  
the word VEGEtarian



### What is Veganism?

A lifestyle that avoids using objects made from  
animal-derived substances or objects and services  
made in a way that causes harm to any creature

### Vegan:

A person who adopts a vegan lifestyle



### What's the big deal about "animal products"? What's the problem with using them?

Answer: Because... "Animal product" => Harm to the animal

...in a way that is different from harm to plants or (obviously) non-living things.

Let us see how...



### Our daily lives..and things we use

#### Activity   Related object examples

Personal hygiene:                      toileteries

Clothing:                                      apparel

Beauty:                                        lipstick

Eating:                                        food

Medicine:                                    pharmaceuticals

Entertainment:                            circus



We may think that our lives do not affect the well-being of animals, since there is little if any direct involvement of animals in our urban lives, other than maybe pets. Few even relate ice-cream or omelettes with animals.

However, you would be surprised to know how each of the activities listed here (on the left) involves products, substances, or services (listed on the right) that are derived from animals ... and we as consumers of those items become directly responsible for the way in which they are obtained from animals.

Underlying truth: we get many of such things at great cost - sometimes even their lives - to the animals.

So where **do** animal products come from?

Which animals?

Which parts of the animals?

### **External                      Internal                      Secretions**

Skin	Flesh, fat	Egg
Claws, hooves	Blood	Milk
Horns, tusks	Organs	Silk
Hair	Bones	Laakh
Feathers	Gastric juices	Honey

Various animals are killed for various but specific body parts. Flesh, eggs, milk, and honey go for eating, fat for the oil, skin for wearing, bones for bone chinaware, blood into medicines, feathers into pillow filling, gastric juices for making cheese, hair for paint brushes, the list is endless.

Every part of an animal's body finds a buyer usually. There is rarely such a thing as a "by-product".

If we buy leather, our hands are as dipped in the animals blood as the person that buys the flesh.

### **Importance of Food**

#### **Activity: object                      How often purchased?**

Personal hygiene: toileteries	Once in 3 months?
Clothing: apparel	Once, twice a year?
Beauty: eg, lipstick	once in 2-3 months?
Eating: food	3-4 times a day
Medicine: pharmaceutical	once in 2 months?
Entertainment: eg, zoo	once a year?

Using animal products anywhere is bad. It is all equally avoidable. But if we were to prioritise our attention, then there is a strong case for giving importance to what we eat, since eating is an activity we perform thrice if not more times a day. Compare that to buying a pair of leather shoes over 2 years or a silk saree over 3 years.

### **Animal-derived "food": how is it obtained?**

- Do cows "give" milk?
- Do hens "give" eggs?
- Do livestock animals "give" us their body parts?

No! They don't "give" us. We *take* it from them, without giving them a say or a choice, and ALWAYS causing them huge grief.

We don't need to explain to anyone that meat is obtained by killing animals. No-one can pretend to be unaware of the fact. Nor can anyone think that the animals whose flesh is eaten dies a natural death (yet even many vegetarians think that leather comes from naturally dead animals, because in actuality, it *can*. However, in reality it doesn't).

Immediate death is not however, the issue in consuming milk or eggs or honey. There are other, more numerous ways, in which these cause harm...

### **How is animal-based "food" derived?**

- Meat
  - Inhuman crowded transportation
  - Abusive handling
  - Killing by slitting throat when fully conscious (often in full view of each other)
- Eggs
  - Separation from mother at birth
  - Life-long confinement in cages
  - Chopping off beak
  - Killing at the end of productive life
- Milk
  - Killing male offspring by starving/butchering
  - Starving female offspring
  - Forcing unnatural pregnancy upon mother
  - Forcing milk flow through injections
  - Keeping mother pregnant all her adult life
  - Killing mother at the end of productive life
- Honey
  - Stealing fruits of others' labour
  - Stealing somebody's scarcity food stock

### What's wrong with Milk?

Nature's program:

- Milk is meant for the same species
  - Nutrient mismatch
- Milk is baby food, not for adults
  - Lactose intolerance
- Milk is meant to pass straight from mother's breast to infant's body without seeing air
  - Unnatural consumption

Drinking milk as we do is against Nature's program.

Nature produces milk in the mother's body for its particular infant's individual needs, not even for any other infant of its species, and certainly not for non-infants of other species.

Cow's (or buffalo's) milk is produced by Nature with a nutrient package intended for making an adult out of the infant in 12 months. Human needs are for doing this in 12 years!

Many human races do not possess the ability to digest milk beyond infancy – this manifests as lactose intolerance.

We extract milk, refrigerate it, heat it, skim it, process it...when Nature intended for it to pass straight into the infant's mouth.

### Conditions in *tabelas*

Ponder the following sights in any neighborhood (ie, non-industrial, non-factory-scale) dairy or *tabela*:

- There are very few male calves to be found. **Male infanticide**
- The dairy always claim vague natural causes for the disproportionate number of deaths of male calves
- Whatever calves are present are tied out of reach of their mothers
- Untied calves always have nets tied around their mouths (like coronavirus masks, almost :-)
- The calf is untied only at the dairy's milking times, whereas it wants to drink throughout the day
- When a calf is untied it *runs* to its mother and starts suckling
- The calf is pulled away the moment the milk starts flowing so that the dairy can collect it. The cow is "milked" by the dairy for the rest of its milk
- Dead calves' bodies are propped up on a stick and placed next to the cow at milking times to allow her to feel the bond to its killed calf and start the milk flowing. The cow is seen bellowing in sorrow
- Dairy conditions are cramped. Animals are tied to short leashes all day long
- Comfort of natural earth are not always there. They often have to lie on bare paved floor
- Dairy conditions are filthy. They often have to lie in their own excreta, urine
- Very well depicted in the video at <https://youtu.be/KhdR9PGPJl>

### The Founder of the Vegan Movement



Photo Courtesy: © The Vegan Society 2002

**Donald Watson (1910-2005) founded the movement in Great Britain in 1944.**

### If not milk, then what instead?

Nothing. Milk is baby-food, remember? ☺

Balanced, responsible diet. Whole, natural, unprocessed, plant-based food, preferably raw

Calcium: green leafies, nuts, ragi, til,...

Protein: daals, grains, nuts, beans...

Vitamin B12: !



Milk Product	How obtained	Plant-based alternative
Milk	Stealing from the animal ☹️	Nut milks (eg Soy milk, Almond milk, Coconut milk)
Cream	Floating	Thickening nut milks
Curd	'Setting' milk	Setting Nut milk
Buttermilk	Diluting curd	Diluting Nut milk curd
Butter	Churning creamy milk	Nut butters (eg, peanut butter)
Ghee	Heating butter	Vegetable Oils
Paneer/Chhena	Curdling milk	Tofu (Soya paneer)
Khoya (Khava, mawa)	Heating milk to dryness	
Milk powder	Spray drying	Non-dairy creamer(!)

### Milk Alternatives in India





### Vegan India

- Roti: without ghee ☺️
- Sabzi: without butter, paneer ☺️
- Daal: without ghee, butter ☺️
- Chaawal ☺️
- Kachumbar ☺️
- South Indian: without ghee ☺️
- Sweet: Oooooops!!!!!!!!!!!! ☹️

### Vegan sweets in India

- Gajar halwa (with cashews)
- Doodhi halwa (with cashews)
- Sooji halwa / Sheera (with coconut milk, refined oil)

- Any laddoo (oil instead of ghee)
- Jalebi (oil-fried)
- Cake (oil instead of butter)
- Malpua (fry in oil)

Anything can be veganised. Watch your health with oil and sugar and synthetics!

In US (Western world)	In India
Radicalism is 'cool', respected. Individualism is admired. Freedom to do as one wishes	Individualism is decried. Expected to accept and conform to societal traditions and norms unthinkingly
Vegan food choices are very few	Vegan food choices are plenty
No intrinsic value associated with milk	Milk is glorified as nectar ( <i>amrit</i> ) in our culture!
Milk has no superior status	Milk is considered ' <i>shaahi</i> ' or enriching: ghee, paneer, butter, cream

# Interesting Films

## No More Blood Shed

<https://youtu.be/w6mb7b--llk>



More than 4,000 persons have already seen this 15 minute documentary on the Ramakrishna Dakshineswar Kali Temple where NO animal sacrifice is allowed. By mid-August 2020 there were as many as 161 likes and only 19 dislikes.

## Bone China ki Sachai

<https://youtu.be/irJy87xHHPg>



BWC has recently produced a one and a half minute educational film in Hindi to show members and others that bones are indeed used in the manufacture of bone china. Do have a look.

## हिंसा vs. अहिंसा 2020

<http://www.bwcindia.org/Web/Awareness/Hinsavs.Ahinsa10thEdition.pdf>



Due to the lockdown we could not print the 10th edition of *Hinsa vs. Ahinsa*. However, we have uploaded it on our website. As usual this annual publication contains 25 selected numbers.



**NO VISITORS = NO ZOOS**

**Say NO to Animal Jails**

<https://youtu.be/U6wv-RagZp4>



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